



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

January 2011

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15 am

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The 15th each month

Welcome to the New Year! I look forward to starting out this year with you all in the capacity of quarter time consulting minister while Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer is on leave. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with you for the next three months.

I will be at the church on average two days a week for meetings and worship. The most common weekdays you will see me are Tuesday and Thursday. I will be here two Sundays a month, leading worship one Sunday and assisting with worship on the other Sunday. I am always available for pastoral care on the phone and in person. If you need to reach me, please call the church office. The minister's voice mail will give you an additional number to contact me if I am not in the office when you call. You can also leave me a message; I will be checking that voicemail two times a week when I am in the office. Email is also another great way to reach me.

I am a recent graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School. I completed my internship and a sabbatical ministry at Second Unitarian Church of Chicago in 2009. I am an Affiliated Community Minister with West Shore UU Church in Rocky River and my family and I live in Westlake, Ohio. I enjoy preaching periodically at West Shore, singing in the band, managing the church Facebook page, and being a youth mentor this year. Some of my areas of special interest in ministry are building church community, liturgical arts, intergenerational worship, pastoral care, and faith formation for families and children.

In the community I volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association to help with fundraising events and raising awareness about dementia. My son, husband and I live with my parents in an effort to help my Mom who has dementia. You can read more about what that is like for our family at my blog. I am excited to get to know all of you better.

See you in a few weeks!

Blessings,

Rev. Katie Norris



Upcoming Sermons

26 December- 10:30 am service only *What Doesn't Fit in a Box?*

The Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Trish McLoughlin

Come hear some stories of Boxing Day traditions during this informal service for all ages. We promise lots of singing led by Hal Walker, time for contemplation and a wonderful brunch afterwards prepared by Elaine and Bill Bowen. If you'd like, please bring a gift to the brunch for our Boxing Day exchange. This could be a good time to re-gift or to give something handmade! Wrap your gift in a box and, if it is most suitable for a certain age or gender, please label it so.

Please note – we will have only one service today at 10:30 am. No religious education classes will be offered. Children are invited to attend the service. Nursery care will be available for infants and toddlers.

2 January *A Balancing Act*

Susan Goekler and Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

January is named for the God Janus -- which is two-faced looking forward and looking back. January is a time for remembering the past year and looking forward to and planning for the coming year. After the holiday rush, we often need to step back and rebalance. A religious tradition that encompasses this notion is Taoism. A spiritual practice that derives from that is tai chi, which exemplifies balance between the mind and body. This service will relate the Taoist concepts to the human need to finding balance in one's life and include some experiential parts using simple tai chi movements.

5 January– Vespers *Promises*

Elaine Yehle Bowen

Some people call them New Year's resolutions but they are promises one makes to accomplish a goal, often to benefit one's physical health ~ weight loss, more exercise, stop drinking or smoking, etc. What about promises that can benefit one's spiritual health? To be of better service to a hurting world? To act for the common good? To grow your faith? Now is the time for us to make our spiritual promises . . .

9 January *Purpose*

The Rev. Katie Norris and Worship Associate Ted Voneida

Discovering our purpose is an essential part of having a healthy life and doing good in the world, but this is not always an easy task. Why is purpose important? How do we live it out, especially in the midst of change or tragedy? While on a work trip to New Orleans this past April, I heard an inspiring story of purpose in one of the most unlikely situations.

16 January *What is Race?*

Rev. Dennis McCarthy and Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

As background for Martin Luther King Day, Rev. Dennis McCarty will ask, "What Is Race?" We've certainly come a long way in the almost-fifty years since Dr. King delivered his "I have a dream" speech. But let's take a quick look at the difference between discussions on "race" versus the genetic (as opposed to social) realities. We are still influenced by racial misconceptions that are hundreds of years old--and we still have a long way to go.

Learn about the interesting life of Rev. Dennis McCarthy on p. 8.

23 January *Life Lessons: What Emmy Has Taught Me*

Camille Pavlicek-Fauser and Worship Associate Christie Anderson

Many of us have faced life-altering changes - a serious illness, job loss and having a child with severe disabilities. Learn about one family's 27 year journey from devastation, anger and shaken spiritual beliefs to wholeness through the recognition of life's resurrections.

30 Jan *A Third Place*

Affiliated Community Minister Renee Ruchotzke with Worship Associate Kathy Kerns

Starting with ideas of urban sociologist Ray Oldenburg, we will consider the notion of third places, (the first two being home and work) where community, creative interaction and connections can flourish.

Money Matters

As you may know, Susan Goekler has been generously filling in as Treasurer while more permanent arrangements were being made. Effective with December's Board Meeting, I'll be wearing the Treasurer's hat for the UU Church of Kent. Susan will continue to serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee. Please thank her when next you see her - she's been doing a lot of work for our church!

October financials – Revenues were \$3,118 less than budgeted and expenses were \$1,761 less than budgeted; revenues exceeded expenses by \$4,151. The bulk of the Service Auction revenue came in this month. **November financials** – Revenues were \$2,061 more than budgeted and expenses were \$1,201 less than budgeted: expenses exceeded revenues by \$262. Overall year to date, we are \$3,599 over projected revenues and \$1,309 under projected expenses. Our income has exceeded expenses in large part due to members that have paid their pledge amounts in advance.

Our Service Auction was a great success. To date, the service auction has netted \$14,333 (after subtracting expenses). There are also about \$2,000 in outstanding payments. Once again, Lois Weir and Jennifer May did a wonderful job chairing the event. Their work and that of all the volunteers that helped was a huge gift to all of us. The monies raised will sustain the health and vitality of our church operations.

Looking forward, our annual church pledge drive is right around the corner. I could really use some help on the canvass committee. While this job is a time commitment, it does have the advantage of not being an open ended obligation. Once the pledge drive is over for the year, you are done! Once during a New U class, I heard someone compare pledging to the church as a way of giving energy to the church. This comparison resonated with me. A successful annual pledge drive gives this church energy. Please consider serving the church by participating as a volunteer with our canvass committee. Let me know if you can help –

Kay Eckman



Adult RE in January: Response to Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating

We will review the UUA's draft Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating, which is the output of the current congregational study/action issue. Voting and comments are due February 1. Last year our congregation formed an Intentional Eating study group to look in depth at the issues surrounding ethical eating. This January, we will briefly revisit these topics with the intent of evaluating and providing feedback on the Statement of Conscience.

January 9 – Distribute copies of Draft SOC. Discuss environmental and ethical impacts of food choices. Examples of topics: Pollution, soil erosion and depletion, carbon emissions, reduction of biodiversity, destruction of wildlife habitat, care and treatment of livestock, CAFOs, antibiotics. Reflect on how these topics and concerns are addressed in the SOC.

January 16 – Discuss health and food safety impacts of food choices. Examples of topics: pesticides and additives, growth hormones and antibiotics in meat, industrial food production and food borne illness, nutritional issues (western diet and increase in heart disease, diabetes, cancer, obesity). Reflect on how these topics and concerns are addressed in the SOC.

January 23 – Discuss socio-economic and political impacts of food choices. Examples of topics: Oil dependence, dependence on government subsidies of commodity products, health impacts to farmers and industrial food workers, disparity in food supply by class, substandard wages and unsafe working conditions for agricultural workers. Reflect on how these topics and concerns are addressed in the SOC.

January 30 – Determine our congregational ballot vote for including the draft SOC to be placed on the final agenda for GA and review collected feedback for the SOC in comment form (attached). Comment forms are due February 1.

Tropical Party

Tired of winter? Got the winter blues? Come out and join us for our Tropical Party on January 21! We will at least create the illusion of summer with indoor fun. Questions? Email Mark Stephens.

More about Our Affiliated Community Minister

I am honored to be officially affiliated with you, my home congregation, as a community minister. I've had some questions about what that means, so I thought I'd answer them here:

I thought Renee was going to serve in a church. Is this a disappointment? As far back as 2003, when I was first discerning my call to ministry, I knew that I wanted to eventually serve at either the district or national level doing leadership development, so this is truly my dream job. However, I may wish to return to parish work sometime in the future.

What is the difference between Rev. Melissa's role and Rev. Renee's? Melissa is our parish minister, called, ordained and installed by our congregation in covenantal relationship. Melissa is paid by us, preaches regularly, is responsible for pastoral care and—along with the Committee on Ministry—the ministry of the church, i.e. how we live our mission. My primary responsibility is to my employer, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and the Central East Regional Group. I may occasionally provide back-up at Melissa's direction by preaching, leading a workshop or providing pastoral care.

If I have a pastoral care need or a concern about the church, may I contact Renee? No, Melissa should always be your first contact with any ministry concerns in our congregation.

What exactly is Renee's ministry? I am serving four districts (St. Lawrence, Metro New York, Joseph Priestley and Ohio Meadville) by providing consultation, programming and training material (including webinars) on various aspects of congregational leadership. I will work mostly out of my home office, but will need to travel sometimes. I will also work closely with those doing leadership development at the district and cluster levels as well as participate in the Unitarian Universalist Leadership Training Institute (UULTI) and other in-person trainings at the district and regional level.

What are our congregation's responsibilities to Renee as our affiliated community minister? In our congregational polity, all ministers must have an official relationship with a congregation. My active involvement in our congregation will help ground me in congregational life while I serve the wider denomination. I am also committed to nudge us to be in full covenant to the rest of the Unitarian Universalist community by paying our full share of UUA dues. (I have found it awkward to be a UUA employee and to be a member of a congregation that has been pledging only a fraction of our dues.)

In faith and service,
Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, Affiliated Community Minister

Work Order Request Forms

Due to the popularity of work requests that our old building receives, we thought it would be a good idea to get the requests and suggestions in writing so that they can be recorded, prioritized, and properly addressed. These forms will be printed on orange paper and be available in the Annex, in the same box as the Reimbursement Forms ("green sheets") and the Collection Activity Forms, for now. They will be available in the church building soon as well and we will keep you posted when a place is found. The Work Order Request Forms simply ask you to identify what work needs to be done or suggestions you have for improvements, where it's located, and contact information, if we have questions. These should not be used for urgent matters or emergencies. Completed forms may be turned into the office/Annex, or in the lock box in the vestibule outside the Sanctuary doors. Thank you so much for your cooperation!

Kristina Spaude



Christopher Gargoline as Bob Cratchit for the "How Dickens Reinvented Christmas" service.

Parental Love

In my planning for the new *Parents of Young Children* group that has just launched, I've been thinking a lot about parenting in general and specifically about the parents/guardians/grandparents of our church. I am so moved by the degree to which the people of this church love their children. The response to the new program has been quite enthusiastic. The parents of our youngest ones are motivated to not only be the best parents they can be, but to ground their parenting practices firmly in Unitarian Universalism.

The recent child dedications held during worship have been a ceremonial reminder of the power of parental love. The parents of the children who were dedicated made a decision, built on love, to publicly affirm the identity and importance of their little ones.

As a Facebook subscriber with many UUCK friends, I see evidence of parental love everyday--even several times a day, depending on how frequently I check! Parents and grandparents are continually sharing their children's triumphs and challenges with pride and love.

Our youth have many occasions to be together for long stretches of time, such as the youth overnight to create the annual Haunted House, the district youth conferences and the two overnights for the 8th and 9th grade OWL (*Our Whole Lives* curriculum of sexuality education). One of the greatest forms of parental love is the willingness to sleep on the floor with a group of teens, so that



their own youth will have the opportunity to be in community with their UU peers!

In a culture which offers us many choice, even on a Sunday morning, I see the decision to make the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent an important part of a family's time together, as evidence of parental love. Congregational life offers a singular kind of community where we voluntarily come together to grow in our faith, work to change the world and love each other. Parents/guardians/grandparents who strive to provide this for their children and youth, surely do so out of love.

New Safety Initiative

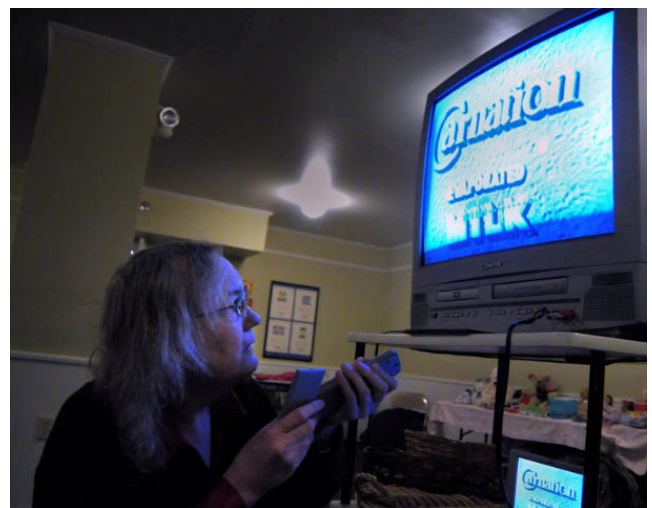
As we continue to improve our Sunday morning procedures to work toward having a safer church for everyone, we have instituted a new practice of closing off the upper level of the church, where the religious education classrooms are located, during social hour and after the second service. This practice will help to assure that children are not unsupervised in those out-of-the-way areas. I greatly appreciate that the children and adults have already been respectful and mindful of the cord hanging across the bottom of the stairs.

In faith and with love, *Karen Lapidus*, Director of Religious Education

Library News

In order to make our circulation more efficient, we have started a new procedure. We email or call our borrowers a few days before the due date to remind them to return their books or to renew them for 2 more weeks.

The following book, a collection by Edward Searl, was recently acquired by the library. [Beyond Absence: a Treasury of Poems, Quotations and Readings on Death and Remembrance](#) was published by Skinner House Books in Boston in 2010. Drawn from poets, philosophers, theologians and clergy, this inspiring collection will assist ministers, lay leaders and anyone seeking to express and explore the mystery and grief of death.



Cheryl Spoehr showed the wackiest Christmas movies ever to a more than appreciative crowd.

Adult Religious Exploration Opportunity- BYOT 1

Building Your Own Theology 1 (BYOT) is a UU program written by Richard S. Gilbert for the exploration and definition of one's personal religious and theological belief system. The 10 session - 2 hour program will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (occ. will go over to 9:15ish) beginning January 27 and ending June 9th. It will be facilitated by Elaine Bowen in the Eldredge Annex. A minimum of 6 participants is needed and a maximum of 10 can be accommodated. A commitment for participation to at least 8 sessions is strongly recommended.

The course requires a workbook available for purchase (\$16) through the online UUA bookstore; we have several copies in the church library available for use. The program entails reading, journaling, much thought provoking discussion, several written assignments, some fun artwork and culminates in the crafting of one's own credo or statement of belief. It is an incredible opportunity for introspection and spiritual growth.

Please contact me by no later than January 20 if you decide to take this class or have any questions. E-mail or call me and leave a message.

Elaine Bowen



Photo concept by Connor May.

Kent Community TimeBank

Perhaps you've heard the buzz.... There's a timebank right here in Kent, Ohio. What is a timebank? Is it volunteering? (no) Is it a barter system? (no) Does it cost money to join? (no) How does it work? In a nutshell, timebanking involves a group of people who support each other by exchanging skills, talents and passions in response to individual and community needs. When you spend an hour doing something for someone in the timebank, you earn a Time Dollar. You can then use that Time Dollar on any of the hundreds of offers within your timebank! It's that simple and that profound. Kent Community TimeBank is excited to meet with members of the UU church to discuss how our timebank is operating and changing lives, one hour at a time. Please come to our informational meetings on December 30 and January 19 in Fessenden Hall from 7-9. Pies and snacks (bakers earning Time Dollars!) will be provided! Should you like more information before then or cannot attend a meeting, email Abby Greer. To find out more about the origins of timebanking, visit www.timebanks.org.

Brighten the Chancel with your flower arrangement or share your potted plants for a week.

The Aesthetics Committee is seeking weekly volunteers to set up an arrangement of their blooms, branches, wreaths or plants in front of the podium. Most anything is suitable, simple buds in a vase, or fancy wreaths are all welcome.

To sign up to do one of the arrangements for the year call Melissa Campbell or send an email.

Our Generous Church

Our Association Sunday Special Offering in October raised \$710 for our denomination. In November we gave \$772 to our local Immigrant Work Project.

Mac Goekler

Susan Goekler and the UUA Commission on Social Witness

Over the years, Susan and I have been honored to represent you the members of our beloved Church at our denomination's annual General Assembly (GA). As a social justice activist congregation much of the delegate work we do at GA involves representing your interests in formulating denominational policy – where we UUs stand on issues of the day. The group at GA that helps congregations with this task is the Commission on Social Witness. Our Susan will be one of the five commissioners starting in Jan. As an example of the work she will be doing – next month in Adult Exploration, we will put together our thoughts on the current study action issue, Ethical Eating. We have a very active group here in our Church working on this important issue and now is the time to provide our input. Susan working with the other commissioners will re-draft a Statement of Conscience based on all the congregational input. This draft will be brought to the next GA in Charlotte (June 2011) and after further amending this policy statement will be voted on. As an excellent writer, editor, and social justice advocate – Susan will be a great addition to the Commission.

Mac Goekler



WhaleCoast Alaska 2011

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2011 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey and Bre Griffin, members of the farthest north UU congregation, with 36 years of Alaska living between them. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email info@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

The "Soup"er Bowl is coming

Sunday, February 6th is the UUCK 6th annual "Soup"er Bowl for Kent Social Services.

We will be collecting cans of hearty soup/stew/chili/pasta (ravioli) for the food pantry. Last year, we collected 71 cans and \$236.80 in cash/checks/Acme gift cards. Let's aim for 100 cans and \$250 this year! I know we can do it because our UUCK team cares and puts faith into action and service for our neighbors in need.

The game recap: What? - canned soup and cash/coin collection

When? - Sunday 2/6/11 before, during, between and after services

Where? - Fessenden Hall

Who? - You UUs and all the little ones, too!!!

Why? - because people are hungry and we can help.

Please help and bring in your cans & cash on Feb. 6 to make a difference.

P.S. Go Patriots!

"Coach" Elaine Bowen



Elliott James Mercer shows off the rose he received during the dedication of Isabella Farnsworth's children.

Religious Education Teacher and Youth Group Advisors' Retreat

Our second annual retreat will be held on Saturday, January 8th from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at the church for all the leaders who work with our children as RE teachers, our youth as youth group advisors and our sexuality educators (the OWL facilitators). The topic of the morning will be "The Spirituality of Teaching RE". In addition to activities based on that theme, there will be time for worship, sharing and a delicious meal.

Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education

Surprise Friends Returns

Surprise -- it's that time of year again! Want to make a new friend in the church? Looking for a way to fight the post-holiday, winter blues? Here is your chance! You are all invited to participate in this fun, intergenerational activity of friendship and caring! Participating adults will be matched with children in the congregation on January 16 and encouraged to exchange notes and artwork beginning January 23 and continuing through February 13. Adults will remain anonymous until the "big reveal" in February. Sign-up forms will be available January 2 and January 9. Can't wait to see the surprising matches!

Kathy Walker

11th Annual Ohio Meadville District Winter Institute, February 18-21, 2011

Join us for a relaxing and "schedule and stress free" weekend for UUs of all ages. There are frosty outdoor activities like sledding, hiking and cross country skiing. For those who choose to stay in their slippers all weekend, there is a beautiful lodge with its many cozy corners and fireplaces. The pool and hot tub are truly a winter-time treat. There are fellow UUs always ready to play board games or to join in the community jigsaw puzzle. We have wonderful community worship services and great conversations.

Winter Institute is held at Salt Fork State Park, the flagship lodge of the Ohio State Park System, located near Cambridge, Ohio. It is 2 hours from Columbus, Cleveland or Pittsburgh. The park has a beautiful lodge with an indoor pool, game room with pool tables, ping pong tables and video games, lounge and hiking trails. The lodge is handicap accessible.

Register at the OMD website by January 28th and reserve your room directly with Salt Fork and ask for the UU conference rate. Rooms will be held until January 17.

For more information and to register go to <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/omdwi.html>



The Aesthetics Committee prepares for Christmas

Out To Lunch Bunch

Join us for food and fun at China City restaurant after second service. We don't meet when pancake breakfast or other church lunch is held after church.



Rev. Dennis McCarty

Rev. Dennis McCarty is a poster boy for mid-life career change. Over the years, he has been a sailor, a union construction worker, an English teacher, and a novelist (a series of fantasies published by Ballantine/Del Rey, a paperback arm of Random House.) At the age of 48, he answered the call to ministry, graduating in 2003 from Meadville Lombard Theological School, the Unitarian Universalist divinity school in Chicago, with a Master of Divinity degree. His latest book is *On War--and Covenant*, an analysis of the emotional and spiritual issues behind our 2003 invasion of Iraq. He also just completed a "rockin'" play in honor of the 500th birthday of Unitarian martyr, Michael Servetus, *Servetus: the Radical Reformed Musical*.

January Church Events

26 10:30 One service only 11:30 Boxing Day brunch 7-9 AA FH	27 1:00 RE mtg. EA 7:00 Tai chi	28 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	29	30 7-9:00 TimeBank FH	31 12pm blow horns	1
2 12:30 SJC EA 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	3 7:00 Tai chi	4 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	5 7:00 Vespers	6	7	8 10-2:00 RE retreat p8
9 9:30 Capital Campaign EA 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	10 7:00 Tai Chi	11 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 11:30-1:30 Retirees Lunch 7:00 Board mtg. EA	12 Newsletter deadline 7:00 Master Plan EA	13 7:00 COM mtg. EA 7:00 BYOT EA	14	15 Newsletter deadline Hogwarts
16 Surprise Friends p8 Hogwarts 12:30 Parents group N 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	17 Hogwarts 7:00 Tai chi	18 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	19 7:00 Sacred singing with Saunis S 7:00 TimeBank FH	20	21 4:00 Master Plan EA 7:30 Tropical Night p3	22
23 Surprise Friends p8 9:30 Tarnished Brass EA 3:30 Writing Group EA 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	24 7:00 Tai chi	25 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	26 6:45 RE cmte. FH	27 7:00 BYOT EA	28	29
30 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes again 12:30 Parents group N 3:30 Writing Group EA p5 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	31 7:00 Tai chi	1 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	2 7:00 Vespers	3	4	5 7-10 a Change Conference

Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall
EA- Eldredge Annex; FH- Fessenden Hall; FL- Founders' Lounge; L- Library; S-Sanctuary; N- Nursery;
CB- Christie and Brad's house

Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after December 22

A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at

<http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent> or through a link on our website at www.uukent.org.

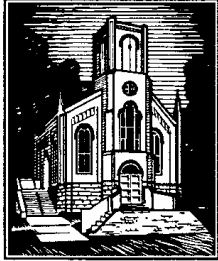


Jim "Santa" Scott getting ready to deliver presents to all the little Geezers

"Rosalinda needs shoes!" Rupert the Squirrel starred in a movie at Cheryl's most awesome Weird Christmas Movie night.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent
228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, OH 44240



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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*

Celtic Clan in January

1/3 7:30 Practice at Christie and Brad's
1/10 7pm Tower 43
1/17 no practice
1/24 7pm Woodlands at Robinson
1/31 7:30 Practice at Christie and Brad's

Book Group

The book group will meet on January 11 at 7 pm. The location will be announced in the Thread. We cancelled our December meeting due to the weather, so we will discuss last month's book, Half-broke Horses, by Jeannette Walls. Please also share about books you read during the holidays.



Connor and Megan May decorate the youth Christmas tree in Founder's Lounge.



Erika draws the 15 trees of Christmas at church