



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

May 2011

Sunday Services

9:30 and 11:15 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240

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Tuesday - Friday

By appointment

Congregational

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Deadline:

The 15th each month

We think our dog Zoey is what they call a lurcher. Lurchers are a cross between a sight hound and another breed. In Zoey's case, we think she is a Black and Tan Coonhound and Whippet mix; she has the coloring and the sound of a coonhound and she is faster than all the other dogs at the dog park save Whippets and Greyhounds. The folks we adopted her from told us they got her in West Virginia where such mixes are common for hunting. I don't know whether that is true or not, but if it is it wouldn't be surprising to me to find out that Zoey didn't make the hunting dog cut. Though she weighs almost 40 pounds, she is sure she is a lap dog. If she can't have a lap, she'll settle for the couch. When she first started sneaking her way on to the couch, I thought maybe she just needed a softer bed. She is a little bony, after all. So I went to JoAnne's and bought five inch thick foam to make into special luxury beds for her and our other dog Migo. Little Miss Princess Pants (a.k.a. Zoey) likes that bed okay, but she still prefers the couch if she thinks she has a choice. That is her favorite place to be – after the woods.

Zoey loves to run. I try to take her someplace at least once a week where she can run off leash. To watch her run is to watch pure pleasure in motion. When she is feeling playful she will engage Migo in a game of chase or seek out fallen logs to leap over just for the joy of leaping. But once she catches the scent of something she is interested in chasing, all games are off. Once she has a track to follow she is completely focused; nose, eyes, ears and every muscle in her body tuned for the deer or whatever it is she is after. I don't know what she would do if she every actually succeeded in chasing something down. She hasn't ever gotten close enough to any living animals in the woods to observe that encounter. But she has sniffed out the remains of a fair number of formerly living animals to disguise her own scent for the hunt.

If I am lucky, I see her about to roll in something disgusting before it actually happens. One out of three times though luck isn't on my side. For this reason, Zoey has to have more baths than she would like. I keep wishing there was some way she could understand the consequences, but the baths are too far removed in time for her to associate it with her unfortunate rolling habit. It is easier in winter. Most dead and decaying things are buried underneath the ice and snow. But spring is finally upon us and Zoey has been responding with great enthusiasm. As a result, she has already had at least three or four baths already.

Though washing the dog isn't the most pleasant chore at my house, I have to admire the way Zoey devotes herself to her passions. I wish some of that for you this spring. May you find plenty of time to be outside and immerse yourself in the pleasure of color and sound and fragrance. May you feel the earth on your hands and the sun on your face. May you relish the feeling of movement - of hiking or running, biking or walking or even just hanging the laundry to dry on the line. May you savor the taste of relaxation – however it is you like to rest your body and your spirit. In this land of greening springtime, may you make room in yourself for the indwelling of joy.

See you in church,

Melissa

Upcoming Sermons

1 May

Thy Burdens Are Greater Than Mine

This service will present different perspectives on the topic of compassion. The 3 presenters (Kathy Kerns, Mary Ann Kasper, Matt Slater) will share their experiences and reactions when confronting need in the world.

8 May

Arts Sunday: To Play and to Plumb

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Eric van Baars

Last year I invited several members of our community to participate in a worship service exploring the intersections between art and spirituality. The experience was so rich that we decided to make Arts Sunday an annual event. Come be uplifted. Come be inspired.

15 May

Time to Enjoy the Flowers

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Trish McLoughlin

It seems to me that most people are very busy these days. There are so many things that require our attention it can be challenging to prioritize time for rest, relaxation and spiritual renewal. This morning will be a meditation on finding and keeping our balance. We will also engage in the ritual of the Flower Ceremony – please bring a flower (or 2) to share.

22 May

Youth Sunday

Church youth

Join us for our youth-led service this Sunday, when we reflect on the theme of "togetherness." We are planning a special Time for All Ages and offertory, and we will also be celebrating our bridging youth during this time.

29 May

Cosmopolitan Visions

Rev. Elaine Strawn and Worship Associate Max Grubb

The Rev. Elaine Strawn will tie together the thoughts of two people whom she originally heard Krista Tippett interview: Kwame Anthony Appiah [Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers] and Francis Kissling [founder of Catholics for Choice]. Her sermon will focus on how we take the longer view on social issues so that we can become compassionate, effective and unifying.

This Sunday our minister will once again be participating in a pulpit swap with five other Unitarian Universalist congregations. While the Rev. Elaine Strawn, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County leads our services, Rev. Melissa will be leading the service at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown.



This year's OWL (Our Whole Lives) class, with appropriate sermon topic.

OWL
 Sophia Smith, Fred Smith, Helle Waldrop
 Orey/Morley, Jess-Beale, Sean Edmonds
 Chantell Clarke, Kat Holte, Deb St. James
 John, Adrian Emmert, Kathleen Walker

Moderator's Message

Firstly, having attended District Assembly, some of us were inspired to meet to see what we could do to foster a regional interaction. I had heard the term "WACKY" (Wooster, Akron, Canton, Kent, Youngstown) being used. But didn't know in what context. This was a meeting of the "ACK" part. Many ideas were considered. One being the participation in Mitzvah Day which occurs in June. The Akron Synagogue organizes this. Another idea was to have a combined Sunday service. Perhaps in August? Perhaps an outdoor venue with a potluck afterwards? Is this something that we all want? Please comment to me or to Christie Anderson (program team chair) or to Melissa either way...pro or con.

As an update to our facilities management progress: The Expansion Team's exploration of our expansion options (thank you team!!!) led us to the solid conclusion that without some money in the bank...we aren't doing anything soon. So, as a result, the capital campaign team has been energized. They are hard at work developing a strategy that meets the needs of our congregation, interfaces with the stewardship campaign, and wrestles with some unknowns that really make it difficult to decide exactly which is the best path. Thank you for this! As the stewardship campaign comes to a close, please watch for the capital campaign to become more visible and do what you can to learn about it.

Website update: our new website team has been formed and will spring into action soon. Jennifer May is coordinating this team of Kathy Walker, Joe Kuemerle, not sure if Saul got roped in or not... I mention this because I am excited about it! But also to let you know that if you have something that you want on the website...now is a good

time to discuss it with the team. We have been learning about how important our website can be and we are dedicated to incorporating this new learning. Improved communication has been a board goal this year, and we are hoping that some new gizmos on the website may be one way to help keep everyone a little bit more in the loop.

Finally, I had the opportunity to hear and then to talk with the Rev. Howard Dana, Harrisburg, PA. He spoke about the journey that his congregation took into expansion. A very interesting and unexpected path, actually. They made a video about it that I am hoping we can post on the website...(hint, hint). I was extremely interested in the path and the advice that I was hearing about expansion, but what struck me most was Rev. Dana's reminder that all was done with a sense of Joy and Celebration.

Joy and Celebration.

It made me wonder if we have a similar focus? I know that we are very good at the tasks of "doing church". I know that we are very good hearted and want to try to make good things happen. I know that we have been trying very hard to be gentle and kind with each other as we face some very large decisions together. But do we cultivate a sense of joy in living that invites a celebration of each day? We have so much to celebrate. And when Rev. Dana talked about this I was struck. I felt compelled to bring this back to you and to ask..."are we remembering to find joy and celebration as we come together in community?"

I hope so.

In Peace, Kristofer



Double baby dedication

Ben and Becca Hollis with Smith

Sarah and Jeff Lang with Eliza



UUCK Joins Kent Community Time Bank

It might seem like every few weeks you hear something more about the Kent Community TimeBank - either from reading the Thread from the Web or maybe from friends and neighbors. While there are many reasons I think that the Kent Community TimeBank is important, one particular reason that members and friends of our congregation should be interested in what it is and how it works is because the UU Church of Kent became a member of the Kent Community TimeBank (KCTB) in February.

Abby Greer, Co-Coordinator and Program Manager of the KCTB, and I presented the KCTB to the Board at their February meeting and the Board voted to make the UUCK a member. I volunteered to serve as the administrator for the UUCK on the timebank for as long as it would take to determine the policies that would govern the church's use of the timebank and until a more appropriate administrator could be found. Abby generously donated 100 of her own time dollars to the UUCK for joining. More information on this is available in this excellent article from the Kent Patch <http://kent.patch.com/articles/kent-community-time-bank-lands-its-first-organization>.

I am very excited to say that we are well into the process of putting a team together that will establish what the policies should be that govern the relationship between the UUCK and the KCTB, so that we may begin to benefit from all the timebank offers and begin to make offers to the timebank in return. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Abby. We'd love to hear from you!

Kristina Spaude



A Gentle Reminder to All...

At the beginning of the service, our greeters close the Sanctuary doors so the Call to Worship and Opening Music are not interrupted. If you arrive late, and see the Sanctuary doors closed, we ask that you please wait a few moments to enter when the doors are reopened during the first hymn. Thank you.



Top - The Kuemerles at the Build-a-Potato lunch.

Bottom - Bruce Richards finds "Spudnik" at the Potato lunch.

T'ai Chi

An ancient Chinese meditative practice, t'ai chi is sometimes referred to as "meditation in motion." It draws upon the principles of Yin and Yang – harmony and the integration of mind and body. The class meets Monday evenings in Fessenden Hall. Beginners can start any Monday at 8 p.m. We invite donations to the church, at a recommended level of \$5 per session. The leader is Susan Goekler, a certified instructor with the Tai Chi Association of Atlanta.

The Times They Are A-Changin’

My Unitarian Universalist religious education colleagues and I have been buzzing quite a bit lately about a recent study from the Lifelong Faith Formation Associates. The study, *Faith Formation 2020*, addresses eight “driving forces” in American churches. These trends were identified by synthesizing several studies of the status of religious communities in our country. They are based on demographics and cultural impacts.

These driving forces are:

- Declining Number of Churchgoers and Growing Number of People with No Religious Affiliation
- Increasing Number of People Becoming More “Spiritual” and Less “Religious”
- Declining Participation in Churches
- Increasing Diversity and Pluralism in American Society
- Increasing Influence of Individualism on Religious Identity and Community Life
- Changing Patterns of Marriage and Family Life
- Declining Family Religious Socialization
- Increasing Impact of Digital Media and Web Technologies

If these driving forces give us a glimpse into the future, then the time is now for us to prepare and respond. If Unitarian Universalism hopes to remain a vital, life-affirming faith, then we must shape our programs and ministries to meet the needs of the future.

As I write this in mid-April, I am looking forward to next week’s meeting with other Directors of Religious Education from the Ohio Meadville District to consider these driving forces and to consider how to fashion our programs of religious education to be ready for the emerging environment. These are exciting times! I look forward to learning what you think about *Faith Formation 2020*. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.faithformation2020.net/index.html>.

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education

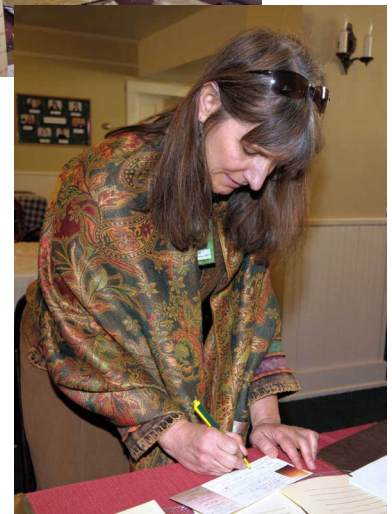
Craig Lucas Memorial

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 1 at 3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. Craig’s family would like to extend an invitation to all who knew and cared for Craig to this service in celebration of his life.

Adult Religious Education

Seeking ways to articulate your faith? Come join the adult discussion forum Sunday mornings during 2nd service in the Eldredge annex during April and May. [A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the 21st Century](#) is the title of the book that will be the focus of discussions. A reviewer explained the boo as follows: “The authors begin with the life of service and work for justice, and deepen it to show the beliefs that it assumes and that are implicit in it. The show that religious progressives can be proud and articulate about their beliefs.” The book is available from the church library or can be bought through Amazon or the UUA Bookstore. You do not have to read the book to participate.

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|--------|--|
| May 1 | Part 4: God – Discussion leader Susan Goekler |
| May 8 | Part 5: Human – Discussion leader Cheryl Spoehr |
| May 15 | Part 6: Mission – Discussion leader Mac Goekler |
| May 22 | Wrap up and closing – Discussion leader Liz Erickson |



“Indra’s Net” pledge drive table staffed by Ed Stolish.

Heidi Shaffer fills out her pledge card.

Money Matters

Budget Numbers for March 2011

Incoming Revenues

Actual year to date - \$175,541.50

Budgeted year to date \$173,562.00

Outgoing Expenses

Actual year to date - \$170,686.49

Budgeted year to date - \$172,767.00

Our contributions have historically dipped a bit in March, but remained steady this year, thus revenues are now ahead of plan by \$1,979.50. Our expenses continue to run below plan by \$2,081.

Indra's Net Spring Stewardship Campaign

It is not too late to turn in a pledge card. You can give them to any member of the stewardship team – Amy Edmunds, Ann VerWiebe, Randy Leeson, Camille Pavlicek-Fauser, Kathy Walker, Georgia Quinn or Kay Eckman. You can also send directly to the office in care of the stewardship team.

Shout Outs

I would like to recognize Ted Voneida on his wonderfully successful fundraising in connection with last fall's service auction. Ted offered an evening of excerpts from a play about Clarence Darrow and a selection of classic comedy sketches. He garnered \$140 in advance ticket sales at the service auction which he then proceeded to grow into \$750 through door sales and DVD sales. Thank you Ted.

Kay Clatterbuck

Out To Lunch Bunch

Meet at China City restaurant after second service – except when pancake breakfast or other church lunch is held after church. Come join us for food and fun.

Book Group

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, May 10 at 7 pm in the home of Pat Pownall. This month we are reading Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay. Haunting and suspenseful, life-affirming and beautiful, Sarah's Key offers a compelling portrait of occupied Paris and reveals the taboos and silence that surround this little-known episode in French history. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.

Last Movie Night

Our last movie night of the year is on May 30th at 7:00 pm in Fessenden Hall. Our theme is "A Wacky (but respectful) look at the World's Faiths". We will feature odd-ball movies inspired by the World's Religions. From the creators of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, comes "Cave of Silken Web"! See a talking pig and a Buddhist Monk tempted by Spider Sisters and Tupperware!

"Noah's Ark" is a silent film which keeps close to it's biblical roots with all the train wrecks and biplanes in the original- hey, wait a minute!

"The Horn Blows at Midnight." Radio comedian Jack Benny is an avenging angel out to destroy the world, until his compassion stops him.

But wait - there's more - many more strange films adapted from the world's religions! Come and have a good time. Food is provided. Contact Cheryl Spoehr for more info.

Cheryl Spoehr

c.spoehr1223@yahoo.com 330-929-5602



Karen Lapidus helps RE children make water drops to place in the glass during Water Resources Sunday.



Sermons and Board Minutes Available

Some printouts of Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer's past sermons are available in the Founders' Lounge for \$1.00 each. Your donation can be placed in the black lockbox, also in the lounge. The Board meeting minutes are available for review in the Founders' Lounge.

It Came . . . From the Library

The Library has purchased the following two books which are now available.

Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv, Chapel Hill, NC, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2008. This book was the topic of an Adult RE class several years ago. Last Child in the Woods brings together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development, and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. More than just raising an alarm, Louv offers practical solutions and simple ways to heal the broken bond-- and many are right in our own backyard.

Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters and How to Talk about It, by Krista Tippett, New York, Viking, 2007. Referred to in one of our Sunday services, this book is written by the host of the well-known NPR radio show. It is an exploration of the nature and role of faith and religion in today's society.

In addition, House of Hope by Buehrens and Parker, the topic of the Adult RE group through May, is still available in the library for one-week reserve.

Ann Waters, Library Committee



Shop for Our Church

Shop at the 5 Below store for fun items from May 7th - May 21st and they will donate 10 percent of the sale to us! They carry lots of neat items and everything is \$5 or less! Look for the colorful flyers to take in with you located around the church. Take several and give to your friends and family. Shop again and again! The 5 Below store is located across from the Stow-Kent Shopping Center on Kent Road.

Summer Institute Brochures

The long awaited Summer Institute Brochures have arrived. They will be available in the Church Founder Lounge. If you are an SI veteran please use the OMDSI web sit to get information, as we do not have very many brochures. If any questions please contact Joel Slater for further information.

Last Thoughtful Cinema

The last Thoughtful Cinema sessions will continue after Vespers in May. The first is the long delayed multi-media discussion on media stereotyping, while the last topic is as yet undecided. Each session begins about 7:45 pm on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Contact Cheryl Spoehr for more information.

Wedding Announcement

Trish and Don invite you to join them in celebrating their marriage on June 11 at 2:30 pm at the church. Reception will follow in Fessenden Hall. Bring a finger food or beverage to share. Your presence will be your gift to us, unless you wish to make a donation to the church.

New U Class

New to our church? Looking to delve a little deeper into Unitarian Universalism?

A New U Class will be held on Sunday, May 15th 9:30-11:00 in the Eldredge Annex (Yellow House next door to the church). This introductory class covers UU history and issues along with a look at our own church community. Sign up not necessary. Questions can be directed to Kay Eckman.

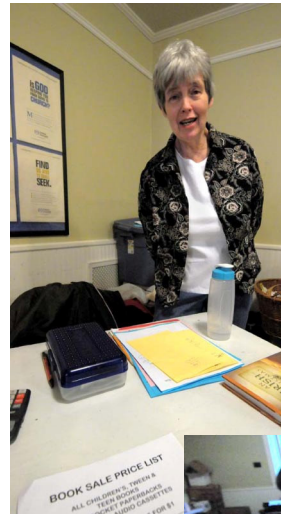


Folk Fest at East Shore

The Blue Sky Folk Festival will be held Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., on the grounds of East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 10848 Chillicothe Road – that's Route 306 just south of Route 6 in Kirtland, Ohio. See more at www.blueskyfolkfest.com. This day-long, family-friendly folk music jam will feature folk musicians from all over northeast Ohio, plus workshops, food, and activities for the kids. Bring your instrument and join the fun, or just come to listen and have a great time. Children 12 and under are free; adult tickets are \$8 and seniors are \$6. Buy tickets for just \$5 online.

Tina Bergmann, Bryan Thomas and Hushmoney, a northeast Ohio contra dance band that explores American old time, Celtic, Scottish, Puerto Rican, African, Cuban, classical and blues traditions.

Hal Walker, a singer, songwriter and musical explorer whose diverse, unique style engages audiences of all ages. He writes songs that will touch your soul, and celebrates diversity, community and the creative process. He is the music director of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, Ohio.



Martha Kluth, Sandy Bowers, and Michelle Bores work at the annual church Book Sale.

Note from Tom Myers

Dear UU Friends:

As you might know by now, I have moved out to Washington State near my 2 daughters. I have been struck down with macular degeneration and am almost completely blind. I live in a group home that has 5 other residents. It's very comfortable and I am well taken care of. I am attending and get regular visits from UU church members here in Washington, but I really miss my friends in my home church in Kent. I do have someone who reads to me so I would really appreciate letters from my old church friends.

P.S. Just a note from me (Nola Johnson, caretaker) - Mr. Myers really needs to hear from some of his old friends - he is very lonely even though he has made some new friends.

Donate to Caring Ministry

If you have any greeting cards or stationary that you don't need consider donating it to the church's Caring Ministry. We will use your cards etc... to send to church members who are in need of support, celebration and to have concerns validated. Even though Caring Ministry does use e-mail as much as possible, we seem to go through many cards and stamps each month, so we welcome your donation. Also, I do my best to hear what members share during the service but it is difficult to identify speakers and the content of what is actually said. I welcome your ideas about how to better collect the important information shared during the caring ministry time of the service.

Thank you, *Mary Ann Kasper*

May Church Events

1 11:15 RE Discussion <i>EA</i> 12:30 Parent's group <i>N</i> 12:30 SJC <i>EA</i> 12:30 Light Bytes <i>F</i> 2-3:00 church reserved 3:00 Craig Lucas memorial <i>S</i> <i>p5</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-11 talent show <i>S</i>	2 6:45 Member- ship <i>EA</i> 7:00 Tai chi	3 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	4 7:00 Vespers <i>S</i> 7:30 Thoughtful Cinema <i>p7</i> 7:30 Safety cte. <i>EA</i>	5 7:00 Social Me- dia <i>EA</i>	6	7 5-7:00 Sanctuary reserved 8-10 Mystic Con- cert <i>S</i>
8 11:15 RE Discussion <i>EA</i> 12:30 Light Bytes <i>F</i> 3:30 Your Story <i>EA</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	9 7:00 Tai chi	10 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 12:00 retirees lunch <i>F</i>	11	12 6-8:00 Light Bytes <i>F</i> 7-9:00 BYOT <i>EA</i>	13	14 4-11 p auction event <i>F</i>
15 Newsletter deadline 9-11 New U <i>EA p7</i> 11:15 RE Discussion <i>EA</i> 12:30 Parent's group <i>N</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	16 7:00 Tai Chi	17 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	18 7:00 Vespers <i>F</i> 7:30 Thoughtful Cinema <i>p7</i>	19 7:00 BYOT <i>EA</i>	20 4-6 Master Plan <i>EA</i> 6-8:00 Wedding <i>S</i> 6:30 Game night 7-8:00 talent show	21 12-6:00 Wedding <i>S</i>
22 11:15 RE Discussion <i>EA</i> 3:30 Your Story <i>EA</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	23 7:00 Tai chi	24 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	25 6-8:00 RE cte. <i>EA</i>	26 7-9:00 BYOT <i>EA</i>	27 5:30-8:30 Art hang- ing <i>S</i>	28 2-4:30 Memorial <i>S, F</i>
29 10:30 Pancakes 11:15 RE Discussion <i>EA</i> 12:15 Pancakes ad nauseum 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	30 7:00 Tai chi	31 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	1 7:00 Vespers <i>F</i> 7:30 Thoughtful Cinema	2 7:00 Build Theol- ogy <i>EA</i>	3	4 10-6:00 wedding 7-9:00 Annual mtg. <i>S</i>

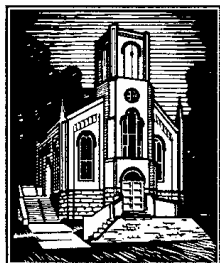
Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall
EA- Eldredge Annex; *FH*- Fessenden Hall; *FL*- Founders' Lounge; *L*- Library; *S*-Sanctuary; *N*- Nursery;
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after April 22

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.



Hal Walker and Maurice Drake
 singing for the Kent Community
 Dinner at the Islamic Center in
 Cuyahoga Falls.

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



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Making rain barrels and monitoring water during Water Resources Sunday. A young river otter (left) was seen during the water monitoring workshop.

