



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

June 2011

Sunday Services

9:30 and 11:15 am

228 Gougler Ave.

Kent, Ohio 44240

Phone: 330-673-4247

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www.kentuu.org

Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net

Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday

By appointment

Congregational

Administrator:

MaryBeth Hannan

Office hours:

Mon. through Fri. 9 - 1:30

Religious Ed. Director:

Karen Lapidus

dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net

DRE's Office Hours:

Tuesday and/or Wednesday

By appointment

Music Director:

Hal Walker

Commissioned Lay Leader:

Christie Anderson

christiea@neo.rr.com

Affiliated

Community Minister:

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke

zimlar@juno.com

Newsletter editor:

Brad Bolton

bbolton@neo.rr.com

Deadline:

The 15th each month

We are one of the only Unitarian Universalist churches in our district that doesn't have a commercial dishwasher. Someone recently observed this to me and I've since checked around and found it to be true. Is this the primary reason why we seem to have more trouble than the average congregation when it comes to finding volunteers to help with social hour? Luckily for us we have some folks who have been undeterred. In addition to the people who take regular social hour set up and clean up shifts, there are a few who have been known to fill in more than their fair share. Marion Yeagler has been coordinating the coffee hour volunteers and before her Paulette Thurman and Cari Orris held this important role. Ann Waters, Dan Hayes and Susan Goekler have all been regular volunteers for coffee hour set up. On the other end of social hour Randy and Mary Leeson have been regular dishwashers as well as Martha Kluth, Beth Kuemerle and Randy Ruchotzke. Please join me in extending appreciation to these people who have played such an important role in the practice of hospitality.

Every Sunday morning we have an open house. Every Sunday we have guests at our services who are wondering whether they might find a religious home for themselves at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. Most of our guests have already looked us up on line. They usually have some idea about our theology and tradition. What they want to know is whether they will find a fit with our culture. They need to know whether there is a space for them in our community. They come visit so they can find out if we will make them welcome. The practice of hospitality is essential. That is why we have friendly, smiling greeters every Sunday waiting to welcome people (thank you greeters!). That is why I begin every single service I lead welcoming people who are with us for the first time. And that is why we need to have an inviting social hour where people can get some nice refreshments and have a chance to meet some of the folks who make up this community.

I was recently talking with some leaders in the congregation about ways we can lessen the burden on the few by more widely sharing the practice of social hour hospitality. In the spirit of brainstorming we came up with this idea - themed social hours! Imagine the possibilities: bring a good book social hour, vegan social hour, build with legos social hour, wheat free social hour, wear a silly hat social hour . . . anything family friendly that you can dream up. Each week will have a different theme which we will advertise in advance. Everyone who agrees to participate will be asked to give us the month of their birth. We will then put people into groups of 4 or 5 and assign each group one week of their birth month to host social hour. The social hour hosts get to choose the social hour theme for their Sunday. On their Sunday, the host group will bring refreshments and set up for coffee hour (including putting out any decorations or information they want to use to illustrate their theme), make a special effort to greet any guests at social hour and do the clean up afterward as well. Our hope is that if most members and friends (including our middle and high school youth) choose to participate, then each person would only need to host once per year.

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Upcoming Sermons

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.

5 June

Celebrating Childhood

Religious Education Program's Children and their Teachers

Our annual RE Sunday is a time to celebrate! We are sure to be delighted by the presentations from our children and their teachers. Our religious education teachers and youth group advisors will be honored for their service. Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education will offer the homily.

12 June 2011, 10:30 am

Blessing of the Animals – A Special Service at Plum Creek Park

One Service Only at 10:30 am

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Lori McGee

The ties that bind us to our pets can be very strong. The relationships we form with the animals in our lives can be very deep. This morning at our annual service in the park, we will celebrate the animals who have enriched our lives and bestow upon them a blessing. You are encouraged to bring your pet, animal friend or favorite stuffed animal with you to our service this morning. If you do not think your pet would do well in that setting with other people and animals, you are welcome to bring a picture instead. And if you would like to remember a pet who has died, you are also invited to bring a picture or memento to the service.

After the service please plan to stay for our whole church picnic. Bring a dish to share and a utensil with which to serve your dish, place settings for everyone you are coming to church with and your own beverages. We will have a grill going with charcoal if you'd like to bring something to grill. Don't forget sunscreen, lawn chairs or a blanket and Frisbees, wiffle balls, bats and other lawn games to share.

19 June 2011

Black Pioneers in a White Denomination

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

The Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed is a distinguished Unitarian Universalist minister, now retired after 26 years of service. *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*, the book that grew from his graduate thesis, remains an important work in Unitarian Universalist history. This morning we will hear stories of some of the black pioneers in this predominantly white denomination. How can we learn from their experiences as we strive to grow into our dream of anti-racist, multi-racial, multi-cultural religious community?

26 June

Buddhism

Venerable Shih Ying-Fa

Buddhism will be explored in this worship service led by the Venerable Shih Ying-Fa, Abbott of the CloudWater Zendo of Cleveland. Ven. Ying-Fa was a highly regarded theme speaker at Summer Institute several years ago, is a popular worship leader in area UU churches, and participated in a UUCK/UCC Neighboring Faiths class.

News from the Librarians

This month we received a video of great interest from the Cole family. It is from the Southern Poverty Law Center, published in 2010 and is entitled Bullied: a Teaching Tolerance Documentary. It includes a DVD and a viewer's guide. It should be available to check out by June 1.

"Bullied is designed to help teachers and counselors create a safer school environment for all students, not just those who are gay and lesbian. It is also intended to help all students understand the terrible toll bullying can take on its victims, and to encourage students to stand up for their classmates who are being harassed".

We have almost finished relabeling the subject labels for our categories. More shelf space has been created by placing labels on the edge of the shelf to replace those in stands between the categories. The collection has been rearranged to make full use of the shelf space in the room. We are working to make the Library collection more accessible and a place where casual browsing is encouraged.

We have reserved the library space during coffee hour each Sunday for the use of Library committee members who are available to assist church members in finding or checking out materials. As this is the only practical time we can perform this service, we ask that impromptu meetings be held in another location during coffee hour.

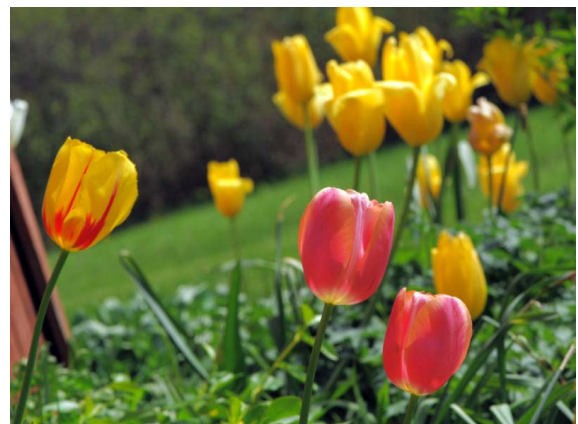
Ann Waters, Library Committee

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.

Gathering of Bookworms

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, June 14 at 7 pm in the home of Bonnie Harper in Kent. This month we are reading *Russian Winter* by Daphne Kalotay. The novel is about former Bolshoi ballerina Nina Revskaya who auctions off her jewelry collection and becomes overwhelmed by memories of her homeland, the friends she left behind amidst Stalinist aggression, and the dark secret that brought her to a new life in Boston. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.



March, April, and May showers bring June flowers.

Past Sermons Available for Listening

You can listen to past sermons in two ways.

Go to our church website - <http://www.kentuu.org/> and click on "Podcast link" on the right side. Scroll down to the sermon you want and click on "Play Now" to listen. To save the sermon as an mp3 file which you can transfer to your iPod, right-click on "Play Now" and choose "Save Link As". Our website provides only the sermon and other original content.

Brad Bolton

from p 1

I think this could be a wonderful way to meet new people, add another element of fun and creativity to each Sunday morning and strengthen our practice of hospitality. And, by having a group to work with, the absence of a dishwasher won't be such a burden. What do you think? We are planning to give this a try from September through December. Please let me know if you have any feedback we should take into consideration as we plan. And please look for more information about how you can participate in our themed social hour experiment in the Chalice Flame this summer.

In faith,

Melissa

Money Matters

Budget Numbers for April 2011

Incoming Revenues

Actual year to date - \$186,744.64

Budgeted year to date \$189,114.00

Outgoing Expenses

Actual year to date - \$187,007.53

Budgeted year to date - \$191,541.00

Our YTD revenues fell below plan this month by \$2,369.36. Revenues were projected to be higher in April but they remained steady. Our expenses continue to run below plan by \$4533.47.

Important –complete your pledges for our fiscal year ending 6/30/2011

As our 2011 fiscal year winds down, I would like to thank you in advance for completing your 2011 pledged donations. If you have any question about how much you may still owe on your last years donation, you can contact Kay Eckman or MaryBeth Hannahan.

Our budget is looking pretty tight for next year. Completing your planned donation ensures that we do not start our next fiscal year from a shortfall position.

Shout Out

Many thanks to Sandy Bowers, our pancake flipping, potato baking, Xmas peddling, book selling, chili judging, gift wrapping fundraiser extraordinaire. She has quietly, cheerfully, and tirelessly taken on this task for several years. Please thank Sandy next time you see her. If you have an idea and some enthusiasm for a fundraising event, bring them on. We're always open for new help and new ideas!

Kay Clatterbuck



Two of the belfry doors were blown out during high winds the last week of April. The bell could be seen from the street.

MBI replaced the belfry doors on May 20. Thanks to those who contributed to the reconstruction cost, and Ed Stolish, building and grounds trustee, for overseeing the work.



Rare north view of our church around 1910, when the building had the original louvered belfry doors and steeple. Zoom in for a look at the belfry and lone street light.

Summer Children's RE to Focus on Dr. Seuss Books

First the details...

The summer RE program for children age 4 through current grade 8 begins June 19th and continues until September 4.

Current middle school youth will serve as classroom helpers. It will be held during the 9:30 service ONLY, but childcare for babies up through age 3 will be provided at both services.

The RE class will happen in Fessenden Hall since the classrooms on the upper level are too hot in the summer.

"Time for All Ages" will be on summer hiatus, so children should come directly to Fessenden Hall where the sessions will begin at 9:30.

Now the good stuff...

We will be using the curriculum, *Dr. Seuss UU Style* by Cathy Cartwright, who serves as the Director of Religious Education at the First Unitarian Church in Portland, OR. Each lesson stands alone, so that families can choose to attend any or all of the summer RE sessions.

Each lesson uses one of Dr. Seuss' books as a starting point to engage with our principles and values. Some of the books we will be exploring are *Horton Hatches the Egg*, *If I Ran the Zoo* and *Oh, The Things You Can Think*. There will be lots of games, art projects, stories, parachute play, drama, sharing ideas and music!

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

Going to General Assembly?

This year we meet in Charlotte, NC. If you need a ride – I'm driving. I'm leaving on June 21st and returning on June 27th.

Mac Goekler 330 633 1846



Joe Culley, Mike Hovancsek, and friends perform at Mike's CD release party at church on April 30.

Below, Margot Milcetic joins the group on harmonium.



Gratitude From Kent Social Services

On behalf of the staff, volunteers and recipients of Kent Social Services, I want to express my sincere thanks for your extraordinary contributions of funds and food in recent months. Your donations were particularly beneficial as we were in the midst of a challenge drive which gave us the ability to match our donations with funds from a generous philanthropist.

During the March and April challenge period, members of this congregation donated 69 canned food items and 29 pounds of dry food items. In addition, the special collection totaled \$734.69 and over \$1,260 was donated directly by individual members. This is an extraordinary display of generosity from our church community!

As the price of food continues to increase, our costs are rising and the number of people seeking our assistance is continuing to increase. Your gifts are enabling us to help people who are struggling to maintain their essential needs and their self-respect. This congregation is certainly demonstrating its religious values in our community.

In gratitude, *Christie Anderson*



Sandy Eaglin donates to Erika's "Change for Change" campaign.

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*



UU Bed and Breakfast

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory, *UU're Home*, can fulfill your dream. For thirty years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The last paper edition will be published in April 2011, since most members now use the website exclusively, at a cost of only \$10 for a year's access to the current listings. For a copy of the 2011 paper directory plus a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

June Church Events

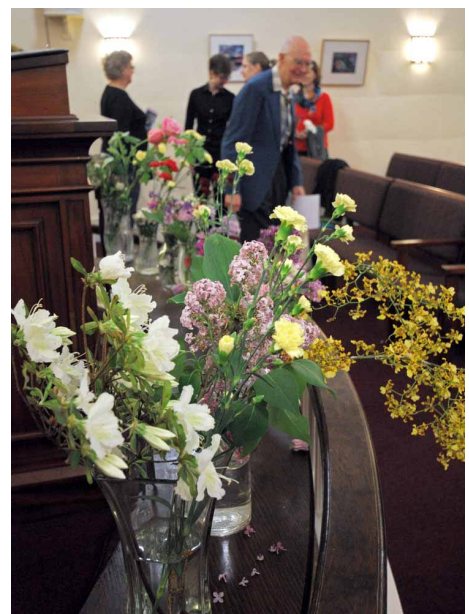
29 10:30 Pancakes 11:15 RE Discussion <i>EA</i> 12:15 Pancakes ad nauseum 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	30 7:00 Tai chi	31 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	1	2 7-9:00 BYOT <i>EA</i>	3 5-10 p Fessenden reserved	4 8-6:00 kitchen reserved 10-6:00 wedding 7-9:00 Annual mtg. <i>S</i>
5 10:45 annual mtg vote 12-5:00 kitchen reserved 12:30 <i>SJC EA</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	6 7:00 Tai chi	7 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 7-9:00 Worship Assoc. <i>EA</i>	8 6:45-8:15 Membership <i>EA</i>	9 7-9 Time Bank <i>F</i> 7-9:00 BYOT <i>EA</i>	10	11 10-1:00 Wedding
12 10:30 One service only at Plum Creek Park 9-11 New U <i>EA p7</i> 3:30 Your Story <i>EA</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	13 7:00 Tai Chi	14 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 12-1:30 retirees lunch 7-9 Board mtg. <i>F</i>	15 Newsletter deadline	16 7-9 COM <i>EA</i>	17	18
19 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	20 6-8 RE mtg. <i>EA</i> 7:00 Tai chi	21 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 Pancakes 11:15 RE Discussion <i>EA</i> 12:15 Pancakes, more 3:30 Your Story <i>EA</i> 6:30 Kent Natural Foods <i>S</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	27 7:00 Tai chi	28 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	29	30	1	2

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

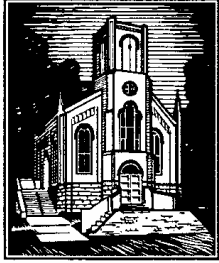
A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at
<http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent> or through a link on our website at www.uukent.org.



Flower Sunday at church



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



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This space reserved for your inspiring article.