



# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

July 2011

## Sunday Services

9:30 and 11:15 am

228 Gougler Ave.

Kent, Ohio 44240

Phone: 330-673-4247

Fax: 330-677-4772

[www.kentuu.org](http://www.kentuu.org)

## Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer  
[minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:christiea@neo.rr.com)

## Affiliated

### Community Minister:

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke

[zimlar@juno.com](mailto:zimlar@juno.com)

## Newsletter editor:

Brad Bolton

[bbolton@neo.rr.com](mailto:bbolton@neo.rr.com)

## Deadline:

The 15th each month

I have been thinking a lot recently about all the ways we help one another. This is a congregation that values community. People in this church don't just come together for worship and service; people in this church also come together as friends. The attention to community building is part of what makes this congregation special.

Our Caring Ministries exist to formalize and extend that ethic of care to those among us who are in need of support. Our Pastoral Associates Listening Team offers a caring ministry of presence through listening support while our Helping Hands Network offers practical assistance with needs like occasional meals, rides and cards. For the last couple of years we have been trying to take notes during the Embracing Meditation time of our service so that we can reach out to people who share joys, sorrow, milestones and memorials with the community. We have realized that we often are unsure who would like a response to the things they share in our services and who want only the experience of sharing in the presence of witness and the spirit of life and love that embraces us all.

That is why I introduced a book during our services today which we will be keeping on the low, curved table in front of the pulpit on Sunday mornings. If you have a joy, sorrow, milestone or memorial you would like brought to the attention of our Caring Ministries, please write it in the book at any point on Sunday mornings. You will still have the opportunity to share freely and spontaneously during our services, but we will only direct those items written in the book to the attention of our Caring Ministries teams. As always, you are free to contact the coordinators of those teams directly if you would like to make a specific request for assistance. Their contact information is in the blue Caring Ministries brochure located on a bulletin board in Fessenden Hall. Please keep in mind that all of our assistance is provided by volunteers and advance notice of your request is appreciated to enable people sufficient time to plan.

Another change I'd like your help with involves closing the buildings. For the last few years our sexton has had responsibility for closing the church on Sunday mornings. Due to budget constraints, we had to slightly reduce the number of hours our new sexton will work from 12 to 10 per week. Our new sexton, who we hope to have hired by the end of July, will be responsible for opening the church on Sundays, but we are going to need to be responsible for closing. If you are here on Sunday for a meeting or gathering after the second service, will you please double check to ensure that all doors and windows are closed and locked and all lights turned off before you leave. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

In the rhythm of the church year, summer brings a slightly slower pace which allows time for learning, resting and planning. My own schedule has time devoted to all three of these. Right now my planning includes identifying three new worship associates to join our team beginning in August. We are looking for people who are comfortable speaking in public, who are interested in worship and who can help diversify our Worship Associates team. If you are interested, please contact me and I will provide you with more information about this opportunity for service and growth.

Continued p. 2 —————>

## Upcoming Sermons

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.

3 July

*Food for Thought*

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke with Trish McLoughlin

Is there a "middle path" to the ethical eating dilemma? How can being mindful about our food choices can help us create a connection to the interdependent web? (This sermon is the winner of the 2010 Commission on Social Witness award)

10 July

*Silent Disabilities*

Deb Biggins with Elaine Bowen

Not everyone has a disability that is readily seen. There is depression, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, autism, meinares disease, and so on. Through personal stories and experiences Deb Biggins will share what it is like to live with silent disabilities. The program will also share stories of others in our community who have disabilities that are hard to understand, and most times we don't stop to think about them. People around us are living with difficult handicaps but they are not always seen easily so we tend to overlook them. This service will help open our eyes to those around us suffering with Silent Disabilities.

17 July

*Truth or Meaning?*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Joel Slater

Is there a conflict between the search for truth and the search for meaning? If there were a conflict, which would you prioritize? These are among the questions raised by Joel Slater, who won the opportunity to select a theme for a worship service at our service auction last fall. Joel will be joining Melissa in leading this service in exploration of our fourth principle.

24 July

Rev. Harold Walker with Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

Finally, I want to let you know what I will be up to this month and who you can contact in case of emergency. From June 20 – June 26 I will be attending our annual Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly and will be available by cell phone in case of emergency. From June 27 – July 3 I will be on vacation with good friends and our Commissioned Lay Leader, Christie Anderson, will be available for urgent pastoral concerns that week. I will be on study leave the week from July 4 – July 10 which will include serving on the staff of the UU Leadership Team Institute at Kenyon and will be available by cell phone if needed. July 11 – 17 I will be in the office working a regular schedule. July 18 – July 27 is another period of study time during I will be available by cell phone. From July 28 – August 2 I will be on vacation visiting my sister in law in Colorado and Christie Anderson will once again be available for urgent concerns that week. For most of August I will be working my typical schedule.

I hope summer brings each of you just what you need.

In faith,



## Money Matters

May's figures..

Incoming Revenues YTD

Actual - \$198,887.63

Budgeted - \$207,001.00

Outgoing Expenses YTD

Actual - \$206,513.50

Budgeted - \$210,220

Our expected collections for May came in pretty far below projections. Offsetting that somewhat is the fact that our expenses are running below plan as well. In order not to finish the year in the red, it is vitally important for us to complete our pledges for this year finishing up. If you are unsure about how much you may still owe on your pledge, please contact MaryBeth in the office, or myself.

## Capital Repairs Campaign

This month's shout out goes to all of us as a whole! In response to our belfry disaster, our congregation contributed a total of \$4,915. With the addition of an insurance check, the total collected was \$7,175. Repairs totaled \$5,370. We had enough to pay for the repairs and used an additional \$1310 to have our dangerously dilapidated garage demolished and the debris hauled away. \$100 of that figure is refundable (a permit from the city). This leaves us with a total of \$595 for future capital repairs. Taking care of our beloved community's home is a good thing.

## Stewardship

We are a generous church (see above) and I believe that there is a spiritual dimension to giving. I'm very excited about a stewardship development program being offered by the UUA called FORTH. The program promotes keeping stewardship visible year around. I know that many of us would rank a raging case of poison ivy just slightly above money talk and I would like to change this in our culture. Stewardship is very necessary to keeping our church community thriving. I would love to have company while going thru the program. Please let me know if you have an interest in this area – drop me a line.

## 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 Sally Burnell.



Amy Breedon and Spud at the Blessing of the Animals service at Plum Creek.

## Book Sale Bucks

We made over \$350 at the book sale with a few dollars still coming in. Half of the total revenue will go toward the church library. Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, offered storage, and shopped! Start saving for next year!



The Marfy twins hold the Brannan twins at the church picnic at Plum Creek.

### From the Library Committee

Andrew Bores has nearly completed the annual inventory of our Library collection; we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his major donation of time to keep our collection current. When the inventory is completed, all the purchased and donated books we have received will be added to the permanent inventory.

John Buerhens, theme speaker for the 2011 July Summer Institute (SI), is co-author of House for Hope: the Promise of Progressive Religion in the Twenty-first Century, Beacon Press, 2010. We have 2 copies in the Library for those who would like to acquaint themselves with it before SI.

The committee has purchased a used storage cabinet with a lock for equipment, for materials being processed, and for the Library files.

If you temporarily store items in the Library, please retrieve those items from the Library after they are no longer needed there. Items not directly connected with the Library will be taken to the Lost and Found in Fessenden Hall. We respectfully request your cooperation on this issue.

*Ann Waters, Publicity*

### Book Group

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, July 19 at 7 pm in the home of Mary Ann Kasper. This month we are reading a biography of your choice. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.

### Tell Your Story Silenced for Now

The writing group, Tell Your Story, is not meeting during the summer. We will start again in September (2nd and 4th Sundays at 3:30 in the Annex).

We will see you again then, and hope some new people will join us too!

*Pat Pownall*



Amy Breedon and Spud, top. Liz Erickson with names of a few of her many cats, bottom, at Plum Creek.

### Out To Lunch Bunch

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

When we go to one service, there is no out to lunch bunch.



## UU Haiku

You may know that your church staff meets twice a month to consider together the previous Sundays, to look at what is coming up in the life of the church and to network around ways that our separate areas of ministry might intersect. You probably do not know that it is our tradition to share a spiritual practice with each other once a month or so. We rotate responsibility for this piece of our time together. Past sharings have included identifying photographs of the church's nooks and crannies, reflecting on which common household objects represent our work at the church, reflecting on poetry and stick-dancing (yes, that was Hal's offering!)

These opportunities offer Melissa, Hal, MaryBeth Hannan (our new administrator), often Colleen (our interim sexton) and myself ways to be together that both enhance our work and strengthen our relationships. It has been a real blessing as well as a lot of fun.

This month MaryBeth asked us to write Haiku about Unitarian Universalism and/or our church. Here are our a sample of our results:

Oldest church in Kent  
Bell and bricks on granite rock  
Growing and changing.  
(Hal)

Living tradition

A journey of faith and love,  
Transformed...transforming.  
(Melissa)

Search for inner peace  
Loving hearts meditate here  
Seeking justice for all life.  
(MaryBeth)

Spirit-filled thinkers,  
Striving in community,  
Love welcoming love.  
(Karen)

Since Haiku are limited to 17 syllables, one must be really careful in choosing words. The other rule is that the first and last lines contain 5 syllables each and the middle line contains 7. What few words would you choose to capture the essence of our faith tradition? What are the most important words that reflect who we are and what we believe? Perhaps you would like to try your hand at writing Haiku about our church. If so, please send them to me by July 15 and I will ask Brad to include them in the August edition of *Chalice Flame*. Happy Haikuing!

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



The choir in full voice at Plum Creek Park.

Melissa and the choir preparing for the Blessings of the Animals sermon at Plum Creek Park.

### "Summer RE Dr. Seuss Style"

The summer Religious Education program, "Dr. Seuss UU Style" continues through September 4th. It will be offered only during the 9:30 service time. All children age 4 through grade 8 will gather with the teachers in Fesenden Hall. (Time for All Ages will be on hiatus during the summer.) We are sure to have lots of fun engaging with the classic Dr. Seuss stories and learning how they relate to our UU values and principles.

Nursery care will be available during both services for children younger than age 4. Senior high and Middle School youth should watch their email or Facebook pages for information on special programming for them over the summer.

*Karen Lapidus*

### New Blend for Coffee Hour

As Rev. Melissa proposed in her June column, we would like to create some coffee hour excitement by asking those with birthdays in a given month to provide a theme and host coffee hour for one week of that month. A team of three or four people could set up, bring refreshments, make an effort to chat with guests, and clean up afterwards.

Melissa suggested several possible themes. Someone else has suggested 'wear your name tag' month! If this works, then each of us will only have to do it once a year. Are you feeling inspired? Working together we can make this happen. If your birthday is in September, please contact me. Marion Yeagler, coffee hour coordinator.

*Perhaps a food theme could be coupled with the sermon theme for that week - Ed.*



Eric Van Baars taught dance at summer Hogwarts

### A Hot and Hungry Summer

Imagine eating breakfast and lunch 5 days a week at school and suddenly, on summer vacation, there's no food at home for you and your sibs. This scenario is playing out all over the nation and in our Kent neighborhoods. Only 10% of the children served during the school year are fed by government subsidized summer feeding programs. The gap is HUGE and the KSS food pantry needs donations for parents to feed their families.

PLEASE remember child and family friendly foods: PB & jelly, cereal, tuna, macaroni & cheese, canned pasta and other "meal-in-a-can" items, spaghetti/pasta and sauce, beans, fruit and veggies, 100% fruit juice, hamburger & tuna box meal mixes . . . anything non-perishable.

If you prefer, you may donate an Acme gift card at the Acme Bucks table in Fessenden Hall between services. It's summertime and the livin' is not easy for many . . . thank you for your generosity.

*Elaine Bowen*



Joe Kuemerle, headmaster of Hogwarts and Potions professor emeritus, savors his morning cup of . . . ?

## July Church Events

<b>26</b> 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes, more 6:30 Kent Natural Foods S 7-9 AA FH	<b>27</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>28</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 10-12p Sexton search com. EA	<b>29</b> 6-9:00 Board mtg. F	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 12:30-2:30 SJC EA 7-9 AA FH	<b>4</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>5</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 7-9 AA FH	<b>11</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>12</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Newsletter deadline	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 7-9 AA FH	<b>18</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>19</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 12-1:30 Retirees lunch	<b>20</b> 3:30-5:30 Time Bank F 6:30-10 Time Bank	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 7-9 AA FH	<b>25</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>26</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes #2 7-9 AA FH	<b>1</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>2</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

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 June 22

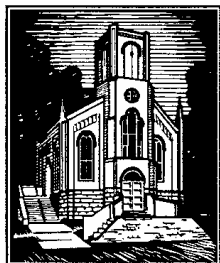
A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at  
<http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent> or through a link on our website at [www.uukent.org](http://www.uukent.org).



Prof. Dazzleswift (Becky Haines) talks to the 68 students of Hogwarts.



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



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Heidrun wrote a puppet show including a home-made basilisk, a dangerous animal in Harry Potter's world.



Logan Bores after three days of Hogwarts.



Prof. Dazzleswift herds the school through the Chamber of Secrets.

Reid Parsons  
and Maia  
Maida at  
Hogwarts.

