



# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

September 2011

**Sunday Services**  
9:30 and 11:15 am

**228 Gougler Ave.**  
**Kent, Ohio 44240**  
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**Fax: 330-677-4772**  
**www.kentuu.org**

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**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  
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DRE's Office Hours:  
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**Deadline:**  
The 15th each month

I am very excited to tell you about a new endeavor we will be exploring in worship this year. Theme Based Ministry is an approach to worship that a growing number of Unitarian Universalist congregations are implementing as a way of deepening. In our practice thus far, the Worship Associates and I have identified the topics for our Sunday morning worship services using a process that reflects upon congregational life, the issues and concerns of the larger society and the seasons and holidays that mark the turning of the year. This approach works really well in drawing upon the synergy of brainstorming and collaboration to name worthy subjects for worship. It doesn't work so well, however, in ensuring that our breadth is the breadth we intend or that the depths go as deep as we need them to go.

Theme based ministry is designed to promote intentional breadth and depth in our worship services. By selecting themes for each month, the worship associates and I were able to be intentional about the breadth of religious and spiritual concerns we want to be sure to address this year. And by keeping each theme for a whole month, we will be able to dive deeper into the substance of each theme than approaching a new topic each week allows. (Lay leaders and guest ministers will not necessarily choose sermon topics in alignment with our monthly themes, although they may if they wish). We are still using the process for identifying topics that I described above so you will see no change in the wide diversity of topics that are the focal points for our worship services. What will change though is the continuity you will see *between* those topics as each of them will connect in some way to the theme of the month.

For this exploratory year, the worship associates and I began with our congregation's mission, vision and covenant to identify our monthly themes. We thought this would be a great way for us to be sure we are staying close to the hopes, values and dreams we share in common. Here are the themes we selected:

- |                          |                    |                 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| September – Mercy        | January – Vision   | April – Justice |
| October – Transformation | February – Courage | May – Curiosity |
| November – Connection    | March – Gratitude  | June – Kindness |
| December – Purpose       |                    |                 |

We will be developing sessions for our Chalice Groups (which *are* returning this year) on each of these themes so that Chalice Groups may be another place to take the reflection deeper. Our new Food for Thought Groups (which will be much less formal than Chalice Groups and organized around a shared meal) will also take these themes as a topic of conversation. Look for more information about Chalice Groups and Food for Thought Groups at church later this month.

Finally, for those who have been Unitarian Universalist for some time and want a formal way to go deeper in theological reflection, spiritual practice and faith development, I am offering a year long, high-commitment adult religious exploration class. See the article called *Going Deeper* on page 6 in this issue of the Chalice Flame.

In faith,

## Upcoming Sermons

28 August

*Striving for Right Relationship*

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

Unitarian Universalists are people who strive to live ethical lives in alignment with our deepest values. But we don't always get it right. The best we can do is keep striving to live in right relationship. Come reflect on some of the ethical tensions of living in covenantal community.

4 September

*Poetry: A Doorway Into Prayer*

Lead by Lori McGee with Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

Do UUs have prayers? Do UUs pray? Do **you** pray? Most major world religions have prayers that are said in times of sorrow, joy and celebration. We do not share this practice in our UU tradition. Prayer can be a powerful tool in one's spiritual life and I, for one, feel the need to have some kind of prayer to rely on in times of need. I believe that poetry can open the doorway into prayer for UUs who wish to have this practice in their daily life. This service hopes to explore this idea and will offer some poems for your consideration as a possible opening to prayer.

11 September

*Prayers of Peace and Mercy*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus

September 11, 2001 was a day the world shook. Ten years later as we gather in worship we will mark the tenth anniversary of those tragic events with prayers of peace and mercy. Because this is also our annual Ingathering service, we are going to re-imagine our gathering of the waters ritual. This year we ask you to bring water with you to our services from a place which you find peaceful.

Traditionally this service is a multigenerational service and we are going to keep that tradition this year. We are working hard to ensure that this service will be meaningful and appropriate for people in first grade and older. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent choir will help us create moments of peace and harmony as they return from their summer break with special music.

18 September

*Merciful*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

The financial times in which we live are challenging. Many who work hard and play by the rules have been unable to find adequate employment. There is suffering in our midst. This morning we will explore what it might mean for us collectively, as a community and as a nation, to be merciful toward those who suffer.

25 September

*To Be Announced*



Nicole and Jason Zavodny dedicated their baby, Ava Nicole Zavodny, at church. Godmother and sorority sister Zandria Robins is on the left.

## Moderator's Corner

The other morning I woke up to find a frog on the counter in my kitchen. He was just sitting there very still as I walked past him on my way to the back door to let Maggie dog outside. But something, probably the bright green, caught my attention. Laughing in surprise, I asked him, "How in the world did you get in here?" A frog has never come visiting before.

I stopped for a moment to look at him more closely—well, as closely as my pre-coffee morning foginess would allow. He was really a beautiful little critter, bright green with big black eyes. Motionless. Still. Trying to be invisible. I slowly reached out to touch him, but he startled and jumped to the floor, scurrying into a corner. Not wanting him to become the prey of my huntress kitten nor the toy of my Great Dane, I scooped him up and brought him out to the yard. He sat in the grass for a few moments before climbing up my fence and escaping through the space around the post.

As I sat down with my coffee to do my morning reading, I spent a few moments contemplating the meaning of the strange little visitor in my kitchen. Yes, of course, there is a logical and a rational explanation for how a frog ended up on my counter on a Sunday morning, but those explanations are generally not as much fun for me. The mystic in me believes there are hidden meanings in things and signs all around me, if I am only open to them. This was not always my life view, and I am often quite astounded at what I discover when I am able to embrace this per-

spective. So I did a little Googling and thought about frogs.

Frogs figure into many cultures and belief systems as totems or omens. According to [whats-your-sign.com](http://whats-your-sign.com), the Egyptians, the Celts, and the Chinese placed importance of the frog as a sign of fertility, cleansing, and good luck. More modern symbolism establishes the frog as a sign of transformation because it goes through so many changes on its way to maturity. Frogs are associated with luck, transitions, renewal, metamorphosis, dreaming, and opportunities.

I concluded that there are a few things we can learn from frogs:

**Life is full of naturally occurring transitions.** You can't fight 'em so you might as well figure out how to integrate them into your life in healthy ways.

**There are important trade-offs in life.** Tadpoles drop their tails and develop powerful back legs for jumping. You might miss what you give up, but eventually what you get is invaluable.

**Sometimes exploration ends in discovery.** You can't know what you are going to encounter while checking things out. Sometimes you catch a glimpse of something that changes you.

**Make the most of the journey.** There is more than one meaning to the word "croak".

*Blessings, Christopher*

### Appreciation from Pat Pownall

I want to thank everyone in my church family who has supported me throughout my recent surgery and moving upheaval with your cards, phone calls, caring thoughts, prayers and many other forms of help. I will be residing with my son Bryan and his family in Maryland for the next six months while I have chemotherapy.

If my current email address changes I will let you know. Thank you for a lovely send off.

*Pat Pownall*



Travis Baiera, most likely the first theremin player to perform at our church.

## Family Movie Night

Our first Family Movie Night will begin at 7 pm on Sept 7th. It will be in the church, but the room will be specified later. Food will be provided, but if you have any allergies or special needs, please contact Cheryl. This night will be devoted to classic cartoons! We will have Oscar winning shorts featuring favorites like Bugs Bunny, Tom and Jerry, Betty Boop, etc. We will also show forgotten favorites, like Commander Bleep, Clutch Cargo, etc. Our short feature film will be "Mr. Bug Goes to Town," the film that inspired Pixar's "A Bug's Life". It is also the last full length film made by the creators of Popeye and Betty Boop! A good time will be had by all.

A new series begins on Tuesday September 20th. Spiritual Cinema will show entertainment films that focus on the world's religions and related topics. We will show films about Buddhism, Humanism, Atheism, and the Western faiths. These are not documentaries, but stories from Hollywood, Asian cinema, etc. We will begin with the Oscar winning comedy "The Green Pastures". This Nineteen Thirty-six film shows the ways children imagine the biblical stories they hear in Sunday school. Deep theology is packaged in clever comedy. Following the film will be a discussion session. The movie will begin at 7:30 and snacks will be provided. Any questions should be directed to Cheryl Spoehr.

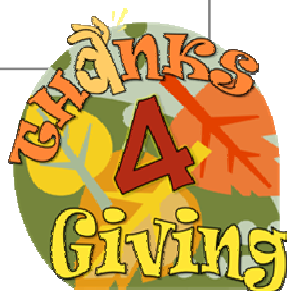
*If you appreciate odd and wacky films, this is for you - Ed.*

### Save the Date 4 Thanks-4-Giving

Who: 4 all UU's and their friends  
 What: Annual Auction of Goods and Services  
 Where: TBA  
 When: Saturday, November 5  
 Why: Because we are 4-tunate to have a caring and generous community

B-4 you know it, you will be asked for donations and to volunteer!

Stay tuned.



## Ministry Day: A Way to Get Connected and Share Your Gifts!

September 18<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour and after second service the Board will be hosting a ministry day to highlight what our various committees and groups have going on for the coming year. Each committee or group will present up to three events/goals and information will be given on ways to get involved. This is a great way to hear about what's going on in our vibrant church community!

Every person who participates will be given a small gift bag with slips of paper. The slips of paper will be used to write which groups you would like to get involved in for the coming year. Each committee and group will have a signup sheet where you can leave your information to be contacted.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved and find a way to share your own unique gifts with our church community! Light refreshments will also be served.

Julie Lineburgh

## Ask the Psychic Fundraiser

What's in store for you? We will welcome Laura Lyn, a well known Psychic/Medium and author of Healing with the Angel Rays as she gives predictions for you as she takes personal questions from the audience. She will work through cards, pendulums and spiritual insight to bring forth your answers. The audience will have an opportunity to have hands on experience with tools of the trade such as pendulums, dousing rods and crystals. She will also offer up the opportunity to speak to the church ghosts! There will be a presentation where we will attempt communication. Expect candlelight and a hauntingly wonderful ambiance to all be part of this fascinating evening! You will not want to miss this fun and informative event. You can learn more about Laura Lyn at [www.angelreader.net](http://www.angelreader.net). Vendors will have items available for sale. Pre-registration not required.

Date: September 16th.

Time: 7:00-10:00 PM.

Cost: \$19.00 per participant.

Sandy Bowers

## Religious Education Program for Children Reconfigured

Last church year, the number of children that attended RE during the 9:30 service was very low compared to the attendance during the 11:15 service. The Religious Education Committee has decided to respond to this trend and offer **age-specific RE classes only during the 11:15 service.**

Nursery care for little ones **up to age three** will be offered both services. (Note that 3 year-olds will no longer be in the nursery.)

A multi-age activity will be offered during the 9:30 service. Some of our children are with us for both services, so there will be program for them and for any other visiting children who happen to come at 9:30. All are strongly encouraged to attend RE at 11:15.

Our **age-groupings are changing**, as well. Our offerings this year will be:

*Spirit Play* for children age 3 through Kindergarten

*Moral Tales* for grades 1-3

*Love Connects Us* for grades 4 and 5

*Heeding the Call: Qualities of a Justice Maker* for Middle School (grades 6-8)

*Youth Group* for grades 9-12. They will choose their own curriculum from the UUA's "Tapestry of Faith" programs.

More details about the program content are available on our website ([www.kentuu.org](http://www.kentuu.org)) and in our RE brochure.

RE Classes begin on **Sunday, September 18th.**

In addition to these wonderful Sunday morning offerings, the RE Committee is pleased to announce two special RE classes that will take place at other times. We are offering **OWL (Our Whole Lives) to children in grades 4 and 5** on Sunday afternoons this fall. (If you have a child in 4th or 5th grade who has not received an invitation to this, please let me know.) We are also offering the **Coming of Age** program to youth in grades 8, 9 and 10.

I am looking forward to another year of journeying with our children, youth, teachers and parents as we deepen our Unitarian Universalist faith together.

In faith and with love,

*Karen Lapidus*, Director of Religious Education

## Money Matters

### Final report for fiscal year 2011

A round of applause to all of us! June saw many of us who brought their pledges up to date. We ended our fiscal year on June 30 with our income and expenses coming both coming in at about \$4,000 under projections. pretty much breaking even for the year. Total Revenues - \$224,947, Total Expenses - \$225,506

### Report for July of 2011

Our prepaid pledges are helping out through the traditionally slower summer season.

Total income (including \$12,606 in prepaid pledges) \$22,687

Total expenses - \$17,977

Did you know that more detailed information on our budget is available to all church members? It is located in the Board Meeting Minutes book located in our Fellowship Lounge.

### Shout Out . . .

To Esther Duncan and Pat Pownall who have been running the Acme Bucks grocery card program for many years. Last year the program brought in over \$1300 in income to the church. We make a 5% return on the cards - I think that's actually beating the Dow Jones Industrial Average. If you shop at Acme, this is a no-brainer.

A special note - Pat Pownall is temporarily out, undergoing treatment for an illness. Our best wishes go out to her. While we are waiting for Pat to come back, Esther could use an extra hand or two. Can you volunteer one Sunday a month to help out? Stop by the table on Sunday.



Cindy Vair, our new sexton.

## Going Deeper

It is essential that our congregation provide opportunities for those who are relatively new to Unitarian Universalism to learn about and find their places in this religious tradition. And yet, we also need to provide opportunities for those who have been around a while or even their whole lives to go deeper. This year long adult religious exploration class is one attempt to provide an opportunity for committed Unitarian Universalists to go deeper.

We will meet once each month on the second Saturday of the month beginning October 8, 2011 and continuing through June 9, 2012. Each meeting will be four hours long from 1 – 5. We will spend the first three months exploring Unitarian Universalist theologies, the second three months will focus on spiritual practice and the last three months will center on faith development. Participants will be expected to spend at least four hours preparing for our monthly meetings. That preparation will include reading primary source and other material in theology, engaging in spiritual practices and pursuing exercises designed to facilitate faith formation.

Because this class is not introductory, there are several requirements for participation. Participants must be members in good standing who have been Unitarian Universalist for at least two years. In addition, participants must have taken at least one prior adult religious exploration class (not including a new member class) and/or have participated in a Chalice Group or some other small group ministry. Participants will be expected to prepare for and attend all of the monthly *Going Deeper* meetings, to attend worship services regularly throughout the year and to participate in either a Chalice Group or one of our new Food for Thought Groups this church year.

*Going Deeper* will be limited to 12 participants and admittance is at the discretion of the minister. If you are interested in participating, please contact Melissa to set up a meeting to discuss your interest.



## Children's Choir Forming

All children age 3 through grade 8 are invited to join our new Children's Choir. The choir will be directed by Becky Haines with assistance from her daughter, Colleen Thoele. Both Becky and Colleen are "kid magnets", who are enthusiastic about adding this ministry to the life of our church.

This will be an opportunity for our children to have fun and deepen their faith through music, dance and drama. The Children's Choir will be participating in our worship services from time to time, with the first time being Sunday, October 30 for our Multigenerational worship service commemorating the Mexican holiday, Day of the Dead.

The choir will meet in the large classroom on the upper level of the main building from 10:40 until 11:10 on Sunday mornings beginning on September 18. Children age 3 and 4 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Older children may attend alone, but their parents and guardians must be in the building.

## The Necessity of Virtue

The Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich, Senior Minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City, created the series we will use in this adult religious exploration class. "Unitarian Universalists believe in virtue:" he writes, "the personal spiritual discipline of becoming the kind of individuals we ought to become, so that we might live as human beings ought to live. This presentation aims to examine our individual capacity to strive for moral excellence always and everywhere. What is your ethical basis for deciding what to do and how to live?"

This class will run for four consecutive Thursdays from 7 – 9 beginning on Thursday, August 25 and will meet in the (air conditioned) Eldredge Annex. During each class we will view the video for two of the series segments followed by a discussion. Each class can stand alone so you are welcome to come to any or all of the four sessions, though the first session will include an introduction to the whole series. The schedule for the series is as follows:

- August 25 – Virtue as the Key to Happiness  
(Introduction) and Wisdom
- September 1 - Courage and Compassion
- September 8 - Justice and Temperance
- September 15 - Transcendence and Hope

## September Church Events

<b>28</b> 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes #2 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>29</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>30</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 7-9 Adult RE EA 7-9 Program com. F	<b>2</b> 7-9 YA Game Night	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 12:30-2:30 SJC EA 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>5</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>6</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 6-9 RE com. F	<b>7</b> 7:30 Movie Night F p4	<b>8</b> 7-9 Adult RE EA 7-9 Service Auc- tion com. F	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 12:30-4 Coming of Age S F 3:30-6:30 Story Group EA 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>12</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>13</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 12 Retirees lunch	<b>14</b> 7:30-9:30 Board mtg. EA	<b>15</b> Newsletter dead- line 7-9 Adult RE EA	<b>16</b> 7-10 Ask Psy- chic church p4	<b>17</b> 3:30-4:30 Puppet Show
<b>18</b> 10:30 Ministry Day F p4 12:45-2:15 OWL parents RE 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>19</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>20</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 7:30-9 Spiritual Cinema F p4	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7-9 Adult RE EA 7-9 Service Auc- tion com. F	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10-4 church re- served 12 p Harriet Begala service
<b>25</b> 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes part B 12:45-2:15 OWL orientation S F 3:30-6:30 Story Group EA 6:30 choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>26</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>27</b> Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6-8 church reserved 8-10 Concert with Hal	<b>1</b> 2-6 church re- served

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 August 21

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).

### Notes From the Librarians

The Library has added a new category to the subject listings: **Religious Studies**. This category contains items that address topics and issues of religion, such as the general nature of religion, historical and cultural aspects of religion and other topics that don't fit well into any other category. It is distinct from the World Religions category which contains items related to specific belief systems other than Christianity.

A new book has been added to our collection, *Be the Change: Poems, Prayers, and Meditations for Peacemakers and Justice Seekers*, by Stephen M. Shick, (Skinner House, 2009). This collection is designed to inspire and sustain activists and others who are working for a better world. Shick draws on his four decades of activist experience to offer motivation and encouragement to those just start-

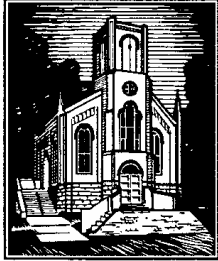
ing out as well as reflections and insights to veteran justice-seekers. Included are poignant and inspirational quotations and verse from Jesus, Shakespeare, Edna St./ Vincent Millay, Rachel Carson and Maya Angelou.

If you haven't seen the new look in the library with our category labels and color codes now set beneath the books along the shelves, do stop by and take a few moments to browse. Our efforts have been directed toward making it easier for you to find a specific book, and to make more room for the books in our small library.

We have also streamlined the check-out procedure for your convenience. We now have due date slips for you to enter a due date reminder.

*Ann Waters*, Library Committee Member

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent  
228 Gougler Ave.  
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### Concerned about "Fracking?"

Concerned by the anti-fracking activities going on in the Marcellus Shale area of our district? Faith Community organizing of this issue is being facilitated by Ron Prosek at the East Shore UU Church. The Network for Gas and Oil Accountability and Protection (NEOGAP) has created a video along with Ohioans for People and the Environment that is an overview of the fracking problem and the democracy solution. You can view it at <http://vimeo.com/27156186>

### Book Group Meets

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, September 13 at 7 pm in the home of Kathie Slater. This month we are reading *The Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. This novel tells a heartwarming story of fathers and sons, first loves, fate, and the resilient human heart. Set in the ethnic neighborhoods of Seattle during World War II and Japanese American internment camps of the era, the times and places are brought to life. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.



### Pancake Breakfast

The monthly pancake breakfast fundraiser continues to be popular. Unfortunately, the cost of ingredients has increased. As of the September breakfast, prices will increase to \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under.

Join us on September 25 for pancakes, meat or veggie sausage, and juice. The Featured Flavor is chocolate chip. Traditional flavor is available and GF is available upon request.