



# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

November 2011

## Sunday Services

9:30 and 11:15 am

**228 Gougler Ave.**

**Kent, Ohio 44240**

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

## Minister:

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[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

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DRE's Office Hours:

Tuesday and/or Wednesday

By appointment

## Music Director:

Hal Walker

## Commissioned Lay Leader:

Christie Anderson

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## Affiliated

## Community Minister:

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## Deadline:

The 15th each month

Unitarian Universalism doesn't really care whether you're an atheist, a theist, a pagan, a Buddhist, a Christian, or a Barnes and Noble-ite. Our question for you is whether your atheism, theism, paganism, Buddhism, or Barnes and Noble-ism leads you to connection. Leads you to listen to your deepest voice, be open to life's gifts and serve needs greater than your own.

From "Just Connect," a sermon preached by the Rev. Kaaren Anderson  
at the 2011 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly

I love this. I love the whole sermon from whence it comes. I've commended it to you before and I do so again now. Just connect. Isn't that what most of us really want? We want authentic, meaningful and satisfying connections. We want to be connected to ourselves, to our own thoughts and feelings. We want to be connected to each other, to our families and friends, to our larger communities. We want to be connected to the natural world, to tread gently upon the earth so that future generations may also know this gift. We want to be connected to something larger than our own egos, to some cause or vision or purpose that moves us and inspires us to share of ourselves. We want to be connected. More than that, we need to be connected.

A few years ago the Rev. Dr. Thandeka was the theme speaker at the Ohio Meadville District Summer Institute. Many folks from our church got to hear her speak about covenant and community and came back buzzing with ideas. I scheduled an informal conversation amongst those who attended and our talk turned to hospitality. We were especially focused on the ways in which we extend hospitality to those who walk through our doors for the first time. One person in the circle told about how he finally felt drawn to come check out the church after some things in his life began falling apart. He asked how many other people had come for the first time under similar circumstances. Lots of hands went up around the circle. The pain of disconnection has led many souls seeking someplace to connect.

That is an essential part of our mission. We exist as a congregation, in part, to be a meaning making community where people can connect with themselves, with each other and with something larger than us all. Everything we do helps serve this purpose - from the way we welcome to the faith development programs we offer, from the social justice projects we undertake to the music we hear in church. Our church is a place to remember, a place to imagine, a place to practice. I hope to see you there soon.

Peace,

## Upcoming Sermons

30 October

### *Remembering our Beloved Dead*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus and Worship Associate MaryLou Holly "Those who have died have never, never left. The dead have a pact with the living." So we will hear in church this morning as the choir sings the wonderful song written by Dr. Ysaye Barnwell and sung by *Sweet Honey in the Rock*. In this special, multigenerational service, we will lift up the wisdom of the Mexican holiday *Día De Los Muertos* (Day of the Dead,) as we remember our beloved dead. Everyone is invited to bring a photo or memento in remembrance of an ancestor or someone else you have loved 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 and lost to share on the altar during our service.

6 November

### *This is What Democracy Looks Like*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kathy Kerns

In our culture, religious institutions have an important role to play in supporting an open, inclusive and free democratic society. Election Day sermons used to be a common feature of Unitarian Universalist congregations. We'll honor that historic tradition this morning by exploring ways we can participate in building bridges and creating civil society.

13 November

### *Grow Where You Are Planted*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

One of the beautiful ways that people have resisted being swept up in homogenizing consumer culture is by turning toward local community. Come celebrate the many ways our lives can be energized and enriched by investing in connections with local community.

20 November

### *A Communion of All Souls*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus and Worship Associate Trish McLoughlin

With bread and honey we will bless one another. With song and story we will be blessed. Everyone is welcome to our special multigenerational celebration of Thanksgiving. Come and let your cup be filled with gratitude. Come and re-dedicate yourself to the promise implicit in the welcome of all souls.

27 November

### *The Education Of God: Noah*

Revs. David and Beverly Bumbaugh with the Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

An ancient myth tells of a time when one world ended and a new world came into being. This sermon will explore that old, familiar story in an effort to uncover what message it may contain for our own time when history threatens to become discontinuous.

## 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*

## Moderator's Corner

Each day I spend some time thinking about 'community'; I've been doing that for months now. I'm not looking for answers as I meditate on the idea-- rather, I am waiting for the expansion of my understanding. I want to understand what it truly means to be a member of this "beloved church". I have a deep desire to know those things that are close to your hearts so that as a lay leader I can serve you better.

Today, while doing my morning reading, I picked up Joan Chittister's book, The Monastery of the Heart: An Invitation to a Meaningful Life. Those people, who are closest to me, as well as the Board members, would tell you that I frequently quote Sister Joan. In all truthfulness, I'd have to say that aside from Parker Palmer's book, The Courage to Teach, her book is one of the most influential books I've read in my life. As I thumbed through the book, my attention was caught by this passage. Sr. Joan writes, "Communal discernment is a holy hearing of the prophetic voices among us. It comes out of listening to others and responding to them in the name of God, so that as a community we can move forward together, one heart at a time."

There's a certain resonance for me in that passage. It's important to listen to each other, to have holy [and

sometimes not-so-holy] conversations so that our community is alive, vibrant, and whole. None of us standing alone has the unconditional answer. There are as many answers to any given question as there are routes to Cleveland from Kent. However, each of us has a wisdom that comes from making sense of our own life experiences. Collectively, we represent various perspectives and life experiences that add to us as a community. So we need to listen to each other, without judgment to understand the truth that is being presented.

As Sr. Joan so eloquently states it, "A truly listening heart knows that we lose the chance for truth" in moments when we do not seek our collective wisdom. Our covenantal relationship with each other requires that we have two way dialogue—not discussion, not persuasion—but open exploration of ideas like mercy, faith, trust. Think about the opportunities that allow us to participate in the larger conversations within our church, our denomination, or the broader community which surrounds us. This is what love asks us to do...

*Christopher*



## Empower Portage Poverty Simulation

On November 4th, Empower Portage will conduct its third Poverty Simulation to raise awareness of the challenges faced by persons living in poverty. Participants will be placed in family units and assume the role outlined in their family's scenario. Each household will receive social security cards, cash, transportation passes and other essentials to get them started. What follows is four 15-minute "weeks" that reveal the real world of poverty to the uninitiated. This high-impact activity is an important tool for concerned citizens to gain a much fuller understanding of what everyday life is like for many who live below the radar of larger community. Please contact Tony Sargent or details and to sign up. Be sure to visit our website at [www.empowerportage.com](http://www.empowerportage.com)



Marion Yeagler promotes the church auction to Kat Holtz. Marta Rouieheb, Sandy Bowers and Joel Slater are in the background.

## Traditions and Community

As I write this, the Religious Education Committee, the high school and middle school youth, and their advisors (and many parents) are in the midst of planning for our upcoming Halloween Party and Haunted House. This festive event has a long history in our church. By my calculations, we have been celebrating in this manner for approximately 40 years, with only a few years having been skipped! I know of at least one former youth who now attends the party with her own children.

Young children look forward to when they will be the youth who create the haunted house (which is a maze with scary scenarios that winds through the nursery and RE classrooms; transformed for just one evening by the middle school and high school youth). Older parents fondly recall when their now adult children participated in this tradition.

The Halloween Party and Haunted House is something we do. It belongs to *us*. It is our tradition and one piece of the shared story that binds us together as a community.

As I write this, we are also in the midst of the beginning-of-the-year activities for our Coming of Age program. This past weekend, the youth and facilitators attended their "Chalice Circle" retreat and the mentors attended their orientation and opening ceremony. This is the second time we have offered the Coming of Age program, so it is safe to say that this program is becoming a beloved tradition for us. Again, the younger children look forward to their turn, as the older youth recall their rich experience and encourage their younger friends in their participation.

The Coming of Age program is something we do. It belongs to *us*. It is our tradition and one piece of the shared story that binds us together as a community.

The goal of binding together is at the very root of religion. The word *religion* is derived from the Latin root, *religare*, which means, to bind. It's easy to see how our Coming of Age Program is obviously religious, but I invite you to consider how our Halloween Party and Haunted House, as well as our other traditions (Walden, our annual church picnic and our Service Auction, among others) are religious events that bind our community together.

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

## Spiritual Cinema

Spiritual Cinema will be on Nov.15th, in Fessenden Hall, from 7:30p.m. to 9:30. Our movie is the 1948 comedy "The Horn Blows at Midnight". This film deliberately mis-casts gentle radio comedian Jack Benny as an angel who is ordered to destroy the earth and its people. What happens when he discovers compassion, and refuses to obey God, is the source for the slapstick humor in this very funny and thoughtful movie. G-rated, it is fun for all. Snacks will be provided. Contact Cheryl Spoehr if you have any questions.

## Game Night

Our monthly Game Night will be on Fri. Nov. 11, from 7-9p.m. Snacks and games will be provided, but please bring your own favorites! Contact Cheryl Spoehr. Marion Yeagler can also be contacted for information.



Caroline Arnold makes opening remarks at the first Occupy Wall Street meeting, which was open to the public.



## Thanks From the Library Committee

The Library Committee would like to thank all those who supported our first speaker event on October 9. Tom Dukes, Professor of English at the University of Akron, read from his book, Sugar Blood Jesus: A Memoir of Faith, Madness and Cream Gravy. He answered a number of questions after the reading, and was very gratified by the interest expressed, and the warm reception he received. A reception in Founder's Lounge followed the reading.

Professor Dukes donated to the Library two copies of Sugar Blood Jesus (Order of St. Luke Publications, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, 2009). It describes a gay man's faith journey, a love of food and fellowship, and a multi-decade battle with diabetes.

The updated Library brochure is now available in the Founders Lounge or the Library. Johnathan Bores designed the brochure, and Andrew Bores completed the revisions.

We are happy and grateful to acknowledge the seven people who signed at the Committee Fair to help with the Library: Peggy Parkinson, Larry Cole, Jan Noden, Joel Slater, Camille Pavlik-Fauser, Juanet Martinez, and Missy O'Hara. Thank you all! We will contact you as the need arises.

The library has two needs:

- Donations. We are approaching the time of year when charitable donations may be beneficial to you as well as to the Library. If you are able, checks may be made to the church with "Library Fund" on the Memo line.
- The committee is always looking for suggestions of books and other materials you would like to see added to the Library collection. Contact any Library committee member with your ideas.

*Ann Waters, Publicity*

## Book Group

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, November 8 at 7 pm in the home of Trish Johnson-Kwartler at 2937 Overlook Road in Silver Lake. This month we are reading any book by the author Donna Leon. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.

## Calling All Shoppers

As we approach the holiday season, the RE committee has begun planning for our annual Holiday Giving. This year, we will be supporting Miller Community House and Kent Social Services. For Miller Community House we will be taking monetary donations (CASH or Checks made payable to UUCK with "Miller Community House" in the memo line) which can be placed in the can on the table in Fessenden during coffee hour. Please watch the Thread from the Web & the e-nUUs for details. In support of Kent Social Services, we will be collecting toys, books, games & gloves/mittens for infants to 18 year olds. If you need ideas for shopping, please stop by the table the RE Classes will have in Fessenden during coffee hour. We will have a list of age appropriate ideas the children will compile to help make your shopping easier. You can also drop off your purchase in the box we will have available at the table. Also note, the teens especially like Wal-Mart gift cards and in the past KSS has run short on toys for boys. We will begin accepting donations Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> and the last day to drop off donations will be Sunday, December 11. All gifts should be unwrapped, as parents are able to look at the items and choose what would be appropriate for their child. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the RE Committee.



## Holiday Food Baskets

Kent Social Services needs donations for holiday food baskets for more clients than ever. Between now and mid December, please consider donating the following items: turkey gravy, canned vegetables, potato mixes, cranberry sauce, cake and gelatin mixes, canned fruit and Acme gift cards. Donations may be left in the ground level closet next to the elevator or brought to the service auction on Nov. 5. Your generosity will help brighten the holiday season for a neighbor in need. Thanks-4-giving!

*Elaine Bowen*

## County Clothing Center

As the austerity of winter approaches in the present economic crisis, the County Clothing Center (CCC) again needs our help.

The CCC offers a unique opportunity to take action toward major U-U goals for social and environmental justice: recycling of reusable materials, reducing consumerism, conviviality with customers and volunteers, service to the less fortunate; Every month over 30 tons of "stuff" passes through the Center. Ninety percent of it is distributed free to customers, sent to the Animal Protective League or Salvation Army, or recycled and thus kept out of landfills. Each weekday over 200 customers come through the Center. They range from destitute families evicted from their homes to middle-class matrons looking for collectibles; from people needing work clothes, warm coats or diapers to artists looking for materials; from expectant moms needing baby supplies to lonely seniors seeking a little socializing.

The Center has one paid director and 400 volunteers – including a small contingent from this church. Volunteers work at sorting donations, hanging clothes, stocking shelves and arranging displays, packing customer choices, or housekeeping chores. Most volunteers are from churches; others include students from service-learning programs, minor offenders sentenced to community service, residents of group homes, and members of clubs or organizations. The number of volunteers has recently decreased, partly because so many are elderly. They recently also lost the team from Silver Oaks. Our church needs to enlarge our team which serves the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 10AM – 2PM. We should also consider organizing a team to go some Tuesday or Thursday evening from 6 to 8 PM.

You can also help by bringing plastic grocery bags (used to pack customers' choices) to church and leaving them in the closet by elevator, and by taking unneeded clothing and household goods to the Center in Ravenna at 3377 Rte 59, (W. Main Street) (north side of the street) The Center is open M-F 10-2, and T & Th 6 - 8PM. Phone: 330 296 0503.

For more information contact Deb Newberry or Caroline Arnold.



## New UU class scheduled

Whether you are new to the UU Church of Kent or you have been here awhile, you are encouraged to attend the class that will be held on Sunday, November 13 from 9 to 11 am. The location will be announced later.

If you are contemplating membership with us, the information you receive in this class may answer many of your questions. We share information about the history of Unitarian Universalism in general, and the UU Church of Kent in particular.

All are welcome and you may drop in if you like, but if you know that you are attending or if you have any questions, please contact Claudia Miller or Marion Yeagler.

## OMD Up Close

Have you seen *OMD Up Close*, the OMD e-zine? Each month focuses on a topic of congregational life both from the district perspective and the congregational perspective. It is a great opportunity to learn what your UU neighbors are doing. Last month we featured Social Justice in the district and in our congregations. Upcoming issues will talk about stewardship, youth programming, and multigenerational programming around the holidays. You can read these online at [www.ohiomeadville.org/pubs/upclose.html](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/pubs/upclose.html) or subscribe to our email list on any page of our website and receive each month's copy in your inbox.



A Kent State student speaks at the first Occupy Wall Street meeting organized by the Social Justice Committee.

## November Church Events

<b>30</b> 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes part B 12:30-2:30 COA mtg EA 6:30 choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>31</b> 10-6 Wedding 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30 Tai chi	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 3:30-5 Master Plan F	<b>3</b> 7-9 Service Auction mtg F 7:30-9:30 COA EA	<b>4</b> 12 p-12 a- Auction prep F	<b>5</b> 12a-11p Auction prep F 6:00 service Auction S F p6
<b>6</b> 1-6:00 Fessenden reserved 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>7</b> 5:30 Tai chi	<b>8</b> 6:30-8:30 RE mtg EA	<b>9</b> 7:30-9:30 Board EA	<b>10</b> 7:15-9:30 COA F	<b>11</b> 7-9 Game Night F p4	<b>12</b> 1-5 Adult RE EA 1-11:00 Board dinner F
<b>13</b> 9-11 a New UU FCS p6 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>14</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30 Tai chi	<b>15</b> Newsletter dead-line 7:30-9 Spirit Cinema F p4	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7-9 Adult RE F 7:15-9:30 COA F	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1-4 OMD EA 6-8 church reserved 8-10 Concert S
<b>20</b> 12:30-3:30 Kluth reception F 1-3 Media EA 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>21</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30 Tai chi	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:15-9:30 COA F	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:30 Pancakes 12:15 Pancakes part deux 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	<b>28</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30 Tai chi	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 3:30-5 Master Plan F	<b>1</b> 7-8:30 Movie Night F 7:15-9:30 COA F	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5-7:30 church reserved 7:30 concert F

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; FCS- Family and Community Services bldg.

*Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after October 21*

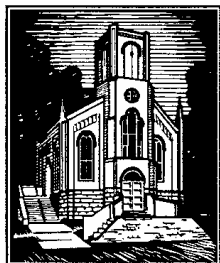
A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at  
<http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent> or through a link on our website at [www.uukent.org](http://www.uukent.org).



Hal's flash mob harmonica lesson held at Home Savings Plaza. Church member Stefanie Workman and son Benjamin attended.



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



**Return Service Requested**  
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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*



Come to the church auction and bid on wonderful events such as this campfire sing-along held on the shore of beautiful Twin Lakes. Look at the great food! Look at the massively talented Jim Scott leading all in song !

