



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

January 2012

Sunday Services

9:30 and 11:15 am

228 Gougler Ave.

Kent, Ohio 44240

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Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
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Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday

By appointment

Congregational

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MaryBeth Hannan

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Religious Ed. Director:

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DRE's Office Hours:

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By appointment

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Deadline:

The 15th each month

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent Vision

Adopted by the congregation June 2008

Our vitality and passion call us to restore and expand our space to equal the energy of our dreams. As we do, we are better equipped to carry on our historic legacy and embrace our potential for connection, service, programming and outreach.

From the fall of 2007 through the spring of 2008, members and friends of our congregation created a new congregational covenant and revised our mission and vision statements. We met nine times over the course of the year devoting three meetings each to covenant, mission and vision. Participation in this process was excellent; by the time we finished we felt like we really had earned the consensus with which these statements were adopted!

Our covenant is a statement of who we are and how we want to be with one another. It is a statement describing our aspirations; it speaks to the kind of religious community we want to create together day by day, week by week. Our mission articulates our reason for being. Though we will likely edit our statement every few years to try to express ever more clearly what we mean, we expect the heart of our mission to remain consistent. Our vision describes who we hope to become in the near future – in the next five to ten years. As we grow and change and dream new dreams, our vision statement will need to be revised to reflect our development.

Our current vision statement describes our dream to restore and expand our space. We have long known that our physical space is inadequate to our needs. During the creation of our vision statement, members of the congregation described all the ways we'd love to grow our space. If we had everything we wanted we'd love a commercial kitchen, more space for parking, an outdoor play space for the children and to have a memorial garden and more room for the library. We have lots of ideas about ways to use more space. However, we are in agreement that there are three areas of congregational life that need more space just to live into our mission; we need more space for worship, more space for fellowship and more space for religious education.

Since we completed that process, three committees have explored how to realize our vision. The Capital Campaign Committee met from 2008-2009 to explore options, identify the scope of the project and create a timeline. The Expansion Committee met from 2010-2011 to build upon the previous committee's work and narrow the possibilities. Their work ended up focusing on exploring other properties as well as ways to expand our own space (If you'd like copies of the reports of either of these teams, please contact the church office).

The Capital Campaign Team began meeting last winter to develop plans for launching a campaign sometime later this year. The Feasibility Study Team began meeting last spring to hone in on the possibility of expanding and restoring our historic church building. That team is the one that selected Fuller and Associates to do a study of our proposed sanctuary re-orientation plan. We will be meeting with Fuller and

Continued p. 3 —→

Upcoming Sermons

25 December 10:30 am service only

Timeless Gifts

The Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Max Grubb

This morning we offer you the timeless gifts of worship and community. We promise touching story, beautiful song and time for contemplation followed by a Christmas brunch for any who would like to stay and share a meal. Elaine and Bill Bowen will be preparing scrambled eggs and Bill's Biscuits and offering orange juice, coffee and tea. You are welcome to bring a dish to round out the meal if you like, though bringing something is not required.

After brunch, anyone who wishes is welcome to stay for an afternoon of games. Bring your favorite game with you! One of our games will be a white elephant gift exchange. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift (homemade or repurposed is fine) and indicate on a tag if the gift would be best received by an adult, youth or child or person of a particular gender. If you are going to purchase something for the gift exchange, please observe a \$5 spending limit.

Please note – we will have only one service today at 10:30 am. *No religious education classes will be offered.* Children are invited to attend the service. Nursery care will be available for infants and toddlers.

1 January 10:30 am service only

Remembrance Service

Susan & Mac Goekler

This annual event will again be a celebration of life for those folks we have known or know about. We are what we are today because of all those who have gone before us. Please note that this is a single service at 10:30 am.

8 January

Social Justice: Then & Now

Caroline Arnold, Paulette Thurman, and Mac Goekler

Our Kent Church is well known for its social justice programs. Three members of the Social Justice Committee will tell the history of our justice seeking church while bringing the congregation up to date on current efforts. We have much to be proud of and we want to celebrate and honor our social justice past, our present, and share our future dreams.

15 January

A Dangerous Vision?

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Bonnie Harper

Every year we take another look at the vision that inspired the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Many people remember King talking about his dream; fewer remember when he began saying that his dream had become a nightmare. This morning we will explore what he meant by that and what meaning his message still has today.

22 January

The Forest and the Trees

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kathy Kerns

When a person is so tangled up with details that they can't see the big picture, people often say that person can't see the forest for the trees. This morning our services will playfully consider what it takes to see clearly.

29 January

Envisioning Tomorrow

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer with Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education and
Mary Lou Holly, Worship Associate

We strive to celebrate together in multi-generational community at least once per month. This Sunday our children and youth will join us for our services as we envision tomorrow together. We will also be joyfully celebrating the dedications and blessings of Paxton Rex Beale (first service) and Kailani Song Li Walker (second service)!



Moderator's Corner

Wishing you and yours a
happy holiday season!

Blessings,

Christopher



from p 1

Associates at the end of this month to review their preliminary results and will schedule a congregational meeting early in January to share those results with you.

This is an exciting time for our congregation. It feels we are standing on the cusp of creating the future we dream. I look forward to taking the next step with you!

In faith,

Melissa

US, Canadian Healthcare Compared

The Social Justice Committee and the Single Payer Action Network of Ohio (SPANOhio) are sponsoring a showing of "The Healthcare Movie", which compares the Canadian and American health care systems and shows how Canada went through many of the same struggles the US is going through to establish a national health care plan. The movie is narrated by actor Kiefer Sutherland. The film will be shown on Friday, January 20th at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, preceded by a pot-luck dinner in Fessenden Hall at 6 p.m. SPANOhio will provide the beverages and attendees will bring pot-luck to share. Since the movie is only 65 minutes long, we may have time for discussion afterward. If child care is needed, we can always arrange for it if need be. If you would like more information about the film, please go to <http://www.healthcaremovie.net/>. If you would like more information about the work of the Single Payer Action Network of Ohio and what they are doing to bring universal health care to the people of Ohio, visit their web site at www.spanohio.org. There is also a project going on where people have their photographs taken holding a sign saying "Health Care is a Human Right:". We may offer to do that at this program as we have had an offer of a camera and a tripod. If we do this, we will have forms that people can sign giving permission for their photo to be taken holding one of these signs. If you have any further questions about any of this, please feel free to contact me, Sally Burnell, chair of the Social Justice Committee, or Debbie Silverstein of the Single Payer Action Network of Ohio.



Kay Eckman prepares for the hectic holidays ahead

Spirit in Practice

An Adult Religious Exploration Class in Spiritual Growth and Development led by the Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer. This winter I will be offering *Spirit in Practice*, an adult religious exploration class created to help Unitarian Universalists explore and develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit. *Spirit in Practice* affirms diversity in our spiritual paths while seeking unity in our quest to live lives of meaning and purpose. In our tradition, spirituality is understood broadly as our relationship with the Spirit of Life. The practices in this course are designed to help participants connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand or name that ground.

Developed by the Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom for the Tapestry of Faith series of curricula, *Spirit in Practice* draws on a model developed by the Zen Mountain Monastery for training its students. This model includes eight spheres of holistic and wholehearted spiritual practices including: personal spiritual practices, communal spiritual practices, spiritual partnerships, mind practices, body practices, soul practices, life practices and justice practices.

This course will remain open for participants to drop in, however those who commit to attending the whole series will derive the most benefit. Anyone who thinks they may be interested in participating in any of the sessions is encouraged to attend one of the two one-hour introductory sessions. You may attend either the session held on Sunday, January 8 during the second service in the Eldredge Annex or the session held on Sunday, January 15 in the Founders Lounge from 1pm to 2pm.

The remaining seven sessions will take one sphere of spiritual practice per session. Participants will be encouraged to practice on their own between sessions. Sessions will be held from 7pm to 8:30 pm on the following Tuesday evenings in the Founders Lounge: 1/17, 1/31, 2/7, 2/21, 2/28, 3/6 and 3/13. Please note that the last session on 3/13 will meet from 7 to 9pm. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to call or email. Additionally, if having childcare available would make it possible for you to participate, please let me know. I am willing to try to be creative with you in exploring ways to meet that need!

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer



We Are a Generous Church

As I write this in mid-December, the Religious Education Committee is just finishing up their two "giving" projects. We had an amazing outpouring of generosity from the members and friends of our church this year.

We loaded up two car trunks with the toys collected to benefit the Kent Social Services annual toy drive. These toys will be welcome gifts under the trees of many children and teens in Portage County on Christmas morning!

We collected an astounding total of \$1174.00 dollars for the "Adopt-a-Family" program of Miller Community House, an emergency homeless shelter in Kent. This allowed us to purchase all of the items on our family's wish lists and to give them gift cards to local retailers to meet some of their day-to-day needs.

We are a generous church!

As I do my Sunday to Sunday work as your Director of Religious Education, I am often touched by how generous people are of their time in our church. The RE teachers not only are present with the children and youth on a weekly basis, but spend many hours over the course of the church year in preparation and consideration of their time in the classroom.

I'm touched by the generosity of spirit that so many folks give to our church. We bring an attitude of doing our best and helping out whenever we can. Although generosity is not an explicit value of Unitarian Universalism, it is certainly woven within our principles and purposes. It is a value that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent community practices all year long.

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education



John Kluth and Linda Bunyan

Book Group Meeting

The Book Group will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 17 at 7 pm** in the home of Betty Kendrick at 175 Graham Rd. Apt. 12 in Cuyahoga Falls. This month we are reading *Winter Garden* by Kristen Hannah. The dying wish of a loving father ignites a family drama that brings two sisters and their acid-tongued, Russian-born mother together in a story that reaches back to WWII. In February we will be reading *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks. In 1665, a young man from Martha's Vineyard became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. Upon this slender factual scaffold, the author has created a luminous tale of love and faith, magic and adventure. In April we will be reading the book *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghesse. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.

UUCK 6th Annual "Soup"er Bowl

We're heading into the pro football playoff season to determine who will play in Super Bowl XLVI, Sunday Feb. 5, 2012 in Indianapolis.

The UUCK "Soup"er Bowl VI is our battle against community hunger. We will collect cans of hearty soup/stew/chili and ravioli before, between and after services on Sunday, Feb. 5 in Fessenden Hall. The empty soup pot on the table is for cash or coins to donate along with all the cans to Kent Social Services for the food pantry and meal program.

A project for children might be collecting spare change from family and friends in a clean, empty soup can during January and bringing it in to add to the pot on Feb. 5. Adults, how about saving your January spare pocket change and donating it on Feb. 5?

Make a donation of a can or some cash and enter into a drawing for a pot of soup of your choice courtesy of Creative Cuisine, a local caterer. Any and all dietary requirements will be honored.

Please remember your neighbors in need and join with me in combating hunger in Kent.

Thanks in advance for your generosity,
Coach *Elaine Bowen*
P.S. Go Packers!

Healthy Congregations Training

Are you interested in helping our congregation grow even healthier? We are looking for a small team of people to participate in the upcoming Healthy Congregations training in our cluster. Healthy Congregations, Inc. is an ecumenical, not for profit educational and consulting agency which focuses on providing resources for training in understanding emotional process in communities of faith, families and organizations. Initially begun as a project based on Peter Steinke's book *How Your Church Family Works*, this series of six workshops has transformed congregations (including Unitarian Universalist) and synagogues all over the country by helping them understand and respond faithfully to emotional process in their communities of faith, their families and other organizations. For more information visit <http://www.cerguua.org/healthycong.html>

The program includes three core sessions and three optional focus sessions. We are hoping that each person on our team will attend the three core sessions and divide up attendance at the supplemental sessions amongst themselves. The sessions will be held from approximately 9:30 to 4 on a series of Saturdays rotating between the Unitarian Universalist congregations in Kent, Akron, Youngstown and Canton. The schedule and topics are as follows:

Three core sessions:

Jan 14 - Creating Healthy Congregations

Feb 4 - Responding to Anxiety and Change

Feb 25 - Leadership in Healthy Congregations

Three focus sessions:

Mar 17 - Relationships in Healthy Congregations

Apr 7 - Stewardship and Generosity

Apr 28 - Spirituality of Healthy Congregations

There is a nominal cost for participation in this program which our church can help cover if needed. Please speak to Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer if you are interested in participating.



Lucky to Have You!

The Board of Trustees and the Stewardship Committee are hosting an appreciation reception for those members and friends who raised their pledges for this fiscal year by 2 ½% or more. This event will be held on Friday, January 13th from 7:30-9:00 in Fessenden Hall at the Church.

Please join us for dessert and coffee plus updates on the current financial status of the congregation. There will be brief reports from the Feasibility Team, the Capital Campaign Committee, and the Stewardship Committee.

A fun and informative evening is anticipated.

Questions? Contact Kathie Slater or Kay Eckman.

Denominational Affairs Meeting

On Jan. 15th after 2nd service a Denominational Affairs open meeting will take place in the Annex to solicit input for the UUA congregational certification section on social justice. We will review the list of potential new study action ideas to be voted on at the Phoenix General Assembly and develop a response for the Commission on Social Witness on our work on Immigration Reform study action issue. Details of what we will be doing can be found using this link: <http://www.uua.org/statements/index.php> All are welcome.



Bob Erdman after his spirited piano performance during Melissa's "Living With Purpose" sermon. Ho!

Library News

As you have noticed, the Founders Lounge has a new configuration. The RE program, most especially the Nursery and Toddler room, was overflowing with new babies and young children, to the point where safety was a major concern. This is wonderful news for the church; our future depends on our young families and their children to keep the church vital and growing. It means, however, that the Library collection had to be moved so the toddlers could use that space to alleviate the overcrowding in the Nursery. After careful deliberation it seemed best to purchase bookcases and move the collection to the Founders Lounge. An additional bonus is that the children's collection, housed until now in the Annex, can be moved to the Founders Lounge as well to make it more accessible. RE will manage the circulation of this collection.

The Library committee will maintain its practice of having a member available during coffee hour to help you find a book and to assist with the checkout process. We hope this new, visible location will encourage you to become more familiar with the excellent resources the library has to offer. Do take a few minutes to stop by.

Ann Waters, Publicity

Spiritual Cinema

Spiritual Cinema will meet on January 18th at 7:30 pm in Fessenden Hall. Our movie will be "Monty Python's Life of Brian". This movie is R rated and not recommended for children. Teens will be admitted with parental approval. Those who have not seen this film should be aware that it contains anti-Semitic and anti-GLBT attitudes. Despite these flaws, it is both a thoughtful and very funny film. After the movie there will be a short discussion of the ideas within the film. This is a pot-luck affair with some light snacks provided. If you have any questions contact Cheryl Spoehr.

Annual Chili Cookoff

The annual chili cookoff will be held January 29th at 12:30. Bring your best pot of chili for people to try. The winners in each category get bragging rights for the whole year! Come ready to eat!

Sandy Bowers

Purchase a Poinsettia

Again this year, you can purchase holiday poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. Poinsettias may be purchased in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. Forms are in your order of service, available in Fessenden Hall, or through Lori McGee. Purchased poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary, and remain through the Christmas Eve service. Names of those honored will be included in the Christmas Eve service program. Proceeds benefit the Chancel Decorating Committee, and help to fund future seasonal decorations and sanctuary aesthetic improvements! After the Christmas Eve service, you are welcome to take your poinsettia home to enjoy.

Thank you for helping to make our sanctuary beautiful for the holiday season!

Lori McGee



Joe Kuemerle hangs lights on the sanctuary tree.

Winter Weather and Program Cancellations

With winter weather arriving, we are aware that there may be occasions when we need to cancel programming at the church. Though we are unlikely to need to cancel Sunday services entirely (Rev. Melissa, our minister, and Hal Walker, our music director, live within walking distance), we may choose to have only the second service if the weather or the roads warrant a delay. It is more likely that we may need to cancel our religious education program in inclement weather as our Director of Religious Education, Karen Lapidus, and many of our volunteer teachers and advisors drive some distance to get to church.

If the weather or the condition of the roads cause you to wonder whether we are proceeding with our programming as scheduled, please check for cancellations before you head out.

You can check in one of three places:

- our church's Facebook page
- call the church number and listen to the message on voicemail
- tune in to any television or radio station connected with iAlert- see list below.

Television Stations powered by iAlert

WKYC-TV Channel 3

Radio Stations powered by iAlert

Newsradio WTAM 1100, AM

WMVX, Mix 106.5 FM

WMJI, Magic 105.7 FM

WGAR, My Country 99.5 FM

WAKS, KISS 96.5 FM

WMMS, 100.7 FM Cleveland's Rock Station

WHLO, 640 AM

WKDD, 98.1 FM

RADIO FREE OHIO 1350 AM

90.3 WCPN ideastream

WCRF, 103.3 FM

WCLV, 104.9 FM

Websites

wkyc.com

wwiz.org

wtam.com

wmvx.com

wmji.com

wgar.com

kisscleveland.com

wmms.com

64owhio.com

wkdd.com

1350radiofreeohio.com

WKYC Severe Weather Website

http://www.wkyc.com/weather/severe_weather/cancellations_closings/



Becky Haines rehearses the children's choir

Game Night

Friday January 6th will be our next Game Nite. We begin around 7:00 and continue until we have gamed ourselves out. Popular board games will be available, but we encourage you to bring your own favorites as well. Light snacks will also be provided, but anything you wish to share will be appreciated! Come to Fessenden Hall on the 6th for some good family fun!



The Bittersweet Christmas Band from Chicago led a service the first week of December.

January Church Events

1 10:30 One service only 12:30-2:30 SJC <i>F</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	2 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i>	3	4 7-9 Sing with Hal <i>S</i>	5 8-10 Occupy Kent <i>S</i>	6 7-9 Game Night <i>F</i>	7 9-3 RE retreat church reserved 4-5:30 Art Hanging <i>F</i>
8 11:15-12:15 Adult RE <i>FL</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	9 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i>	10 Noon Retiree lunch 5:30-7:30 Safety 7-9 Worship Associates <i>F</i>	11 6-9 Food group <i>F</i> 7:30-9:30 Board <i>EA</i>	12 7:15-9:30 COA <i>F</i> 7:30-9:30 Ministry <i>EA</i> 8-10 Occupy Kent <i>S</i>	13 7:30-9 2.5% group <i>F p6</i>	14 10-12a Panel discussion <i>p6</i>
15 12:45-1:30 Denomination Affairs <i>EA p5</i> 1-2 Adult RE <i>FL</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	16 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i>	17 7-8:30 Adult RE <i>FL p4</i>	18 7-9 Governance <i>EA</i> 7:30-9 Spiritual Cinema <i>F p7</i>	19 7-9 Master Plan <i>RE</i> 7:15-9:30 COA <i>F</i> 8-10 Occupy Kent <i>S</i>	20 5:30-10 SPAN movie church <i>p4</i>	21 6-8 Church reserved 8-10 Concert <i>F</i>
22 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	23 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i>	24 6:30-8:30 RE cmte <i>EA</i>	25	26 8-10 Occupy Kent <i>S</i>	27	28
29 12:30-2:30 Chili Cookoff <i>F p7</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	30 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i>	31 7-8:30 Adult RE <i>FL p4</i>	1 7-9 Singalong <i>S</i>	2	3	4 9-5 Training church

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.

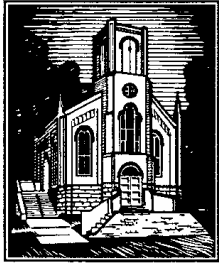
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after December 21

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.



The Celtic Clan at Kent's Winter Farm Market

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



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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*



Kathie Slater, Kay Eckman, and Helena Esparza
decorate the church for the holidays.