



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

February 2012

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240
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www.kentuu.org

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Minister's office hours:
Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

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Deadline:
The 15th each month

Truth or dare. Remember that game? It was a common choice at sleepovers when I was in high school. Amongst my friends, the truths I was generally asked to divulge ranged from the gossipy to the philosophical. The dares generally involved doing something ridiculous or slightly embarrassing but usually not scary. And so I was not prepared for such a risky dare the summer day I introduced my little sister to the game. We were at a public swimming pool which had a very tall high dive. She dared me to jump off that high dive. I don't know whether she realized I am scared of heights that involve a risk of falling, but I do know that was her dare. And I was the big sister. Not prepared to wimp out, I made my way up the ladder. When I got to the top, I stood on the edge of the platform and contemplated the distance to the pool. It was a long way down. I couldn't do it, but I couldn't not do it either. So there I stood on the edge of the platform letting person after person take their turn. I watched them jump, listened to them shout and worked myself into a mild panic. After what felt like an eternity I finally decided I had no choice. I summoned every ounce of courage I could muster. Then I jumped. I hated every second of the fall to the water below and I vowed to myself as I emerged from the pool that I would never jump off a high dive again. Then I returned to my sister victorious. I had met my dare!

The theme of our worship services during the month of February is courage. Among the thoughts that come to mind for me when I consider that word is the courage it takes to do something. We could all tell stories of little moments like mine jumping off the high dive. Most of us could also tell stories of bigger moments when we found the courage to change a habit or conquer a fear. When we hear stories of courage, though, they are usually the kind of stories about people doing something extraordinary like jumping in to rivers to rescue someone who is drowning or running into a burning building to save the people and pets still inside. That kind of courage, exhibited regularly by professional firefighters and rescue workers and also often by ordinary people who happen to be on the scene is always inspiring. It lifts us all up to hear stories of people who show the strength of character to take a risk in order to help another. Those are the kinds of courageous stories we hear most often.

There is another kind of courage, less often lauded but just as significant. That is the courage to be. I mentioned an article during my Christmas Eve homily by Bonnie Ware which was based on her many years of experience working in palliative care. It is called *The Top 5 Regrets of the Dying*. In that homily I focused on the second most common regret people voiced, "I wish I didn't work so hard." But the regret people expressed even more often than that was this - "I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me." From the moment we are born we are socialized into a gender, a family, a community, a race, a culture and the list goes on. The expectations about who we will be and how we will act and what we will do can be intense, especially for people who hear the beat of a different drum. Daring to be who you are when you are isn't who others expect you to be takes courage. Today I salute all the people who show us that kind of courage with their lives, inspiring us to live it in our own.

See you in church,

Upcoming Sermons

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)!

5 February

The Courage to Love

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

Loving is the only way to a broken heart. And being willing to risk a broken heart is the only way to love. Not just for romantics, this service will celebrate the courage it takes simply to love.

12 February

Darwin's Interconnected Web

Cal Frye with Worship Associate Joel Slater

The naturalist and author Charles Darwin comes to visit our pulpit and relate a bit of his story, religious views, and thoughts on slavery. This service, in honor of Charles Darwin, is given as part of a global celebration of Darwin Day.

Cal Frye was a member of our congregation before he and his family relocated to Oberlin, OH. He is now a member of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship where he is a Commissioned Lay Leader candidate.

19 February, Music Sunday

The Courage to Sing

On this annual music Sunday, we welcome the West Shore UU church choir into our sanctuary for a very special music centered service. Through stories and songs, we will explore the subject of Courage.

26 February

Courageous Dissent

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kathy Kerns

Have you ever found yourself tongue tied when you wanted to speak out in opposition? Have you ever been so opposed to an action that you just felt you had to do something? Today we will hear stories and songs about the courage it takes to take a stand.



Mid-year Snapshot of the Religious Education Program

At the recent RE Teacher and Youth Group Advisors' Retreat, our volunteer religious educators considered what has been accomplished so far this program year and what goals are yet to be achieved. In light of this, it seemed an appropriate time to share about the program from my prospective.

From my point of view, we are having an excellent year in the religious education program. The teaching teams seem to just "click" and this contagious dynamic benefits our children and youth. Attendance has been stable and we have lots of new families- two trends that promote vitality. Our crowding issues remain, but that is a positive challenge. Due to our recent "baby boom", we have needed to expand our nursery space.

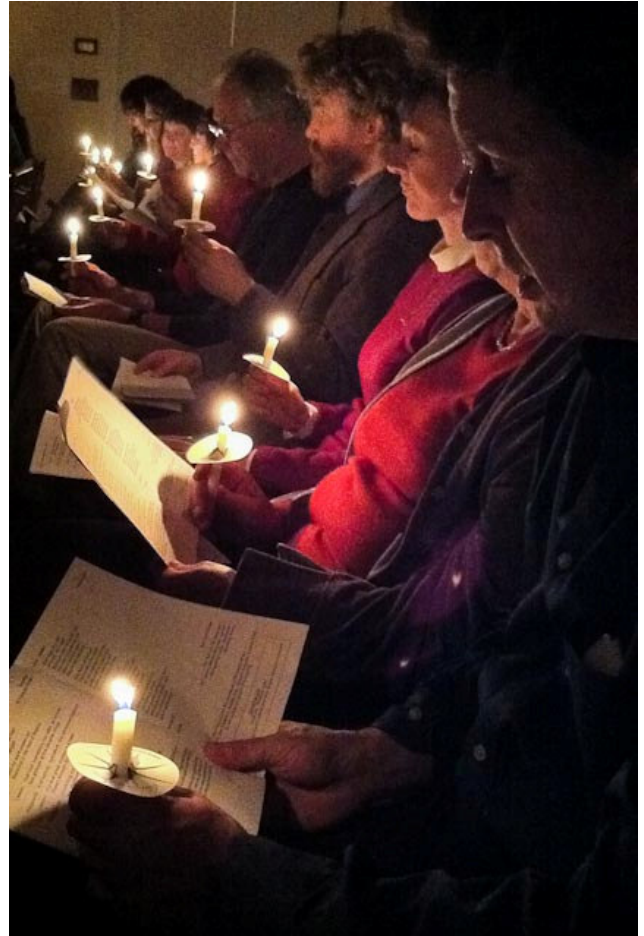
We've added another level of OWL (Our Whole Lives sexuality education) to our core curriculum. (We now offer comprehensive sexuality education for upper elementary children *and* middle school youth.)

The three worship services that we look forward to are *Youth Sunday* (March 11) when the youth group members will lead us in a worship service of their own creation. *Religious Education Sunday* (May 6) will be the time when our younger children share some of their experiences in RE this past year and as is our tradition, the volunteer teachers will be honored. The 8th, 9th and 10th grade youth who are enrolled in our *Coming of Age* program will be sharing their Faith Statements during the worship service on June 3rd.

Now that our website has been updated, you can read more about the [programs we offer](http://www.kentuu.org/education/childrens-religious-education/) at <http://www.kentuu.org/education/childrens-religious-education/> With the exception of the Montessori-style [Spirit Play](#) program that we are offering to our preschool children and the Coming of Age program, all other programs are from the Unitarian Universalist Association's *Tapestry of Faith* core curriculum.

I love talking about our religious education program, so if you have any questions, just let me know!

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



Our Christmas Eve candlelight service.



UUCK's Interdependent World Wide Web

On January 11, our new website was launched. The new site is rich in information and multimedia content, and provides a welcoming virtual front door to our congregation. If you haven't already, explore the new site at www.kentuu.org. Also take a peek at our home page banner below.

The new format, built in WordPress, allows us to identify content owners for each page. Updating pages is almost as easy as sending an e-mail. WordPress allows users to draft, format, add pictures or other graphics and publish updates without having to know any html or other web coding. This will make it very easy to keep the site up to date with everything going on within our church community.

Content owners are invited to attend a training session to learn about WordPress and how to update content on their page, as well as how to "blog" news information to the website. For more details on upcoming training, watch the Weekly e-nUUs or the Thread or contact Jennifer May or Dan Flippo.

Did you know we have a [Facebook page](#) too? Currently 153 Facebook users "like" us. If you use Facebook and haven't clicked the thumbs up, now is the perfect time! New posts to the website automatically update our Facebook page. If you have already "liked" the page, please ask your friends to "like" us. We are already seeing an increase in traffic and "likes" on our Facebook page. Translation for non-Facebook-ers: More traffic on our website and Facebook page means more foot traffic in our church! So spread the word!

Last summer the board approved a Social Media Policy that governs our Facebook page and other social media presence. This policy will be updated and expanded to provide guidance for website content as well. [View our current policy](#) and stay tuned for updates.

There are many exciting future plans for the website and Facebook page. If you have questions or you would like to be a part of the Web Team, please contact Jennifer May.



Past Sermons Available for Listening

Listening to sermon podcasts is now easier than ever on our new website at www.kentuu.org/. From the home page, select "News", then "Previous Services". Our website provides only the sermon and other original content.

Brad Bolton

Sermons and Board Minutes Available

Some printouts of Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer's past sermons are available in the Founders' Lounge for \$1.00 each. Your donation can be placed in the black lockbox, also in the lounge.

The Board meeting minutes are available for review in the Founders' Lounge.

From the Librarians

If you haven't had the opportunity, please stop by Founder's Lounge to view the Library collection installed in the new bookcases on the north wall. Andrew Bores has compiled a list of the collection which is on top of the 2nd bookcase. This makes it very easy to determine if the book you are looking for is in the collection. If the book is not listed, please give the information to a Library member for consideration and possible purchase. We would like to thank the following people who helped with the move: Library committee members Andrew Bores, Martha Kluth, Ann Waters, and from RE Mary Leeson and Karen Lapidus. We would like to give special thanks to Mary Beth Hannan, Congregational Administrator. Her research and suggestions on the purchase of the bookcases were invaluable to the committee. Thank you all.

The Library's Book for February

In Our Own Best Interest, by William F. Schultz (Boston Press, 2002). Schultz was a former minister of our church, served as president of the UUA, was executive director of Amnesty International, and is now the president and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. He is an author well-situated to analyze both what has been successful and unsuccessful about the human rights movement of the last 20 years.

Ann Waters, Library Publicity



Book Group

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 14 at 7 pm in the home of Betty Kendrick, 175 Graham Rd. Apt. 12, Cuyahoga Falls. This month we are 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.

Spiritual Cinema

Spiritual Cinema will meet on February 15th from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our movie will be the recent "The Invention of Lying" starring Ricky Jervais. The story is set in a world like our own, except that everyone is incapable of even imagining anything not true. One man discovers that he can lie and be believed. As he tries to help people with this mysterious power, he backs into creating Religion. This is an R rated film, very funny, but for adults and teens. As always, a discussion of the ideas in the film will follow the showing. If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Spoehr.

Our Own Paper Retriever

No, it's not a breed of dog. Please deposit your newspapers, magazines, office and school papers in the green and yellow bin behind the annex. We earn money for every pound of paper we collect.



Joey Marfy and Gavin Bright Van Winkle collect money for the Coming Of Age group's outreach project at Kent Social Services.

Coffee Hour Challenge and Opportunity

Marion Yeagler has done a wonderful job coordinating coffee hour for the past couple of years. In addition to her coordination role, Marion has also been setting up for coffee hour on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month. Thanks to her generosity of spirit and hard work, we have been able to offer a warm and lively social hour as part of our Sunday morning hospitality. However, Marion has decided the time has come for her to step down from her coffee hour coordination position effective the first of February.

Appeals have been made for someone to volunteer to make coffee on the Sundays Marion covers as well as to assume the coffee hour coordination role. Unless we have some additional volunteers, we will not be able to have coffee hour on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of each month. Ann Waters sets up on the 1st Sunday, and Dan Hayes on the 3rd Sunday of each month, for which we are grateful. If you are interested in the possibility of taking one Sunday a month (or even every other month) and want to know more about what it entails, you are welcome to talk to Ann or Dan. We welcome individuals, families or even small groups to volunteer to serve in this way together.

If you think you might be interested in taking on the role of coffee hour coordinator, please speak with Trustee for Fellowship Julie Lineburgh or the Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer. We'd be glad to help you consider if this might be a good way for you to serve our beloved community. In addition, Marion has offered to train the new coordinator; this would not be reinventing the wheel!

The coffee hour cleanup schedule has been made through May. Will you be the person to help us make sure there is something for them to clean up?



Mike Hovancsek and son Benjamin

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!



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.

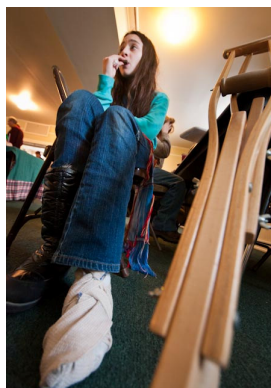
Thank you, *Mary Ann Kasper*

February Church Events

29 11:15 Social Justice Hour <i>F</i> 12:30-2:30 Chili Cookoff <i>F</i> 2:45 Puppet Show <i>S</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>F</i>	1 7-9 Singalong <i>S</i>	2	3	4 9-5 Training church
5 9-11 a New UU <i>FC</i> 9-11 a New UU <i>EA</i> 11:15 Social Justice Hour <i>F</i> 12:30-3 Reception <i>F</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	6 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i>	7 7-8:30 Adult RE <i>F</i>	8 6:30-8:30 Food group <i>F</i> 7:30-9:30 Board <i>EA</i>	9 6-9 Food Group <i>EA</i> 7-9 Finance <i>RE</i> 7:15-9:30 COA <i>F</i> 7:30-9:30 Ministry <i>EA</i>	10 6-9 Church reserved	11 12:30-8:30 Church reserved
12 10:30-11:30 Coffee Chat 11-12:15 Adult RE <i>EA</i> 11:15 Social Justice Hour <i>F</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	13 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i>	14 Noon Retirees lunch	15 1-4 <i>F</i> Hogwarts <i>F</i> 7:30-9 Spiritual Cinema <i>F p5</i>	16	17	18 6-8 Church reserved 8-10 Concert <i>S</i>
19 11-12:15 Adult RE <i>EA</i> 11:15 Social Justice Hour <i>F</i> 1-4 Hogwarts; church reserved 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	20 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i>	21 7-8:30 Adult RE <i>F</i>	22	23 7:15-9:30 COA <i>F</i>	24 7-12 p OMD cmte; church reserved	25 12-6 OMD cmte; church reserved
26 11-12:15 Adult RE <i>EA</i> 11:15 Social Justice Hour <i>F</i> 6:30 Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	27 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i>	28 7-8:30 Adult RE <i>F</i>	29	1	2 6-9 Fessenden reserved	3 8p- 6a Fessenden reserved

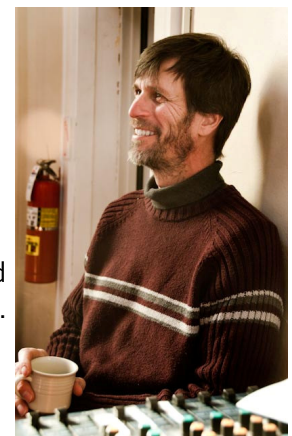
Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall
 EA- Eldredge Annex; FH- Fessenden Hall; FL- Founders' Lounge; L- Library; S-Sanctuary; N- Nursery; FC- Family and Community Services bldg.
 Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after January 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.

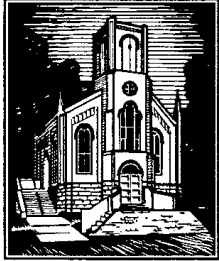


Helena Esparza showing off her fake injured foot. She was practicing for a spring event. *Don't ask me - I just report - Ed.*

Randy Ruchotzke at the sound board on a Sunday morning.



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



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The Russian Duo performed at church as part of the Cuyahoga River Concert Series

Hal Walker's Reed City Harmonica Quartet at the Cuyahoga River Concert Series

