



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

April 2012

Sunday Services

9:30 and 11:15 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240

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Tuesday - Friday

By appointment

Congregational

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The 15th each month

When I was about 7 and my sister almost 4 years old, we liked to play Monopoly. I was interested in trying to follow the rules of the game. She was more interested in making up her own rules. This often frustrated me, leading my mother to remind me time and again that I had to be patient because I was the big sister and I needed to set a good example.

One day my sister and I walked to the corner store not far from our house to pick up something for my mother. As the older sister, I held the money and negotiated the exchange of dollars for bread or milk or whatever it was. My little sister, unbeknownst to me, had pocketed some of the Monopoly money before we left the house. Just before I turned to walk away from the check out counter, my sister handed a candy bar and the Monopoly money to the check out clerk. The clerk thought this effort so incredibly adorable that she let my sister have the candy! I was not so impressed. In fact, I found the whole situation entirely unfair and complained bitterly to my mother about it later.

In our culture, coming to understand what is fair and what is not is a central part of an individual's moral development. And collectively we affirm that treating people with fairness is a central component of the ethical framework that is at the heart of who we are and who we aspire to be. But here is the question we struggle over – what is fair? What is just?

Aristotle said that the most fundamental principle of justice is the principle that "equals should be treated equally and unequals unequally." For example, we might say that a man and a woman doing the same work are equals and therefore should be paid equally. Equal pay for equal work is a measure of justice. We might also say that parents have a responsibility to keep their children safe and so therefore parents and children are not equals. Parents have responsibilities to their children and children have obligations in relationship to their parents. That seems clear enough. But how do we decide what is just when the situations we face are more complicated? How do we determine what justice requires? And how do we find the strength to be advocates for justice when that is what our conscience demands? These are questions we'll be exploring through worship this month. I look forward to seeing you at church.

Peace,

Upcoming Sermons

25 March *From Tolerance to Humility*

The Rev. Tim Temerson and Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm tolerance as an important religious value. But is it enough simply to tolerate difference and diversity or can we move to a deeper, more authentic place of acceptance and celebration? Today we will explore the beauty and the challenge of difference and consider the role of another religious value - humility – in helping us to move beyond tolerance.

The Rev. Tim Temerson is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron. He and I will be participating in the time honored tradition of a pulpit swap this morning. With this swap, he and I are looking forward to strengthening the ties between our congregations.

1 April *Let My People Go!*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

A message of liberation is at the heart of the scriptures and stories of Passover. Freedom is a requirement for the realization of justice. How are we still struggling for freedom in our own time? How can the old story help illuminate the struggles that greet our hands and feet today?

8 April *In His Eyes*

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

Jesus was radically egalitarian. In his eyes all people were equal. Equality is a hallmark of justice. We will celebrate human equality and dignity in our special Easter services this morning. Our earlier service will be crafted with adults in mind, our later service will be created for children (first graders and up) and adults together. The choir will sing, we will celebrate and our annual egg hunt will be held immediately following our second service.

15 April *No information received*

22 April *The Planet our Children Will Inherit*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate MaryLou Holly

Justice needs us to take a long view. Our children and our children's' children and their children and theirs will be the inheritors of this planet. What must we do, who must we be to be good stewards of the earth? Today is Earth Day. Come hear stories, come sing praises, come pledge your hearts again to this planet we share.

29 April *Grateful for the Changemakers*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Bonnie Harper

So often our conversations about the demands of justice can become difficult or even depressing. To be grounded in the quest for justice as a religious person is to be grounded in a vision that sustains hope. This morning we will lift up stories of people creating change, people who are helping us find a way and the will to travel the way we have found. Today we lift up gratitude for people who help us become the change we want to see.



Kent portrait photographer Debra-Lynn Hook displayed her fine photos in the sanctuary this month.

Have You Heard the Ringing of the Bells?

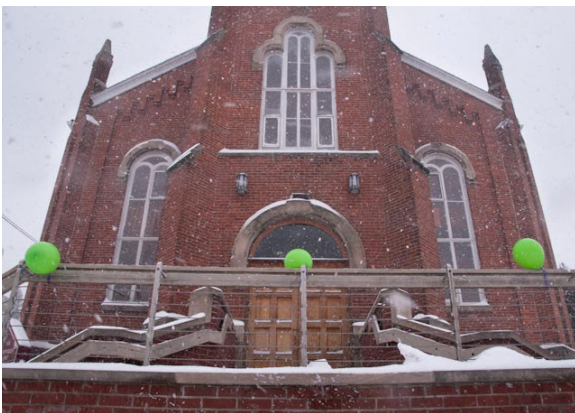
The children who attend the 9:30 multiage activity have created a new tradition. Every Sunday, soon after arriving the classroom following the Time for All Ages, they knoop. After the chalice is lit, their regular leader, Cheryl Spoehr will ask, "Now what do we do?" The response is, "We knoop!"

If you listen to "Says You" on NPR, you know that one of the segments is about obscure words. The contestants guess the meanings of words that no one has heard of. While listening to the show, Cheryl learned that the word *knoop* means to ring a church bell and we've been knoothing every Sunday ever since. The rope extends through a hole in the ceiling into the classroom. It takes quite a hefty yank to get it going. Unless the momentum overtakes the knoopers, the bell is rung three times.

According to Sally Burnell, who wrote the history of our church which is posted on our website (<http://www.kentuu.org/about-us/history/>), our church bell was donated by the Stratton family in 1882. It is made of solid bronze and has been used over the years to call people to worship.

I poked around the internet and learned, not surprisingly, that the use of community bells coincides with the

Alice McVetty-Vars extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone for all your prayers, cards, flowers and support, but most of all your wonderful friendships to Gordon.



Balloons festooned the church on a cold day for the wedding of Meg Milko and Deb Biggins.

growth of Christianity in Europe. Before folks had clocks in their homes, they relied on church bells to alert them that worship was about to begin or warn them when there was any danger. Some of the most beautiful towers in the world have been built to house church bells.

The Unitarian Universalist congregation in North Olmsted, Ohio, began as a Universalist church about 30 years before our historically Universalist church was formed. They too have an old bell that is central to their history. Their bell tower was used as a station on the Underground Railroad to hide escaping slaves before and during the Civil War. In accordance with their tradition, they knoop their bell every Sunday morning with the children taking turns. Many of the adults of that congregation remember ringing the bell when they were children.

I've shared with our children that their knoothing often coincides with the time of silence during the worship service. It pleased them to know that their tradition just might be adding to the reverence of the worship service.

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



Spiritual Cinema Twofer

There will be two Spiritual Cinema sessions in April. Both will be in Fessenden Hall from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. April 4th will be a special showing of the 1966 musical Godspell. This is a retelling of the Easter story from a sixties counterculture view. It features plenty of songs and dancing kindness and compassion, but no judgmental attitudes. On April 18th we switch to Buddhism with the Chinese movie Cave of Silken Web. This comedy-musical is inspired by the famous Chinese-Buddhist epic story The Journey to the West. As in the original, the monk Tripitama and his companions The Monkey King and a Pig Spirit are tempted by the forces of illusion. In this comedy, those forces are Western style game shows and suburban materialism. See what the artists who created the Oscar winning film Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon do with a religiously themed comedy! As always, a discussion of the themes in these films will follow each showing.

Library News

We have a transition in the Library at this time. Andrew Bores, who has served so very ably as the cataloger and manager of our library data base, is remaining on the Library Committee but stepping down from those duties. The Library is most happy to welcome Carolyn Schlemmer to the Library Committee as the new cataloger. Carolyn, a retired Middle School educator, has served on the faculties of Hiram University, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, San Diego State University, and Miami University. She also served as the English language coordinator for a private school in Bursa, Turkey. Carolyn has been attending our church for several years. She teaches part time in the Honors College at the University of Akron. Some of you may have attended her session on "The Seven Deadly Sins" in the morning adult education program.

The Library and the entire congregation owe Andrew Bores a huge debt of gratitude for single-handedly cataloging and updating the entire Library Collection. He suggested new categories for some areas of the collection, and he was the leader in directing physical changes that now make the collection so much easier to use. Procedures for checkout and return of loaned books were also spearheaded by Andrew so that now the process is much more manageable and professional. Thank you, Andrew. We are deeply appreciative of your expertise, your unflinching enthusiasm for these most daunting tasks, and for seeing them to completion.

The Big, Bad Book Sale is Ba-aack!

Hello, fellow bibliophiles . . . time to clear out your bookshelves, the stacks next-to your favorite chair and from under your bed. The book sale is coming . . . Saturday, April 28 from 9am to 2pm with sorting Wednesday, 4/25 and set-up Friday, 4/27 from 6p to 9p.

We need:

- donated books to sell - bring them to church beginning Sunday, 4/22 (Earth Day)
- volunteers for sorting, set-up and sales
- customers! Please invite your friends and neighbors ~ we can use all the free advertisement we can get!

To volunteer, please contact Elaine Bowen - sorters, set-uppers and sellers are permitted pre-sales :)

NOTE: please refrain from donating old encyclopedias, texts, Readers' Digest Condensed books or anything really musty/moldy - if you wouldn't buy it, we can't sell it! Thanks - Elaine Bowen.

Andrew managed to complete all this work on a hopelessly outdated laptop, now almost 10 years old. The Library is seeking a 2-3 year old PC that is capable of operating Windows XP or later programs. If anyone has such an instrument they would be willing to donate to the Library, please see any Library committee member, and be prepared for a major bear hug.

The Library gratefully thanks the Library Volunteers who helped to make the Speaker's Forum with Dr. Daniel Roland such a success: Linda Bunyan, Larry Cole, Jan and Harry Noden, Mark Stephens and Ted Voneida. Any member of the congregation is welcomed to serve as a Library Volunteer. We promise your tasks will be minimal but scintillating and fulfilling.

New Book in the Library

Being Alive and Having to Die: the Spiritual Odyssey of Forrest Church, by Dan Cryer (New York, St. Martin's Press, 2011). Booklist calls this book "one of the Top Ten Books on Religion and Spirituality" in 2011. Forrest Church was one of America's leading liberal religious voices. This is a candid biography of a man whose public life concealed a complicated private one.

From William Schultz: "Forrest Church pulled no punches when it came to his own foibles. Dan Cryer doesn't either. By virtue of his candor Forrest made himself far more accessible to people while he lived. Cryer has done the same thing for us now that Church is gone."

Ann Waters, Publicity



Connor May dressed for his singing telegrams.

Doctrine of Discovery and Immigration

An Adult Exploration class will be presented on the Doctrine of Discovery and Immigration starting on Tuesday April 3rd at 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm for six consecutive weeks. All are encouraged to participate including our youth. These two issues are front and center with our UU Association and will be the major components of our upcoming Justice General Assembly in Phoenix.

This doctrine came into being with the 1452 Papal Bull giving Portugal the right to exploit, subjugate and enslave the natives of West Africa. This was followed in 1493 with Spain getting the same "rights" over the "new" world. Sadly, the former English Colonies of Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and USA codified this Doctrine into law and their native populations are still being subjugated, now in the form of structural violence. An example, the Phoenix Indian School (now gone) in its early years was a "prison school" where native children were forced to "assimilate" – that is to give up their own tribal culture for the white man's ways.

Much of our attitude towards immigrants has arisen from this Doctrine. These attitudes have become part of our American culture and they are now part of the engine that drives our Euro-centric superior thinking, our continued racism, and xenophobia. We will thoroughly explore the connections here and look seriously at what we might, we must, do about this.

Please let me or MaryBeth know if you will be attending.

Mac Goekler

Book Group

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, April 10 at 7 pm in the home of Kathie Slater. Please bring a snack to share. This month we are reading the book *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, *Cutting for Stone* is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles- and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.

Opinions Sought on Worship

Members of the Sunday Program Committee and Reverend Melissa Carvill-Ziemer would like your evaluation of our Sunday worship. We have prepared a short survey enabling members and friends to provide feedback on various aspects of worship. We are also curious about the theological make-up of the congregation and have posed questions pertaining to personal religious beliefs. As some of you will recall, in 2004, a long survey of the congregation was undertaken as part of our presentation to ministerial candidates. We thought it would be interesting to take some of the 2004 theological and worship questions and ask them in the current survey to compare differences in our congregational profile over the past 8 years. The results of the survey will be shared with the congregation in a worship service devoted to highlighting our congregation's religious beliefs and worship preferences on May 20.

Besides comparing the changes over time, there are several other reasons that we are undertaking the survey. First, the survey will reveal information that will help guide the Sunday Program Committee when considering guest worship leaders and lay proposals for worship. Second, we hope the survey will offer guidance to Melissa in her development of adult religious classes. Third, if the results indicate that there are a number of people having theological similarities, it's possible that this might encourage the formation of affinity groups within the congregation based on theological identification.

The survey will take very little time to complete. An online, easy to use format known as Survey Monkey will be used to ensure anonymity. Upcoming weekly e-nUUs notices will contain a link to the survey. Paper copies will be available for those without internet access. Completed paper copies can be left at the Annex on Mary Beth's desk. In addition, a computer will be available in church on April 8 and April 15 for those without internet access wishing to complete the survey online. We prefer online completion of the survey as the Survey Monkey software will automatically compile the results for us, saving time and reducing human error. Your input is important to us, so we encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the survey, which we anticipate releasing on April 1.

Members of the Sunday Program Committee; Lois Weir, Chair, Christie Anderson, Liz Bright, Heidi Emhoff, Joe Kuemerle, Colleen Norris, Kristofer Sperry, Diana Watt, Dave Watt and Reverend Melissa Carvill-Ziemer.

Egg Hunt for All Children Easter Morning

It has been a long-standing tradition of our church for the Middle School youth to host an Easter Egg Hunt for the younger children on Easter morning. Soon they will be busy packing eggs with candy and toys and plan to hide them around the church and in the backyard of the Annex.

Here is what all parents need to know:

- On Easter, the 11:15 service will be family-friendly and multigenerational. Families with young and school-aged children should plan to attend then. The 9:30 worship service will be focused toward older youth and adults. Nursery care for little ones up to age three will be provided both services.
- Immediately following the 11:15 worship service, all children grade 5 and younger should head upstairs to the classrooms to decorate bags for collecting the eggs. (In the meantime, the Middle School youth will hide the eggs outside...)
- The children will walk through Fessenden Hall on their way outside. Link up with your child/children there and accompany them outside. (They will be receiving this same instruction.)
- While outside, please supervise your child to assure their safety! The MS youth and a team of adults will be outside with the children, but we still need the watchful eyes of our parents.
- The youngest children will hunt for eggs in the backyard of the Annex and the older children will hunt around the periphery of the church.
- In case of rain or other inclement weather, alternate plans will be announced during the 11:15 worship service.

Let Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education or any member of the RE Committee know if you have any questions or concerns.

Come Celebrate Passover!

The living tradition of Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources. This spring we will honor the Jewish tradition of Passover celebrating freedom and liberation. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend our family friendly Passover Seder on Friday, April 13 from 6:15 to 8:15 pm in Fessenden Hall. During the Seder you will get to hear the ancient story of the Jewish people in the land of Egypt and to enjoy the special rituals and foods that are associated with this holiday.

Many of those foods require advance purchase and preparation. In order to make sure that we have enough for everyone we need to know whether you plan to attend by Sunday, April 8. There is a sign up sheet in Fessenden Hall along with a choice of roles you can play to help make our Seder a success. If you have questions or need more information please speak to our Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus or our minister Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer.



Hal Walker leads Bennett and William Slater in rehearsal.



A concerned Ted Voneida at the meeting on Fracking at the Kent Stage last month.

April Church Events

1 11:15 Social Justice Hour F 12:30-2:30 Justice cmte EA 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	2 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	3 7-8:30 Adult RE F	4 7-9 Spiritual Cinema F 7-9 Singalong S	5 7:30-9:30 COA F	6 7-10 CUUPS ritual F	7
8 11:15 Social Justice Hour F 12:15-1:30 Easter event S 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	9 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	10 Noon Retirees lunch 7-8:30 Adult RE F	11 6:30-8:30 Food group F 7:30-9:30 Board EA	12 7-9 Leadership EA	13 3-9 Seder F	14 6-8 church reserved 8-10 Concert S
15 11-12:15 Adult RE EA 11:15 Social Justice Hour F 12:30-3 Kluth reception F 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	16 Newsletter deadline 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	17 7-8:30 Adult RE F	18 7-9 Finance EA 7:30-9 Spiritual Cinema F	19 7:30-9 Ministry EA 7:30-9:30 COA F	20 6:30-8:30 CUUPS F	21 9-12 Leadership EA 9-2 Chalice Group F
22 11:15 Social Justice Hour F 1-3 Sholtis retrospective F 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	23 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	24 6:30-8:30 RE cmte EA 7-8:30 Adult RE F	25 6-9 Book sale setup F	26	27 6-9 Book sale setup F	28 9-2 Book Sale F 7-9 Ted Voneida play S
29 10:30 Surprise Friends S 11:15 Social Justice Hour F 6:30 Choir S 7-9 AA FH	30 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	1 7-8:30 RE cmte EA	2 7-9 Singalong S	3 7:30-9:30 COA F	4 2-4p Church reserved	5 4:00 CUUPs Betlane, Plum Creek

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 March 21

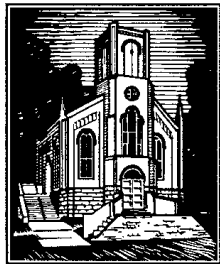
A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at

<http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent> or through a link on our website at www.uukent.org.



A full house gathered for Gordon Vars' memorial service, including Fessenden and Founders' Lounge.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent
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Kent, OH 44240



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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*

Meet Deb Biggins, our newest member

The newest member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent (UUCK) may be a familiar face. She has already been making her mark as an enthusiastic, cheerful and productive volunteer. Most recently she took responsibility for coordinating coffee hour. Last fall she was heavily involved in making the Annual Service Auction happen, which she plans to do again this year.

Deb came to UUCK, and stayed, because she finds us a warm and welcoming church. She feels accepted for who she is. Deb was raised a Roman Catholic, and she still follows some of the Roman Catholic rituals.

Deb was recently married to Meg Milko, whom she met on line. Deb is a student at the University of Akron, where she will be in the School of Social Work, a mental health major, which fits her passion to help people. She also enjoys fishing, walking and socializing with her many friends.

When asked if there is anything else she wants us to know about her, she said we should just ask. She will tell.

Marion Yeagler



Deb Biggins

Harvest Your Power: Learning your Leadership Potential

Mark your calendar and save the date! The Leadership Development Team is hosting a leadership workshop and we want you there! Leadership development is very important at UUCK and our hope is to grow great leaders through on site training. In this workshop, we will explore various themes related to leadership, including what it takes to be in leadership and how to better your skills if you already are in a leadership role. We will provide coffee, tea, and juice, and a light snack. There is no charge for the workshop. The workshop will be held in the Annex on April 21st from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please plan to attend and bring a friend!