



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

July 2012

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240
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Minister's office hours:
Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

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Deadline:

The 15th each month

By the time you read this column I will be in Phoenix attending our annual General Assembly (GA). In years past I have been able to attend many workshops at GA to fill up with inspiration. These last couple of years I have found my time for attending workshops reduced as I have stepped into volunteer leadership in both the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). I am currently serving on three different committees with the UUMA and UUA. Each one of these endeavors requires time, hard work and energy throughout the year and this year I have obligations to fulfill for each during GA. I enjoy my service in these roles and find that they provide me with a chance to grow, a sense of satisfaction and the knowledge that I am contributing to a mission which I support. These are just a few of the benefits of volunteer service.

After GA ends I will be spending a week visiting with my mom and my sisters and twelve nieces and nephews who all live in the Phoenix area. Our plans include a visit to a water park, camping in the mountains in Northern Arizona, a trip to the Biosphere II in Tucson and lots of hanging out. In addition I am fairly confident I will be conscripted into a few board games and treated to at least one talent show organized by my eldest nieces. I am looking forward to that time of reconnection with my family and to time for play and rest.

Balance. All of us are seeking it and summer is a wonderful time to step back and review how well we are managing to balance the things that matter to us most. The pace of life is so fast these days and many of us often feel like we are juggling to keep essential balls in the air. How balanced are the commitments that your life revolves around? Are you managing to find adequate time for your own physical, mental and spiritual health in the midst of all the other demands that compete for your time and energy? If things feel out of balance to you, I encourage you to reconsider how you are spending your time and energy. If something has to be cut, so be it. You need time for yourself if you are to have something to give.

But don't let the giving be the thing that gets cut. In order to realize balance we need to be reminded on a regular basis that there is something larger than us, something which we did not create and which we cannot control nor sustain. Whatever name we give that something – God or Spirit of Life, Gaia or Beloved Community, great mystery or simply humanity – we need to take time to offer thanks for the gifts we have been given. Our church serves as place to remember, to remind us, to call us back into right relationship with that source. It isn't possible to serve that source conceptually. Our service must be concrete. It must take the form of gratefully sharing our time, talent and treasure.

If you are looking for a place to give back, let me suggest our church. The rewards of volunteerism are great if the fit is good and the calling true. Not only do you have the chance to express your gratitude for all you have been given, you also have the opportunity to grow and learn, to extend your networks of care and concern and to know you are part of something which blesses the world. Many of you are already involved

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Upcoming Sermons

24 June

Magical Outreach: Teaching UU Values At Hogwarts

Joe Kuemerle and worship associate Max Grubb

The Kent UU Hogwarts program was founded as an alternative to Christian Bible School and uses the themes of Harry Potter and Hogwarts to engage with children while taking that opportunity to teach them about how we as UU's think about the world, spirituality and justice. Come and join some of the Hogwarts staff as we share how we are working to expand the reach of our faith's core values while also having a lot of fun.

1 July - **10:30 only**

Living and Loving after Sexual Trauma

Deb Biggins with Worship Associate Eric Van Baars

Living and loving after sexual trauma can be accomplished with lots of support, counseling and love. If you have never experienced this traumatic abuse, consider yourself lucky. It is one of the most difficult things to admit, discuss and get over...if that is even possible. While you may never "get over" it, you can learn to deal with it and pack it away in the deepest recesses of your mind and move forward with your life. This is a journey of how I found my voice, was able to speak out about the trauma and to no longer be a victim, but a survivor.

8 July - **10:30 only**

From the Ground Up: Working for a Just Recovery in Haiti

Logan Bialik, Saul Flanner, and Kathy Walker

Whether you are attending Summer Institute or not, start your week out right with an inspiring service by our very own Logan Bialik, back from her first year at Kenyon College. With assistance from Saul Flanner and Kathy Walker, she will share her experiences with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as she traveled to Haiti for a week in the spring. Logan will discuss the meaning of social justice in an increasingly divided world and the hope that can be drawn from the lives of everyday people.

15 July - **10:30 only**

Exploring our Questions

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Bonnie Harper

A couple of years ago I led a service during which I endeavored to give you my answers to some of your questions about our church, Unitarian Universalism, theology and ethics. It was such a good experience that I'd like to try that again. What have you been wondering about this church or this tradition? What questions are you considering about the meaning of life and our place in this universe? No question is too big or small. Bring them with you and together we'll explore some worthy questions.

22 July - **10:30 only**

What is our UU DNA?

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke with Worship Associate Trish McLoughlin

In response to the white paper "Congregations and Beyond" by Unitarian Universalist President Peter Morales, Rev. Renee Ruchotzke will explore how Unitarian Universalism might evolve in a post-church society.

29 July - **10:30 only**

The Paradox of Pluralism

Christie Anderson and Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

The interfaith movement struggles with the paradox of emphasizing unity while understanding and honoring the extensive diversity of different religions. This dynamic is present in UU congregations as well. We will explore the challenge of religious pluralism in a global sense and within our UU congregations.

in wonderful ways in the ministries of our congregation. If you are not, consider this your invitation to give yourself and the church a great gift. During the summer I will be working on rebuilding and building up several of our ministries to prepare for the next church year. If you are interested in being part of our efforts please let me know. Whatever your interests and skills, we have a place for you.

In faith,

Melissa

A note about my schedule: During the month of July I will be working the first week, at Summer Institute the second week and on study leave the third and fourth weeks. When I am out of the office I can be reached by cell phone if you have an urgent concern.

In addition, those of you who are Facebook friends with my partner may have noticed that she recently changed her name from Ellen to Evin. I am including the letter she sent to the Ohio Meadville District as she begins her new position for those of you who would like to know more:

On July 1, I look forward to moving into my new positions as the Ohio-Meadville District Program Coordinator, focusing on youth, young adults, and social justice; and as the Youth Coordinator in St. Lawrence District. I'll still be living in Kent OH, you can reach me by email at ecziemer@ohiomeadville.org, friend me on Facebook, or call me at 330-281-3306.

And, I'm turning this transitional time in my life into another kind of transition too and finally changing my name. Starting at General Assembly this year, I will be going by "Evin." This has long been my name in a few select contexts in my life, but due to family pressures I haven't felt like it was the right time to let go of the name of my grandmother (and great-great grandmother and great-great-great-great grandmother...) It's time now. "Evin" more comfortably fits the way I walk through the world as a female bodied person with a more masculine presentation. Though I'm changing my name, I'm not changing pronouns or how I dress or anything like that. I see this as a long delayed, but small, tweak in who I am in the world.

You can watch me with my new name if you choose to tune into General Assembly. I will be receiving Preliminary Fellowship this year, celebrated at the Service of the Living Tradition on Friday evening June 22nd. If you want, you can watch the service live streamed (www.uua.org/ga) as I am welcomed into Unitarian Universalist ministerial fellowship.

I look forward to working with all of the congregations of the Ohio-Meadville and St. Lawrence Districts starting later this summer.



Christie Anderson was ordained as an interfaith minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City this month. She attended The New Seminary for two years.

Tapestry of Faith: Our Core Curriculum

Earlier this spring, the RE Committee chose the curricula that we will be using in the classrooms next church year. For the most part, we made our selections from the Unitarian Universalist Association's *Tapestry of Faith* core curriculum.

These resources have been in development for several years and have earned their wide ranging respect. *Tapestry* is available online at no cost. It is a program for all ages (Kindergarten through adults) that is grounded in our UU Principles and values and nurtures both the skills and the spiritual foundation to support folks of all ages to live lives of purpose and meaning.

It draws on our Universalist heritage with its emphasis on love, faith and hope as well as our Unitarian heritage with its emphasis on freedom, reason and tolerance. Our core stories form the foundation of the program. (I often select the stories that I tell during the Time for All Ages portion of the worship service from the *Tapestry* core stories.)

The goals of the program include supporting Unitarian Universalist identity, providing opportunities for spiritual growth, nurturing a transforming faith that changes us as well as makes the world a better place and creating communities of justice and love.

The *Tapestry of Faith* authors are UU religious professionals. Our own Affiliated Community Minister, the Reverend Renee Ruchotzke is the co-author of *A Chorus of Faith*, which is a program that encourages high school youth to become interfaith leaders.

The programs are carefully written to be anti-racist, anti-oppressive and multi-cultural. The programs employ activities that align with many different learning styles and offer suggestions for making adaptations to meet everyone's learning needs.

Each lesson, at every age level, includes a "Faith in Action" piece. It isn't enough to learn about how to live a life of meaning and purpose. We need the tools and the structure to implement those learnings.

If you would like to take a closer look at the *Tapestry of Faith*, visit: <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/index.shtml>

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

Summertime = Hungry Time

We need donations for Kent social Services food programs. Children are home from school with no breakfast or lunch programs; summer feeding initiatives reach only 10% of eligible children.

PLEASE bring in some child friendly food items - jelly & PB, mac n' cheese mix, cereal, crackers, healthy snacks, canned pasta, dry pasta shapes & spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, 100% fruit juice, pudding cups, and gelatin mix.

Drop your items and brown paper grocery bags in the lower level closet next to the elevator . . . I'll do the rest and get it where it needs to go. Acme gift cards are also welcome . . . please donate at the Acme Bucks table during coffee hour.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Elaine Bowen



Olive Hobbs celebrated her goth birthday at Laurel Lake Retirement Community with many of her Unitarian and Hudson friends.

It Came . . . From the Library

As the Library committee continues its search for a permanent Chair, a temporary Co-Chair position was created in order to give Martha some much needed personal time. Ann Waters agreed to be Co-Chair. Ann will prepare the monthly meeting agenda and chair the meetings in addition to her publicity duties. Martha will continue to order books, write book reviews, monitor the website along with Matt Cox and manage the account. The entire committee continues to work to interest new members in the work of the committee. Consider attending the next meeting on August 6th at 12:30 P.M. in Fessenden Hall to view this dynamic committee at work.

The Library committee would like to express its gratitude again, to Carol Gould for her recent donation of the new laptop. According to our cataloger, Carolyn Schlemmer, it has made her work incomparably more efficient, not to mention easier. **Thank You, Carol.**

The Library Committee will sponsor a new issue of *Here We Have Gathered*, a collection of writings about the Unitarian Universalist church of Kent, its activities, people and history. The first issue (available in the Library) appeared in December 2011, prepared by Caroline Arnold, a long-time member of the church and columnist for the

Record Courier. Caroline will be convening an editorial board to generate the new edition, planned for early fall 2012. Anyone interested in serving on the editorial board or submitting material should contact her.

The Library committee is working on a special Speaker's Forum event for the end of September. A specific date and information will be confirmed soon. The topic and guest speakers will relate to the coming national election.

Book Review

Do It Anyway: the Next Generation of Activists, by Courtney E. Martin. Beacon Press, (Boston 2010). Toward the end of April 2012, Melissa's sermon was "Grateful for the Changemakers". This book was recommended because it presented stories of people creating change. In it are portraits of eight young activists, revealing their human side along with their work, which makes them all the more inspiring. The author is a senior correspondent and an editor of Feministing.com.

Ann Waters, Library Publicity



Coming of Age Sunday featured a totally youth-driven service. Gavin Van Winkle-Bright played Bach's "Minuet in G". The receiving line can be seen on the right.

Meet Amber and Eric Strock

Amber and Eric are two of our newer members. They live in Streetsboro and have an 18 year old daughter who graduated in May. Amber and Eric were married on Feb 5, 2011.

Amber moved from Columbus where she would occasionally go to the UU Church there. When she moved here she did a search on the internet for the closest UU church. Eric then moved from Amherst to Streetsboro, where he and Amber began living together. Amber told Eric about the UU Church of Kent; they began attending, and fell in love with the energy of the church and the welcoming community.

Amber was raised Baptist and decided she was pagan in her teenage years; she is pagan clergy and can legally marry/handfast in the state of Ohio. She was ordained through Sacred Flame Temple of Columbus Ohio. She currently runs a local pagan group called Northeast Ohio Pagans and considers herself a UU pagan. Eric was raised in the Christian faith and today is a seeker. He is looking for what feels right to him and exploring his spiritual preferences.

Amber was laid off in August of 2011 and is currently a Homemaker and Eric is a Financial Advisor of PNC bank.

Amber's passion is photography, nature/outdoors, camping and motorcycle riding. Eric's passion is riding his motorcycle with Amber riding hers behind him, camping at their RV in Cherokee Camp Grounds and socializing with friends and loved ones.

Eric and Amber hope to make friends, and share and learn with others in the UU community. They hope to be involved as much as they can and to keep a healthy balance in their lives. They love to socialize with friends over coffee/latte and some good food. Sounds like an invitation there! Welcome to membership in the UU Church of Kent!

Marion Yeagler, Membership Team



Meet Dan Flippo

Dan Flippo is one of the newest members of the UU Church of Kent. He began attending when his sister found our church as a liberal place to get married. Having always enjoyed discussing religion, Dan likes the intellectual stimulation and sense of community he has found here. When Dan was a youth he attended services with his friends, but didn't belong to a church home. He was skeptical of most organized religions because of the emphasis placed on telling people what to believe. One of the things that appealed to Dan about UU's was their pride in being a religious community where people can think for themselves. He also liked the diversity of religious and spiritual thought within our congregation.

When he isn't attending services and contributing to our church community by developing and maintaining working our wonderful new website, Dan likes to spend his time camping, hiking, canoeing, and being outdoors with his two sons (Daniel, Jr., 10 and Elliott, 6). Dan and his wife Alicia have been married for 13 years. He is also passionate about his work in business analytics. He is looking forward to working on more opportunities for membership growth. Thank you Dan for all the hard work and dedication you have already put into our website. We are so fortunate that you have found a spiritual home in our church community!

Julie Linebaugh



Be the Change that You Want to See in the World

Mohandas Gandhi

I am honored to serve the Kent congregation as moderator this year—a year of continuing movement and change. We have elected to enter a process of planning, communication, thinking and rethinking, evaluating, discerning, and change. Some of these movements will be exciting and reassuring. Many may be challenging and ask us to be open, nonjudgmental, and to be willing to change and grow.

Patience with the process and with each other will certainly be a virtue.

Changes to look for over the summer:

- New glass doors and railings at the main entrance
- Continual improvements in our church grounds
- Outdoor conversation areas

Changes to listen for over the summer:

- Talk about endowment and legacy giving
- Discussion about property purchase
- Expansion of our fundraising with the addition of Giant Eagle “bucks”

In addition, please reflect on how you and the ministries with which you engage and use space. How could more space or reconfigured space improve or expand your program? Talk to others about these reflections. Expect to be asked to engage in conversations about space usage during the fall.

The UUCK Board will continue to hold monthly conversation sessions or activities with a goal of clear communication. The first one is scheduled for August 19th between services. Come for information. Come with questions. Come to celebrate our changes as we stretch to meet our mission. UUCK is on the move!

Kathie Slater, moderator

P.S. UUCK Board Minutes are available in a notebook in the Founders Lounge.

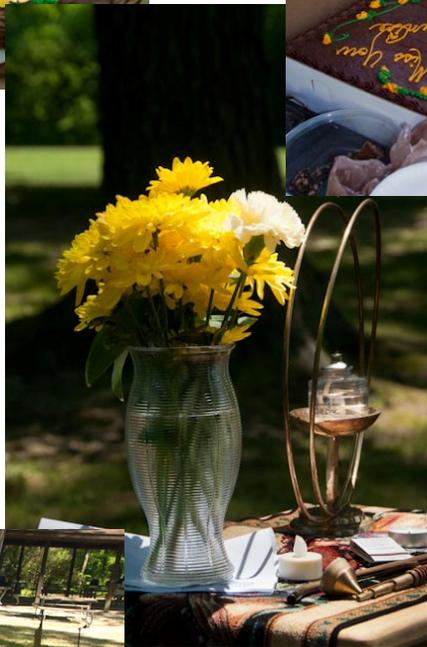


Book Group Meets

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, July 17 at 7 pm in the home of Bonnie Harper. This month we are reading Unsaid by Neil Abramson. After veterinarian Helena Colden dies of breast cancer, she is unable to move on and narrates the emotional deterioration and struggle of her attorney husband David as he becomes involved in a court case to save the life of a chimpanzee. In August we will read The Paris Wife, a novel by Paula McLain, and in September we will read Lake of Dreams by Kim Edwards. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.



Jacklyn Czekaj danced at church during the “Creations of Curiosity” service May 13.



Scenes from the church picnic. Eunice Michaels and Mac Goekler will be missed! Eunice is moving to Maine and Mac is moving to Washington D.C. to be with Susan.



July Church Events

1 10:30 One service only 12:30 Social Justice cmte EA 12:30-3:30 Cave art Class F 7-9 AA FH	2 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	3	4	5 6:30-8:30 Chart Accts mtg	6	7
8 10:30 One service only 7-9 AA FH	9 Church office closed 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	10 Church office closed Noon - Retiree's lunch F	11 Church office closed 7-9 SPAN F	12 Church office closed 7:30-9:30 Board mtg. EA	13 Church office closed	14
15 10:30 One service only 7-9 AA FH	16 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	17 5-7:00 FinSecs EA	18	19	20	21
22 10:30 One service only 7-9 AA FH	23 Church office closed 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	24 Church office closed	25 Church office closed	26 Church office closed	27 Church office closed	28
29 10:30 One service only 7-9 AA FH	30 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	31 5-7:00 FinSecs EA	1 Lughnasadh Sab- bat (CUUPS)	2	3	4

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.

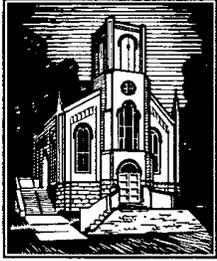
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after June 21

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.



Rowan Matney and Maia Maida, who are both graduating high school this year.

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



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John Bores and Tracy Parsons taught the “Study of Muggle Technology” at Hogwarts, in which wizards disassembled Muggle (non-wizard people) technology to see ascertain its function in Muggle society. Tracy, upper right, is getting inspired by his Idea Box invention.