



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

August 2012

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15 am

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Minister:

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

Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

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Deadline:

The 15th each month

The times they are a changing! Worship times, that is. Effective September 2, our Sunday morning worship services will be held at 10 am and 11:30 am. We are making this change in order to attempt to better balance the attendance between our two worship services.* Over the course of the last year we have consistently experienced overcrowding in our second service. Overcrowding can feel uncomfortable to regular attendees, inhospitable to visitors and can pose a safety concern if we ever needed to help someone quickly exit the sanctuary. We knew as soon as we saw the pattern emerging that we had to try to change it. We tried a whole bunch of strategies to draw people to the earlier service last church year - from scheduling programming concurrent with the second service to simply asking people who were able to choose to attend the first service. None of our methods were very successful, so this past spring I started talking with a whole bunch of people about what else we might try. After consultation with the staff and leaders in the children and youth Religious Education and membership and hospitality ministries, we have decided this is our best option.

It isn't perfect. The perfect solution is the expansion of our space which we are diligently working toward. In the meantime, we just have to keep experimenting. Even though this approach is going to reduce the time between our services by 15 minutes, we think it has the potential to balance the enrollment in our children and youth religious education programs between the two services which will consequently help balance the attendance between services in our sanctuary. That is our thinking. If it doesn't work, we'll go back to the drawing board.

As we begin to get a sense of how our attendance will fall, we are considering expanding our options for hospitality to before and/or after our services instead of only in between. We have talked about the possibility of having some kind of breakfast type coffee hour at 9 am before the first service and we've also considered having a light lunch type of coffee hour at 12:30 after the second service. If you would be more drawn to attend a hospitality function at one of those times please let me know. Further, if you would like to be part of the group of people who helps us figure out how to reorganize our hospitality in order to accommodate this change, we'd be grateful for your participation!

That goes for just about any area of the church, in fact. This is the time of year when we lay the plans for the rest of the church year. Whether your interests lie in worship, religious education and faith development, caring ministries, stewardship, social justice or elsewhere, we have room for you and would happily welcome your contributions. If you have been thinking about getting more involved in the congregation, this is a great time to take the next step. If you want to talk with me about where your talents and interests would best serve, I'd be happy to have a conversation.

Finally, if you haven't yet seen it, I'd like to call your attention to the report our Unitarian Universalist Association consultant Bill Clontz generated as a result of our Assess-

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Upcoming Sermons

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.

5 August - 9:30 and 11:15 *Second Coming*

Worship leaders Saul Flanner and Kathy Walker

12 August - 9:30 and 11:15 *New Light Breaking Through*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Joel Slater

Can Unitarians have transcendent experiences? At one point in our history that question was hotly contested. The pillars of the Unitarian church understood ours as a tradition firmly rooted in the wisdom of the Bible interpreted through the lens of reason. This, for them, was the source of religious authority. The Transcendentalists argued that there were other sources of authority – namely the personal moments of transcendence experienced by individuals. This morning we'll explore that debate and the impact it had and still has on our living tradition.

19 August *Moments of Transcendence*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Max Grubb

We speak often of our seven principles but not as frequently of our six sources. The first of our six sources speaks of “that transcending mystery and wonder . . . which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.” What is that all about? How does it happen? Is there anything we can do to make ourselves open? This morning we will reflect upon and celebrate moments of transcendence.

26 August - Ingathering *Transcendent Play*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus
and Worship Associate Eric Van Baars

The essayist Diane Ackerman speaks of transcendent play – a form of play which she says we humans need in order to feel whole. I am taken with this idea of play as a pathway to transcendence. What is that path like and how can we take it? These are the questions that will guide us this morning as we gather for our annual multigenerational Ingathering Service. If you have been away this summer or if your summer routine has kept you from attending church regularly, consider this your invitation to return.

This is our Ingathering service. Please bring a little vial of water and a bit of earth with you to this service if you would like to participate in our annual ritual of gathering water and soil. If you can, consider bringing the water and earth from a place where you lost yourself in the joy of play this summer.



Kevin Richards played all the music for a July service. Kevin runs Roots of American Music, a private outreach school that sends musicians to Cleveland schools to teach about early American music. Private music lessons are also offered.

What I Love About Summer Institute

I am writing this just a few days after returning home from the Ohio Meadville District's Summer Institute still enjoying the warm embrace of approximately 600 other UU's including nearly eighty from our church. Summer Institute is a major annual event in my life and I have been attending every year since 1990. Each year I continue to be amazed by the influence of this event. I love so many aspects of SI, but these are the rewards I am thinking about this moment:

We worship as a community twice a day. Admittedly, I do love spending my time in a worship experience, so SI in this regard, is a kind of Disney World to me. The morning worship and evening vespers ground the fun activities and guide us to appreciate the worth of our being together.

Summer Institute gives us the opportunity to have uninterrupted time together. Our time together as a church community is often spent providing program, administering the ministries of the church and in our Sunday morning experience. Being at SI with nearly 80 church members allows us to share other kinds of experiences and get to know each other in a more leisurely way.

Sharing SI adventures gives us a common story that binds us together.

I am not certain how many congregations were represented at Summer Institute this year, but probably at least 20 others from the OMD and beyond. Being with UU's from other congregations reminds us that we are not alone. We are part of a small, but proud faith tradition. In my opinion, it is important for our children and youth to experience this as they are so often the only Unitarian Universalist in their schools.

Most importantly, those of us who attend SI bring it back to our congregational life, so even folks from the UU Church of Kent who do not attend, benefit from it. The sense of community that is built at SI becomes a model for how we are as a community for the other 51 weeks of the year.

I am sure that my list is similar to the lists of others, but different, as well. That is one of the wonderful things about Summer Institute--there is something for everyone and everyone finds value somewhere there.

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education



From p 1

ment Weekend. This report identifies our strengths and lifts up areas that could benefit from improvement in our congregational life. As we prepare for our upcoming capital campaign to fund our expansion, we need to be diligently focused on making sure our congregation is functioning as well as it possibly can. We hope that every member of our congregation (and many of our friends) will read the report and participate in the conversations about what comes next. The Board of Trustees is hosting a chat with the congregation about this report on August 19 between our services. We'd love to have you attend. If you can't make it that day, you are also welcome to seek out any member of the board to offer feedback. This is going to be a big year for us at the UU Church of Kent. I am looking forward to seeing where it takes us!

In faith,

Melissa

PS - During the service in which I collected your questions, someone asked whether we had considered adding a third service at a time other than Sunday mornings focused specifically on young adults. We have considered this and talked about it in some depth. Our conclusion is that we couldn't add a third service at this point without expanding our staffing. Since that would require financial resources, we are thinking it makes more sense to stay focused on our goal of expanding our space at this time.

Plea for County Clothing Center Volunteers

The Center needs:

- Shirts and shoes, coats and boots
- Cool sportswear and business suits
- Clothes for kids, pants and jeans
- All kinds of tops, stuff worn by teens

This apparel- plus house wares, linens, books, and more - are all available free to customers who pass through the doors of the County Clothing Center. Clothing and other donations are generously given by Portage County residents (including UU's!) but that's just the beginning. Goods must be triaged, sorted, inspected, hung on hangers, presented to shoppers on racks or bins, and, finally, bagged when selected to take home by customers. Since the center has just one paid employee, its director, all the rest of this labor must be done by other folks, mainly its volunteers. That's five days and two evenings a week of staffing.

Kent's Unitarian Universalist Church has a longtime and firm commitment to providing such volunteer service. Our time slot is the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 10AM to 2PM; the location is 3377 State Route 59 (just west of Ravenna). The Center as a whole now needs more volunteers and the Unitarian group is no exception. Unfortunately, attrition happens and we must ask for new help. It's really quite an opportunity, though: decades of exotic and humdrum-fashions parade before your eyes as you hang and sort, you have a chance to serve the community person to person, and there's the satisfaction of recycling goods which might otherwise be tossed in the trash or worse.

If you are interested and available on Wednesdays, please give me a call for more information and encouragement. We'd really welcome your participation in clothing the county.

Debby Newberry, UU Church Clothing Center Volunteer Coordinator

Debby and her husband are long-time supporters of UUCK. Caroline Arnold asked her to take over Caroline's position as the UU Volunteer Coordinator - Ed.

Logan Bialik related her social justice experiences in Haiti as part of a service in July.

Justice General Assembly Presentation

Sunday, August 19 in Fessenden Hall
12:30 to 2:00

Our Justice General Assembly in Phoenix this past June was a powerful experience. We want to share it with you! Please bring your lunch and join us for a presentation about the meaningful moments and abundant inspiration we have brought home with us. We'll include a few video clips as well as our stories. Lee Brooker and Kristina Spaude will join Rev. Melissa in presenting.

Book Group Meeting

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, August 14 at 6 pm in the home of Annie Brightbill. For those wishing to carpool, we will meet at the church at 5:15 pm. Annie will be making one of her delicious dinners for us. This month we are reading *The Paris Wife: a Novel* by Paula McLain. A deeply evocative story of ambition and betrayal, *The Paris Wife* captures a remarkable period of time and a love affair between two unforgettable people: Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley. In September we will be reading *Lake of Dreams* by Kim Edwards. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.



August Musings from the Moderator

A Communion of People

Our stay here is a communion
a communion of people
with ideas and feelings to share
and with time to learn the ideas and feelings
of each other.

a communion of people
who are seeking to live their lives as fully as possible
who welcome this opportunity to live with others
to learn from them
to teach them to help them
to be helped by them
to have fun with them
to love and be loved by them
a communion of people who
- if they cannot welcome- at least recognize the need

for struggle
for anguish

for disappointment
and for sorrow

and who hope somehow to

Reach that ultimate commitment

which will give our lives tremendous meaning.

—Judy Deutsch, from *Stopping Places*, UUA, 1974

(as presented as a chalice lighting on the CLF home page)

This reading was taken from the website of The Church of the Larger Fellowship, the UU on-line congregation. The director and minister of the site, Rev. Meg Riley, was the theme speaker for our summer retreat/camp, Summer Institute, held during the second week of July at Kenyon College. As part of her presentations, Meg challenged us to spread our good news, to be connected, and to use social media as a major means for this evangelism.

What can this challenge mean to UUCK? We can celebrate that we already have an engaging and informative website and a Facebook page. How else can our communion/community be shaped by these emerging technologies? How might they help us connect with the larger world? There are discussions starting about using "Ted Talks" as a possible Adult Religious Education class. Could video homilies be used for Wednesday Vespers? Meg challenged us to risk making our own videos to explore who we are and what we value and to post these as offerings that could go viral! The Arlington, Virginia church was cited as an excellent example of a congregation that is using social media in very engaging and friendly ways. Check out their website. -- ucava.org

Yours in faith, *Kathie*

Please welcome Randy Ruchotzke
as the new Trustee
for Buildings and Grounds
He must like it, because this is his second time in
this position.



From the Library

The Library committee would like to remind all who donate books to the Library to please use the yellow donation form on top of the bookcase. This information will help us to acknowledge donors in a timely manner.

Book Reviews

The category we circulate most at the UUCK Library is "Meditation". We have collected a number of the UUA meditation annuals. Several of special interest are mentioned below.

Been in the Storm So Long, by Rev. Mark D. Morrison-Reed, ed. by Jacqui James, Skinner, 1991. There has been renewed interest in this title in light of the 2006 General Assembly's responsive resolution on racism and classism. This stirring volume features more than 40 selections from the spirited voices of 29 African Americans. Contributors include David H. Eaton, Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley, Rosemary Bray McNatt, Thandeka, Egbert Ethelred Brown, and more.

Morning Watch, by Rev. Barbara Pescan (Skinner, 1999.) Rev. Pescan attended the Akron UU Church as a teen. She retired as senior minister of the Unitarian Church in Evanston, Illinois with her partner, Ann Tyndall, in 2011. Her poems have appeared in *Singing the Living Tradition*, *First Days Record*, and the *Journal of Liberal Religious Response*.

Martha Kluth

Marion Yeagler - Incoming Trustee

As a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, I have found the resources and training of the OMD and the UUA to be invaluable. Workshops and online training material have helped me grow in my ability to serve my congregation and the church as a whole in the areas of membership, hospitality, fellowship, stewardship, religious education and more. I hope to help facilitate increased participation by the entire district, in workshops, webinars and other district events.

Marion has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent for over 20 years where she is currently co-chair of the Membership Team, past co-chair of the Stewardship Team, and is lead member of the Growth and Vitality Team. Marion is a former Trustee on the UU Church of Kent Board of Trustees, and performed many other committee and organizational functions at the church. She has attended Summer Institute for seven years.

Spiritual Cinema

Please join us for Spiritual Cinema on Friday, August 10 at 7:00 PM. We will watch the motion picture, "Contact" (1997) which was written by the late Dr. Carl Sagan. Dan Flippo has volunteered to screen the movie in his home and has room for at least 14 people. Please RSVP to Dan. You can visit our website for additional information including the movie trailer.

Dan Flippo



Dani Beale and Paxton at the church picnic.

August Church Events

29 10:30 One service only 11:30 Pancake bkfst 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
5 !@:30-2:30 Social Jus- tice EA 7-9 AA FH	6 10:30-12:30 Library F 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	7	8 7:30-9:30 Board mtg EA	9	10	11
12 9-11a New UU class EA 7-9 AA FH	13 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	14 Noon - Retiree's lunch F 5-7:00 FinSecs EA	15 630-9:30 Member- ship F	16	17 6p-12a OMD YAC	18 12a-9a OMD YAC
19 9-11a New UU class EA 12:30-2 GA presentation p4 7-9 AA FH	20 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	21 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 6-9 RE cmte F	22	23	24	25 9a-3p Board retreat 11:30-5:30 OWL par- ents F
26 Ingathering 12:45-2:45 Calendar mtg—EA 7-9 AA FH	27 5-7:00 FinSecs EA 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	28	29 6-8:00 Sunday Pgm cmte EA	30	31	1 3-6:00p church re- served

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.

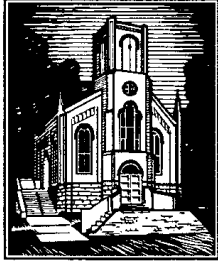
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after July 21

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.



Amazing - 78 Kent UU's attended Summer Institute this year.
More amazing - 76 of them showed up for the photo!

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



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David Smeltzer, Don Easterling,
Karen Lapidus, Jennifer May



Hal Walker



Colleen Norris, Jim Scott, Bruce Richards

Scenes of UUCK members at Summer Institute. SI takes place every year at Kenyon College in Gambier.

Megan May

