



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

October 2012

Sunday Services
10:00 and 11:30 am

228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, Ohio 44240
Phone: 330-673-4247
Fax: 330-677-4772
www.kentuu.org

Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziener
minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net

Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

**Congregational
Administrator:**

MaryBeth Hannan
Office hours:
Mon. through Fri. 9 - 2

Religious Ed. Director:

Karen Lapidus
dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net
DRE's Office Hours:
Tuesday and/or Wednesday
By appointment

Music Director:

Hal Walker

Commissioned Lay Leader:

Rev. Christie Anderson
christiea@neo.rr.com

Affiliated

Community Minister:

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke
zimlar@juno.com

Newsletter editor:

Brad Bolton
bbolton@neo.rr.com

Deadline:

The 15th each month

The other night I picked up the phone to be greeted by yet another stranger calling to inquire about my intention to vote. I know from experience that the pace of the phone calls is only going to increase as the election draws nearer. I've already decided that my strategy will be to take part in early voting as soon as my schedule allows. That should take care of the deluge of phone calls, I hope!

I can't say I relish the special attention we get, living as we do in a battleground state. In addition to all the phone calls, we are treated to all the political ads, campaign visits and the special attention of pollsters of every stripe. I was listening to a radio show recently focusing on the political climate of each of the "swing states." The host invited listeners from swing states to call in with their perspective. After one particular caller said his piece, the host asked him how it felt to be part of a voting constituency with so much influence. The caller replied that he didn't feel he had all that much influence given that he is staunchly committed to one party and that the voters who really matter in the swing states are the undecided voters. Whether you think that is true or not, it does point to the sense many people have about our democracy being an elaborate kind of political theatre.

This month in church we are going to look beneath the performance to the substance. We'll begin by looking back on an important chapter in the shaping of a more inclusive democracy in our country as we remember Susan B. Anthony's role in winning women's right to vote. Elaine Bowen will lead a service considering the ways in which the separation between church and state isn't always so clear. Kathy Kerns will follow with a service exploring ways to stay connected with people even when we have sharp disagreements. Then we'll end the month with a service exploring the challenge of participation in our democratic form of our government. Throughout we will be certain to lift up the wisdom of the Unitarian Universalist tradition in examining these important questions. In a contentious election season fueled by sound bites, this month at the UU Church of Kent will give us an opportunity to go deeper.

Peace,

A note about my schedule: I will be away for two weeks in the middle of October. From October 8-10 I will be attending a retreat with the Ohio Meadville District Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association in Charleston, WV. The focus of our retreat will be an in-depth exploration of energy ethics. From October 11-14 I will be in San Francisco chairing the Western Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This body interviews potential candidates for Unitarian Universalist ministry and is one of the ways I serve the larger association. During that week I will be available by cell phone for urgent concerns. The next week, October 15- 21, I will be taking a week of vacation I saved from this past summer to attend a family wedding in Massachusetts. If you have an urgent concern that week, please contact Rev. Renee Ruchotzke or Rev. Christie Anderson.

Upcoming Sermons

30 September

Enduring Legacies

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kathy Kerns

For all its trouble, most of us believe life is an incredibly precious gift. We want future generations to have the opportunities we have had to create lives of meaning and purpose. We want them to be well. This morning we will consider the ways we can help create enduring legacies of love.

7 October

The Fight for the Vote

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

Susan B. Anthony devoted many years of her life fighting for women's right to vote. She died before that right was won. In this multigenerational service, we will tell her story and reflect on the lessons we can still learn from that struggle. We will also welcome and celebrate the newest members of our congregation this morning.

14 October

Squirmy Patriotism

Service Leader: Elaine Yehle Bowen and worship associate John Marfy

A pacifist UU living in a flag wrapped America can be a challenge. Come along with me on my journey to maintain a necessary separation of church and state. Together, let's redefine what being a patriotic American means through a UU lens.

21 October

Staying True and Staying Kind: Living Amidst Diverse Perspectives

Kathy Kerns with Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

We live in a world where we constantly come into contact with people who espouse views that differ from our own. How can we respond to this, in ways that reflect our values? This service will consider ways of staying true to our beliefs while peacefully co-existing with others.

28 October

Whose Democracy?

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Max Grubb

It is an important question in an age of factionalized media and big money. This morning we will explore the challenge of participation in the democratic process.



Melissa dedicates the new front doors of our church.

That Thanks 4 Giving Auction

Hello? Hello? Is this thing on? Oh, there you are!

Hi, it's that time of year again. We are gearing up for our Thanks 4 Giving Auction and we are Calling all Volunteers!

Are you curious about this Thanks 4 Giving Auction you've been hearing about? Do you want to know more about it? Do you have some time and the inclination to help out?

If you answered YES to any of these questions then we want you! To volunteer for the Thanks 4 Giving Auction that is!

We are gearing up and we can't do it alone. We need able bodies and minds to help us prepare and set up for this gala. Can you set up tables and chairs? GREAT we have an up"lifting" job for you. Can you bake a dessert? GREAT we have a yummy job for you. Can you pick up food the day before or the day of the auction? GREAT we have a job that will be right up your alley...or Acorn Alley! Can you sell tickets at Sunday coffee hour? GREAT the Thanks 4 Giving Auction tickets sell faster than the pancakes at pancake breakfast! Can you help clear off silent auction tables when they close? Great but keep it on the down low...it's silent after all! Can you use a computer and check in guests at the Thanks 4 Giving Auction? GREAT we've got your number...well actually we don't that's why we are asking for it now! Give us your number, your email, your name and any and all ways to reach you and we will put you to work!

AND the best part is you can attend the Thanks 4 Giving Auction for FREE. Yes you heard us...FREE!

Volunteer jobs fill up quick so let us know right away if you are interested in helping out and having lots fun in the process.

Meg Milko, Thanks 4 Giving Auction Chair

Hal Walker displays a khan-do attitude at the church picnic.

Of Elves, Buildings, and Grounds

No, we don't have elves! You may have noticed the grounds around the church building have been spruced up recently. It was not done by elves. It was done by way of several days hard work by a person. Such work would not be so intense if a group of people worked together to keep the grounds neat and tidy each week. Each person would just need to commit a few hours each month to make short work of keeping the grounds welcoming. To sign up, please email Georgia Quinn (This is the committee that has no meetings: The Landscape Work Team).

On the same topic, now that the landscape area to the right of the new front door has been cleared, several people have proposed ideas for planting. Unfortunately, that area was neglected for so long that it became infested with a troublesome wild cousin of morning glory known as bindweed. The area is being rehabilitated and will be resting for at least a year. Late next spring the mulch and landscape fabric will be removed and any remaining weed plants and seeds will be encouraged to sprout so they can be removed. Then the area will be available for planting. Next July would be a good time to share your ideas with the Landscape Work Team.



Get Involved and Make a Difference

We live in a time of change. That is probably always true, but it is notably true right now in our church social justice work. After seven great years of organizing social justice activism through the social justice committee, we on the committee and the members of the church board have decided to change our approach to social justice work to reflect our growth as a congregation. This means that you as a church member or friend will have new opportunities to work to eradicate hunger, to protect the environment, to champion human rights and equality.

The board has voted to endorse a transition from a social justice committee structure to a task force structure. We have created three task forces with specific goals. One task force will work to address the problems of hunger and poverty. A second task force will work to address environmental concerns and will include our Green Sanctuary program. A third task force will address the problem of racism and the need for justice and fairness for immigrants. Saunis Parsons will chair this task force. We have also created a social justice visioning group to discuss the important issues that come before us and to plan educational programs. We will continue to take monthly congregational special offerings for social justice causes. Church members may in the future propose new task forces on issues where they see a need.

We invite you to participate by joining one of the task forces or the social justice visioning group. We promise few business meetings and lots of meaningful action. You can make a difference. We promise that this work will enhance your life as we work together to improve the lives of all.

I want to thank the folks who have made the social justice committee a visible and effective social change group over the years. The committee has organized teach-ins, has presented educational films, has organized protests and actions in the community, has put volunteers into the community, has run petition drives, has put forward congregational resolutions, has written newspaper articles, and has made our church a model for UU congregations everywhere. We intend to build on that foundation with our new task force structure.

Our church mission statement calls us to live "caring lives of meaning and purpose." Now, more than ever, the world needs all of us to bring our talents, energy, and resources to the work of social justice. We invite you to be part of those efforts. You may contact me .

In peace, *Vivien Sandlund*

Board Trustee for Outreach to the Wider World

Thanks 4 Giving Auction . . . A Taste of Kent

Only one short month to go before the Thanks 4 Giving Auction, the biggest individual fundraiser of the year in support of the UU Church of Kent, apart from the annual Stewardship Campaign. We are changing things up a little from last year. The venue is the same, the United Church of Christ in Kent, with a new layout of the space to alleviate overcrowding. We have hired a new auctioneer. Our food will be prepared by local restaurants, hence our theme, A Taste of Kent.

We will try to stick with local themes in our art donations. Forms are available at the Thanks 4 Giving Auction table in Fessenden Hall for your donations of themed baskets, dinners, events, as well as general donations. Past donations have included trips to museums, food items, tours, art glass, collectibles, of all price ranges.

Remember...November 3...fun and frolicking at the Thanks 4 Giving Auction



Hal Walker leads the choir in singing "May Nothing Evil Cross This Door" at the new door dedication.

NEW Fundraising Approval Process & Procedures

In our continuing efforts to move towards Policy Governance, the newly formed Fundraising Committee, Meg Milko - Chair, Andrew Bores, Noah Kerns, John Bores, Eric & Amber Strock, Connor May and Ann Ver-Wiebe, are pleased to announce they have created a NEW Fundraising Approval Process & Procedure policy that was recently approved by the Board of Trustees.

Not only did the policy arise from our efforts to move to Policy Governance but also out of a need to keep better track of the wonderful efforts everyone makes at raising money for the church. With proper record keeping we will be able to make informed decisions about fundraising events now and into the future. The new policy will also help us to keep better track of expenses related to fundraisers and of course how much money each fundraiser makes. A fundraiser is any effort or event where money will be raised for the church (or perhaps for an outreach effort) and then given to the church either at the end of the event or ongoing as money is collected.

The two most important things to know are effective immediately- every fundraiser will need to complete a Fundraiser Proposal Form (the approval form) and a Fundraiser Report Form at the end of the event (the record of expenses & money raised form).

Existing fundraisers such as Acme & Giant Eagle Bucks and fundraisers that are ongoing will only need to complete an initial Proposal Form and then once per year (at the end of the fiscal year) complete a Report Form stating total annual expenses and money raised as it relates to that fundraiser. We did this so you don't have to spend a lot of time filling out forms each week and can focus on what you do better - raising much needed money for the church!

There is an approval process in place now as follows:

The approval of the **Ministry Executive Team and/or Board of Trustees** is required for:

- Fundraisers expected to generate \$500 or more in gross proceeds; Special collections or offerings;
- Emergency relief fundraisers.

The approval of the **Fundraising Chair** is required for:

- Fundraisers expected to generate less than \$500 in gross proceeds.

The approval of the **Director, Religious Education** is required for:

- All Religious Education Fundraisers, and
- The DRE has the sole authority to approve Fundraisers with goals of less than \$250 (Fundraiser Proposal Form & Fundraiser Report Form should be completed for any fundraising event), but
- Fundraisers over \$250 should be approved by the DRE and either Fundraising Chair if under \$500 or Ministry Executive Team and/or Board of Trustees if over \$500.

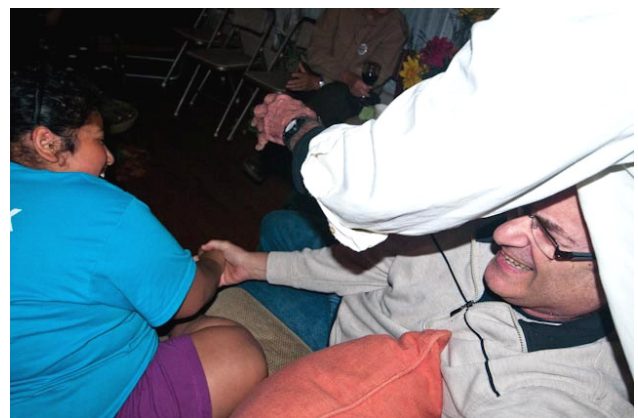
We know this is a lot of new information to digest but we are available to help you complete the forms and guide you through the process. If you run an existing fundraiser

please let us know and we will get you the forms you need and help you fill them out! And if you have a NEW idea for a fundraiser just let us know and we will help guide you through the approval process and the forms completion.

When planning your fundraiser please try and promote our UU principals and keep in mind the vision and mission of the church and we're sure they will be successful.

The fundraising committee worked very hard on creating this policy and wants you to know this is not meant to hinder anyone's efforts or ideas but merely to keep a record of what we do well so we can repeat it in the future. Or decide if something isn't as effective as it was in the past to let it go and move on to new events and ideas.

Thank you,
Meg Milko, Fundraising Chair



Anna Sandlund beats Joel Slater in an arm-wrestling contest at the campfire auction item party . . .

We're on Facebook!

I am sure that the majority of the church's members and friends know that the church has an active Facebook page where the eNuu's along with notices about special events are posted. It has been yet another useful venue to publicize church events to each other and to the wide community. We have created a number of church Facebook groups such as the OWL parents' group and the Youth Group. Many of us "like" and get postings from the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Ohio Meadville District and our CERG regional group. But, this article is about the collective "we" who are on Facebook and the virtual relationships we are sustaining there.

We are well-connected to each other! In general, I have 70-80 mutual friends for each friend from the church. As I write this, Rev. Melissa and I have 101 mutual friends. Although I was leery at first, I now affirm the value of Facebook as an important tool that serves our community well. During our fast-paced Sunday mornings together, we really don't have time to learn about each others' lives. Facebook has become a forum for us to conduct virtual "Joys and Concerns", with church friends offering praise and support of our milestones, successes and challenges.

We must be careful while in our virtual Facebook community. We must be mindful that it is a multigenerational community and post appropriately. We must remember not to be exclusive and to assume that because something was posted on Facebook, then everyone knows about it. Even though there are currently 955 million active users, not every member and friend of the UU Church of Kent is on Facebook. Most importantly, we must remember that our covenant; our promises to each other, extend into our virtual life together.

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

Sermons and Board Minutes Available

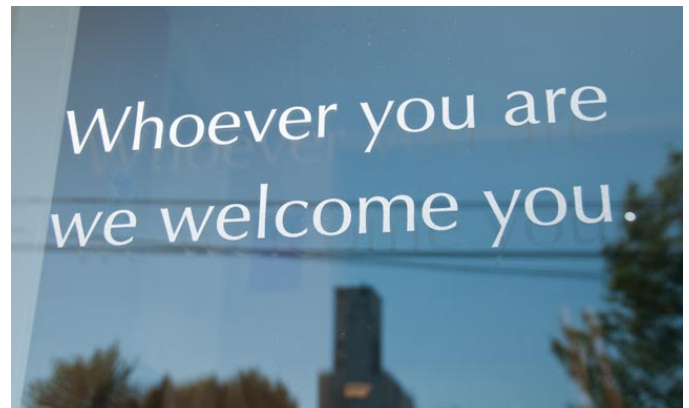
Some printouts of Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer's past sermons are available in the Founders' Lounge for \$1.00 each. Your donation can be placed in the black lockbox, also in the lounge.

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

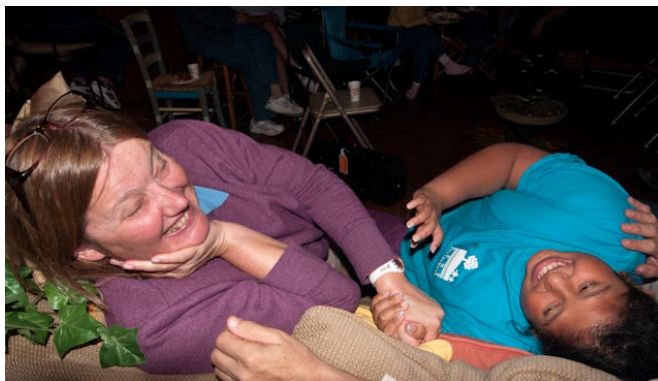
Past Sermons Available for Listening

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



Our new doors beckon all to enter our church.



... but Vivien beats Anna easily, even while laughing.

Moderator's Musings

This is the mission of our faith:
 To teach the fragile art of hospitality;
 To revere both the critical mind and the generous heart;
 To prove that diversity need not mean divisiveness;
 And to witness to all that we must hold the whole world
 in our hands.

William Schultz

For the last three years, UUCK has participated in a UUA regional Growth and Vitality program with six other Ohio-Meadville District congregations. Representing Kent has been a team including Marion Yeagler, Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Rev. Christie Anderson, Lori McGee, Kristofer Sperry, Ann VerWiebe, and Kathie Slater. The purpose of the Growth and Vitality program was to create a process for sharing and inspiration, and to promote cooperation among congregations. Each individual team selected growth areas in which to work.

At bi-annual retreats, they shared progress, tweaked goals, and/or developed new ones. During the last retreat, September 14-15, Kent proudly presented the following growth initiatives that had been accomplished:

Stewardship

- Successful campaign
- Transition to mission based program budget

Capital Campaign and Feasibility

- Assessment Weekend
- Pending purchase of property
- New doors
- Land surveys
- Continued work with architects to create more detailed plans and drawings

Communication

- New Website and Facebook presence
- More visibility in print media

Governance

- Transforming to policy based governance
- Created ministry executive team
- Developed policy template for writing new policies
- Focusing on strategic planning Board of Trustees focusing on vision and mission

Programming Ministries

- Revised Social Justice program
- Revitalized Adult Education program
- New Endowment and Heritage programs
- New Fundraising policies

May we continue to live and further our mission.

Kathie Slater

Book Group

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, October 9 at 7 pm in the home of Kathy Kerns. This month we will be reading *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This non-fiction book documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization, and gene mapping. In November we will be reading *On the Divinity of Second Chances* by Kaya McLaren and in December we will be reading a Ruth Reichl book of your choice. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.

Children's and Family Library

There are a number of new books in our Children's and Family Library. Our collection includes books on parenting, Unitarian Universalism and holidays, among other topics. We have a wonderful collection of story books including many of those that are used for our Time for All Ages. Books may be borrowed for two weeks. We share the check out and return system with the adult library.



Fessenden Hall was a full house for the Ministry Fair at coffee hour. All groups with a church connection displayed information about themselves.

Library Committee Turns New Page

The Library Committee congratulates Committee member, Matt Cox, on receiving his Master of Library Science degree from Kent State University this past August. He is presently employed by the Kent State University Library.

The Library Committee is pleased to welcome two new members to the Committee: long-time Kent UU members Larry Cole and Harry Noden. Both bring special knowledge and skills to the Library Committee, and we are happy they have agreed to share their expertise with us.

Mark your calendar: the Library Speaker's Forum this year will present Mara DeMattia who will talk on the archiving process of the Robert Wood collection. The Forum date is Sunday, February 3, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow Mrs. DeMattia's presentation. This event is free and open to the public.

The Library has received many donations of books and periodicals which will be processed and available by the end of the month. It is important and helpful to the Committee if you will please use the donation form on the top of the large bookcase in the Founder's Lounge when you make a contribution. We want to give timely acknowledgement to our donors.

Book Review

Many of us in the church consider ourselves environmentalists. If you have participated in the wonderful Walden programs organized in our church over the years, this book is for you. *Wilderness Visionaries*, by Jim Dale Vickery (Minocqua, WI: Northwood Press, Inc., c1994), records the lives of eight early naturalists. He explores their vision of America's wilderness areas and their determination to preserve the land in its raw, untamed state. These are the pioneers of America's wilderness preservation movement. Included are Aldo Leopold, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Sigurd Olson, Olaus Murie, Robert Service, Bob Marshall, and Calvin Rutstrum.

Jim Dale Vickery is a free lance author, lecturer, woodsman and Quetico-Superior canoe guide. He received the 1992 Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award for his first book, *Open Spaces*.

Martha Kluth

Invitation to Join Kent's Senior Service Day

Kent's third annual Senior Service Day will be held the morning of Saturday, November 3. Homeowners aged 65 and over residing in Kent who are physically unable to rake their leaves or perform other yard work are matched with volunteers who will offer their services from 8:30 a.m. until about 1:00. In addition, lower-income homeowners may be able to receive some minor home repairs that same day from skilled volunteers. Churches in Kent are asked to spread the word to homeowners who may benefit from these services. Volunteers having minor home repair skills are needed as well as groups from churches (including families) who would like to "adopt" a senior for a morning of yard work. Event organizers will be available at Kent Social Services to speak to potential homeowner applicants and volunteers on Tuesday, August 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at 1066 S. Water St., Kent. For more information, contact Christie Anderson.



The always-colorful Hogwarts group had the most attractive booth by far at the Ministry Fair.



October Church Events

30 9:15 Breakfast 10:00 Service 11 Pancake bkfst 11:30 Service 12:30 Pancakes 1:30-5:30 Library <i>S FL</i> 7-9 AA	1 5-7:00 FinSecs <i>EA</i> 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	2 7-9p OWL <i>F</i>	3 7-9 Choir rehearse	4 7-9 Auction mtg <i>A</i> 7-8:30 Singalong <i>S</i> 7-9 Theology class <i>F</i> 7:30-9 AA	5	6
7 12:30-2:30 Social Justice <i>A</i> 12:45-1:45 TED & pizza 1:30-5:30 Library speaker 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	8 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi 6:30-8:30 RE cmte <i>A</i>	9 Noon - retiree's lunch 7-9p OWL <i>F</i>	10 7-9 Choir rehearse 7:30-9:30 Board <i>A</i>	11 7-9 Theology class <i>F</i> 7:30-9 AA	12	13 5:30-10:15 Psychic fundraiser
14 1:30 Crop Walk Brady UMC 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	15 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	16 7-9p OWL <i>F</i>	17 6:30-9 Membership <i>F</i> 7-9 Choir rehearse	18 7-9 Auction mtg <i>A</i> 7-9 Theology class <i>F</i> 7:30-9 AA	19	20 6-8 church reserved 8-10 Concert series <i>S</i>
21 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	22 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	23 7-9p OWL <i>F</i>	24 5-7 Ministry <i>A</i> 7-9 Choir rehearse	25 7-9 Auction mtg <i>A</i> 7-9 Theology class <i>F</i>	26 7-9:30 Spiritual Cinema	27 11a - 12a Halloween & youth overnight <i>p10</i>
28 12a-9a youth overnight 11 Ministry Fair 11 Pancake bkfst 12:30 Pancakes 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	29 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	30 7-9p OWL <i>F</i>	31 Samhain Sabbat (CUUPS) 7-9 Choir rehearse	1 7-9 Auction mtg <i>A</i> 7-8:30 Singalong <i>S</i> 7:30-9 AA	2	3 Service Auction <i>p3</i>

Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall A- Eldredge Annex; *FH*- Fessenden Hall; *FL*- Founders' Lounge; *L*- Library; *S*-Sanctuary; *N*- Nursery; *FC*- Family and Community Services bldg.

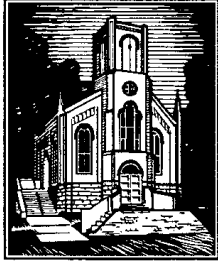
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after September 21

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.



Senior church member Olive Hobbs enters our church through the new doors.

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



Return Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed

Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*

Annual Halloween Party and Haunted House

Save the date of October 27th (in the evening) for the church Halloween Party and youth-created Haunted House. This annual event has been a favorite among our families for many years. Watch for more details in the eNuu's and *Thread from the Web*.

Early Bird Breakfast

A congenial group has been meeting in Fessenden Hall at 9:15 for breakfast before first service. Please join us for food and fellowship! (Donations to cover costs gratefully accepted.)



The church banner is brought in through the newly dedicated doors.