



# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

November 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](http://www.kentuu.org)**

**Minister:**

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziener  
[minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:christiea@neo.rr.com)

**Affiliated**

**Community Minister:**

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke  
[zimlar@juno.com](mailto:zimlar@juno.com)

**Newsletter editor:**

Brad Bolton  
[bbolton@neo.rr.com](mailto:bbolton@neo.rr.com)

**Deadline:**

The 15th each month

This month I write to you from a campground nestled into the woods on the border between New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Because we are the only ones here on a Wednesday night in mid-October, my dogs have the great pleasure of running around freely. The sun has been warm enough to make the chill in the air comfortable and the colors remaining on the trees are just glorious. It is a beautiful day and for it I'm grateful.

I'm also grateful to be able to say that my partner Evin and I are now legally married – at least we are in Vermont and a small handful of other states. See, back in 2006 when we had our wedding, the best Vermont could offer us was a civil union. We wanted what limited protection that might afford us so we went ahead and had a private civil union ceremony in addition to our larger wedding with family and friends. Since then, Vermont has passed marriage equality. However, they didn't automatically convert all the civil unions obtained by same sex couples into marriages. To do that, we learned, we needed to go back in and take out a marriage license.

We knew we would spend one night in Vermont visiting family this trip so we thought we would stop by the Rutland Town Hall and upgrade our civil union to a marriage. While driving on the New York Thruway Monday morning, it occurred to me to call the town hall office and see if we needed our birth certificates again. If we did, we'd have to wait for another trip. I learned that we did not, in fact, need our birth certificates again, but according to the state we needed a new ceremony! I tried to explain to the person on the other end of the phone that we already had two ceremonies and didn't want another, but she explained to me that in the state's opinion we had a civil union ceremony and if we now wanted to be married we needed a marriage ceremony.

I admit I was frustrated. We both were. But then it occurred to us that Unitarian Universalist ministers in VT must have encountered other similarly frustrated couples. We called up a colleague we are friendly with who serves in VT and explained the situation. She did in fact know all about it. In fact, the church she serves had scheduled a "marriage upgrade day" back when the law passed specifically to deal with this situation. She needed to leave for a meeting at 5:30, but said if we could get to her house before then she'd be glad to sign our license.

Having not planned for these extra steps or the rock slide that closed a stretch of road and sent us on a very long detour, we arrived at the town hall office 15 minutes before they closed and then at our clergy friend's home 5 minutes before she needed to leave. She happily signed our license in her front yard while our dogs barked from the car in witness. Though it may well have been otherwise, everything worked out. Were we lucky or blessed? Was our experience good fortune or grace or something else? This month our services will delve into an exploration of grace. I hope to see you in church!

In faith,

## Upcoming Sermons

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.

4 November

*An Unexpected Gift*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate MaryLou Holly

That is my favorite definition of grace – an unexpected gift. This morning will serve as an introduction to the theme of grace. What other definitions are there? What is grace all about? How do we make space for it in our lives?

11 November

*What's Luck Got to Do With It?*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Justin Czekaj

Does luck have anything to do with grace? Theologically, what is the difference? And practically speaking, what difference does any difference make in our lives? This morning we'll dive deeper into the questions.

18 November

*Cultivating a Grateful Heart*

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

Grace, gracious, grateful – these all share the same root. This morning during our special multigenerational celebration of Thanksgiving we'll lift up the connections. Special music and a Thanksgiving communion will be part of our celebration this morning.

25 November

*Living Life at Life's Terms*

Mike Hovancsek with Worship Associate Joel Slater

This service will tie together spiritual and therapeutic concepts about acceptance and healing.



The church choir sings at the dedication of the new door.

## Moderator's Musings

### Where Do You Feel Like You Most Belong?

October/November is the time during the church year to find a place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. Many folks took the opportunity at the Ministries' Fair to explore participating in one or more committees or ministries. Many of us have committed to meet in a Chalice or Food for Thought group this year. Three Adult Religious Education classes have begun. The Spiritual Cinema group gathers once each month to view a movie and reflect together on UU themes.

Finding a niche at the UUCK can lead to greater spiritual growth. How you may wonder? The answer to this question is the theme of the book *Serving with Grace* by Erik Walker Wikstrom that the Church Board of Trustees is discussing this year. Wikstrom believes that "Committee meetings and fundraisers may seem far removed from the message of the Sunday morning sermon, but it is here that your congregation literally practices what it preaches, or doesn't. Lay work is a natural complement to worship, the opportunity to act upon and test your Unitarian Universalist values." I would add that our church commitments allow us to practice our UU beliefs, **and** to observe and learn how others also approach living a UU life.

How blessed we are that many do this work with joy and creativity- and great spiritual depth.

Where do you feel like you most belong? I answer this question this way: here. I most belong **in service** to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent.

In faith and service, *Kathie*

## Kathy Kerns- Your District Liaison

I am writing to let you know I am the Denominational Affairs Coordinator in our congregation. My job is to let you know about upcoming events sponsored by our district or the national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) office. For those who don't know yet... UUA congregations are organized into districts, and we are part of the Ohio Meadville District (OMD), along with over 40 other congregations from Ohio, western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and western New York.

You can learn more about the OMD and district happenings at their web site: [www.omdmeadville.org](http://www.omdmeadville.org). One of their monthly newsletters just featured a story about how we involve youth in church leadership here at the Kent church. The article appears on page 5. Coming soon: the deadline to submit workshops for the annual OMD meeting is December 1.

The annual meeting is scheduled for April 26 - 27. Feel free to contact me any time if you have questions or items you would like passed along to the congregation. In faith, Kathy Kerns.

### Hydraulic Fracturing Teach-In

Fessenden Hall, November 9, 7 pm

Speakers:

"Protecting Our Public Drinking Water," Frances Teresi, Trustee, Garrettsville Board of Public Affairs

"Effects of Hydraulic Fracturing on Urban Areas," Vanessa Pesec, Co-director, Northeastern Ohio Gas Accountability Project (NEOGAP)

Further information: Ted & Swanny Voneida, 330 678 8486

*Fran Teresi is an energetic and well informed official. Vanessa has spent countless hours on fracking research - Ed.*

Horizontal frack rig on Rootstown Rd. at night, June 2012



## Simple Gifts Takes Off

So... What's up with those blue envelopes that I'm seeing in the pews? The Simple Gifts program is one way to donate to our fledgling endowment fund. An endowment fund is different from our annual stewardship fund. It is an investment account that is not used for our day to day operations. As donations are collected, they remain in the basket or sent to the church office. The donor account, untouched. After the account reaches a certain size, interest and dividends can be taken out to help with special projects. Our church is growing and as it does, we are moving past just looking at making the next payroll or funding our budget for the next year. We are looking farther down the road, establishing a permanent fund to ensure that our UU Church of Kent community and its historic building will be here for future generations.

Now.... You don't have to be part of the 1% to help to establish an endowment fund. The Simple Gifts program is a way to show gratitude for events or occasions in your life or to recognize special people. No gift is too small or too large. You can put your donation in a blue envelope and place it in the offering will be able to claim a tax deduction for their gift and will receive a statement from the church for their records. If you have any further questions, see Carol Gould or Kay Eckman.

Simple Gifts we have recently received:

Sandy Eaglen- With much gratitude, I celebrate my patient, knowledgeable, generous and gracious mentors – Kay Eckman and MaryBeth Hannan  
 Chris Hurlbut- In celebration of the wedding of Christopher Gargoline and Kristina Spaude  
 Joel & Kathy Slater- in celebration of my mother, Elouise Day Keelan's goth birthday

If you would like to honor or celebrate someone or something, we hope you'll consider supporting the Church's endowment program with a Simple Gift. Designated blue envelopes for this program can be found in the Sanctuary pews. In order to receive tax credit for your donation, please include your contact information. Thank you.



## New UU Classes in November

Everything you wanted to know about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent in particular and Unitarian Universalism in general, but were afraid to ask. Well, maybe not everything, but we try to give you an overview, a starting point. Some history of both, some organizational details. Come join the conversation. And, if you're curious about membership, this is the place to be.

Part 1 will be on Sunday, Nov 11, from 9-11 am. Part 2 will be on Sunday, Nov 18, from 9-11 am. You may attend one or both, although attendance at both is encouraged. Different topics will be covered in each. We will gather at the Annex, the yellow house next to the church. If you have any questions, contact Claudia Miller or Marion Yeagler.



MaryBeth Hannan, our church administrator, wears many hats. And gloves. And pants. And . . .

## Sunday Flowers!

Are you interested in helping to spruce up the Chancel on Sunday mornings? If so, please consider sponsoring flowers for our Sunday services. Please see the Sunday Flowers sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in Fessenden Hall. Flowers may be donated in honor, in celebration, in appreciation of someone or something or for any other reason. You may indicate your dedication on the sign-up sheet. In addition, you may choose to supply the flowers yourself or donate the money for flowers to be purchased. Also, please know that dedications will be noted in the Thread from the Web each week. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

## Youth Leaders of the UU Church of Kent

*This article appeared in the October issue of "OMD Up Close", a magazine of the Ohio-Meadville District of the UUA- Ed.*

At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent we are proud to be making strides toward becoming a fully multigenerational community. We are continually looking for ways to integrate folks of all ages into the life and leadership of our congregation. Our bylaws state that one must be 14 to become a member of the church and our youth are encouraged to join our church while still in high school. At our last ingathering celebration for new members, four of the sixteen new members were youth.

Currently, there are three youth serving in very significant leadership positions. Two are members of the Fundraising Committee and the other is serving as a Worship Associate. The youth claim full responsibility for these roles and are not performing in a "junior capacity". Their fellow leaders treat them leader cohorts, as well, and are welcoming of their fresh ideas. Their participation illustrates to us--younger and older--that the church belongs to all and is ours to sustain.

Every fall our middle and high school youth groups take charge of the Haunted House feature of our annual Halloween Party. The youth take pride in creating a wildly creative and fun experience for the members and friends of our church. Beyond our congregation, three of our youth are on the Summer Institute Youth Panel.

Research into congregational life has taught us that young people who fulfill significant and meaningful roles in their faith communities are much more likely to remain in that faith community when they become adults. Considering all the disappointment in UU churches around the number of our youth who leave us at high school graduation, never to return to Unitarian Universalism, creating a space and welcoming attitude for youth leadership gives us hope for the future of our faith.

## Book Group Meeting

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, November 13 at 7 pm at the church. Look for the exact location in the weekly publications. Everyone should bring a snack to share. This month we are reading On the Divinity of Second Chances by Kaya McLaren. In this book, McLaren portrays a family on the brink of dissolution- a mother besieged by middle age, a distant father lost in daily life, and their three teenage children struggling in various ways with the family's disintegration even as they conceal a secret that could send their parents further over the edge. With the help of a group of tap-dancing old ladies, a sensual tango teacher, and a lot of luck, this family is about to learn that everyone gets a second chance which, as McLaren beautifully reminds us in this inspiring novel, is sometimes even better than the first. In December we will be reading a Ruth Reichl book of your choice. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.

## Call for SI Workshops & Artwork

Interested in leading a workshop at Summer Institute 2013? The theme this year is "Social Justice as a Spiritual Practice: A Central UU Path" with theme speaker Rev. Art McDonald. Morning seminar and afternoon workshop proposals are now being accepted through November 1st - don't miss your chance! Learn more at <http://www.omdsi.org/index.php/component/content/article/53-workshop-forms> Artwork submissions are also being accepting through November 1st for selection and use on the SI brochure and t-shirts. Email your graphics or questions to [sicommittee@ohiomeadville.org](mailto:sicommittee@ohiomeadville.org)



More parking lot philosophy.

## Families Together

As I write this, I am not yet home from the LREDA Fall Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. This annual gathering of Unitarian Universalist religious educators from across the United States and Canada (the Liberal Religious Educators' Association) is our opportunity to study, share ideas, network and celebrate our colleague's professional accomplishments. The conference program focused on how our history--in terms of our UU faith tradition as well as our churches' histories--effects our current congregational life. It was a fascinating and challenging topic.

But what most captured my attention at the conference was a non-theme related workshop titled "Rooted in the Sacred"; a workshop on family ministry which addressed ways that connections can be made between home and church. We all know that it has quickly become the new normal to make our connections via virtual, internet means. I gleaned some great ideas about how other churches are using social media to support family ministry.

I'd like to implement one of the ideas and I invite all families to venture into a virtual experiment with me. We'll call it "UUCK Families Together". Here is the plan:

- I will create a blog or similar platform that allows for folks to post comments. The details about how and where (Facebook and/or our church website, most likely) will be worked out later.
- To begin, each week I will pose a question, plant a seed or ask folks to share their experiences.
- The focus will be on families. The blog will be a place for us to explore together family rituals, real-life parenting joys and challenges and the ways that we are Unitarian Universalists outside of Sunday morning. Sharing our families' winter holiday traditions is where we will start.
- I imagine that we will address issues important to families of young children, school-aged children and youth. There will be opportunities for parents and caregivers to respond as well as times for children and youth to respond.

In the spirit of shared ministry, community building and faith development, I invite you to participate in "UUCK Families Together". Watch your email, Facebook, etc., for more details.

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

## Library Publication

The Library committee has been working on several projects which should be available to the congregation within the next several weeks.

Of special interest is the coming new edition of *Here We Have Gathered*, a collection of essays about people and events of interest in Kent UU Church history. It will be available on Sunday, November 4th, after both services. The price for this collection is \$5.00, and the profits will benefit the Library Acquisition Fund. Contributors to this edition are Caroline Arnold, Editor, Paulette Thurman, Mary Ann Kasper, Martha Kluth, Karen Lapidus, Ted Voneida, Robert Fildes, Joe Kuemerle, Paul Cox, Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, and Andrew Rome. More information will be forthcoming.

## Book Review

*Thoreau, David Henry, Wild Fruits: Thoreau's Rediscovered Last Manuscripts*, ed. and intro. by Bradley P. Dean, (New York, c2000). The difficulties of Thoreau's handwriting, method of composition, notations, and pagination, kept his final observations and meditation from publication until this book. It was edited by Thoreau specialist, Bradley Dean, who was director of the Media Center at the Thoreau Institute in Lincoln, MA. This book illuminates a later stage of Thoreau's life following his time at Walden Pond and his protests of social injustice. In this book he closely observed and reported on natural phenomena, giving his descriptions of the wild plants and fruits he encountered. It is beautifully illustrated in black and white drawings by Abigail Rorer. We are indebted to Esther Duncan of our church for donating this very special book to the Library.

*Martha Kluth*

The **Kent Hogwarts Yule Ball** is coming on November 10th! Come join us for a family evening of music, dancing and fun. The Yule Ball will be held at the United Church of Christ at 1400 East Main Street Kent, OH 44240 from 6:00 to 9:30 PM. Wear your best robes for the fashion show and bring your wand for the dueling competition. Please bring a dish to share, KentHogwarts will be providing the paper goods and beverages. We are requesting a \$5 per person/\$15 a family donation for tickets and you can get tickets during coffee hour, online at [www.kenthogwarts.org](http://www.kenthogwarts.org)

## November Church Events

<b>28</b> 12a-9a youth overnight 9:15-10a breakfast 11-11:30 Brass practice A 11 Pancake bkfst 12:30 Pancakes 12:45 Cong. Mtg F 1-3 Jim Crow class FL 6-8:00 Food 4 Thought A 7-9 AA FH	<b>29</b> 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>30</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 7-9p OWL F	<b>31</b> Samhain Sabbat (CUUPS) 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>1</b> 7-9 Auction mtg A 7-8:30 Singalong S 7:30-9 AA	<b>2</b> 8-4:00p Auction setup F	<b>3</b> Noon- 11p Auction F
<b>4</b> 11-11:30 Brass rehearse F 12:30-2:30 Social Justice A 12:45-1:45 TED & pizza 7-9 AA FH	<b>5</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>6</b> 10-11:00a Staff A	<b>7</b> 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>8</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>9</b> 6-10:00p Frack class F p3	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9-11:00 UU class A p4 11-11:30 Brass rehearse F 3:30-6:00 Enlightenment F 7-9 AA FH	<b>12</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>13</b> Noon - retiree's lunch 7-9:00 Adult RE A 7-9p OWL F	<b>14</b> 6:30-8:30 RE cmte F 7-9 Choir rehearse 7:30-9:30 Board A	<b>15</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9-11:00 UU class A p4 11-11:30 Brass rehearse F 5:30-7:00 church reserved 7-9:30 concert 7-9 AA FH	<b>19</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b> 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>22</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 11-11:30 Brass rehearse F 11 Pancake bkfst 12:30 Pancakes 7-9 AA FH	<b>26</b> 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>27</b> 10-11:00a Staff A 5-7:00 FinSecs A 7-9p OWL F	<b>28</b> 6:30-9:00 Member- ship F 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>29</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>30</b> 6-8:00 Sanctuary reserved 8-10:00 concert F	<b>1</b>

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.

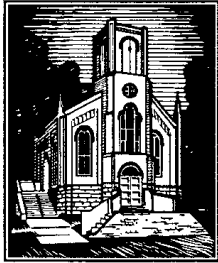
*Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after October 21*

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](http://www.uukent.org).



Flash from the past - Kathie and Joel Slater with Jane Krimmer, 2004.

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



**Return Service Requested**  
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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*



Many will not remember that this was our Sanctuary chalice for a couple decades. It now resides in the Annex and is lit when groups gather there.



John Bores and Bob Erdman man the Acme / Giant Eagle bucks table. Cards are sold at the table which can be used as cash at the two stores, and the stores make a 5% donation to the church.