



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

February 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-Ziemer
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

Even though I seem to be perpetually cold these days, I love winter. However, I know that many people have had just about enough of winter by the time February rolls around. For those who struggle with Seasonal Affective Disorder, February can be a long, hard month. February just doesn't have the greatest reputation. That is why we decided to try to make the month uplifting and bright around the church by choosing creativity as our monthly theme. We will begin with Art Sunday and end with Music Sunday. We hope that all of the services we offer in February will lift your spirits, stimulate your minds and touch your hearts.

Those are among my primary goals whenever I am working on creating worship services. You are always in my own heart and mind as I engage in the arts of worship preparation and leadership. Though it is often challenging, I love the creative work involved in collaborating with our Music Director Hal Walker, our Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus and our fantastic team of worship associates to weave words and music and stories with silence, prayer and ritual.

While we are preparing, the ever so talented Judy Brannan is busy designing original cover art week after week to complement our topic for the day. When we are all done, our congregational administrator MaryBeth Hannan organizes the layout to create an informative and attractive order of service. Our sexton Deb Biggins sees to it that the sanctuary is clean, orderly, lit and heated when we arrive in our space on Sunday mornings. Our wonderful group of sound board operators, especially Brad Bolton and Randy Ruchotzke, make sure that our service can be clearly heard. (If you are interested in being trained on the sound board, please let Brad or Randy know. We could use a couple more people to round out the team.)

Artists regularly allow us to share their work with us on our walls. Many Sundays our choir or individual musicians add their creative talents to the experience, touching us all with their gifts. Every Sunday, greeters and coffee hour hosts help us practice the art of hospitality (and of course we can always use more volunteers in this area, too). The truth is our worship experiences are a good example of collective creation, which will be our topic one Sunday this month.

For several years we had a small group of people who participated in that collective creation by tending to the decoration of the chancel. For the last couple of years, the art of chancel decoration has been more sporadic. With the exception of decorating for Christmas, decorating the chancel has mostly been tended by Bonnie Fraser. If you have an eye for aesthetics and would enjoy contributing to our worship experience, please do let me know. It would be wonderful to have a renewed Chancel Decorating Team working together to ensure that there is beauty before us to gaze upon each and every Sunday. This is not a labor intensive job and it requires few if any meetings. However, it is the kind of job that can make a big impact.

Though supporting the creation of our worship services is certainly not the only way to share your creative spirit with our church, it is a wonderful way to become involved in

Continued —————→

Upcoming Sermons

27 January

Claiming Control by Letting Go

Seth Carrier and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

When we have too little control, life can feel overwhelming. When someone in our lives is trying to exert too much control, we can feel trapped. Claiming an appropriate amount of control in our lives is thus very important to our emotional health and well-being.

3 February

Art Sunday: Something from Nothing

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Trish McLoughlin

The last few years we have invited people who regularly practice some sort of art to share with us on our annual Art Sunday. This year we want to invite everyone, whether you practice art or not, to reflect together on the creative impulse in your own lives. Come be lifted up and celebrate together.

10 February

Collective Creation

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Max Grubb

Connect. Collaborate. Create. New technologies are making this possible in ways not even imaginable not so long ago. This morning we will reflect together on both new and old ways of creating in community.

17 February – guest speaker

24 February

Music Sunday

Music Director Hal Walker

Every year around this time, musicians come out of our church's woodwork for our annual Music Sunday. With this year's theme of "The Music Within You," Music Sunday promises to be a morning full of pulsing rhythm, soaring melody and satisfying harmony.

Continued

the life of the congregation. Together we conspire to make each Sunday a time that can help us all find and keep our balance.

Peace,

Melissa



TED Talk and Pizza on a Sunday afternoon

Moderator's Musing

Commitment: *What it means to join a spiritual community.*

One of the criteria for being a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent is that we give of our time, commitment, and talent. How do you do that? If you are having a hard time finding your niche, here are ideas for you. Committing to service is more than joining a committee; it is committing to spiritual growth by involving yourself with others as you live out our UU values. Opportunities abound! Besides committee work, there are more hands-on tasks that need to be accomplished. Here are some program areas of our church community that would welcome new members:

- **Membership:** The Membership Committee's mission is to aid spiritual seekers in finding a membership path to our congregation. They plan and offer classes and other events to provide information and community building activities. One hands-on activity is working on coffee hour or the early service breakfast. Marion Yeagler is the person to contact if you are interested in volunteering for membership activities.
- **Chancel:** This committee is responsible for the look of our sanctuary. Members help to decorate the sanctuary each season and for special celebrations. Contact

Cheryl Spoehr if you would like to share your artistic eye with the members of this group.

- **Communications:** Our Community needs a person to serve as Coordinator for Communications. Duties would include being the touchstone for those seeking to release information about upcoming events to the larger Kent community. Interested? Contact Kathie Slater.
- **Building and Grounds:** There are many hands-on projects in this program area. You might take on the care of a specific flower bed or devote yourself to sprucing up the area behind the church. Contact Randy Ruchotzke.

I have highlighted only four specific program areas out of the thirty-five or so that exist in our very busy and complex church organization: stewardship, social justice task forces, safety, library, religious education, music, adult choir, finance, fundraising, Sunday morning program, adult education.....the list goes on. Join in. Call the Church Office if you have an idea for service or an area you would like to work within. They will be happy to help you make the service connection.

Yours in faith, *Kathie Slater*



Time for Winter Institute!

Have you registered for Winter Institute yet? This relaxing, fun, and "schedule free" weekend is an intimate gathering for UUs of all ages. There are frosty outdoor activities like sledding, hiking and cross country skiing. For those who choose to stay in their slippers all weekend, there is a beautiful lodge with its many cozy corners and fireplaces. The pool and hot tub are truly a winter-time treat. There are fellow UUs always ready to play board games or to join in the community jigsaw puzzle. We have wonderful community worship services and great conversations. Join us February 25-28 at Salt Fork State Park Lodge near Cambridge, OH. Registration and details at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/552-wi2013>



John Kluth brings out another new artist.

Above and Beyond the Call

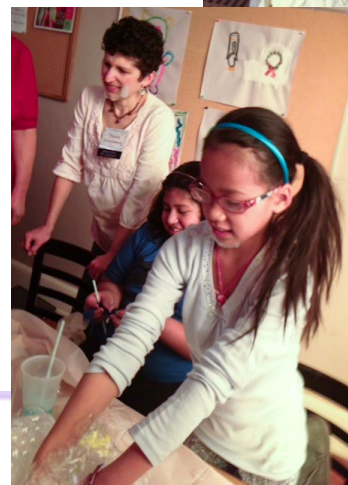
We would like to acknowledge and thank those who make donations to the church over and above their regular giving. During 2012, the church was the beneficiary of several gifts of both money and gifts in kind. Some examples of these gifts are:

- Flat screen TV and DVD player with a stand
- Donations towards new chairs
- Chancel decorations
- Donations for our new glass front doors
- Wood for our new hand rails
- Labor to install the hand rails
- A flat screen computer monitor for the office
- A CD player
- A back-up drive for the office computers
- A donation towards new accounting software
- Donations towards 501c3 application fee
- Donations towards the Choir Accompanist
- Bookcases for the Children's Library
- A donation towards Library Committee printing fees
- Pies for Stewardship Sundays
- New Plexiglas for the Church sign
- Mulch and several hours of labor in our front flower beds
- New hydraulic closure for the Annex back door
- A vacuum for the Church
- Tupperware for the kitchen
- A 4 drawer filing cabinet
- A video camera and case
- Donations towards expansion
- Time and talent taking pictures for our new directory

These gifts have been given by more than 40 different members and friends and is just a sample of the continuous generosity of this community. We very much appreciate all you do to promote the programs and ministries of the Church. Thank you!

Poetry Sunday Is Coming!

On March 17th Joe Kuemerle and Lori McGee will be leading a poetry based service and they need your ideas. Please send them any poems that are meaningful to you or that you feel would be inspiring for others. All sorts of poems are welcome. Please submit your suggestions via email to Joe. Thanks for your participation and we hope to see you at the service!



Like water for soap; the RE 4th and 5th grade class explores water as a metaphor for spirituality. And as a beard growth hormone.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Eve at Church

Celtic Clan of Kent Concert in the sanctuary, Saturday, March 16, 7 PM featuring family friendly music with toe tapping jigs and reels and wonderful vocal harmonies. There will be some old style Irish dancing too!

The Clan is a 7 piece band who play traditional acoustic style Irish music along with some tunes from Scotland, England and Wales. This will be a fun fundraiser for the church. Tickets at the door: Adults \$7 children 12 years and under, free. Visit our Facebook page to hear some tunes. For more information contact Trish.

A Mid-Year Glimpse Into Our Religious Education Program

Autumn and early winter are always busy times in our RE program. The year begins with creating covenants, building or renewing bonds and then quickly moves through the busy holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. All these activities can sometimes draw us away from the chosen curriculum. It seems that in January and February, we settle into our routines, engage fully in our programs and move toward Religious Education Sunday in the spring. What follows is an overview of what each class level is up to.

Our Spirit Play (preschool and Kindergarten aged children) continue to work with their core stories. Each Sunday morning, the children hear a story and then make choices on how they will engage with that story. They may choose to paint, or re-tell the story or even re-tell a story from another Sunday. The children really enjoy their Joys and Concerns circle and the opportunity to share their life experiences with their teachers and peers.

The Grades 1-3 class is focusing on the sources of Unitarian Universalism. Every lesson asks the children to engage in topics directly related to those seven sources while emphasizing that love in the foundational source of Unitarian Universalism. The discussions in this class often become amazingly analytical! Singing our hymn, "Love Will Guide Us", is central to the program.

Toolbox of Faith is the program being used by our Grades 4 + 5 class. They are using the metaphor of tools to consider those qualities that we need to be able to grab from our "toolboxes" at any time in order to live lives of meaning and purpose. Their tools have included a mirror to represent the value of reflection and introspection, a hammer to represent power and how best to use it, and water to represent the importance of spirituality in our lives. The 4th and 5th graders plan to conduct a service project later this winter. Watch for more details.

Our Chalice Theater group is comprised of the school-aged children that attend RE during the second service.

They and their teachers have been employing theater games and skits to consider Unitarian Universalist values. They are also using the "Peaceful Me" program shared with us by Bobbi Beale. It is an anti-bullying program that teaches skills for creating healthy and happy relationships. This group really knows how to have fun!

The Middle School youth are engaging in the topic of families. They are in the midst of a major project where they photograph and interview families. This will take place at an event scheduled for Sunday, February 3rd. They have been discussing what it means to be a family, the differing roles of family members and their responsibilities to their own family. The photographs of the families will be displayed in the sanctuary during the month of May. The class is looking forward to hosting the Easter Egg Hunt for the younger children.

The other program we offer for middle school youth is OWL (Our Whole Lives), a comprehensive curriculum on sexuality. The OWL group has been meeting most Tuesday evenings to learn not just the "nuts and bolts" of sexuality, but the importance of responsibility and respect. It has been a lively class!

Our High School youth truly enjoy grappling with ethically slippery issues! They have been using a combination of the church's Small Group Ministry topics and an Ethics program as their curriculum. Several of our youth will be graduating from high school this spring.

This spring, the RE Committee will once again offer the Surprise Friends program which is our annual multigenerational mixer. Watch future editions of the *Chalice Flame* and eNuu's for more information. Our RE Sunday, which is the celebration of all we have accomplished during the year, will be held on June 2nd.

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

Emmet Otter's Christmas play was a favorite service - except for the arrogant Jellohead.



Robert Wood Presentation

The Library's guest speaker for the 2013 Speaker's Forum will be Mara DeMattia, investigator for the late Robert Wood's collection. Her presentation will be held Sunday, February 3rd at 3:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary. The program will be followed by discussion and a reception in Fessenden Hall. This even is free and open to the public.

Robert Wood, long a singular personality in the Kent community and among area artists, died unexpectedly at the age of 68 on February 5, 2012. His large body of work includes a variety of techniques including oils, watercolors and computer generated designs. Ms. DeMattia has begun to research and document the date of all individual works, record pertinent biographical information related to the work such as location and circumstances of the work, teachers, colleagues and friends who may have been a part of his artistic circle, and any professional exhibits in which he may have been included. The process becomes a fascinating detective project, particularly when works are scattered all over NE Ohio and the East coast. Since coming to Kent, DeMattia has had an interest in Wood's creative output, sparked by John Kluth of the John Kluth Gallery in Kent. Together they are working on an Oral History of Mr. Wood as part of a planned biography of the artist.

DeMattia's previous work as an archivist began when she was contracted by the Herman Miller Furniture Company (Zeeland, Michigan). Over a 3-year period she organized their extensive photo collection of innovative pieces manufactured since 1917. She documented the pictures and selected images to build a visual history of the company. These photos may be found in the buildings of the company and at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan.

DeMattia received a Bachelor of Arts degree in drawing and sculpture from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was a volunteer Lecturer in Art History at Lorain Community College, and a set designer for area community theaters in the mid 1990's. DeMattia lives in Kent with her husband, Rick, and their three daughters, Rosalyn, Eleanor, and Lillian.

Ann Waters, Library Publicity

Book Reviews by Martha Kluth

Greg M. Epstein, *Good Without God: What a Billion Non-religious People Do Believe*. (New York, Harper Collins, 2009). Epstein is the humanist chaplain of Harvard University. This is a wise and warm explanation of the humanist world view. Humanism category.

William R. Murry, *Becoming More Fully Human: Religious Humanism as a Way of Life*. (New Haven, Religious Humanism Press, 2011). Murry is past president of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and author of 3 previous books on liberal religion. Emphasizing what Humanism affirms rather what it denies, this book offers religious Humanism as a personally satisfying and morally responsible way to live with meaning, hope and joy. Humanism category.



Robert Wood



Theological and Spiritual Salon Possibilities

Do you have a religious topic or spiritual practice that you would like to explore with others? Members of the Adult Religious Exploration committee are hoping to gauge the level of interest by friends and members of the congregation to develop and lead time-limited programs for curious adults. We are hoping to offer a variety of classes and activities that over a period of time, will offer meaningful exploration opportunities covering the diverse array of theologies and spiritual sensibilities of our church community.

Recognizing the extensive knowledge and interests of our friends and members, we are calling on you to step forward and share ideas about an event or series of gatherings that you might consider leading for interested congregation members. Examples include: a workshop on Buddhist meditation theology and practice, facilitation of an online blog on a specified topic, monthly sacred dance classes, 4 classes having topics related to the neuroscience of spirituality. At this time, we are trying to determine the extent of possibilities, so we are not asking for commitments or details. Once we have an idea of the range of possibilities, we will devise a simple proposal form and seek proposals.

If you might be willing to develop an activity for adult religious exploration, please share your idea briefly with one of the following individuals by January 20.

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
Rev. Christie Anderson
Mary Ann Stephens
Jack Graham
Cheryl Spoehr
Joel Slater



Maurice Drake
sang with Hal at
church

New Chalice Groups Forming in January

Chalice Groups are small groups of 8 – 10 members and friends of the church who meet regularly for thoughtful conversation about questions that matter. Participating in a Chalice Group is one of the best ways of establishing meaningful connections with others in the church and is also an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth. Each group includes a check-in, a moment of silence, readings, questions for reflection and structured conversation. For more information, please see the Chalice Group brochure which you can find in a rack on top of the bookcase with the children's' books in the church library in the Founders Lounge.

One new group will meet at 7pm on Wednesday evenings, approximately twice per month, beginning on January 23 and going through the end of April. This is a great opportunity for those who have been uncertain whether they wanted to make a year-long commitment to experience what Chalice Groups are all about. Patty Miller will be the facilitator for this new group.

A second new group will begin meeting at 10am on Thursday mornings at Laurel Lake in Hudson beginning on January 24. This group will be facilitated by Rev. Melissa and will meet only once each month on the 4th Thursday. The formation of both new groups are dependent upon a sufficient number of people expressing interest in participating.

To sign up to participate in either group, please email Rev. Melissa at or call the church office.

Kathy Walker,
Saul Flanner,
and Kailani at
the Kent State
Homecoming
parade.



Simple Gifts for Last Month

- Dawn Apanius; in appreciation
- The Edmonds Family; in celebration of Christmas
- Lori McGee; In honor of her cat, Punkin, who died on Dec. 10, 2012
- Carolyn & Tim Matney; in honor of Helen Qammar & Sons

Our Simple Gifts program is designed to encourage everyday giving. We are off to a good start; since the beginning of the program last September \$800.00 has been donated towards our endowment. If members and friends of the congregation continue to remember the church with regular gifts, we will be well on our way to building the kind of endowment that can help ensure our congregation's continuing health and vitality. No gift is too small or too large. Donations can be made in celebration, in honor of someone or something, in appreciation or to note a special occasion. If you would like to participate, the blue Simple Gift envelopes can be found in the pews; please include your dedication and name so we can provide you with a donation credit. Thank you.

Pat Pownall Book Group

The newly renamed Pat Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 12 at 7 pm in the home of Jennifer Gregg. We will meet at the church at 6:30 to car-pool. This month we are reading *Beautiful Lies: A Novel* by Lisa Unger. If Ridley Jones had slept ten minutes later or had taken the subway instead of waiting for a cab, she would still be living the beautiful lie she used to call her life. But that's not what happened. Instead, those inconsequential decisions lead her to perform a good deed that puts her in the right place at the right time to unleash a chain of events that brings a mysterious package to her door--a package which informs her that her entire world is a lie. Sexy and fast-paced, *Beautiful Lies* is a literary thriller. The author takes the reader on a breathtaking ride in which every choice Ridley makes creates a whirlwind of consequences that are impossible to imagine. In March we will be reading *The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



Lisa Theil looks shows off her new glove, complete with external nails.

More scenes from Holiday Share this past December.

February Church Events

27 11:00 pancakes 12:30 pancakes 12:45 Chat F 7-9 AA FH	28 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	29 7-9:00 OWL F 7-9 Adult RE FL	30 7-9 Choir rehearse	31 7-9 Adult Ed A 7:30-9 AA	1	2
3 6-9:00a OMD YA church 12:30-3:30 Potluck F 12:45-1:45 TED talk F 2-8 Library Speaker S p6 7-9 AA FH	4 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	5 7-9p OWL F 7-9 Adult RE FL	6 7-9 Choir rehearse	7 130-3 Ministry Team A 7-8:30 Singalong F 7:30-9 AA	8	9 12-4 Hogwarts Orientation 6-8 church reserved 8-10:00 concert
10 9-11:00 UU class A 12:45-2:45 Chili cook-off F 7-9 AA F	11 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	12 12-1:00 Retiree's lunch 7-9p OWL F 7-9 Adult RE FL	13 6:30-8:30 RE F 7-9 Choir rehearse 7:30-9:30 Board A	14 7:30-9 AA	15	16 Hogwarts - Masonic Temple
17 9-11:00 UU class A 1-6 Hogwarts 7-9 AA FH	18 Hogwarts - Masonic Temple 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi 7-9 Fundraising F	19 7-9p OWL F 7-9 Adult RE FL	20 6:30-9 Membership F 7-9 Choir rehearse	21 7:30-9 AA	22	23
24 11:00 pancakes 12:30 pancakes 7-9 AA FH	25 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	26 7-9p OWL F 7-9 Adult RE FL	27 7-9 Choir rehearse	28 7:30-9 AA	1	2

Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall A- Eldredge Annex; F- 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 January 21

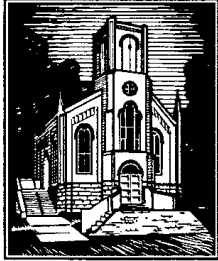
A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at
<http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent> or through a link on our website at www.uukent.org.



Making bread as a service? Of course, we're UUs. Megan May, Claudia Miller, Liz Bright.



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*

The New Administration and Immigration

February 18, 2013
10 am to 3 pm
Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH

The Rev. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, will offer the keynote address. Ecumenical commitment, concern for equal justice, African-American empowerment, and community improvement have shaped Black's ministry in the church and in the communities in which he has lived. This has resulted in his work with organizations such as the Nassau Coalition for Safety and Justice, the Long Island Interracial Alliance for a Common Future, and the Amistad Cultural Center of Long Island, which he co-founded. While living in Ohio, he has been an active member of Caring Communities of Shaker Heights, Ohio and Partnership 2000 of the Shaker OH public schools.

His remarks will be followed by a panel presentation and a World Café strategizing session. The cost for the day is only \$25. For more information: <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/548-immigration2013>



Mary Ann Kasper woman's the Haymaker Farm Market table year round.