



Monthly Musings from [Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer](#)

Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? Paul Gauguin inscribed these three questions onto the canvas of a painting he considered to be his best work. The composer Brian Tate set the questions to music and answered them with the refrain, "Mystery. Mystery. Life is a riddle and a mystery." The first three services this month will take each of these questions in turn as we delve into mystery, which is our worship theme for April.

By mystery I want to be clear right off I do not mean mystery with a lower case m – the kind of mystery that we are quite confident has an answer, even though it may not yet have been found. Instead, I mean to explore Mystery with a capital M – the kind of Mystery which may not ever be finally and ultimately answerable but which inspires our questing nonetheless.

Many people are familiar with the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism. Those who have been around here for some time likely witnessed the crafting of their current expression back in the 1980's. Those who are newer to Unitarian Universalism may well have encountered the principles during a web search to find out what this tradition is all about. The principles speak to the covenant we enter into when we choose to make this our religious home.

We speak less often about the sources of Unitarian Universalism. These are our ways of knowing; they are the teachings, stories, myths, observations, laws and other insights we look to in our quest for understanding. You can find the six sources on line or, next time you are at church, flip to the page before the first hymn in our grey hymnal and you can read them there. Our sources

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

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Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

Congregational**Administrator:**

MaryBeth Hannan

Office hours:

Mon. through Fri. 9 - 4

Religious Ed. Director:

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dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net

DRE's Office Hours:

Tuesday and/or Wednesday
By appointment

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Deadline:

The 20th each month



include words and deeds of prophetic men and women, wisdom from the world's religions, Jewish and Christian teachings, humanist teachings and the insights of science as well as the wisdom of earth centered traditions. The first source, though, is the one we dive into this month: "direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life."

Perhaps you have had moments of that direct experience in your own life and are eager for more of them. Or maybe you aren't really sure what that statement means. Either way, you are welcome to join us this month as we explore together, seeking understanding, yes, but also inspiration for the journey.

Peace,

Melissa

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

April 6 - Moving in with Mystery

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer
and Worship Associate Lori McGee*

Where do we come from? What was there before the beginning? This morning we draw upon the ancient history of religion and the modern insights of science to reflect upon the mystery.

April 13 - Big Questions

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer
and Worship Associate Ted Voneida*

What are we? What does it mean to be human? Perhaps the biblical stories of Jesus' final days can give us some insight into the nature of our own being.

April 20 - The Wonder of it All

*Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Director of Religious Education
Karen Lapidus and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen*

Where are we going? And how shall we live the journey? Wonderful music and uplifting worship await you this morning as we celebrate Easter together. Our first service will be multigenerational and designed to be especially welcoming for families with younger children to attend together. Our second service will be prepared with older youth and adults in mind. Our annual Easter egg hunt will be held after the first service.

April 27 - Sowing Seeds of Justice and Growing Community

*Matthew McHale, Intern Minister, West Shore UU Church
and Worship Associate Justin Czekaj*

This spring, as signs of new life and new possibilities emerge all around us, we consider our relationship to one another and to the environment which sustains all life on this planet. Can planting a garden be radical act? How can the way we grow and eat food help create communities that align with our liberal religious values—promoting justice and honoring the interconnected web of existence?

Friday, April 25th, 6pm

"Dinner for the Earth"

in Fessenden Hall



Join us for a Potluck Dinner in which we will eat delicious food and teach each other about environmentally conscious eating. Everyone should bring a dish and share the story of their food - where their food came from, the decisions made in bringing it, and/or how this food helps care for our living Earth with reverence and gratitude. Deliciously interesting!

Contact Andrew Rome for additional details (or to let me know that you're coming).

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR



SING-ALONG

A Musical "Passion Play"

Sing along with the original 1970
recording of the Rock Opera

At the Leeson's

3553 Charring Cross Dr
Stow, OH 44224

7:30pm April 18, 2014

Librettos provided

Bring a Mediterranean

Snack to Share

RSVP zimlar@juno.com

Love is the Spirit of this Church and Service Its Law

from Karen Lapidus

Unitarian Universalists have a long history of social justice work. We often say that we are the religion of “deeds, not creeds”. The Unitarian Universalist Association’s Standing on the Side of Love campaign is our collective call to bring more love and justice into the world. Our district and region sponsor “justice camps” for youth in the summer and the annual Social Action Conference in late winter. Youth from our congregation have attended both events.

We teach social justice in religious education on Sunday mornings, too. Three of our classes are currently in the midst of projects and others are in the works.

By the time you read this, our Middle School youth will have prepared and served a hot lunch at Trinity Lutheran Church. Most of the youth are planning to attend and for many, it won’t be the first time they have volunteered in this capacity. This very direct way to work with people who live in our Kent community will offer our younger youth the chance to come to a deeper understanding of need and service.

Our Grades 3-5 RE class is asking members and friends of our congregation to donate new and gently used pet toys. They will take them to the Humane Society of Greater Akron, located in Twinsburg, on Saturday, April 19th.

After much discussion and discernment, they chose this project because the plight of stray and unwanted animals is important to them. They are acting from their passions and values.

The High School youth group plans to focus on social justice projects in May and June.

They hope to work with local farms to

pick produce which they will then deliver to Kent Social Services. Additionally, they will be helping our congregation in our fundraising efforts by hosting the monthly Pancake Breakfast on June 29th.



The Religious Education Committee will be offering a summer RE program focused on “Simple Gifts”. The plan is to engage the children in small service projects throughout the summer. They may range from making greeting cards for residents in area nursing homes to collecting toiletries and presenting them to residents of the homeless shelters in fabric bags that they make. We are still finalizing the plans and creating more service oriented activities, but it will no doubt be a meaningful and memorable summer session.

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus
Director of Religious Education

Messages from the Moderator

Technically, it is spring and that means the current Board of Trustees is heading into our last quarter of work before we transition to a new Board in June. At our monthly meeting on March 19, we set the date for our pre-annual meeting informational session on Wednesday, May 28 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Light refreshments to be served in Fessenden Hall immediately following the meeting. The annual voting meeting will be Sunday, June 1 following 2nd service in the sanctuary, commencing at 12:45 pm or when quorum (54 members at this writing) is reached, whichever comes first. Please mark it on your calendar now . . . it's only 2 short months away.

Our Leadership Development Team, chaired by Kathie Slater, is hard at work building a slate of officers and trustees to fill openings on the Board for 2014-15. If asked to serve, we hope you will feel moved to share your time and talents with those who have already said yes. Service in governance is a valuable gift to our beloved community.

The Building Expansion Team (BET) and the Capital Campaign Team (CCT) met jointly last month during a leadership training facilitated by Rev. Renee Ruchotzke. They have received their respective charges and are continuing our ministry of growth to fulfill our vision; a vision of a new social

hall with a fully equipped kitchen, restrooms and ample classroom space; a vision of reorienting and expanding our worship space and a vision of inviting our neighbors in to share in our liberal theology and social justice/social action efforts.

By the time you read this, our annual stewardship campaign will be completed (3-30-14) and pledge results sent on to the Finance Committee for crafting into an operations budget for FY 2015, the budget we will vote upon June 1. If you have not yet pledged, it is not too late for every dollar matters, every dollar counts. The Finance Committee can only work with the known pledges to write a realistic budget. It is our hope that our music program is important enough to you that we can fund an accompanist, that fairness is important enough to you that we pay our Fair Share to the OMD and UUA for annual dues, that fair and realistic compensation for our staff is important enough to you that we can offer our staff a much deserved raise. I urge you, I implore you to please, turn your pledge card in if you have not already done so. Sincere thanks to Sandy Eaglen, Meg Milko, Kathie Slater and all the stewardship campaign volunteers for all your hard work.

In service and in faith,
Elaine



Last Chance for a Surprise!



it's that time of year!

Want to make a new friend in the church? Looking for a way to celebrate spring? Here is your chance! You are all invited to participate in this fun, intergenerational activity of friendship and caring! We will have a sign up table in Fessenden on April 6. Participating adults will be matched with children in the congregation on April 13 and

encouraged to exchange notes and artwork on Sundays, April 20 & 27 and May 4 & 11.

Adults will remain anonymous until the "big reveal" on May 18. Sign-up forms will be available until April 6.

Words to Live By...

"When the power
of love overcomes
the love of power
the world will
know peace."

--Jimi Hendrix

OPUS 2014

Hands To Work, Hearts To Faith

AUGUST 13 - AUGUST 17

Opus is a 5 day spiritual retreat and summer camp experience for Unitarian Universalist young adults, age 18-35. It's held at one location for a year or two, and then moves to another part of the US or Canada. This year it's in OHIO!!

We stay at a camp center, in cabins and tents, and live, work, and play together while connecting with other UU YAs from all over.

We have worship every night, workshops and touch groups (small social groups) every day, and have a wonderful time connecting and learning from each other.

REGISTER TODAY!

<http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/736-opus14>

Camp Nuhop

1077 TR 2916

Perrysville, Ohio 44864

USA

Child Care Available
for kids 11 and under

Opus offers:

- five days of amazing fellowship in a lush, camp setting workshops and activities on topics of all kinds
- deep, soulful, participatory workshops
- an annual place for UU YAs from across Canada and the United States get to know one another
- a space to feel safe exploring and expressing your true (and best) self
- opportunities for spiritual growth and stepping into leadership
- an immersive experience with UU YA community that strives to be radically inclusive, justice centred and spiritually alive



Find the event on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1454710621416980/>

Questions? Concerns? We're here to help!

OpusOhio@gmail.com



The UUCK and the Cuyahoga River Concert Series present.

Magpie

April 12 8:00 pm
\$10 donation at the door
call 810-265-4007 to
reserve tickets.

Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner began to play music together in Kent, Ohio in September of 1973. In the years since then, they have traveled and toured extensively, performed in concerts, at folk clubs and festivals around the world, and recorded many times. Magpie has always embraced a musical rainbow, and with impressive proficiency in each different genre. From traditional, classic country, swing, and blues of the nineteen twenties and thirties, to contemporary songs written by themselves and others, Terry and Greg cover a lot of musical ground.



Pete Seeger wrote:

"Greg and Terry can show us all what a wonderful thing it can be for two voices to harmonize together. How lucky I am to have lived to see and hear more links in the chain."

Sing Out magazine writes;

"This recording (Give Light) absolutely radiates light, glowing with great songs in radiant performances... Their music is their religion, and Give Light comes very close to the divine."

www.magpiemusic.com/first.htm

Hal-elujah!



Get your red-hot CD, "Hal-elujah," any Sunday at coffee hour. It contains Hal's best performances at Sunday services in church over the last several years, including guest appearances by Saunis Parsons, John Marfy, the young (and younger) Hallie Walker, J. R. Campbell, and others. Included are many of Hal's pieces on his collection of weird and wonderful instruments. You can also pick one up from Brad Bolton any time for \$10.



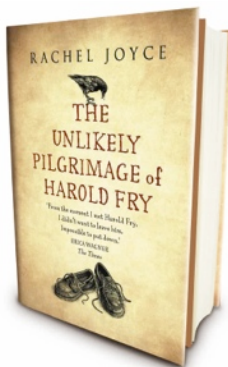
Hogwarts Summer Session will be June 19-22, 2014

Hogwarts is a day camp for children entering kindergarten and older. We'll be using the Philosopher's Stone as our springboard to Unitarian values this term. Applications will be mailed near the end of April. Space is limited and we fill up quickly. To add your child to the mailing list or join our cast of volunteers, email us at registration@kenthogwarts.org or leave a message in the Hogwarts mailbox located in the Annex.

Literary Liner Notes

The Unlikely Pilgrimage

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, April 8 at 7 pm in the home of Kathie Slater, 740 Governors Circle in Kent. This month we are reading *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry: A Novel* by Rachel Joyce. Fry is convinced that he must deliver a letter to an old love in order to save her, meeting various characters along the way and reminiscing about the events of his past and people he has known, as he tries to find peace and acceptance.



In May we will be reading *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper at harper1721@yahoo.com. All are welcome.

Simple Gifts received...

Rick May and Jana Larsen
in celebration of RaeAnna Brennan

Anonymous
in honor of Esther Duncan

Elaine Bowen
in honor of Pat Pownall on her
birthday, March 5, 2014

Our Simple Gifts program is designed to encourage everyday giving. 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.

Ohio Meadville District News

General Assembly 2014: Love Reaches Out

Registration and housing are now open for General Assembly 2014 in Providence, RI. The meeting will take place June 25-29, 2014. The month of March is when individuals can apply for scholarships and to be volunteers. In addition, this year congregational presidents who attend will receive a \$100 rebate. Learn more at www.uua.org/ga

Young Adult Programming in the OMD

The OMD UU Young Adult Network (OMDUUYAN) plans programming for young adults (18-35) throughout the year. Their spring conference will be held May 30-June 1 at the UU Congregation of Erie. Details are available at www.ohiomeadville.org. In addition, this year OPUS, the continental gathering of young adults will take place in the OMD. Details and registration on the OMD website when available. OPUS will take place August 12-17, 2014 at Nuhop Center for Experiential Learning on Ohio.

CERG YouTube Channel

Looking for videos of live workshops or webinars? Check the CERG YouTube channel. Most workshops and webinars we record are uploaded here once they are edited for viewing. Visit it at www.youtube.com/cerguua1



For a complete and up-to-date church calendar, please visit www.localendar.com/public/uukent. If you are unable to access our electronic calendar, please contact the church office and we will gladly provide you with a paper copy.

