



## Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

I've been trying to remember what I thought was a lyric. Thanks to Google, I found the phrase I was looking for only to be reminded that it comes not from a song, but a poem. This is the last stanza of Marge Piercy's poem "The Art of Blessing the Day"

*Attention is love, what we must give  
children, mothers, fathers, pets,  
our friends, the news, the woes of others.  
What we want to change we curse and then  
pick up a tool. Bless whatever you can  
with eyes and hands and tongue. If you  
can't bless it, get ready to make it new.*

The rest of the poem speaks of blessings; blessings like rain after drought, like sun after rain, like the blessing of the ripe peach or perfect

tomato. The poet writes of blessings like political victories or the return of a favorite cat or a friend or love. She reminds us of the art of blessing, the way it requires our attention, the way we have to notice if we are going to bless. And then, at the end, she comes to the truth we know all too well. There are things we cannot bless. You can surely construct your own list as easily as I can make mine. In addition to our personal litanies, the news too often seems a daily reporting of all which cannot be blessed or affirmed or celebrated.

The opposite of blessing is cursing, but what good does cursing do? It might make us feel better for a few moments, but then what? After the warmth of that righteous feeling fades, is there anything left? The poet suggests that what is left is the opportunity to create change. "If you can't bless it, get ready to make it new."

**Sunday Services**

9:45 and 11:30 am

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Tuesday - Friday  
By appointment

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**Deadline:**

The 20th of each month



How can you make it new, you wonder? I encourage you to mull it over. For a little inspiration, you can check out the Soul Matters worship packet our small groups will use this month to explore the theme of renewal. The packet is on our website. To get to it, click on [Lifespan Learning](#), then [Adult Religious Exploration](#). There you will find four different spiritual exercises you might consider for practicing renewal in your own life this month. If you feel you are on the edge of burnout, this might be an especially good time to immerse yourself in the possibilities for renewal. And if all is well in your world, consider this a chance to prepare for another season.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa".

P.S. If you want to read the full poem, you can find it here:

[www.randomhouse.com/knopf/authors/piercy/poem.html](http://www.randomhouse.com/knopf/authors/piercy/poem.html)

## UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

### October 5 - Jumping Into the Fire

*Lisa Thiel and Worship Associate Mary Lou Holly*

Many traditions, particularly from the East, hold that difficulties are our greatest teachers. Yet, much of the time, we try and avoid them by running away. It is only when we courageously embrace our difficult experiences or relationships, that we can grow deeply and experience wholeness.

Note: The child dedication for Rylan Alexander Carvill Ziemer will take place during **both** services on Sunday, October 5th.

### October 12 - What to Do When You are Waiting for a New Day

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

Remember the book Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day? When you have a day like that, what do you do? This morning we'll share some ideas in this multigenerational worship service about how you can make a bad day new instead of just waiting for a new day.

### October 19 - Recharge Your Spirit

*Christie Anderson and Worship Associate Mary Lou Holly*

As UUs, the ways in which we seek spiritual renewal varies among us. We will explore how our personality characteristics influence our spiritual practice preferences and why this awareness can help provide individual guidance as well as improve our understanding of others.

### October 26 - Something Unharvested

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer  
and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen*

The title for this service is taken from a Robert Frost poem in which he implores "May something go always unharvested!" What does that wish mean? Why would any among us today wish for the same? wholeness.

Note: The child dedication for Juniper Lily Hogan will take place during **second** service on Sunday, October 26th.

## Simple Gifts received...

### Elaine Bowen

in celebration of Kailani Walker's  
4th Birthday

### Claudia Miller

in memory of Randy Leeson's  
father, Pete

### Bill & Kathy Wilen

in memory of Caroline Arnold

### Ed & Janee Krimmer

in memory of Caroline Arnold

### Anonymous

in memory of Caroline Arnold

### Jennifer Gregg

in appreciation of Carol Gould  
and her dedication to the Church

### Anonymous

no dedication

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.



# Supporting Youth as they Transition from Childhood to Young Adulthood

from Karen Lapidus

The passage from childhood to young adulthood is one of the most significant transitions of our lives. Everything changes! Teens have more privileges, but with those privileges come more responsibilities. Teens are thinking in a different way. Instead of having mostly a concrete point of view, teens now think in the abstract and have the growing ability to consider a paradox.

One of the developmental tasks of youth is to discern and articulate what is important to them. Our Coming of Age program for ninth and tenth graders takes advantage of this special moment in time to guide our youth through this passage while supporting them as Unitarian Universalists.

The curriculum that we are using, *Coming of Age: Deepening Ties Within Your Congregation*, employs four essential elements; Mentored learning, testing, ritual and celebration. This same model, with differing underlying philosophies, is employed in initiation rites from many religious traditions including Judaism and Catholicism, to name just two.

Our mentored learning piece relates to both the explorations that the youth will be undertaking with the four facilitators as well as with their mentors. In the classroom setting, the facilitators and youth will engage in topics such as values, faith, God, service to others and evil. They will partner with their mentors to dig deeply into these and other topics to determine what they, as individuals believe.

There will be many opportunities for testing throughout the program. During the Wilderness Journey Retreat the test is to be alone outside for a period of time. The primary test of the program is the writing of their statements of faith. These personal reflections, which will be created over the course of the program, will be presented to the congregation at the Coming of Age worship service in May.



Rituals are built into every session. They allow the experiences to be embodied. For example, at the Opening Ceremony for the youth and their parents, there was a severance ritual where the youth and their parents held the ends of a length of ribbon. As they all expressed their gratitude for each other saying, "I thank you for my childhood" and "I thank you for being my child", the ribbon held between them was cut to symbolize that the Coming of Age journey had begun.

The fourth element, celebration, involves the entire congregation. In the spring we will celebrate their accomplishments and honor their achievements. Then it will be our responsibility to see our youth in a new light and to recognize this important life passage of Coming of Age.

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus  
Director of Religious Education

## Church Halloween Party

from Mary Leeson



Everyone is invited to the Annual Church Halloween Party on Saturday, Oct. 25th. The party will begin downstairs in Fessenden Hall at 6 p.m. with a potluck of finger foods and drinks; please bring something to share. Costumes are encouraged. At 7 p.m. the haunted house, that the youth create upstairs, opens with the "Mild" version. This is a less scary, lights on event. The "Wild" version of the haunted house will start around 7:45. The RE Committee is also planning games and other activities for all ages. We hope to see you there for this UUCK tradition!

# Support for Kent Community Bill of Rights

from Andrew Rome



The UUCK Social Justice Council has approved a resolution supporting ISSUE 21 which allows residents to stop hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and injection wells in the City of Kent. Furthermore, we call for a congregational vote in support of this resolution, taking a position supporting Issue 21: Kent Charter Amendment (Community Bill of Rights). Informational sessions will be held Sunday, September 28th, during both services, in the church Annex. The vote will be between services on **October 12th**, in the Sanctuary, in which a quorum and super-majority will be required for passage. Please visit [www.kentenvironmentalrightsgroup.org](http://www.kentenvironmentalrightsgroup.org) or contact Lee Brooker, Bonny Esparza, or Andrew Rome for more information.

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant by our Second and Seventh Principles to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis threatens Earth systems through warming, destabilization of the atmosphere and climate, sea level rise, and the acidification of the oceans, of which the brunt of the burden has fallen and will fall on the poorest people in the world, who are least responsible for the crisis; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly approved a Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change declaring “that we will not acquiesce to the ongoing degradation and destruction of life that human actions are leaving to our children and grandchildren”; and

WHEREAS, we have a moral responsibility to Earth, to all beings, and to future generations to do everything in our power to bring about a swift transition from fossil fuels to a sustainable energy economy; and

WHEREAS, a significant body of evidence has emerged to demonstrate that hydraulic fracturing and injection wells are inherently dangerous to people and their communities. Risks include adverse impacts on water, air, agriculture, public health and safety, property values, climate stability and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the Community Bill of Rights will allow residents to prevent the extraction of hydrocarbons and the drilling of injection wells within Kent and will assert individual rights over those of corporations;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent required a super-majority passage of 85% congregational approval in order to speak with one voice in support of this resolution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent supports the passage of Issue 21: Kent Charter Amendment (Community Bill of Rights) on November 4th, 2014.

## An Open Invitation

The Social Justice Council invites all church members and friends to join us on Sunday, November 2nd, immediately after the second service in Fessenden Hall to learn about our social justice activities. Find out how you can get involved in social justice efforts that interest you and make a difference in our community and our world. Pizza will be served. We promise a lively discussion.



## Justice Assembly 2014

Get Smart on Organizing

**Saturday, November 8, 2014**

UUJO Justice Assembly in Columbus will feature Democratic State Rep.

Nickie Antonio, West Shore UU, and lobbyists from UUJO allies and partners such as the ACLU and Equality Ohio offering guidance on how to impact issues before the Ohio General Assembly. Issue Group workshops on Immigration, Economic Justice, Criminal and Racial Justice, LGBTQ, Environment, Voting Rights, and Reproductive Justice will promote education, service and advocacy through lobbying, litigation, media, public witness, and civil disobedience.

For more details, visit [ohiomeadville.org/uujo](http://ohiomeadville.org/uujo)



## Literary Liner Notes

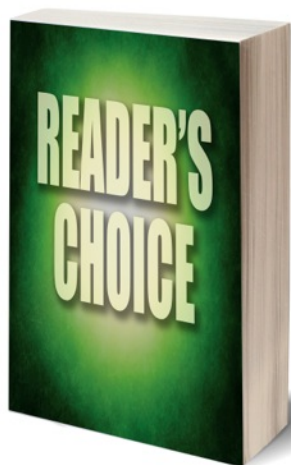
### Reader's Choice

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, October 7 at 7 pm in the Church Annex. It is reader's choice for the month of October. Also at October's gathering, we will have a book exchange. Bring

books that you no longer want and trade with other group members. All left over books will be donated Empower Portage.

For those interested, Piper Kerman, author of *Orange is the New Black*, will be appearing as part of the UA Forum Lecture Series at EJ Thomas Hall on Tuesday, October 14 at 7:30 pm. ([tinyurl.com/PiperKerman](http://tinyurl.com/PiperKerman))

If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



### Who's a Happy Piggy?

Hogwarts is collecting donations for the pot belly pigs at Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary. As the weather gets cooler, think

about donating a blanket, quilt, or sleeping bag to help keep the piggies warm in the cold Ohio winter. The condition does not matter, they will all be appreciated! Donations can be dropped off, in a bag, at the church nursery until Sunday, November 30th.



## SAVE THE DATE

### ANNUAL THANKS 4 GIVING AUCTION November 8, 2014

Our annual Thanks 4 Giving auction will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2014 at the Kent United Church of Christ. Our theme, as you may have noticed at the Ministry Fair, is Kountry Kent! We think

you will be very happy with some of the changes we have planned this year! Look for new and improved auction flow....that means MORE room folks, more room to move around and more room while eating! We already have some great donations and we'll have yummy food and lots of fun. Mark your calendars now for this not to be missed event.



We are accepting your donations now; see our table in Fessenden Hall. Do you have a new item you can't use? Donate it! Do you have an idea for a great dinner party? Offer it! Do you handcraft? Make it!

If you would like to join our auction committee, please let me know. This is a GREAT way to get to know folks and give back to this wonderful community. As they say, many hands make for lighter work! It's a fun and rewarding way to get involved. If you are interested in joining in on the fun please contact Meg Milko.

Thank you!

Thanks 4 Giving  
Auction Committee  
Meg Milko, Chair





For a complete and up-to-date church calendar, please visit

[www.localendar.com/public/uukent](http://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.

