



## Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

I have happy news to share with you this month. I am pregnant again! The baby is due somewhere in the vicinity of August 8. I tried for earlier in the summer because it would have been easier for the church's schedule, but that didn't work out. Evin and I feel so blessed it worked out at all and we are looking forward to introducing Rylan to his little brother or sister.

Over the next few months I'll be working with the leaders of the congregation to plan for the leave I will need and the support the church will need in my absence. We are fortunate that our future intern minister, Dave Clements, is beginning his work at the church in September. Dave will be with us half time for two years and he brings a wealth of experience from his first career in management leadership, human resources, business development and fundraising consulting for small and mid-size businesses, in addition to his rich

experience as a lay leader at West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church. Dave will be joining us during both services on February 8, so please take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself.

In addition to Dave's contributions, I will work to make sure that all our leaders have the support they will need in my absence. I have great faith in the staff and lay leaders of our congregation and I know that the congregation will thrive while I am off bonding with the new baby.

Our theme this month is faith. This pregnancy is a manifestation of faith in possibility. I knew I wanted to have children when I was very young. Many of you know that my spouse and I faced a great many obstacles on the journey when we began trying to enlarge our family. We tried several paths with hope and faith that one of them would lead us to our forever children. The obstacles and road blocks we encountered shook my faith on

**Sunday Services**

9:45 and 11:30 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240  
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Tuesday - Friday  
By appointment

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MaryBeth Hannan

**Office hours:**

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**Religious Ed. Director:**

Karen Lapidus  
[dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net)

**DRE's Office Hours:**

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Hal Walker

**Commissioned Lay  
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**Newsletter editor:**

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**Deadline:**

The 20th of each month



Members of the  
UU Kent Tone  
Chimers at  
rehearsal.

more than one occasion. I fretted and I despaired and I grieved along the way. Sometimes it was impossible to see how it would happen, but we couldn't just give up. The will to continue finding a way to the life we dream is one manifestation of faith.

Faith has many other dimensions too and we will explore as many of them as we can in worship this month. Faith is a source of grounding and faith is a source of hope. Faith can include doubting and reaching and letting go. Faith is a place to rest and faith is a place to begin again. Faith can lead us on and faith can guide our way. Come, and join us in the journey of faith explored.

In faith,

*Melissa*



**February 1 - Roots Hold Me Close**

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer  
and Worship Associate Carolyn Schlemmer*

Faith can be like roots, the ties that keep us grounded in our values and steadfast in our efforts. Like roots, faith grows and changes and calls forth new growth. What is the faith that keeps you grounded?

**February 8 - Faith Defined**

*Elaine Bowen*

What's your religious language baggage attached to "faith"? How do you see faith through a UU lens? Is it blurry & vague, crystal clear or somewhere in between? Do you mean what I mean? What do you have faith in? So many questions . . .

**February 15 - Wings Set Me Free**

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer  
and Worship Associate Bonnie Harper*

Faith can be like wings, the strength that lifts us up when we long to fly. From those heights we often find connections and have visions that just aren't possible when life is viewed from the ground. What is the faith that lifts you up?

**February 22 - Music Sunday:  
The Power of Music**

*Music Director Hal Walker and friends*

Through Song, Story, Reflection and Music, we explore the role that music plays in our lives.

february

**Some notes about Melissa's schedule:**

Melissa will be attending the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association Institute for Excellence in Ministry from February 2 through February 6. This is a bi-annual continuing education event for ministers which also includes worship twice daily. The Beyond the Call Worship and Preaching program that Melissa completed will be leading one of those services.

Melissa will be away again February 11 through February 14 chairing the UUA's Western Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy. This is the group that meets with aspiring ministers at the beginning of their process to interview and offer feedback about their potential for ministry.

During both trips, Melissa will be available by cell phone and will check email for time sensitive messages daily.

## Younger Young Adult Care Packages from Karen Lapidus

After a wonderful success last year, we will again be assembling care packages to send to the younger young adults of our church. These are intended not just for young adults away at college, but for all college-age young adults regardless of whether or not they are in school or whether they live near or far. Last year we invited just the families of the young adults, but this year we open the experience up to all.

On Sunday, March 15th, immediately following the second service, all are invited to Fesenden Hall to fill the care packages, or more accurately, those Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes from the USPS.

Items you might consider giving are packaged snacks, blank journals, candy, bubbles, tea bags, single-use hand warmers, etc.



I expect that we will be sending about 20 packages, so if you bring anything, please keep that number in mind. We will also be accepting donations to cover the postage.

We will have blank cards for everyone to write their greetings to the young adults, whether or not you bring something for the care packages.

I will be sending email notices to all the parents of younger young adults.

If I have missed your son and/or daughter, please send me an email at [dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net). This is a great way to say "we remember you" and "we wish you well"!

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus  
Director of Religious Education

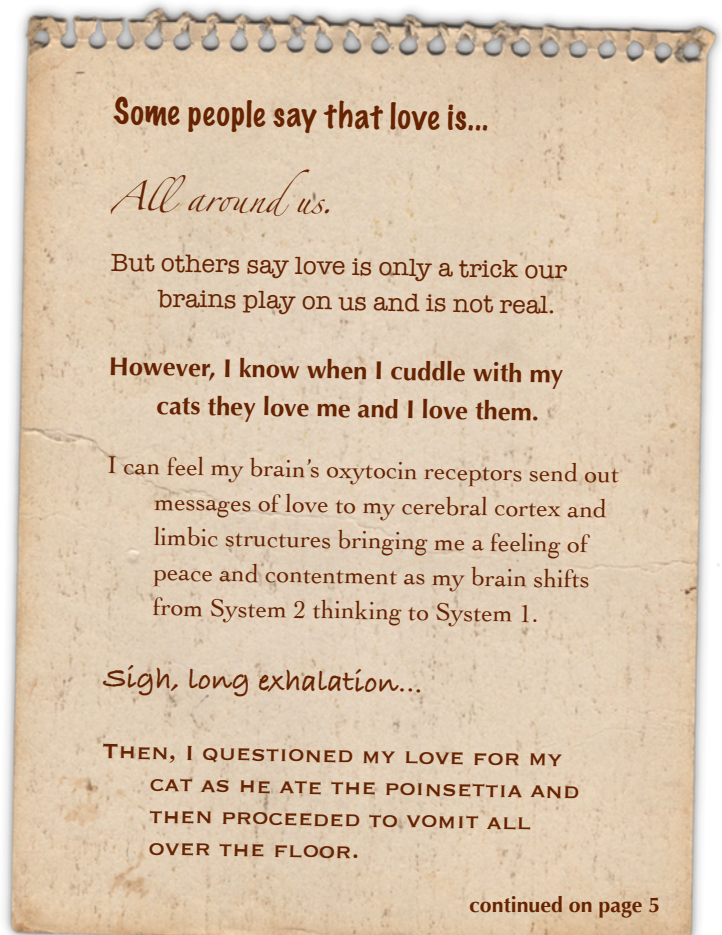
## Stories from the RE Teacher Retreat...

It has become our tradition for the Religious Education Committee to host two gatherings for our RE Teachers, Youth Group Advisors, OWL Leaders and Coming of Age Facilitators ~ one to launch the new church year and one mid-year in a kind of mini-retreat format. Our theme for 2014-2015 is "Love", so our worship and activities engaged with the concept of love.

One of our activities was to write two sight-unseen, growing stories. You may have done this fun activity at a party or workshop. The story begins with just one line. Everyone takes turns adding to the story, but when it is someone's turn, they only get to see the line that was written ahead of theirs. When the entire story is revealed it is fun to see how it twists and turns, veers off and returns, grows silly and becomes serious, all while creating a coherent whole. Enjoy!

Members of the RE Committee

Kat Holtz	Stefanie Workman
Mary Leeson	Michelle Bores
Tim Mack	Colleen Thoele
Cheryl Spoerh	Karen Lapidus





Love is supposed to be patient and kind, but I know it isn't always.

The love in his/her life was often mean and contrary. But yet its sweet side showed itself in unusual ways. Like when he/she offered to drive him/her on the icy roads to a teacher's meeting--that was a sweet side of love.

Romantic love is a thing for the young, the love of caring for others has much more meaning for her.

**SHE THOUGHT BACK TO THE FIRST TIME SHE FELT THE JOY OF CARING FOR ANOTHER: HER ELDERLY NEIGHBOR.**

Mrs. Durkalsi was 90 years old, in the early stages of Alzheimer's and had the kindest, most sympathetic blue eyes she had ever seen.

When she spoke, she never said "you should" or gave disapproving looks. She mostly listened, her eyes affirming the inner person she was talking to.

She was a person that loved to get dressed up and put make-up on. Her eyes are the most wonderful feature of her.

**Her loving heart is her most wonderful feature.**

*She also has great imagination, despite her desire to turn all people into pickles.*

She believes that the next step in her grand plan must be to spread love, but how can she reach everyone?

**She decides to ask everyone she knows to tell everyone they know, and for them all to continue.**

**Until the whole earth is filled with the rhythmic beating and chanting songs of love that fill every being through and through.**

**Some people say that love is...**

**The point of life.**

The part of life that is the best is waffles!

**I love to feed waffles to the birds so they are happy.**

But I wonder if creatures below the level of mammals feel happy and wonder if their brains have happy chemicals.

*Is love only a chemical reaction?*

*Of course. Isn't everything only a chemical reaction? The real question is if "only" is an appropriate word to use in that sentence.*

But since love is only real when it is lived, let us find ways to make love--or agape--real in our lives.

**SHE LOVED HIM COMPLETELY IN HER MIND, BUT COULD THIS LOVE SURVIVE THE REAL WORLD?**

But survive it did! The love became much more that she imagined it could be. For once, reality surpassed the imagination.

*For once love bloomed as a crocus in winter.*

*I spend time with my family, playing games and being outside. We like to be outside swimming, boating, walking, and playing sports. Spending time with my family is the most wonderful time. I love them.*

continued on page 6



It's amazing how my love for my family grows and grows--just when you think your heart is full and you cannot love any more--love expands and becomes more all embracing. That's one of the many magical qualities of love.

**Along with love expanding, I'm in awe of the many aspects of love that I continue to discover. Love is being present with another person. Love is action, offering comfort, and standing up for another person.**

Love knows how to laugh with sparkling fuzziness that wraps its arms around everyone, keeping us connected and happy.

It helps us go through life with happiness and hope.

**We know that at the end of the day, love will be the thing that keeps everything together.**

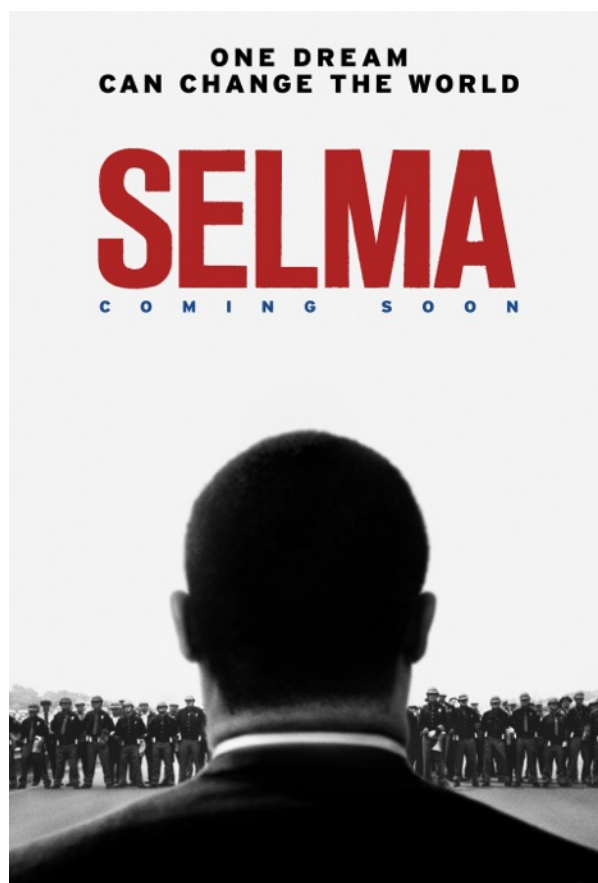
SO, GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE!

## Pondering Parables

**Wednesdays, Mar 25 - Apr 15, 7pm - 9pm**

Last fall a group of us gathered to explore several important passages in the Hebrew Bible. This spring we continue our Bible study with an exploration of the Christian scriptures through some of Jesus' parables. Bring a Bible and join us for any or all of the following evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm: March 25, April 1, April 8 and April 15. We will meet in the Founders Lounge.

No experience is necessary, only a willingness to meet the Bible and consider what wisdom it might have to offer you.



## A Discussion of Selma

**March 3rd and March 11, 7pm - 9pm**

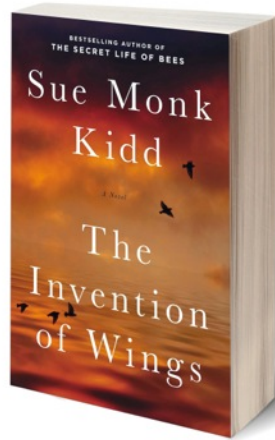
In this 50th anniversary year of the civil rights struggle that unfolded in Selma, I invite you to a discussion. To prepare, please go see the movie *Selma* and read Mark Morrison-Reed's book *The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism*. If we order more than 10 copies from the UUA Bookstore, we can save 20% off the \$18 cover price. If you'd like to join in a group order, please let our administrator Mary Beth Hannan know you'd like to purchase a copy by Monday, February 9th by emailing her at [uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uukent@sbcglobal.net).

Rev. Melissa will host discussions on Tuesday, March 3 in the Founders Lounge and Wednesday, March 11 in Fessenden Hall from 7 to 9 pm. Feel free to come to either or both.

## The Invention of Wings

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 10 at 7 pm at the home of Kathy Kerns.

This month we are reading *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. The story follows Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid. The story follows the next thirty-five years of their lives and is inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke (a feminist, suffragist, and an abolitionist). In March it will be reader's choice of a novel that was made into an Oscar or Golden Globe award winning movie. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



## Upcoming Congregational Meetings

The Capital Campaign Team would like to announce a series of congregational meetings that will take place in March.

**March 1, 12:45pm**, in the sanctuary

Celebration and Information meeting: Help us celebrate the launch of the capital campaign, and hear all about the proposed capital campaign project. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting to hear about our new capital campaign project. A light lunch will be provided. Bring your questions!

**March 15, 10:50 - 11:20am**, in the sanctuary

Informal question and answer session. Members of the Capital Campaign and Building Expansion Teams will be available to answer your questions.

**March 29, 10:50am**, in the sanctuary.

Voting meeting, quorum needed. Congregation will vote on whether to proceed with proposed capital campaign.

Kathy Kerns and Marion Yeagler  
Co-chairs of Capital Campaign Team



## Annual Stewardship Campaign Coming Soon!

February 22 to March 22, 2015

For the love of community, we are Raising the Bar! Our Annual Stewardship Campaign begins February 22nd and ends March 22nd.

This year our theme is Raising the Bar so you will be seeing lots of "bar" themed ideas and goodies. We are also continuing with the program based ministries that will be represented in the form of ....you guessed it...bar charts!

Soon we will begin asking our members and friends to reflect on what this church community means to them and make a monetary pledge to our church community for fiscal year 2016, which runs July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Our ministries, church community, educational events & programs, social gatherings, fellowship time, music and meaningful worship services are entirely self-funded. This means we must rely on pledges and fundraising to pay for the full "bar" of programs and services offered.

In addition, there are concrete expenses like building maintenance, salaries, supplies, utilities, etc. that need to be paid in order to remain a viable community and have a place to gather and sometimes share a nutrition bar together!

In the upcoming weeks, you will begin hearing more about the campaign and the stewardship committee will have a table set up in Fessenden Hall where you can get more information about how you can help sustain our beloved church community so we can remain a viable thriving community for years to come.

If you have any questions about the annual stewardship campaign, please feel free to contact Kathie Slater, Meg Milko, or Claudia Miller.



## THE "SOUP"ER BOWL RETURNS!

After a one-year hiatus, the UUCK "Soup"er Bowl returns on Sunday, February 1, 2015.

This is the day our UU hunger team brings their "A" game to church in the form of cans of hearty soup, chili & stew, coins and cash for the empty soup pot. All proceeds benefit the food pantry of Kent Social Services (KSS).

All RE classes, all families, all individuals are invited to participate. It's easy, it's fun, it's helpful, it's (unfortunately) necessary for our neighbors in need.



**What:** cans of hearty soup, chili & stew. Coins and cash

**When:** Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015 - before, during and after services

**Where:** Fessenden Hall

**Why:** because you, like me, need to feed

## HELP US GET FREE CASH BACK!

The last date for register tapes to be dated is February 4 to be counted toward this year's Community Cash Back fundraiser. The final day of collection at church is Sunday, February 22.

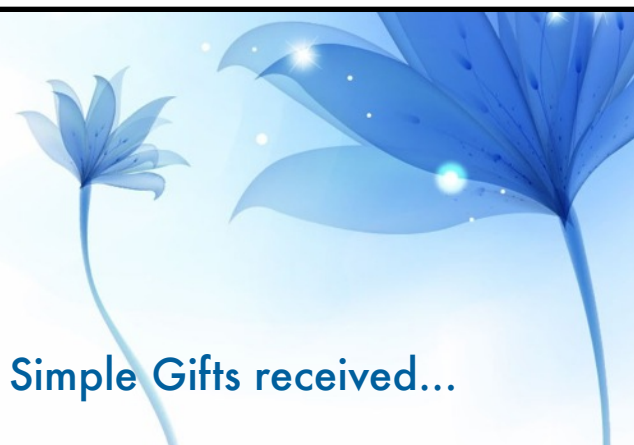
Please bring all your receipts in and place them in the box on the Acme & Giant Eagle Bucks table in Fessenden Hall.



## An Invitation from the Care Team

Are you curious about how you can help support our congregation's caring ministry? The Care Team will

be hosting an informal gathering on Sunday, February 22 after each service in the Eldredge Annex. Come meet some of the team members and consider how you might become involved. Refreshments will be served.



## Simple Gifts received...

**Elaine Bowen**

in memory of Esther Duncan

**Ed & Janee Krimmer**

in memory of Esther Duncan

**Linda Bunyan**

in memory of Esther Duncan

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.



## New to UU Classes This Month!



Curious? Interested in learning more?

Ready to take the next step?

Our "New to UU" classes cover everything you wanted to know about the Unitarian

Universalist Church of

Kent in particular and Unitarian Universalism in general, but didn't know where to go or whom 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, we will help to clarify what membership in UUCK entails.

Part 1 will be on Sunday, February 8th, from 9-11 am. Part 2 will be on Sunday, February 15th, 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.

## Looking for Resources and Help?



The CERG On Demand Learning Center offers videos of webinars and

workshops on your time schedule. All congregational life topics covered. Newly redesigned and updated! Check it out at [www.cerguua.org/ondemand](http://www.cerguua.org/ondemand)

## Ohio Meadville District News

### District Assembly 2015

District Assembly 2015 will take place on March 27-28, 2015 at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls, NY as a joint event with the St. Lawrence District. Our theme is *Strong Roots, Broad Wings* and our keynote speaker is Rev. Scott Tayler, Director of Congregational Life of the UUA. Gould Lecture will be presented by Rev. Tom Chulak, retired District Executive of the OMD and SLD districts. Some very important votes will be taking place at this year's district assembly as well as discussion on the topic of regionalization. Start planning now to make sure your congregation has it's full complement of delegates! Register now at [www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da)

### Winter (Institute) is Coming!

WI is all the fun and socializing of SI without the hectic schedule. 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 wintertime treat. There will be daily morning and evening casual worship services, morning water aerobics (after worship,) pre-dinner cocktail hour in the hospitality suite, and breakfast and dinner meals are included with registration. 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. Winter Institute is February 13-16 at Salt Fork State Park near Cambridge, OH. Registration is now open!. Details online at [ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/552-wi2015](http://ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/552-wi2015)

### Youth Trainings Available

Looking for Youth Trainings? Fundamentals of Healthy Youth Ministry is being offered at the Toledo congregation March 20-22, 2015. Chaplain Training (for youth, young adults and adults) is being offered at the Kent church April 24-26, 2015. Registration is open for both events. Learn more and register at [www.ohiomeadville.org/events/events](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/events/events)



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.

