



Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

"But there are times in this harum-scarum world when figuring out the right thing to do is quite simple, but doing the right thing is simply impossible...."

— Lemony Snicket,
Horseradish: Bitter Truths You Can't Avoid

I once heard someone say that doing the right thing for the right reason at the right time is a good definition of integrity. That is a high bar to set. As Lemony Snicket explains, sometimes the right thing is clear to us, but we don't have the will or the strength or the resources to follow through. Other times, we know the time is right and even have a sense of the reasons we must act, but we don't know what it is we should do or say. Looking at it from this angle, I think of integrity as something to which we can aspire. Maybe it is a guiding star

we can follow or perhaps an inner compass pointing the way. We can't, we won't always get things right, but maybe integrity is the thing which helps us keep learning, growing, trying to find a right way.

"Be who you are and say what you feel,
because those who mind don't matter and
those who matter don't mind."

— Dr. Seuss

Be yourself. We've all heard that advice, maybe given it too. According to Dr. Seuss, being ourselves will help us discover our true friends. Lots of other spiritual teachers observe that being true to ourselves is the key to living a whole and undivided life. Not only that, they also tell us that when we learn to live a whole and undivided life, we are modeling that possibility for others. Looking

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

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By appointment

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Tuesday and/or Wednesday
By appointment

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Deadline:

The 20th of each month



Be yourself.
Because...
...why not?

at it from this angle, it seems that integrity is something which requires practice. Maybe becoming a person of integrity requires developing habits of authenticity and honesty and learning to hone them day by day by day.

What is integrity? And how can we be people of integrity? Those are the questions that we are exploring this month. Come join us. It will be good to be together.

Peace,

Melissa

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

January 4 - Spiritual Activism

Andrew Rome

and Worship Associate Mary Lou Holly

Our faith calls us to action. As we work to build a better world this new year, we'll hear stories of the spiritual lessons learned from activism. Come and renew your commitment and renew your spirit.

January 11 - Yes You Can!

Rev. Christie Anderson

and Worship Associate John Marfy

Most of us have changes in our lives that we could accomplish but we seem to lack that needed boost of motivation. Hear the inspiring story of one man who successfully undertook a radical, personal transformation. Join us to empower yourself and commit to that change in your life!

January 18 - We the People

Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer

and Worship Associate Emeritus, Ted Voneida

We often think about integrity as an individual, but how about integrity as a collective? How can we, the citizens of this nation, demand integrity from the government and other institutions that act in our name?

January 25 - The Right Thing for the Right Reason

Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer,

Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus,

and Worship Associate Mary Lou Holly

Our multigenerational service this morning will explore congruence. How can we align our hearts and minds and actions so we can do the right thing for the right reason more often?



January 17 - Remembering Esther Duncan

We were sad to learn that Esther Duncan, a long-time, active member of the UUCK congregation died on December 28th. Esther will be missed by her many friends. A memorial service to honor her life will be held on Saturday, January 17th at 10:00 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. Sympathy cards can be sent to Esther's family in care of her sister. Contact the church office for the address.

Upcoming editions of the weekly UUCK enUUs will provide details on opportunities to offer assistance with the memorial service.



This is our great covenant.....to help one another

from Karen Lapidus

It has become my tradition to use the January edition of the Chalice Flame to report on the results of the two holiday giving opportunities that the Religious Education Committee sponsors. I have this and more to report this year.

It seemed to me that we collected far more toys this year than we have in the last five years. Our donation of new toys, which were distributed through Kent Social Services, filled one large-capacity car trunk AND the back of a van.

As I write this, there is still one Sunday left to collect monetary donations, but so far we have raised \$492.00 to support the homeless veterans who reside at Freedom House. That means that we will be able to give each resident a gift card valued at more than \$35.00.

Our Grades 3-5 Religious Education class headed up the publicity for these two projects. You probably saw their creative posters and heard their announcements during worship. In addition, they created fourteen ~ one for each resident ~ lovely beaded bookmarks to be given to the Veterans along with the gift cards.

Other RE classes spent time last month helping one another. Our High School Youth Group again offered to provide childcare so parents could have a bit of "time off"

during the busy holiday season. This offering was their contribution to the annual Auction of Goods and Services. They spent a fun afternoon at the church caring for our little ones and raised \$60.00 for our church's operating budget.

The Middle School RE Class helped with fundraising, as well. They created beautiful clay pins and Christmas tree ornaments which were sold during the Holiday Share event throughout December during the fellowship hour. Funds raised during this event support the operating budget, as well.

Our multi-age RE class is using a wonderful new curriculum from the Unitarian Universalist Association's

Tapestry of Faith program titled, *Signs of Our Faith: Being a UU Everyday*. It lifts up practical ways in which we can live in the world as UUs. In December they decorated "caring candles" which will be given to members and friends of our church who are experiencing a life challenge. The candles were made with love and care and are therefore quite lovely!

We are truly living our covenant to help one another!

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus
Director of Religious Education



RE students worked hard last month to help honor our church's covenant..



THE "SOUP"ER BOWL RETURNS!

After a 1 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

Gooooooooo, team UUCK!

Thanks in advance,

Coach Bowen of the
Economic Justice and
Hunger Task Force



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.

Thanks very much,

Elaine Bowen

Words to Live By...

“Youth is happy because it has the capacity to see beauty. Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old.”

~ Franz Kafka



KentHogwarts Winter 2015 The Philosopher's Stone

Session dates – February 14-16, 2015
Open Application Deadline – January 11, 2015

The next KentHogwarts session will be February 14-16! KentHogwarts, a ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, is a day camp for children in Kindergarten* through age 17. We use the wizarding world of Harry Potter to explore Unitarian Universalist principles and values.

Classes such as Potions, Herbology, Divination, and Charms provide opportunities for students to discover the most powerful Defense Against the Dark Arts is LOVE!

Applications will be mailed on December 7 to returning students and children of the UU Church of Kent. If you would like your child to receive an application, please let us know at registration@kenthogwarts.org or leave a note in the Hogwarts mailbox in the annex. We accept students based on postmark date through January 11. We are very grateful for this community's continued support as we embark on our 14th year of KentHogwarts!

**Children 5 years of age but not yet enrolled in Kindergarten will be considered on a case by case basis through Summer 2015. Beginning Winter 2016, Kindergarten experience will be required.*

Take a Mindful Journey with UUs to the Hill Towns of Italy

July 26 to August 4, 2015



Experience the enchanting hill towns of Tuscany and Umbria, view the awesome landscapes, admire the incredible art, taste the wine, enjoy fresh pasta, and all the delights this area of Italy offers us. Spend three nights in Florence, and three each in the hill towns of Siena and Assisi, staying in charming accommodation.

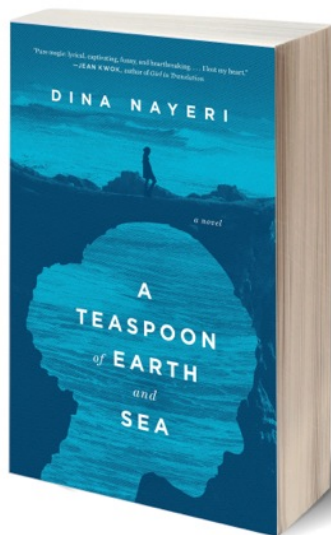
We'll explore Cortona, made famous by the movie *Under the Tuscan Sun*, see the Renaissance

architecture designed by a humanist Pope in Pienza, and meditate to Gregorian chanting at the 12th century Abby St. Antimo. The hill towns of San Gimignano, Montalcino, Montefalco, Bevagna, and Spoleto are also on our itinerary. We'll learn each town's stories from its art, food, and inhabitants.

Because we are booking small monastery guest house accommodation, we need to make deposits by February 1, 2015. Please see the Itinerary and costs at nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/

Sponsored by Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto





A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, January 13 at 7pm in the Founders Lounge at the church. Please bring a snack to share. This month we are reading *A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea* by Dina Nayeri.

Fascinated with America, young Saba Hafezi of 1980s Iran becomes convinced that her suddenly missing mother and twin sister have departed for America without her, a situation that compels her to envision her twin's Western life throughout subsequent years.

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

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

Ohio Meadville District News

Save the Date! District Assembly

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! Full information will be available on the OMD website starting January 1st at www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da

It's coming! Only a month away!

Hey, SI Campers! Is it getting hard to remember the fun we had this July in Oberlin? Do you think you won't be able to make it to next summer without another bit of that ol' SI magic? Sounds like you're in need of Winter Institute! WI is all the fun and socializing of SI without the hectic schedule. Winter Institute is February 13-16 at Salt Fork State Park near Cambridge, OH. Registration is now open!. Details and links online at ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/552-wi2015

H-UULTI Is Flipping the Classroom!

Can you believe there might be things

We Don't Know

that might help us become the congregation

We Want to Become?

Can we open

Our Eyes and Minds?

Can we Learn a few new ideas

in Our PJs?*

Consider the Hybrid/Online UU Leadership Institute. Spring courses begin January 2nd (late enrollments are accepted). For more information visit cerguua.org/HUULTI

*except for three local Saturday meetings each semester



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.

