



Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

My family wasn't that into books when I was a child. My mother wasn't a reader herself and, being a more-often-than-not single parent, she didn't have a lot of time for reading to my sisters and me. We had a few picture books around the house, I'm sure, but they don't feature prominently in my memories of my childhood. Not knowing what was contained in the world of books, I don't think I knew anything was missing.

When I was about nine years old, I received a gift from my grandfather that changed everything. It was a complete set of the *Little House* books by Laura Ingalls Wilder, all stacked neatly in their own little cardboard case. Because I loved to watch *A Little House on the Prairie* on television, those books were very intriguing to me. I wanted to know the stories and so I began reading. I read through all nine books and was so sad when I reached the end that I decided I had no choice but

to begin reading them again. Those books were beloved to me and I carried them around as a prized possession well into my adulthood.

After I finished reading through my books for a second time, I was hungry for more. My younger sister had received a complete box set of Beverly Cleary's *Ramona* books from my grandfather, so I read all those next and loved them almost as much. What next? We lived in walking distance from the public library, so I visited, got my first library card, and set about exploring. I didn't know what I was looking for nor how to look for good books, so I just browsed the displays set up by the librarians. Apparently, many girls my age were into the *Sweet Valley High* series, which was about teenage friendship, fashion and romance. I tried several, but they weren't nearly as satisfying as my *Little House* books. I got into the *Choose Your Own Adventure* books for a while. In school we read *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* and it occurred to

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

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Deadline:

The 20th of each month



Randy Leeson points
out some of the features of
the building expansion plan

me to see what else Judy Blume had written. After I worked through all her books, one of the librarians recommended Madeline L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* and then she became my new favorite author.

In time, the librarians invited me to sign up to volunteer in the children's department a few hours a week. I did and I was assigned the job of returning shelved books. That was the perfect fit for me at the time. I got to skim all the titles other people were reading, and, if they seemed interesting, I'd take the time to read the description on the book jacket as well. I'm sure I was quite slow at my assigned re-shelving job, but perhaps that wasn't the goal of the librarian at all. I will forever be grateful to my grandfather and to my small town public library and to those librarians for the encouragement I received there.

Books have been among the greatest sources of revelation in my life. I could tell you lots of stories about books that have changed my life, pointed me in new directions and introduced me to worlds that I would never otherwise have met. Books have shaped my journey and I know they will continue to do so for all my days.

Have books been a part of the revelations in your life? This month we will be exploring the sources and meanings and impact of revelation. I look forward to seeing you in church.

In faith,

Melissa

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

April 5 - My Ears Awake, My Eyes Are Opened

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

The title of our Easter services are drawn from the beautiful e.e. cummings poem, "i thank You God for most this amazing." This year Passover and Easter fall on the same dates. Both have central stories about revelation. This morning we will tell those stories and consider what revelation might mean for our own lives.

The first service will be designed to be family friendly. The second service will be created with adults in mind. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held during social hour.

April 12 - Revelation is Not Sealed

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

The affirmation that revelation is not sealed has long been cherished in Unitarian Universalism. So where does revelation come from? And how can we prepare ourselves to notice when it comes?

April 19 - Revelations of Beauty

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer
and Worship Associate Mary Lou Holly*

As you have learned more about the environmental justice movement over the years, have you found that you see beauty in new ways? Has your imagination of the beautiful been re-shaped by your growing environmental consciousness? If so, I'd like to hear from you. In celebration of Earth Day, this service will include several members of the congregation sharing stories of their revelations of beauty.

April 26 - Now That You Know

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer
and Worship Associate Jeff Marsh*

Some revelations open us up to exciting new possibilities. Other revelations might make us wish for a return to innocence. How can we deal with unwelcome revelations in a way that helps us make room in our lives for positive, life-affirming change?



EVENTS TO NOTE

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 5th, 10:45am

(see page 7 for details)

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 26th, 12:45am

(see page 7 for details)



Want to learn about solar power?

The Green Sanctuary team has invited the solar power company, Bold Alternatives, to present at our church on **Monday, April 6th at 7pm** in the Sanctuary. Bold Alternatives is the company who installed the solar array at the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland and will present about both residential solar installations and options for our church building expansion. Their presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.



Being Safer Together from Karen Lapidus

I must admit that the recent measles outbreak was alarming.

Thankfully it was short-lived and not in our geographic neighborhood, but it lead me to think that we need to put some procedures in place. It is always best to be prepared. The Religious Education Committee and I created these simple guidelines which we hope will be protective in the case of an outbreak of any communicable disease.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the RE Committee.

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus
Director of Religious Education

Procedures Concerning Communicable Diseases March 2015

As a caring community of faith that welcomes people of all ages, the members of the Religious Education Committee strive to create an environment that is safe for all.

In light of the recent concerns about Measles and knowing that for many reasons, not everyone is protected from contracting the disease (as well as from other communicable diseases), we are establishing the following procedures:

We encourage everyone, regardless of age, to refrain from attending church services or church sponsored activities if they are feeling ill and most especially, if they are experiencing fever. In accordance with the immunization guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Health and practiced by public schools in Ohio, we are asking that in the case of an outbreak of a communicable disease, for which immunizations are available, in Portage county and/or its contiguous counties, all people who are not fully immunized are asked to not attend church services or church sponsored activities for 21 days after the onset of the last known case. This would include infants too young to be vaccinated, children who are not vaccinated or are under-vaccinated for any reason, people who are immunosuppressed for any reason and anyone else who



may know or suspect that they are not fully immunized, including pregnant women.

The website of the Centers for Disease Control will be checked on a weekly basis to determine if any disease outbreaks have been reported in our region.

If any cases are reported, the church members and friends will be notified via our website, our Facebook page and the eNuu's.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any member of the Religious Education Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

The Members of the Religious Education Committee

Mary Leeson, chair
Michelle Bores
Kat Holtz
Cheryl Spoehr
Colleen Thoele
Stefanie Workman
Karen Lapidus, DRE, ex officio

Building Capacity for Authentic Diversity

Akron, OH • April 18, 2015

Each of us has culture--conscious and unconscious ways of being in the world. To become a truly multicultural faith, we need leaders who can build relationships effectively across difference including ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, gender, and more. Come learn about a model of understanding cultural competence which will help you learn these skills.

This is a similar training to that offered to ministers through the UUMA called "Who Are Our Neighbors". We are hoping to have follow-up half-day programs in clusters to continue to build skills on top of the framework that we'll introduce in this program. This training is ideal for both congregations that have racial and ethnic diversity and congregations who perceive themselves to be homogenous. This framework will be helpful for all leaders including Religious Educators, Ministers, Board Members, Music Directors, Social Justice committee members, and more.

You will learn:

- a model of understanding how people engage with difference at different developmental levels and how to meet them where they are
- what people at different developmental stages need
- how to coach your congregation into intercultural capacity
- how to start with the difference already in the room

Leaders are Evin Carvill-Ziemer, OMD Program Coordinator and Rev. Renee Ruchtozke, CERGL Leadership Development Consultant. Registration starts at 8:30 am, program runs for 9-4, lunch is provided. Visit www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/648-diversity to register.



Cleveland Race Dance

April 10th and 11th

Are you moved by the word racism? Affected by things you've experienced or been told? Do you dream of racial justice? Ready to embody racial healing? The Race Dance Workshop is a unique opportunity to face racism using storytelling, movement, stillness, and songs in a process that includes the wisdom of the body, works well in inter-generational contexts and moves toward healing and celebrating human wholeness. Soyinka Rahim, master teacher, Cynthia Winton-Henry, co-founder of InterPlay from Oakland, CA and other trained InterPlay leaders know it takes more than talk to foster freedom in our own skins and with others. We must let life and truth dance through us and let creation speak one play at a time.

Workshop Schedule

Friday, April 10th, 7 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, April 11th, 9 am - 5 pm

Potluck to follow

YMCA of Greater Cleveland

Downtown Branch

2200 Prospect Ave. E.

Cleveland, OH 44115

Registration: \$25; scholarships available, please inquire. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/RaceDance> to register.

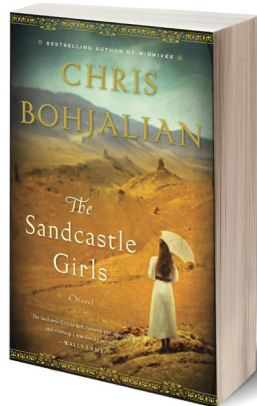
InterPlay is an art and social change practice and non-profit that supports gatherings of diverse people on five continents. www.interplay.org

The Sandcastle Girls

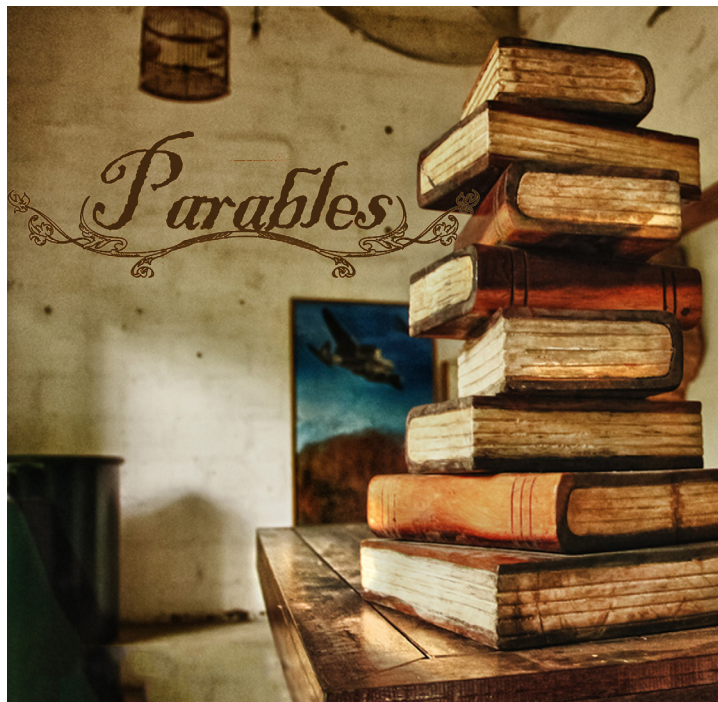
The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, April 14 at 7 pm at the home of Shannon Ossorio. Meet at the church at 6:30 if you want to carpool.

This month we are reading *The Sandcastle Girls* by Chris Bohjalian. *The Sandcastle Girls* is a spellbinding tale that travels between Aleppo, Syria, in 1915 and Bronxville, New York, in 2012—a sweeping historical love story steeped in the author's Armenian heritage.

When Elizabeth Endicott arrives in Syria, the First World War is spreading across Europe, and she has volunteered to deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian genocide. Elizabeth meets Armen, a young Armenian engineer who has lost his wife and infant daughter. Armen leaves Aleppo to join the British Army in Egypt, and he begins to write Elizabeth letters. He soon realizes that he has fallen in love with the wealthy, young American woman. Flash forward to the present, where we meet Laura Petrosian, a novelist living in suburban New York. Laura has never really given her Armenian heritage much thought, but when a friend calls, claiming to have seen a newspaper photo of Laura's grandmother promoting an exhibit at a Boston museum, Laura embarks on a journey back through her family's history that reveals love, loss—and a wrenching secret that has been buried for generations.



In May we will be reading *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. In June we will be reading *The Love Song of Miss Quennie Hennessy* by Rachel Joyce. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper at harper1721@yahoo.com. All are welcome.



Pondering Parables

Wednesdays in April, 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: April 1, April 8, April 15 and April 29. 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.



Congregational Voting Meeting

Second Vote for Capital Campaign

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday April 26 after second service (12:45PM) to review and discuss the findings of the feasibility study. This study, which is being conducted by a UUA consultant, will provide us information on our readiness for a campaign, including an estimate of what we can likely raise.

There will also be a second vote at the meeting to authorize the capital campaign; this is to provide the congregation an opportunity to indicate their support for the campaign in light of the findings of the feasibility study. A quorum is needed, please plan to attend this important meeting. Contact MaryBeth Hannon if you want to cast a proxy vote.

Marion Yeagler and Kathy Kerns,
Capital Campaign Team co-Chairs

Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place this Easter Sunday IMMEDIATELY following the 1st service (approximately at 10:45).



1. Each child will receive a bag from a member of the RE committee as they leave the sanctuary following the multi-generational worship.
2. Move quickly to Fessenden Hall. We will gather there for instructions and wait for all children to arrive.
3. Parents of nursery and preschool children must accompany their children.
4. The eggs (stuffed with toys and nut-free candy), will be hidden around the periphery of the church. We will cordon off the driveways during the hunt.
5. Each child should plan to find 5-6 eggs. After they have met their "quota", the children need to empty their goodies into their bags and return the empty plastic eggs to the large bin, which will be staffed by Middle School youth.

It looks as if the weather will cooperate ~ hoorah!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact RE Assistant Colleen Thoele.

Ohio Meadville District News

Young Adult Opportunities

Young Adults have several opportunities to gather this spring and summer in our district. The annual OMDUUYAN Cabin Con is April 10-12, 2015 in the Hocking Hills area. Details and registration can be found on the OMD website at ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/234-cabincon. OPUS, the annual national gathering of Young Adults will once again take place in the OMD at Camp Nuhop, August 19-23, 2015. Registration is open. Find details at ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/736-opus15. Finally, a regional gathering of Young Adults will take place north of us at Camp Unirodondack. Find details at their website www.unirondack.org

Youth Trainings Available

Looking for Youth Trainings?
Fundamentals of Healthy Youth Ministry is being offered at the Toledo congregation, May 1-3, 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 ohiomeadville.org/events/events

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

