



Monthly Musings from Rev. Christie Anderson

Friday, July 3rd was a very special day at our church! Two same-sex couples from the community were treated to a free wedding, a fabulous reception and free professional-quality photos from Debra Lynn Hook. The couples were thrilled and somewhat stunned that their long-awaited dreams were being fulfilled. One couple has been together for 30 years and the other had been together for 18 years.

Dear Kent UU church members,

We wanted to say THANK YOU to everyone at the church. Everything was perfect! We both are still on cloud nine and in shock. :)

*Thanks so much,
Pam and Jeannette*

I was surprised by how deeply I was moved when I signed the marriage license following the first wedding ceremony. It was a tremendous honor to be part of such a momentous day.

Reverend Melissa initiated the idea of a marriage equality celebration prior to her leave, and her vision was actualized due to the efforts of numerous church volunteers. Many members of the church stopped by to extend their good wishes, help set-up, bring food, serve food, and clean up. Marion Yeager coordinated the refreshments and provided a rainbow cake for each couple to take home.

Decorating by Marion and Mary Beth Hannan transformed Fessenden Hall into an elegant and festive environment which included goblets filled with layers of colored sand and live tie-dye roses.

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, Ohio 44240
Phone: 330-673-4247
Fax: 330-677-4772
www.kentuu.org

Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net

Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

**Congregational
Administrator:**

MaryBeth Hannan

Office hours:

Mon. through Fri. 9 - 4

Religious Ed. Director:

Karen Lapidus
dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net

DRE's Office Hours:

Tuesday and/or Wednesday
by appointment

Music Director:

Hal Walker

Commissioned Lay Leader:

Rev. Christie Anderson
christiea@neo.rr.com

Affiliated**Community Minister:**

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke
zimlar@juno.com

Newsletter editor:

Saul Flanner
newsletter@kentuu.org

Deadline:

The 20th of each month



Pam and Jeannette
standing outside the
UU church following
their ceremony

To the members of the Unitarian Church of Kent,

Jim and I want to extend our thanks for the beautiful wedding that your church provided. Your hospitality was awesome. We can't thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. The reception was so special. Everyone was so supportive. The Unitarians are the BEST!

John and Jim

As noted in messages received from the couples, they were very appreciative of the contributions provided by dozens of congregation members. The event was one more reason to take pride in our wonderful, generous church.

Christie

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

August 2 - Everyday Ethical Dilemmas: Personal Liberty vs. Common Good

*Rev. Christie Anderson and
Worship Associate Carolyn Schlemmer*

We regularly encounter situations in our daily lives that illustrate a clash of values between the pursuit of self interest and promotion of the common good. Real life stories will illustrate how people viewing the same situation subconsciously apply different values, resulting in disputes about appropriate behavior. Value judgements that seem obvious may be more complex when perceived through the lens of these conflicting American values.

August 9 - And It Shall Be to All People?

Cal Frye and Worship Associate Carolyn Schlemmer

Cal works in the IT department at Oberlin College, but his background is in Geology and Paleontology. He has been a UU for fifteen years, a former member and continuing Friend of this church, and is endorsed as a Humanist Celebrant by the Humanist Society and the American Humanist Association (Humanists don't use the term, "ordained"). He is a frequent service leader at the Oberlin UU Fellowship.

August 16 - The God Test

Saul Flanner and Kathy Walker

We all worship something, whether we call it worship or not. But what does it mean to worship? And what exactly do we choose to worship? And if worshipping is a choice, what do our choices say about the kind of people we aspire to be?

August 23 - Catholic Social Teaching

Mary Stevenson and Worship Associate Andrew Rome

Mary Stevenson, Executive Director of the Community of Oscar A. Romero (COAR), will present COAR's work as an example of the Catholic tradition of social justice woven from the Gospel calls to help the poor, as well as a practical and compassionate response to crisis



and poverty. In 1980, El Salvador entered the world stage through a brutal civil war. On March 24th, 1980, the Catholic Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar A. Romero, was murdered by the army while saying mass. Later, on December 2nd, 1980, four North American Churchwomen were also murdered. All of them, along with many Salvadorans, were murdered for their defense of the poor, denunciation of the violence, and, in particular, their defense of refugees and orphaned children. Out of those dark days sprang COAR: a school, foster care facility, and clinic serving the entire impoverished community of Zaragoza, El Salvador. COAR's work continues today responding to the crisis of gang violence and unaccompanied minors at the US-Mexican border.

August 30 - You Are Awesome!

Justin Czekaj and Rev. Christie Anderson

There are an infinite number of random incidents that brought you here today – not just here to church, but into existence. For starters, approximately 4.5 billion years ago, a rock smashed into our infant planet (a planet, by the way, which is wholly unique in our solar system), creating our moon. This celestial body is essential to our human evolution, helping coax the tetrapods from the sea. Only a few million years ago our eyes began to emerge, evolving 50-100 times ever since, giving us the ability to see that moon. And those eyes might be green, or blue, or brown, depending on your parents, and your parents' parents. Consider the long line of people who had to come together to create you. Think about the random and unique genetic code that gives you awareness and makes you, YOU! You are random, and wonderful. You are Awesome!

New Moderator's Musings



FY 2016 will be a year of living into our Mission. With our new by-laws as the scaffolding, much of the Board of Trustees' time will be devoted to assessing where various ministries are in terms of their long range plans, and how these goals match our congregational Vision, Mission, and Covenant. The Board will establish their own vision of the Mission and how best to begin moving toward this goal. We will encourage others to develop concrete plans to flesh their group's part of the Mission.

To do so, we will spend lots of time in conversation with the congregation.

Expect:

- **Visits from Board teams at your committee and action team meetings**
- **Sustained, reflective, and inclusive discussions at Town Meetings on open questions such as:**
 - Who are we?
 - As religious/spiritual people, what are we called to do and be?
 - Who is our neighbor?

It should be an exciting journey.

In faith and love,
Kathie Slater



OWL Registration for Fall

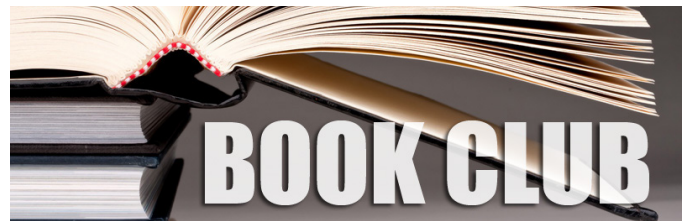
Beginning in September, the Our Whole Lives program will be offered again to students entering the eighth grade for the academic year 2015-2016. Parents of these youth will receive more information by email. If you believe your child is eligible for OWL, and you have not been contacted, please contact Kathy Walker.

2015-16 Board Officers

Moderator:	Kathie Slater
Assistant Moderator:	Rhonda Richardson
Secretary:	Ann VerWeibe
Governance Executive Trustee:	Andrew Rome

Members of the Ministries Executive Team

Minister:	Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer (Rev. Christie Anderson, substitute)
Treasurer:	Sandy Eaglen
Past Moderator:	Elaine Bowen
Congregation Administrator:	Mary Beth Hannan

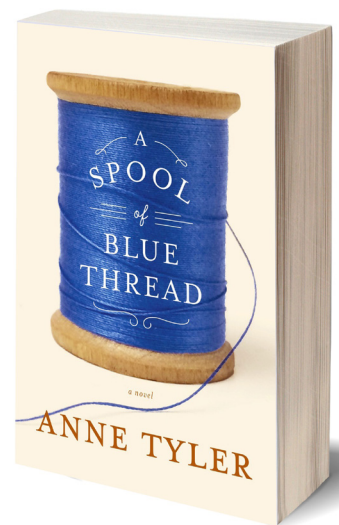


A Shelf Full of Tyler

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 7 pm in the home of Kathy Kerns.

This month we are reading any book by the author Anne Tyler. In September we will be reading *Margot* by Jillian Cantor and in October we will be reading *The Care of Handling of Roses with Thorns* by Margaret Dilloway.

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



Standing on the Side of Love

UUCK members and friends have begun the important work of supporting racial equity and justice, and all are invited to join in this effort. In the wake of the horrific murders of nine African American churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina in June, members and friends of our congregation held a vigil in front of our church in solidarity with the people of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Passers-by honked and waved support as we prayed and sang for justice and peace. A photo and a story about our vigil appeared in the Record-Courier newspaper.



In early July, church member Dani Beale led a service calling on us as white allies to work for racial justice. After her inspiring service, members and friends of our congregation held a second vigil outside our church. We responded to a Call to Action for All People of Faith from the AME Church Council of Bishops and Church Leadership to act in solidarity with Mother Emanuel Church and with the members of seven African American churches that have burned recently. Our vigil again drew support from passers-by, and a Kent police officer honked and waved support as she passed us. Several members and friends of our congregation also attended a service at the Spelman Chapel AME Church in Kent and were greeted warmly. They received personal thank-you letters from the AME congregation. We intend to continue building our connections with the Spelman Chapel AME Church.

Lee Brooker traveled to Winston-Salem, North Carolina for the Mass Moral Monday March for Voting Rights on July 13th. Lee joined with thousands of fellow marchers, including UUs from 19 states, to demand the restoration of voting rights in North Carolina, which has one of the worst voter suppression



Photo courtesy of the Winston-Salem Journal
www.tinyurl.com/ncmarch

laws in the nation. The march coincided with the start of the trial in the U.S. District Court in Winston-Salem on the constitutionality of the state's election law. 22 states now have what UUA President Peter Morales says are "laws aimed at suppressing the votes of young people and people of color." Some 1200 people attended an interfaith service the night before the Winston-Salem march to begin a Week of Righteous Resistance to all forms of racism. People chanted, "North Carolina is our Selma; forward together." Lee's photo during the march and his name appeared in the Winston-Salem Journal newspaper. He plans to lead a discussion with the congregation on his experiences at the march. More information will follow.

Members of our congregation organized a discussion at Summer Institute on how white UUs can be allies for racial equity and justice. People at next year's Summer Institute may organize the first SI social action event during the week.

All members and friends of our congregation are invited to participate in a newly forming task team for racial justice. The team plans to organize educational programs for the congregation on white privilege and on how we can be allies in the struggle for racial equity and justice. The team also plans to organize opportunities for us to witness for racial justice and to make connections with local African American churches and other faith groups working in this area. You can contact me for more information. This should be an eventful and exciting year of engagement.

In faith,

Vivien Sandlund
Social Justice Coordinator

A Letter of Thanks

The letter below was received following the June 22 vigil organized by the UUCK Social Justice Committee that expressed our love and support for the congregation of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Charleston, South Carolina following the tragic shooting. The letter is from the McElrath Improvement Corporation, a grassroots community organization in a predominately black neighborhood in Ravenna Township. They sent the letter after seeing the photo published in the Record Courier of the vigil in front of our church.

Dear Rev. Christie Anderson,

Members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, we members of the McElrath Improvement Corporation thank you for your public expressions of grief and love for the fallen and the living members of the A.M.E. Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

*"Behold what manner of Love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called the children of God."
(1st John 3:1 – NSRV)*

Sincerely,

Beatrice Mitchell. Past President

Rev. Dennis Richey, President

Mark Your Calendars!

Our congregation has worked hard to develop the plans to live out our church vision. The Capital Campaign Team is pleased to announce the launch of our church's capital campaign to raise over \$1,000,000. Our 3 phase plan is to build an addition with a new social hall, kitchen, and RE rooms, renovate the basement into bigger and better RE space, and renovate the sanctuary.

We take an important step forward the weekend of September 26 - 27.

Saturday Sept. 26, 9am–1pm: Training of canvassers for the campaign. We are asking anyone who might be willing to be a canvasser to come to the training provided by our consultant Bill Clontz. After you hear what will be involved, you can let us know if you are willing to be a canvasser.

Sunday September 27: Official launch of the campaign during Sunday morning service. After second service, we will have a campaign launch celebration with a simple catered lunch. We hope everyone will come be part of the celebration!

Sunday September 27, 7pm: The band *Hey Mavis* will hold a fundraising concert for the church at the Kent stage. The band is donating all concert proceeds to the capital campaign. Please join us in this fun way to support the campaign. Before the concert, there will be an opportunity for members to meet at the Kent Hotel for drinks and food (special pricing will be offered).



Justice On The Move

A new group is forming in Kent called the Kent Inter-Faith Alliance on Reconciliation and Justice. I have keenly felt the absence of such a group over my years serving here and thus wanted to support this emerging effort with my presence. I was thrilled to find representatives of many diverse area faith communities seated around the table and the promise that the invitation to participate will eventually be sent to all faith communities in our area. The group is forming specifically to seek faith based collaboration in embodying reconciliation and social justice.

As a first event, the group is inviting faith based communities to participate in a march this Sunday, August 2, from First Christian Church of Kent (Disciples of Christ) to Spelman Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The march will step off at 11:00 am and is 8/10 of a mile. We are invited to march with a symbol of our faith tradition. When we arrive at Spelman, each faith community will be invited to place their symbol on an altar. The pastor at Spelman, Dr. L. A. Gatewood, is preparing a special sermon on reconciliation and justice which will be delivered once the marchers arrive.

I will be attending and I hope that some of you will join me. If you do, you might be inclined to wear Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts. However, as a sign of respect for our hosts at Spelman Chapel, I encourage you to consider dressing up a bit for church. If you'd like to participate but aren't up to walking that far, please feel free to meet us at Spelman Chapel around 11:20 or so at 910 Walnut Street in Kent. Outdoor amplification will be arranged with the hope that we will not all be able to fit inside the church. If you would like to march, First Christian is just up the street from our church at 335 West Main Street.

Yours in faith and hope,

Melissa



Ohio Meadville District News

Looking for Learning opportunities?

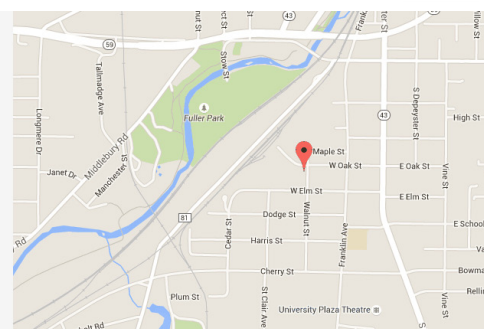
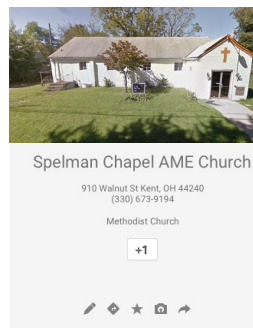
The UU Leadership Opportunities is now accepting registrations for their fall semester. There are 11 classes listed, including UU History, Healthy Leadership, Health Membership and Old Testament. Learn about this unique hybrid program and sign up at www.uuinstitute.org

On Demand Learning Center

New leader or volunteer? Want to brush up on a few things before fall? The Central East Region On Demand Learning Center had videos and resources on a variety of topics that deal with all aspects of congregational life. You do have to register to use the site, but registration is free. Visit the site today at www.cerguua.org/ondemand

Leadership Day 2015

Put this day on your calendar! September 12 is our annual leadership day in Columbus, OH. Dr. Mercadante will offer our keynote on how UUs can positively engage with and welcome the Spiritual-But-Not-Religious. In the afternoon we will discuss how our congregations can help with GA planning for 2016 and have an open forum on regionalization. For details and registration visit the OMD website at www.tinyurl.com/omdleader





For a complete and up-to-date 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

