



Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

Dear ones, thank you so much for your graciousness, understanding and support this summer. I was not ready for maternity leave when our sweet little baby decided to arrive and many, many things at church were left dangling. I am so grateful to the many leaders who picked up the loose threads and made sure that the work of the church continued well. In addition to our excellent staff, I want to offer my special thanks to Rev. Christie Anderson, Rev. Renee Ruchotke, Lori McGee, the members of the MET, the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministry, the Director of Religious Education Search Committee and the Capital Campaign Team. Each of these individuals and groups offered important leadership in my absence; this depth of skill and commitment is part of what makes our congregation so great. Even more amazing, these were not the only people to step forward and lend a hand to cover the gaps. In

ways little and large, many people contributed their time and talent. We are fortunate that so many people are willing to share their gifts with our beloved community. And I am fortunate to have the privilege to serve such a wonderful church!

Though I planned to return to work full time at the beginning of October, I'm happy to say that my family is doing well enough for me to alter my plans. I will be returning to work half time on September 1 and will work half time through the end of October. I will resume full time work at the beginning of November. This arrangement will allow me to attend to the many programmatic and administrative responsibilities that will help us get this church year off to a good start. Rev. Christie Anderson is going to continue to offer pastoral care in September (save a week of vacation, which we will advertise) in light of my limited

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



Melissa Carvill-Ziemer describes the importance of the chalice to UUs at the Kent AME church. It was one of many symbolic items carried from First Christian Church to the AME church for the Interfaith March on August 2nd.

schedule. I will have some limited pastoral appointments each week for urgent concerns, but will be prioritizing work that tends the functioning of the congregation as a whole in September and October. Christie will also be taking the lead in getting our Chalice and Food for Thought groups going. Look for more information about what these groups are and how to sign up later this month.

Given that my newborn will only be 3 weeks adjusted age when I return to work, I am going to try to keep him with me as much as possible in September and October before enrolling him in full time childcare in November. I ask for your understanding and support as I show up to meetings wearing a small baby for a while.

I've missed you and am looking forward to seeing you soon.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa".

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

September 6 - The Sacred Song Circle

*Saunis Parsons and
Worship Associate Elaine Bowen*

Exploring song as the sacred, and as spiritual practice in community.

September 13 - Come, Yet Again, Come

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer,
Intern Minister Dave Clements and
Interim Director of Religious Education Karen LoBracco*

During the summertime, the rhythm of our community reflects the pace of people coming and going. With school in swing again and fall on the horizon, it's time once again to gather as a whole community and mark the beginning of another church year. Come, gather in with us in a celebration of beloved community and the difference it makes.

Please bring a little bit of water and/or soil from your home to share in our annual ritual of gathering the waters and soils. Bring them to church along with your thoughts about what it means to you bring yourself into our faith community.

Our choir returns from their summer hiatus for this multigenerational service. Children preschool-age and up will join us for the entire service.

September 20 - Seek to Understand

*Intern Minister Dave Clements
and Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer*

I invite each of you today to take a journey, a walk, and join me as together we explore this idea of "Walking in My Shoes". We will explore three concepts on our walk today, The First, "Seek to Understand" the Second, "Seek to be Understood" and the Third, "Leaving our own Imprint".

September 27 - I Think I Can!

Kathy Kerns, Marion Yeagler, and Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

In this service we will explore what it means to have faith, and also launch our exciting new capital campaign.

Meet Our
New Interim
DRE,

Karen
LoBracco



Please give a warm welcome to Karen LoBracco, our new Interim Director of Religious Education (DRE). Karen is a credentialed religious educator with 11 years of experience as a DRE and has served 6 years as Lifespan Faith Development Consultant in the St. Lawrence and Ohio Meadville Districts. Last year she served as Interim DRE in Birmingham, Alabama. As our Interim DRE, Karen will not only ensure that the RE Program runs smoothly, but will also help our congregation gain perspective of our own unique RE history and culture and determine how we can grow to meet the needs of the future. This is especially timely and important work as we prepare to build a new fellowship hall and remodel classroom space.

Karen is a half-time employee and will serve our congregation for 11 months. Part of her interim work includes serving as a resource for the Search Committee, which will reconvene early next year, to search for a settled DRE. An Interim DRE is not allowed to apply for the settled position.

Since Karen lives in Brockport, NY, we'll have a rather unusual arrangement. She'll live in Kent approximately 11 days per month (2 consecutive weekends and the week in between) and the rest of the month she'll work from home. Colleen Thoele will continue as RE Assistant and her hours will increase from 5 hours per week to 12 hours per week.

Karen invites you to make a coffee/tea/lunch date with her so she can get to know you better!



Introducing...

"Second Sunday Meet & Greet"

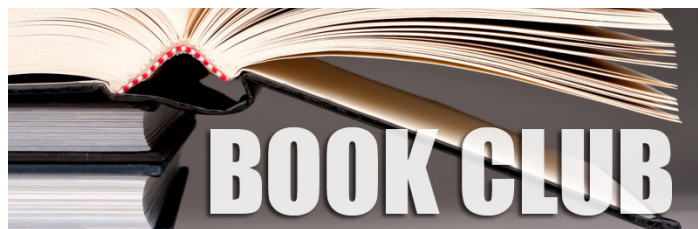
September 13th, 11:00am

Each Second Sunday, the Membership Team will host a Meet & Greet for newcomers in the Founders' Lounge at 11:00. Please join with members of the Membership Committee and Church Staff for coffee, light refreshments, and informal conversation. Take the opportunity to make yourself known and to meet some friendly folks who can serve as your first circle of UUCK acquaintances! We'll do our best to make you feel welcome and comfortable. Andrea, Trish, Cheryl, Cheryl, Diane, Shannon, Mary, and Claudia will be on hand to help answer your questions, to alert you to activities and opportunities, to "show you the ropes," and to help you break into the sometimes daunting "Coffee Hour" experience.

Please stay for a short visit after First Service, or, come a little early before Second Service. We look forward to meeting you. Whether you are "brand new," "nearly new," "sort of new", or just want to meet UUs, plan to stop by the Meet & Greet table in the Founders' Lounge (same level as sanctuary) at 11 am (September 13th and every subsequent Second Sunday of each month). This is a family friendly event, so kids are welcome. Nursery care provided.

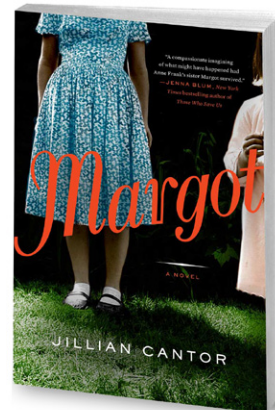


The new and nearly new membership picnic on August 15th was lively and delicious



Margot

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, September 8 at 7 pm in the home of Shannon Osorio in Aurora. Meet at the church at 6:30 if you want to carpool. This month we are reading *Margot* by Jillian Cantor. Anne Frank has long been a symbol of bravery and hope, but there were two sisters hidden in the annex, two young Jewish girls, one a cultural icon made famous by her published diary and the other, nearly forgotten. In the spring of 1959, *The Diary of Anne Frank* has just come to the silver screen to great acclaim, and a young woman named Margie Franklin is working in Philadelphia as a secretary at a Jewish law firm. On the surface she lives a quiet life, but Margie has a secret: a life she once lived, a past and a religion she has denied, and a family and a country she left behind.



Margie Franklin is really Margot Frank, older sister of Anne, who did not die in Bergen-Belsen as reported, but who instead escaped the Nazis for America. But now, as her sister becomes a global icon, Margie's carefully constructed American life begins to fall apart. A new relationship threatens to overtake the young love that sustained her during the war, and her past and present begin to collide. Margie is forced to come to terms with Margot, with the people she loved, and with a life swept up into the course of history.

In October we will be reading *The Care and Handling of Roses with Thorns* by Margaret Dilloway. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.

Moderator's Musings

Welcome to our new church year. The Board of Trustees of the UUCK had an interesting and active summer as we met six times to deal with leadership issues, to work on Social Justice policy, help with the DRE search, and to make various committee appointments to prepare for a great and meaningful year. We are working to live into our new structures and policy-based governance governing philosophy. We will be using the Committee on Ministry's assessment tool to begin a process of evaluating where we are in various ministries and are also in the midst of resurrecting the Master Planning Team in order to facilitate dialogues about future goals as the congregation continues to take small steps towards living out our mission:



All-Church Circle Suppers Are Back!

Don't remember (or know) the names of people you see on Sunday? Want to meet new members? Catch up with old friends? Enjoy a delicious meal? Circle Suppers are for you! The Membership Committee is bringing back this past UUCK tradition. All those who sign up will be randomly assigned to a host. The host will coordinate a potluck, usually providing the main dish and beverages. All that remains is to show up and enjoy!

The first Circle Supper of this church year will be Saturday, October 10 with a suggested start time of 6:30 pm. Sign up in Fessenden Hall before or after both services by Sunday, September 27, or at signupgenius.com/go/904054FA9A62BA57-circle1. Please indicate if you are willing to host. Hosts will be provided with the list of attendees by October 1 or so. Let's make ours a welcoming church that connects!



Sixteen Years of Service



It is with mixed emotions that the OWL team announces the retirement of Fred Smith. Fred has been facilitating the junior high Our Whole Lives sexuality education program at the UU Church of Kent since 1999 and has trained other OWL facilitators across NE Ohio and beyond for over 16 years. Our current OWL team has been working together since 2003, and he will be greatly missed as we begin our first year without him. Fred's sense of humor and honesty were always appreciated by the youth as was his willingness to look up just about anything asked in the OWL question box. Although we will miss him, we wish him the very best as he finishes another year of teaching at Kent State and plans his next adventure. With the RE Committee, we'll be honoring Fred during the services on Sunday, September 13. Please join us in thanking him for his many years of dedication and service to the OWL program.

-Kathy Walker, Kat Holtz, and Saul Flanner





Ministries Fair Coming!

“ . . . and to help one another”

Every Sunday, we all speak, and truly mean, this phrase from our Covenant. On September 20th, after both services, all UUCK Committees, Teams, and Groups will be showcasing their work and ministries. Every Committee and Group is looking to educate us about what their team does and how we can help! There is a Committee or Group for you! Plan to come to the Ministries Fair in Fessenden Hall during Coffee Hour and after Second Service. Learn what goes on and find a match with your interests and skills, and your time availability. Engaging in service to our Community is a pathway to personal and spiritual growth.

Realize our Covenant in your life by committing to some new way of belonging within our Beloved Community this year, whether small or large. There is much to be done.

Claudia Miller

Volunteer Ministries Coordinator



Jennifer May describing appetizers at Jen and Lois's amazing locavore dinner at their house, an auction item from last fall. For opportunities like this one, plan now to attend the Thanks4Giving Auction in November.



Capital Campaign Kick-off is Here!!!!

The Capital Campaign

Team is pleased to announce the launch of our church's capital campaign, *Realizing the Vision: Not for Us Alone*. Our goal is to raise over \$1,000,000. The 3 phase plan, endorsed by the congregation, 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. Please join us as 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. Please contact Kathy Kerns to volunteer!

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 provided. 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.



Details on page 7.

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

HEY MAVIS

Sun 9/27 7pm

at the
Kent Stage
175 E. Main Kent
www.thekentstage.com



Tickets \$20/\$30/\$40 ALL AGES WELCOME

A Capital Campaign Kickoff Concert to Benefit the expansion of the UU Church of Kent

Join us on Sunday evening, September 27th, for one of the easiest, most enjoyable ways to contribute to our Capital Campaign. Laurie and Ed Caner (Hey Mavis), support the congregation's vision and have generously offered to donate the entire proceeds from their concert to the capital campaign. In addition, The Kent Stage has extended a discounted stage fee to us to support our endeavors.

A sell-out concert is entirely possible and would raise over \$9,000 for our building goals!

To make this a success, we need YOU to purchase tickets! And we need YOU to tell your friends and bring them! Tickets can be purchased at The Kent Stage or at www.thekentstage.com

What could be easier – enjoying great music with friends, knowing that you're contributing to a new

kitchen, new RE classrooms and more! So...mark your calendars, grab some friends, and we'll see you there!

Plus...



Hey UUCK Concert-goers! Get the Capital Campaign Kick-Off Concert party started at the Kent State University Hotel special pre-concert Happy Hour, from 5:00 pm - 6:45 pm in the 1910 Lounge. Happy Hour drink pricing, Complimentary Welcome Appetizers and Half-Price on all Bar Appetizers. Join us before the Hey Mavis event for a good time! Questions? Contact Diana Watt, at the KSU Hotel and Conference Center.

Building the World We Dream About



Every person has value as a member of the human family. The suffering caused by racism must be ended if we want to create fair and loving communities. We work to end racial discrimination and injustice, starting within ourselves and moving out into the world around us. We support multiracial, multiethnic congregations and advocate for stopping racist policies like mass imprisonment and attacks on voting rights. Our multicultural ministries will continue until there is peace, liberty, and justice for all.

We invite you to find your place in the unfolding story of the current movements (such as #BlackLivesMatter) to share their hopes and dreams for the role that Unitarian Universalists can play in advancing racial justice in the United States.

Facilitators: Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Dave Clements (intern minister), Rev. Renee Ruchotzke (Affiliated Community minister), Saunis Parsons, Dani Beale (and others.....)

Tuesdays, offered both at 10:00am and 7:00pm

9/15/2015	Workshop 1: Telling Our Story: Multiple Truths and Multiple Realities, Part One Participants consider questions of confidentiality and emotional and spiritual safety as the group begins its journey together. The workshop invites them to engage with their own experiences and those of others as they explore Dr. Lee Knefelkamp's work that defines experiences of "mattering" and "marginality."
9/22/2015	Workshop 2: Telling Our Story: Multiple Truths and Multiple Realities, Part Two This workshop introduces a technique called "serial testimony" to provide a structured way for people to tell their own stories of mattering and marginality and reflect on the connections between their own personal experiences and the experiences of People of Color and other people marginalized by race or ethnicity in their faith communities.
9/29/2015	Workshop 3: You Are How You've Lived: Exploring Individual and Group Identity This workshop builds on the reflective storytelling of "marginalizing and mattering" experiences and establishes a foundation for future discussions about race. Individually and in small and large groups, participants will explore the concept of identity, defined as "something without which you'd 'miss what being human is for you.'" Participants will further explore how a person's perspective on a situation or event might be influenced by their experiences and by the various identities they claim.
10/6/2015	Workshop 4: Exploring Your Multiple Identities In this workshop, participants share with partners their stories about a day in the life of someone whose racial/ethnic identity is "other," and reflect on the experience of composing them. Trying to view the world through the lens of a person with a different identity is a move toward developing what are called "multicultural competencies." Stereotypes and biases about certain racial/ethnic and other social group identities may emerge in the stories and pose a challenge for you and the participants. Should this happen, remember the covenant the group made together as you work to help participants identify examples of these biases without being judgmental of the people in whose stories they are present.

Leadership School in Your Pocket

The cluster is offering 3 Saturday, in-person, "Community of Practice" sessions which provide an environment that fosters deep conversation and sharing of ideas and insights. You will engage with case studies (where you can bring your "expertise" from your courses), reflect on your own grounding as a leader in small groups and create a small project with other leaders.

In-Person Dates:

Saturday, October 17: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday, November 21: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday, December 19: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Location: UU Church of Youngstown
1105 Elm St
Youngstown, OH 44505

Cost: \$30 / person covers food and materials for all 3 sessions (in addition to the \$30 enrollment fee for each online course).

Registration:

uuinstitute.uua.org/courses/uuli-oh-wacky-f2015/

Fall 2015 Offerings (\$30 / Course)

Leadership

Healthy Leadership 101

Leading Adaptively

Leading Change in Changing Times

Congregational Growth

Healthy Membership 110

Finding Your Best Stewardship Strategy

Marketing, Branding and Communicating

Small Congregations

Spiritual Growth

Building a Faithful UU Identity

UU History

Theological Plurality in Our Congregations

Process in Plurality

The Juicier Parts of the Hebrew Bible

www.uuinstitute.org

Ohio Meadville District News

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

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

UU Leadership Institute



The **innovation** is online.
The **transformation** is in person.

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



Parents of Young UU's meet at Fred
Fuller Park for food, fun, and fellowship.

