



Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

Once again this year we are participating in the *Soul Matters Sharing Circle*. This is a group of over 70 Unitarian Universalist congregations that collaborate in the creation of resource packets organized around our monthly worship themes. Any minister in the circle can contribute materials for the packet and all the congregations get to use the packet for their small group conversations and for inspiration in planning worship services. Each packet comes with an introductory essay. I usually write my own thoughts on the theme for the Chalice Flame, but this month I thought I'd give those of you haven't been a part of our small groups a taste of the extra goodness you get by participating. This is the opening essay of the October *Soul Matters Sharing Circle* packet of materials for exploration of the theme, *Letting Go*. I've got some things to say about this too, and I'll look forward to sharing them with you in church. And

if you are thinking about signing up to participate in one of our small group conversations this year, please don't forget that the deadline to register is October 4.

Peace,

We cling. You name it, we've wrapped our grasping fingers and anxious hearts around it: success, safety, society's standards of beauty, personal desires to be accepted, perfectionism, duty, fear, grudges, hurts, hopes, stuff, shame and privilege. Whether the object of our grasping is good or bad is not, as we learn, truly the issue. It's the grasping itself. That's the real problem. Holding on too long and too tightly is never good for the soul. So our faith pleads with us, "Let it go!"

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, Ohio 44240
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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

**Interim Director of
Religious Education:**

Karen LoBracco
dre@kentuu.org
Cell: 585-730-0686

DRE's Office Hours:

In Kent 11 days/month
Always available by email/phone

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



Saunis Parsons leads the congregation in song during her Sacred Song Circle service on September 6th

But here's the twist: Our faith follows that up quickly with "Let it in!" This spiritual dance takes a two-step. As Forrest Church puts it, letting go must be followed up by reaching out. Or maybe it's better to say opening up. Indeed, the tragedy of grasping so tightly is not simply that we anchor ourselves to that which burdens us, but that we end up shutting out that which is trying to save and feed us. Letting go is ultimately about letting in. It's really about making room.

And the great gift of Unitarian Universalism is its claim that this is what "salvation" is all about. With all due respect to our orthodox Christian brothers and sisters who see salvation as a process of becoming cleansed or purified, we join with those who see it as a journey of remaining open. To some the world may appear a place chock-full of temptations to keep out, but to us the world is full of gifts, second chances and new starts desperately trying to get in! However, because of our clinging, there is no room.

All of which means that letting go is really an act of faith. Yes, it takes strength, resolve, discipline and courage. But mostly it requires we believe that, once we release our grips, life will not leave us empty-handed.

So friends, do you believe? Do you trust that making room will be worth it? Do you have faith that letting go will be met with a life-giving coming in? This month, let's find out.

May we all be blessed by this spiritual two-step!

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

October 4 - Surrendering to the Way it Is

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer
and Worship Associate Justin Czekaj*

You have surely seen the Yiddish proverb about how we plan and God laughs. We get it because we know that life so often does not go according to our plans. When that happens, what might help us surrender to our new, unplanned realities?

October 11 - Grief and Loss

*Intern Minister Dave Clements
and Worship Associate Carolyn Schlemmer*

We all have experienced loss and grief in our lives. A loss of a loved one, a friend, a partner. This is the cycle of life. How do we learn to let go and continue on? We will explore together stories from the bible as well as modern day people who have learned to let go.

October 18 - It is All Temporary

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

One of Buddhism's central teachings is about impermanence. The Buddha said that impermanence is the nature of the human condition. What can we learn from Buddhism about being people who learn to let go?

October 25 - Releasing Resentment

*Rev. Christie Anderson
and Worship Associate Jeff Marsh*

We have all experienced mistreatment by others. The resulting anger and resentment, if left to fester, can negatively affect our mood or even impact our physical health. We will explore techniques for liberating ourselves from the clutches of resentment.

A Good Beginning

from Karen LoBracco



The new church year brought lots of excitement and a bit of chaos! Some of us are new – to the area, to the church, to a new role or group. Others of us anticipated sliding back into the routine, yet find the world is changing around us.

The September worship theme was Invitation, which asked me to ponder what I should add to my life. Now in October we consider Letting Go. Such is the Ying-Yang of life and of my work as your Interim Director of Religious Education. During this church year I will ask you to look at Kent UU with fresh eyes, eyes fixed on the future. In order to be the kind of congregation we are called to be, what changes do we invite in, what needs to be let go of, and what should be preserved for future generations?

The conversations and experiments will continue throughout the church year, but will start in a formal way on Tuesday, October 6, 6-9PM with a DRE Start-Up Workshop. You are invited to join the Religious Education Committee and me in a facilitated process to define responsibilities and establish priorities for the next 9 months. A light supper will be provided, so please RSVP to me so that we have adequate food.

Come, let us worship, learn and celebrate together!

Karen LoBracco
Interim Director of Religious Education
dre@kentuu.org; Cell: 585-730-0686

The RE Staff will be present to Welcome Families and Support Volunteers as follows:

Oct. 6 and 11 Karen LoBracco, Interim DRE
Oct. 18 and 25 Colleen Thoele, RE Assistant

Karen will be attending the Liberal Religious Educators Association Fall Conference and preceding LREDA Board of Trustees meetings October 19-26. During that week she will be on Study Leave to completely immerse herself in the learning experience.

Moderator's Musings

My thoughts this rainy fall morning center around how to help our congregation to be mission driven. I am greatly influenced by Dan Hotchkiss's article, "Handling the Buzz of Bright Ideas". With the abundance of bright ideas from our very energetic congregation, we hope that individuals know who to go to in the church leadership to ask for help in taking the next steps towards turning ideas into actual events or actions.

Any leader will first ask if your proposal fits into the mission, vision, and covenant of the church. A dialogue will develop to further articulate this connection.

Suggestions may be made to contact another individual or action group or even committee with the hope to mutually inspire, to connect, and to develop the volunteers needed to people the project, action, etc.

Who are these leaders that may be of service? Beyond Rev. Carvill-Ziemer and other staff members are the Board of Trustees, and Committee chairs. New this year and created by our new By-laws are the positions of ministry coordinators.

Here are the current coordinators:

Claudia Miller	Volunteer Ministries Coordinator
Vivian Sandland	Social Justice and Community Outreach Coordinator
Jennifer Gregg	Coordinator of UU, Interfaith, and Community Connections
Jack Graham	Personnel Coordinator



"When someone gets a new idea in your congregation, whom do they call? The clergy leader? A board member? Often it's the front-line office person—the executive director, secretary, or administrator—who handles the incoming stream of helpful hints, complaints, requests, suggestions, and reform proposals. The hum of bright ideas is a sign of life, part of the soundscape of a healthy congregation."

The hum is worthy of attention quite apart from the content of the ideas. If the hum rises to a roar, it may be a sign of discontent or conflict leaders need to address. If it subsides to an intermittent murmur, that can be a danger sign as well, indicating lack of interest or fear of conflict.

How does your congregation pay attention to the hum?"

~Dan Hotchkiss

I would answer: we pay attention when congregants contact lay leaders and we begin a dialogue.

Yours in faith,

Kathie Slater
Moderator, Board of Trustees



A Call for Proposals

from Andrew Rome

The Social Justice Council is now soliciting project proposals! The projects will be voted on in a church-wide process and the top project will be funded up to \$400.00!

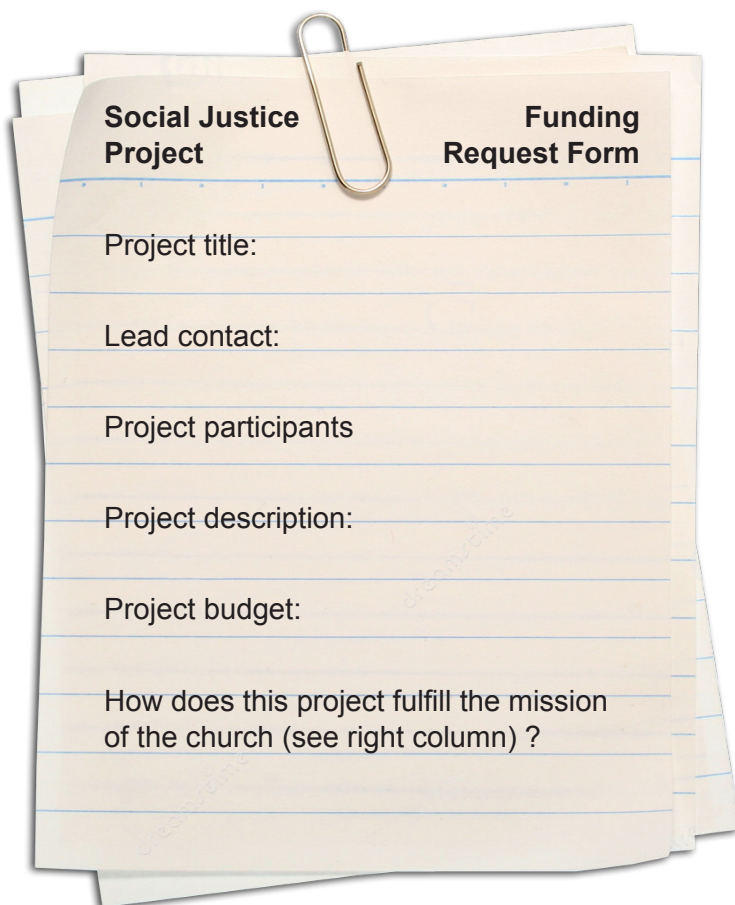
Projects can be submitted in any of the Social Justice task group areas:

Hunger & Poverty – (Elaine Bowen, chair)
Human Rights – (Lee Brooker, chair)
Environmental Justice – (Andrew Rome, chair)
Visioning Group for emerging issues -
(Sally Burnell, Ted & Swanny Voneida)

Projects must have a lead contact designated and at least 5 individuals signed up to work on the project, should it be selected. Proposals can be sent to the church office.

Social Justice Council funds are generated by the sale of Fair Trade products at social hour.

Deadline for submissions is NOVEMBER 1st.



Social Justice Project	Funding Request Form
Project title:	
Lead contact:	
Project participants	
Project description:	
Project budget:	
How does this project fulfill the mission of the church (see right column) ?	



UU've Got Talent, November 14

Starring: YOU!

In a not-to-miss event, the 3rd annual fall performance of "UU've Got Talent" will feature talented and beloved community members taking the stage.

ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE?

Are you on the set list?

Our community is growing and so is our talent. Our lineup includes some very special guests that you won't want to miss. Limited spots are available! Don't miss out - sign up now and be part of the fun! To reserve your spot, contact JR Campbell with a brief description of what you'd like to perform.

Not taking the stage? Mark your calendar and prepare to be entertained by your friends and family. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll be dazzled...you'll request an encore. Our singers and musicians want YOU in the audience.





You and your family are invited to

The 738th Annual UUCK Halloween Party and Haunted House!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24TH at 6:00 PM in Fessenden Hall

This is an all-ages event! Come in costume and have a spooky fun time. **Please bring a finger food to share that needs no silverware.** Games and crafts for all-ages!! Two versions of the **youth designed haunted house** to follow (one for the littles and one for the older crowd)

Please come and eat, drink and be scary! See you then!



Donations to cover costs gratefully accepted.



Introducing...

"Second Sunday Meet & Greet"

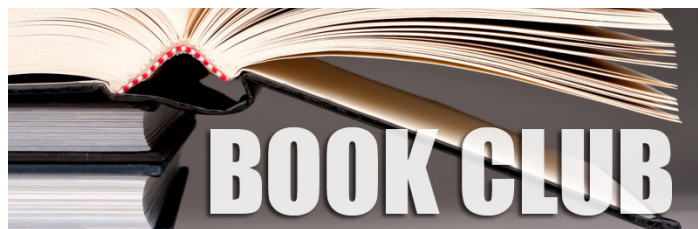
October 11th, 11:00am

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 (October 11th and every subsequent Second Sunday of each month). This is a family friendly event, so kids are welcome. Nursery care provided.



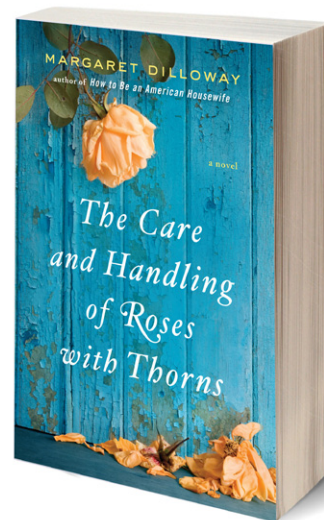
Andrea Case talks at the Climate Change panel discussion



The Care and Handling of Roses

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, October 13 at 6 pm in the home of Annie Brightbill in Navarre. Annie is cooking dinner for us so we will meet at the church at 5 pm to carpool. Please RSVP to Bonnie Harper so Annie will know how many guests to expect.

This month we are reading *The Care and Handling of Roses with Thorns* by Margaret Dilloway. Thirty-six-year-old Gal Garner lives a regimented life. Her job teaching biology and her struggle with kidney disease keep her toggling between the high school, the hospital, and her home on a strict schedule. Only at home, in her garden, does Gal come alive. It's here that she experiments with Hulthemia roses, painstakingly cross-pollinating various specimens in the hopes of creating a brand-new variation of spectacular beauty. But even her passion has a highly structured goal: Gal wants to win Queen of Show in a major competition and bring that rose to market. Then one afternoon Gal's teenaged niece Riley, the daughter of her estranged sister, arrives. Unannounced. Neither one of them will ever be the same.



In November we will be reading *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea.

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

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

General Assembly Coming to Columbus in 2016!

This year's General Assembly on June 22-26, 2016 will be held at the Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. The GA Planning Committee is now accepting proposals for GA workshops for 2016. While we are especially looking for proposals that address the 2016 theme *Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect*, we also seek strong workshop proposals for congregational leadership development and for multigenerational faith formation programming. The proposal deadline is 3pm EST, Monday, November 2, 2015.

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

