



Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

What do you expect will happen today? What do you expect next week will be like? How about next month or next year? Or then there is the standard interview question, "Where do you expect to be 5 years from now?" Is there a person who doesn't wake each morning with expectations of one kind or another? It seems only natural to begin each day anticipating a certain kind of life to unfold before us. Many days the unfolding more or less matches our expectations. The days that don't are often memorable for the joys and sorrows that rain down upon us unprepared. Even if we have a personal philosophy of expecting the unexpected, there is no good way to rehearse for the particularity of the unexpected moment.

With the winter holidays on the horizon, many of us live now in a time of heightened expectation. We make plans. We prepare to delight our children and to welcome our guests. Or we prepare for the loneliness that comes when the holidays are laced through with loss. Whatever it is we expect, we tend to the necessary preparations so that we will be ready. While we prepare, life unfolds as it will. Maybe it will match our expectations. Maybe not.

Whatever comes for you and yours this month, can you expect to hold on to hope? Whatever comes to all of us as global citizens this month, can you expect to hold on to hope? For inspiration, I offer you the words of the contemporary Chinese poet, Shu Ting:

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

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



*Perhaps these thoughts of ours
 will never find an audience
 Perhaps the mistaken road
 will end in a mistake
 Perhaps the lamps we light one at a time
 will be blown out, one at a time
 Perhaps the candles of our lives will gutter out
 without lighting a fire to warm us*

*Perhaps when all the tears have been shed
 the earth will be more fertile
 Perhaps when we sing praises to the sun
 the sun will praise us in return
 Perhaps these heavy burdens
 will strengthen our philosophy
 Perhaps when we weep for those in misery
 we must be silent about miseries of our own*

*Perhaps
 Because of our irresistible mission
 We have no choice*

I am looking forward to our month of worship services.
 I hope to see you in church.

Melissa

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

December 6 - The Weight and the Wait

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

This month we begin exploring the theme of expectation in our worship services. As our thoughts turn to the upcoming winter holidays, we will reflect together on the weight of expectation in a season of waiting.

December 13 - Are You Expecting Miracles?

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

Miracles feature in the central stories of both Hanukkah and Christmas. How can we understand what those miracles once meant? And how can we understand what it might mean for us to be expecting miracles now?

December 20 - Celtic Christmas Joy

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

Join us for our annual, multigenerational celebration of the season, which will once again feature a dramatic story adapted and directed by the oh-so-talented Sandy Eaglen. Our services will celebrate the joys of Celtic Christmas and Winter Solstice traditions that have influenced our own traditions. The lovely sounds of the Celtic Clan will be featured both services.

December 27 - Simple Peace

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

Come and drink in simple peace during this Taizé inspired service of song, meditation, silence and prayer. Taizé is an ecumenical, intercultural, monastic community in France. People from all over the world, young adults especially, have been inspired by the work and worship of the Taizé community. We will draw upon their worship form in this single service to end the year in simplicity and peace.

9:45
ONLY

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Dec 24

4:30 pm - Young Family Service

*Rev. Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke and
Religious Education Assistant Colleen Thoele*

This interactive service is designed especially for families with young children who are sure to be filled with wiggles and excitement. Dress your child in their Christmas finery or their Christmas pajamas – whichever will be more fun – and come join the celebration.

6:30 pm - Family Friendly Service

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer, Intern Minister Dave
Clements and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen*

Created with families of school aged children in mind, this service of lessons and carols features the beautiful music of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent Peace Choir, Bell Choir and Peace Pipers as well as uplifting story, candlelight and a chance to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

8:30 pm - Adult Oriented Service

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer, Intern Minister Dave
Clements and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen*

Created with adults and older teens in mind, this service of lessons and carols also features the beautiful music of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent Peace Choir, Bell Choir and Peace Pipers as well as inspiring poetry, candlelight and a chance to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.





Our Whole Lives (OWL) for more than Teens

December 6: 4th-6th Grade Parent meeting after second service. Learn about this comprehensive sexuality program which will be held Sunday afternoons beginning in January. Contact Jennifer May for more information.

December 14: 6:30pm Join other parents and caregivers in the Annex as we gather monthly with Interim DRE Karen LoBracco to explore topics covered in Junior High OWL. This runs concurrently with the OWL session and all are welcome to drop in.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Preschool Group at 9:45 service could use a regular helper 1-2 Sundays/month beginning in 2016. At the 11:30 service the Multi-Age Group (K-5th grade) would benefit greatly from 2 helpers willing to commit to 1 or 2 Sundays/month beginning in January. Contact Karen LoBracco or Colleen Thoele for more information about how you can get more play into your life.

Donations of Yoga Mats and Bath Towels

The 2nd Sunday of every month the 11:30 Multi-Age group engages in Yoga practice in Fessenden Hall. Having mats or towels to lie on would enhance the experience. If you have one to share or donate, please bring on Dec. 13. P.S. Multi-age means that even if you have finished Elementary School you are still invited to participate!

Finding the Balance

from Karen LoBracco

We are in the crazy time, when the messages from our culture are saying “More, More – Get Busy” and our earth rhythm whispers “Slow Down – Settle In”. It is OK to step away sometimes from our human constructed hectic pace to take a walk, reconnect with a friend or even slow cook a meal.

In faith communities we face similar dilemmas. A framework I have found useful is to recall the six distinct components to balanced programming in youth and children’s religious education:

- **Worship** – a time when we come together to affirm what is worthwhile and important.
- **Learning** – the continual process of asking questions, considering new ideas and sorting out what is relevant to our situation.
- **Leadership** – young and old we all are capable of leadership, be it in lighting the chalice, or in sharing our talents.
- **Fellowship** – closely related to Fun and Food, an acknowledgement that it is good to be together!
- **Social Action** – whether the focus is as local as cleaning our church or as global as climate change and human rights, we are all called to do something to make the world a better place.
- **Intergenerational Connections** – in a world that is so segregated by age, faith communities are one of the few places where multiple generations can interact and get to know each other.

This year the Religious Education Committee is viewing all of its activities with a multigenerational focus. I would love to hear your ideas about how we can intentionally welcome into participation persons of different generations into ALL the activities of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent!

In faith,

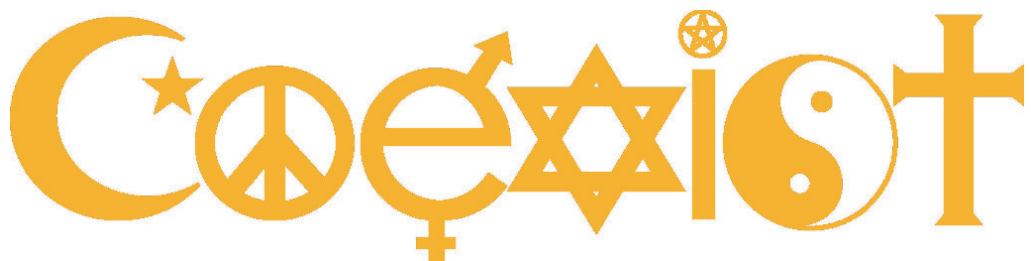
Karen LoBracco,
Interim Director of Religious Education

INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent was proud to host the Kent Interfaith Alliance for Reconciliation and Justice Prayer Service on 22 November, 2015. The service was created to bring the community together to share in the fear and pain evoked by global terrorist attacks and to join our voices together in a call for peace. The prayer service was open to the community and included representatives from 11 different faith traditions. The service was led by Rev. Christie Anderson, who is one of the group's co-conveners, along with Dr. L.A. Gatewood and Pastor Avery Danage.



Included in this photo are the leaders of the Kent Interfaith Alliance and all of the speakers in the service. **From left to right, back row:** Maralee Ash, Hare Kṛṣṇa; Dr. L.A. Gatewood, Spelman Chapel AME; Amanda Lamadanie, President of Kent State University Muslim Students Association; Pastor Avery Danage, United Church of Christ; **From left to right, front row:** Rabbi Lee Moore, Kent State University Hillel; Rev. Christie Anderson, Interfaith minister associated with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent; Pastor Julie Cory, First Christian Church of Kent; Surinder Bhardwaj, Hindu; Jim Geisey, Bahá'í; Fatima Shendy, Kent State University Muslim Students Association; Alice Hurd, United Methodist Church of Kent; Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer, Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent.

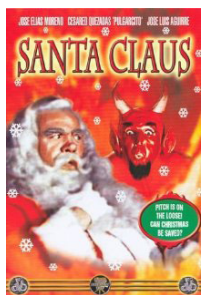


Our Annual Holiday Comedy Movie Night Returns

DECEMBER 12, IN FESSENDEN HALL

This time our family friendly movie night will be a pot luck with a full dinner as well as the show. Please bring whatever dishes you choose, perhaps that traditional Latka and applesauce combination, or Eggplant Parmesan, whatever you choose. However, many of our members have severe nut allergies, so please do not use recipes with nuts in them. We are sure to have many fine choices, and some special desserts too.

All our movies are for all ages. All are guaranteed to bring lots of laughter to all ages, from the youngest to the elders. So, bring your families, bring yourself, bring whomever you wish to bring.



We will begin with the meal, and sprinkle many, many funny holiday cartoons and short subjects in with the meal. These will include Oscar winning cartoons such as "Peace on Earth", "Flora" and "The Little Match Girl", cartoons which have become traditions themselves

at the U.U.C.K. We will then take a break, before going into one of our traditional movies, the 1962 Cinema Mexico classic "Santa Claus". In this full color extravaganza, Santa must stop silly sprite Pitch from ruining the Holidays for all the world's children. It is too big a job for Santa alone, so he gets help from friends like Merlin the Magician and Vulcan the blacksmith. There are plenty of songs, and children are encouraged to sing and dance along with the characters in the movie. We have plenty of surprises as well, so everyone will have a very good time. Our short subjects are not just about Christmas; we have plenty of fun with the many Holidays of the season. So, however you and your families may celebrate, we are sure you will have a great time at our Annual Holiday Movie Night.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Spoehr. Hope to see you there!



Make Your Own Yule Log

On Sunday, December 20 at 1pm we are offering the opportunity for you to make and decorate your own Yule Log. Intern Minister Dave Clements will provide the supplies and guide you in the process of creating your own Yule Log to add to your holiday celebrations. He will also share some blessings you might consider using when you light your Yule Log at home. These logs will be designed to hold candles, so a fireplace is not necessary.

Individuals, couples and families are all welcome to participate in this activity; couples and families can work together on creating their Yule Log. As supplies will need to be purchased, you must sign up by 12/16 if you'd like to participate. To sign up, please call or email the church office with the number of people who will be attending. We are requesting a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of supplies, but please don't let money be a barrier if you'd like to participate!



**SAVE THE DATE –
RE Teacher
and Volunteer Retreat**

Saturday, January 9

Food and Fellowship, Learning,
Worship, Leadership and more!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

In case you were not in church on November 22, the letter shared in the order of service is included on page 8 of this newsletter. Since it was written, we have received a few more pledges toward our capital campaign. We cannot thank you enough for your generous support of this once-in-a-generation endeavor. In addition to all the financial support, over 90 people have helped support the campaign with their personal efforts. That level of participation is a testament to our shared commitment to live into our vision!



You may remember that the Capital Campaign Team made several naming opportunities available as a part of this campaign. Previously we have announced that the new social hall will be named the Olive and Clinton Hobbs Hall and that the education and library wing of the new building will be named in memory of Dr. Gordon Vars, as designated by Rev. Renee and Randy Ruchotzke. On November 22 we shared four additional naming opportunities selected by members and friends and approved by our Board of Trustees. One of the new Religious Education classrooms will be named in honor of Rebecca Haines as designated by Brad Bolton

and Rev. Christie Anderson. The new library and meeting room will be named in memory of Bret Orsburn as designated by Heidi Shaffer and Kathy and Kevin Kerns. The walkway connecting the church and the new building will be named in memory of Heidrun Hultgren as designated by Dave and Diana Watt. And the gardens around the new building will be named by Mary Lou Holly. Mary Lou plans to honor the memory of her mother and her brother, but she wants to allow the project to unfold before choosing a permanent name. For now she has chosen as a placeholder name The Peaceable Kingdom Gardens.

We are very grateful to each of these donors for honoring another with these gifts. And we are grateful to each and every donor for their support in turning our dreams into reality.

Finally, please check the Capital Campaign Bulletin board to read a wonderful letter of support written by Rev. Kathleen Rolenz. Kathleen included the letter with her contribution to the capital campaign in gratitude for this congregation's role in her own life and with gratitude for our ongoing existence and with excitement for our future as a congregation.

Two Ways to Give to a Family in Need This Christmas

We have adopted a family of five for Christmas. If you would like to purchase a gift for the family please stop by the giving tree in Fessenden Hall and choose a specific gift. Please take the gold star with you and leave only the white star with your name and phone number so that we know which gift you have chosen to provide. All UNWRAPPED gifts need to be returned to the tree by December 13th.

We are also collecting new and unwrapped toys for Kent Social Services. You may leave a gift in the large marked box in Fessenden Hall. Gifts will be collected until December 13th.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF KENT ESTABLISHED 1866

Dear Members and Friends,

We are pleased to announce the results of our Capital campaign, *Realizing the Vision: Not for us Alone*. We embarked on this campaign to work toward our vision of creating new and better space for the church. Expanded space will provide us the room we need for current programming as well as open up new ways we can live out our church mission. The campaign was to raise funds for our proposed 3-phase project: Phase 1, construct a new building to hold a larger social hall, new kitchen, library, and 2 new RE rooms; Phase 2, renovate the basement of Fessenden for RE space; Phase 3, renovate the sanctuary.

We are very pleased and happy to announce that, as of this week, **we have raised over \$850,000** in donations and pledges to the campaign. These funds are in addition to money raised a few years ago that was used to purchase property for expansion. The new funds will allow us to complete Phase 1, and any money left over once that is completed will be put toward Phase 2. Raising these funds is an enormous accomplishment for our congregation of 200 members, and the new 5,000+ square foot building will greatly enhance space for church activities. We thank the congregation for their tremendous support, in both time (over 90 people have donated their time to the campaign) and treasure (over 115 pledges received). We are extremely grateful for the congregation's involvement and support.

As we move forward, there is more to do. The Building Expansion Team (BET) is working out details for the new building, with the stretch goal of having the **groundbreaking in late Spring 2016**. The BET will be in touch with the congregation as they proceed. Members and friends will be paying their pledges over the coming 3 years. And some members have plans to do additional fundraisers specifically for the Capital Campaign (contact Marion Yeagler and Kathy Kerns if you want to organize a fundraiser).

Please note that we have been working with projected costs for the project. Although we have projected the cost of Phase 1 as \$750,000 - 790,000, exact costs will not be known for some time. The BET has the difficult task of balancing requests for specific building features with cost containment. Appreciate that the more we spend on Phase 1, the less we have available for Phase 2 (costs for that could be \$150,000 - 200,000). We would like to remind everyone that the BET has been responsive to requests from the congregation, and **ask for your patience and understanding** as we finalize the new building. While there will be continual dialogue with the congregation, and efforts to accommodate requests where feasible, the BET is also charged with wise use of resources. Let's lighten their load by showing our faith in them and our gratitude for the challenging task they have undertaken for the congregation. Working together, we can build a new space that will make all of us proud.

Thank you everyone for your support! It has been our pleasure to work with the other members of the Capital Campaign team— Kay Eckman, Dave Smeltzer, Randy Leeson, and Melissa Carvill-Ziemer— to make this project happen for our church.

In faith and gratitude,

Marion Yeagler Kathy Kerns
Co-Chairs, 2015 Capital Campaign

Many, many thanks go to those who have donated and/or pledged to our Capital Campaign!

<i>Christie Anderson & Brad Bolton</i>	<i>Bonnie Graham Esparza</i>	<i>Georgia Quinn</i>
<i>Maralee Ash</i>	<i>Jennifer & Don Gregg</i>	<i>Rhonda Richardson</i>
<i>Bobbi & Dani Beale</i>	<i>Max Grubb & Shana Steinhouse</i>	<i>Arch & Susan Ritchie</i>
<i>Carolyn Behrman, Tim Matney & Family</i>	<i>Becky Haines</i>	<i>Kathleen Rolenz</i>
<i>Michelle Bores</i>	<i>MaryBeth Hannan</i>	<i>Amanda & Andrew Rome</i>
<i>Elaine & Bill Bowen</i>	<i>Bonnie Harper</i>	<i>Randy & Renee Ruchotzke</i>
<i>Sandy Bowers & Colleen Norris</i>	<i>Dan Hayes</i>	<i>Vivien Sandlund</i>
<i>Dina Braccio</i>	<i>Olive Hobbs</i>	<i>Carolyn Schlemmer</i>
<i>John & Judy Brannan</i>	<i>Mary Lou Holly</i>	<i>Jim Scott</i>
<i>Marion Brannan</i>	<i>Kat Holtz</i>	<i>Heidi Shaffer</i>
<i>Lee Brooker</i>	<i>Kim Homsher</i>	<i>Laura Sinclair</i>
<i>John & Barbara Brovarone</i>	<i>Larry Johnson</i>	<i>Joel & Kathie Slater</i>
<i>David Brown</i>	<i>Tanya Kahl & Eric Kline</i>	<i>Matthew & Lisa Slater</i>
<i>Linda Bunyan</i>	<i>Kathy & Kevin Kerns</i>	<i>Dave Smeltzer & Susanna Smart</i>
<i>Sally Burnell</i>	<i>Diane Kloss</i>	<i>DJ Smith</i>
<i>J.R. & Melissa Campbell</i>	<i>John & Martha Kluth</i>	<i>Fred Smith</i>
<i>Melissa Carvill Ziemer</i>	<i>David Krantz</i>	<i>Lisa Thiel & Tim Smith</i>
<i>Andrea Case</i>	<i>Ed & Jane Krimmer</i>	<i>Ed Stolish</i>
<i>Dave Clements</i>	<i>Trish Kwartler</i>	<i>Colleen & Brandon Thoele</i>
<i>Rebecca Cline</i>	<i>Sarah & Jeff Lang</i>	<i>Rod & Mary Thompson</i>
<i>Larry & Bev Cole</i>	<i>Randy & Mary Leeson</i>	<i>Paulette Thurman</i>
<i>Cara Constance</i>	<i>Karen LoBracco</i>	<i>Eric van Baars</i>
<i>Trudy Diehl</i>	<i>John & Kim Marfy</i>	<i>Ann VerWiebe</i>
<i>Sandy Eaglen</i>	<i>Jeff & Monica Marsh</i>	<i>Vanessa & Blaine Vesely</i>
<i>Don Easterling</i>	<i>Jennifer May & Lois Weir</i>	<i>Ted & Swanny Voneida</i>
<i>Kay Eckman</i>	<i>Trish McLoughlin</i>	<i>Hal Walker</i>
<i>Mark Eckman</i>	<i>Claudia Miller</i>	<i>Harold & Janet Walker, Jr.</i>
<i>Bill & Pat Eldredge</i>	<i>Patricia Miller</i>	<i>Theresa & Jennifer Walton-Fisette</i>
<i>Bob Erdman</i>	<i>Barbara Myers</i>	<i>Heather & Rob Waltz</i>
<i>Lori & Jo Fatchet-McGee</i>	<i>Benjamin & Deborah Newberry</i>	<i>Ann Waters</i>
<i>Saul Flanner & Kathy Walker</i>	<i>Harry & Jan Noden</i>	<i>Dave & Diana Watt</i>
<i>Dan & Alicia Flippo</i>	<i>Tim and Val Norfolk</i>	<i>Gene Wenninger & Cheryl Casper</i>
<i>Jill Forsman & Bruce Richards</i>	<i>Cari Orris</i>	<i>Julie Wilcox</i>
<i>Bonnie Fraser</i>	<i>Shannon Osorio</i>	<i>Kathy & Bill Wilen</i>
<i>Cal Frye & Phyllis Smith</i>	<i>Saunis Parsons</i>	<i>Stefanie Workman & Mike Hovancsek</i>
<i>Fred Gory & Noreen Kumm-Gory</i>	<i>Camille Pavicek-Fauser</i>	<i>Marion Yeagler</i>
<i>Carol Gould</i>	<i>Nicole Polster</i>	<i>Jessie Young & Angela Barzizza-Young</i>
<i>Jack Graham & Mary Ann Stephens</i>	<i>Susan Poole-Wilke</i>	<i>Nicole Zavodny</i>

Your support will help our Church fulfill our Vision . . .

. . .to expand our space to equal the energy of our dreams!

TransAtlantic by Colum McCann

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, December 8 at 7 pm in the home of Bonnie Harper. This month we are reading *TransAtlantic: A Novel* by Colum McCann.

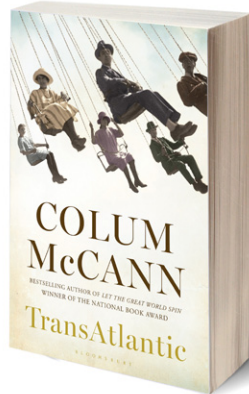
Newfoundland, 1919. Two aviators—Jack Alcock and Arthur Brown—set course for Ireland as they attempt the first nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean, placing their trust in a modified bomber to heal the wounds of the Great War.

Dublin, 1845 and '46. On an international lecture tour in support of his subversive autobiography, Frederick Douglass finds the Irish people sympathetic to the abolitionist cause—despite the fact that, as famine ravages the countryside, the poor suffer from hardships that are astonishing even to an American slave.

New York, 1998. Leaving behind a young wife and newborn child, Senator George Mitchell departs for Belfast, where it has fallen to him, the son of an Irish-American father and a Lebanese mother, to shepherd Northern Ireland's notoriously bitter and volatile peace talks to an uncertain conclusion.

These three iconic crossings are connected by a series of remarkable women whose personal stories are caught up in the swells of history. Beginning with Irish housemaid Lily Duggan, who crosses paths with Frederick Douglass, the novel follows her daughter and granddaughter, Emily and Lottie, and culminates in the present-day story of Hannah Carson, in whom all the hopes and failures of previous generations live on. From the loughs of Ireland to the flatlands of Missouri and the windswept coast of Newfoundland, their journeys mirror the progress and shape of history. They each learn that even the most unassuming moments of grace have a way of rippling through time, space, and memory.

In January we will be reading a biography or autobiography of your choice. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



Ohio Meadville District News

General Assembly Coming to Columbus, OH in 2016

This year's General Assembly on June 22-26, 2016 will be held at the Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

The theme for GA 2016 will be *Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect*. The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels—Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist—no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives.

General Assembly 2016 in Columbus Ohio will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all.

The Ware Lecturer will be Krista Tippett, host of NPR's *On Being*.

Registration will open early March 2016.

Details on uua.org/ga.


For more OMD news, visit:

ohiomeadville.org/news



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

the flame
chalice



NEWSLETTER
OF THE
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH
OF KENT

228 GOUGLER
KENT, OH
44240