



## Monthly Musings from [Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer](#)

**T**here was a time in my early 20's when I was really focused on practicing simplicity. I didn't have many possessions then and decided I wanted to get a bookcase. Then I decided I wanted to build it myself. I didn't let the fact that I had exactly one high school class's worth of experience in woodworking deter me. I went to the lumber yard and picked out some wood, bought some nails and sandpaper and got to work. How hard could it be? The answer is that it was much harder than I thought! I hadn't really understood how to pick the right wood for my project nor did I consider that screws would be a better fastener than nails. And sanding a whole bookcase by hand turned out to take much longer than I imagined. The end result of my efforts was a heavy, slightly tippy and very rough looking small bookcase.

I learned from that effort not to underestimate the skills that simplicity sometimes requires.

I've been thinking about the skills simplicity requires again recently after taking an inventory measuring spiritual maturity. A Unitarian Universalist consulting group I respect has developed an inventory called Spirit Map which can be used for measuring spiritual maturity in individuals and congregations. I took the test myself in order to evaluate it as a potential tool for our congregational use. The results offer a window into a person's or a congregation's greatest strengths and greatest opportunities in the cultivation of spiritual maturity.

One of the opportunities my results suggested I focus on is celebrating the little joyful moments

**Sunday Services**

9:45 and 11:30 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240  
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Tuesday - Friday  
By appointment

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**Office hours:**

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**Deadline:**

The 20th of each month

POSITION  
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of life as fully as the big ones. I thought about this the other day sitting with my son in the backyard blowing bubbles for him to pop. After a while, I found myself growing bored of blowing bubbles. But then I remembered the suggestion to focus on celebrating the little moments. And as I did that, I remembered that it won't be long before my children aren't interested in chasing bubbles in the backyard with me. And with those thoughts, I settled in with greater gratitude for the joy of the moment. Simplicity isn't simple. It takes intention and it also takes skill.

Join us this month as we remind ourselves about the value of simplicity and the skills that contribute to its practice.

In faith,

*Melissa*





## UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

### June 5 - Simple Gifts

*Interim Director of Religious Education, Karen LoBracco  
and Religious Education Leaders*

This is our annual RE Sunday - a time to celebrate with our children and youth their experiences in religious education this year, salute our HS graduate, and express our appreciation for the fabulous volunteers that make it all possible. Join us for special music and 2 unique worship experiences.

### June 12 - Simple Idealism

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer  
and Worship Associate Andrew Rome*



In the mid 19th century, Unitarians and Universalists started and became involved in a number of intentional utopian communities. Often these communities began simply because the founders wanted to find a way to enact their lofty ideals. What can we learn from their efforts in our own attempts to build and sustain community?

**We will have one service only today and it will begin at 9:45 at Plum Creek Park in Kent.** Please bring a lawn chair or a blanket to sit on, sun screen or insect repellent and plan to stay for the morning. The service will be followed by an old-fashioned picnic to celebrate our church's 150th anniversary. Please bring something to share in the potluck picnic lunch. We'll enjoy homemade root beer and ice cream. Afterwards, we'll have the opportunity to participate in games and activities of the 1800's. If you wish, you may dress in the clothing styles of the 1860's. If you'd like to help with this event, please contact Mary Leeson.

### June 19 - Plain and Simple

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer  
and Worship Associate Lisa Thiel*

Simplicity is not only a pleasant practice, it may well be an antidote to some of the soul sickness of our own time. One of the simple rituals Unitarian Universalists keep is an annual Flower Ceremony. With this ceremony we celebrate the beauty of unity in diversity. Please bring a stem or two of any flower that appeals to you with you to the service this morning.

We will also have the joy of celebrating baby dedications during our services today. Mike Hovancsek and Stefanie Workman look forward to the dedication ceremony for Katherine during first service and Melissa and Evin Carvill Ziemer look forward to the ceremony for Owen during the second service.

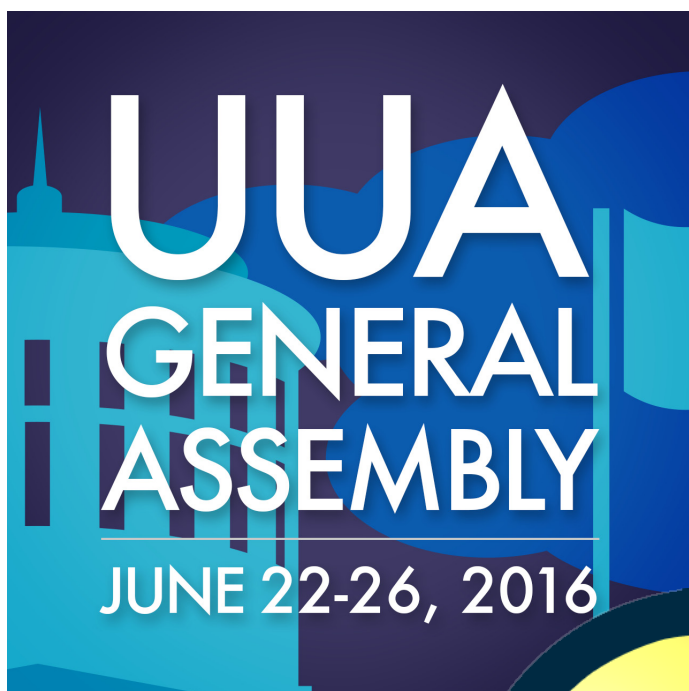
### June 26 - 'Tis a Gift to Be Simple

*Worship Associate Andrew Rome*



Busy! Busy! Busy! We often add new layers of complexity to our lives, turning joyful activities into burdens. Let's stop to enjoy a simple service. We'll reflect on creating simplicity in our lives and try to experience a pause in the world's chaotic energy.

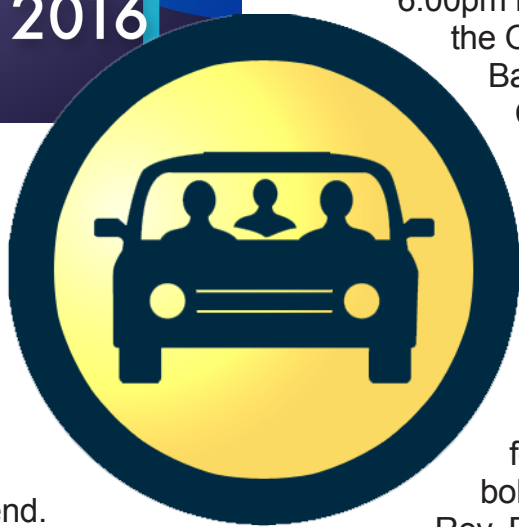




## Carpool to General Assembly?

The annual Unitarian Universalist General Assembly will be in Columbus this year. We are excited to have almost a dozen members of our congregation registered to attend. If you are considering attending but aren't able to go for the whole time, one day registration is an option for \$150.

If the cost of attending or the challenge of traveling on your own are obstacles, I'd like to encourage you to consider attending the free General Assembly events scheduled for Sunday, June 26. The Sunday morning General Assembly worship service begins at 10:30 am and is open to the public without advance registration. In addition, the exhibit hall is free and open to the public on Sunday afternoon. The Sunday morning GA worship is always a highlight of the experience and a trip to the exhibit hall is a wonderful opportunity to connect with a wide variety of resource, opportunities, vendors and other sources of inspiration.



If we have enough people interested, we could arrange for a carpool or vanpool or maybe even a small bus to take people from Kent to Columbus and back on Sunday, 6/26. Please call or email the church office to indicate your interest in participating in a one day trip to GA on Sunday 6/26 by Monday, June 13. If there is sufficient interest, we will be happy to help coordinate logistics.

Alternatively, you might consider going to Columbus on Thursday, June 23 for the General Assembly Public Witness event called State of Emergence: Faith Filled People Rally for Racial Justice. The rally will be held from 5:00-

6:00pm in Columbus on the steps of the Ohio State House [rain location Batelle Room at Columbus

Convention Center]. This is an opportunity to gather with Unitarian Universalists, in collaboration with the Ohio Student Association, the People's Justice Project, UU Justice Ohio and our multi-faith partners, for an interfaith event focusing on truth telling, fortification and commitment to boldly work for Black liberation. Join

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, Lena K.

Gardner, Alicia Garza, Dr. Melissa Harris Perry, President Rev. Peter Morales, and other Movement for Black Lives and multifaith leaders for this year's Public Witness.

After the public witness, have dinner and then stay for the Service of the Living Tradition, which is free and open to the public. The Service of the Living Tradition begins at 7:30 pm in the convention center hall D. The Service of the Living Tradition is one of the highlights of the GA experience. Senior Minister to First Unitarian Church in Portland, OR and former president of the UUA, Rev. Dr. Bill Sinkford, will be preaching.

Again, if there is enough interest, we are happy to help arrange a carpool. Please contact the office to let us know if you'd like to attend by Monday, June 13.

## The Work of the MET

You may recall that the bylaws we adopted last year formalized the operation of the MET, the Ministry Executive Team. While the Board of Trustees is primarily responsible for overseeing the governance of the congregation, the MET is primarily responsible for overseeing the ministry operations of the congregation. In practice this means that the Board works on things like establishing policy, assessing our efforts to practice our mission and vision, and overseeing the financial health of the congregation while the MET works on matters that relate to our day-to-day practice of our ministry. This includes things like ensuring that repairs to the building and grounds are made in a timely fashion, applying policies the Board has established in various areas of church life, reviewing rental contracts, administering the Lay Leadership Development Fund, and overseeing the process of hiring and terminating staff (though with our fantastic staff we can't imagine the latter!). Whereas the Board's work is to stand on the balcony of church life as often as possible, the work of the MET is to be down helping make sure everything goes smoothly on the dance floor.

The MET is made up of the Minister, the Congregational Administrator, the Treasurer and a former Moderator. The people currently occupying those roles are Rev. Melissa, MaryBeth Hannan, Sandy Eaglen, and Elaine Bowen, respectively. The MET does its work in cooperation and collaboration with five Coordinators. The following Coordinators oversee particular ministries in congregational life:

**Jack Graham** – Personnel Coordinator

**Jennifer Gregg** – UU, Interfaith, and Community Connections Coordinator

**Claudia Miller** – Volunteer Coordinator

**Georgia Quinn** – Buildings and Grounds Coordinator

**Vivien Sandlund** – Social Justice Coordinator

You can learn more about our Ministry Coordinators and their roles on our website at <https://kentuu.org/ministry/ministry-coordinators/>

In addition to our work with the Ministry Coordinators, the MET also works with Committees on occasion. For example, the MET makes the first pass at drafting a budget for the Finance Committee's annual work of preparing a budget to send to the Board. The job of the MET and the Finance Committee is to thoughtfully craft a budget that reflects our values. In order to do this work, the MET and the Finance Committee look closely at Committee requests,

historical spending and revenue patterns, and fair compensation recommendations from our Personnel Coordinator. The Board reviews the budget drafted by the MET and Finance Committee with eyes on both mission and long-term financial health. The Board may make modifications to the budget in light of their vantage point; the Board-adopted budget is then presented to the congregation at our Annual Meeting. And, of course, the congregation has the final say in adopting (or not) that budget for the next church year. This one example is a good window into the practice of cooperation and collaboration we do within our defined roles.

In addition to these roles, the MET is available to respond to individual concerns. Lay leaders and staff are the first place to go with questions or feedback, but if the appropriate leader of any particular ministry area can't answer a question, chances are good the MET will be able to help. We meet formally monthly and are in regular contact throughout the month as situations arise that require our attention. The MET takes formal minutes of its meetings and reports verbally to the Board at the monthly Board meetings. If you have any questions or comments about our work, please don't hesitate to contact us.







## Get Ready to Travel the World!

from Karen LoBracco

Well, the destinations have been selected, the itineraries decided upon, the passports updated, and now we're anxious to begin our summer journey. We plan to have a LOT of fun adventures and experiences, with some learning cleverly woven in. The UU World Travelers Summer Program begins June 19 at 9:45am and continues through August 14.

We've discovered a little known fact: about the upcoming Summer Program: all the adults and families who have signed up to lead tours are just as enthusiastic as the kids! So the Religious Education Committee really hopes that lots of kids and youth plan to attend RE this summer, in between "real" vacation travel and adventure, of course!

Here is how the summer will work:

**9:30-9:45** All children in Preschool – 5th Grade this year, plus any Middle and High School youth who wish to volunteer as Helpers, sign in at RE Welcome Table and get a nametag. Then take a seat in the sanctuary.

**9:45-9:55** Participate in the opening portion of the worship service. The children and volunteers will be sung out after the doxology. As a group we will process down to Fessenden Hall for the program.

**9:55-10:45** World Travelers program in Fessenden Hall. Parents pick up children downstairs.

Listed below are the countries and tour guides. In addition we need at least 2 assistants each Sunday (no experience required). Sign-up on the RE bulletin board in Fessenden or contact RE Assistant Colleen Thoele.

Date	Country	Tour Guide(s)
June 19	Costa Rica	Beale Family
June 26	Morocco	Rhonda Richardson
July 3	Japan	Saunis Parsons
July 10	Dominican Republic	Warren Synecki
July 17	Russia	Barzizza-Young Family
July 24	Spain	Dana Wakefield
July 31	Egypt	Kerns Family
August 7	Greece	Sandy Eaglen
August 14	Welcome Home!	RE Committee

## Super Organizer(s) Needed for RE Storage Room

The good news is that all the fabulous art and craft supplies that have been assembled over the years are being gathered in one central location. This will make it MUCH easier to locate and use all we have. What is needed is a person or small group who approach organizing and labeling as a Spiritual Practice! Work at your own pace and schedule in June and July. All ages/stages are invited to speak with the RE staff, either Karen LoBracco or Colleen Thoele. Volunteer for the summer and receive the gratitude of RE volunteers for years to come!

## Summer SPIRIT PLAY Training opportunity

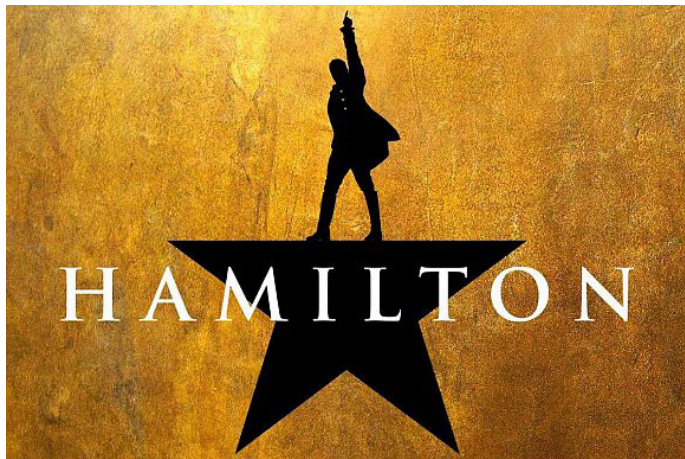
Next church year Spirit Play will be returning to the Preschool-Kindergarten class! This acclaimed Montessori-based program is structured to allow children to approach spirituality in a child-centered, hands on manner. The annual conference and a training will be held in Racine, Wisconsin August 4-6. Details are at <http://www.spirit-play.com/spirit-play-conference-2016.html>. Trained leader and RE Committee chairperson Mary Leeson would love to talk to anyone about this program.



## All Church Picnic... 1860's Style!

Please save the date - our annual church picnic is June 12. This year we're holding an old-fashioned picnic to celebrate our church's 150th anniversary. We'll gather at Plum Creek Park, in Kent, for a church service and pot-luck picnic lunch. We'll enjoy home-made root beer and ice cream. Afterwards, we'll have the opportunity to participate in games and activities of the 1800's. If you wish, you may dress in the clothing styles of the 1860's.

If you'd like to help with this event, please contact Mary Leeson.



## Hamilton, Hip Hop and the Hype

Have you been curious about Lin-Manuel Miranda's smash Broadway musical Hamilton? Tickets are next-to-impossible to find, yet school children (and adults) around the country have been memorizing the soundtrack. Though the setting is more than 200 years old, the musical speaks to current issues of race, class and political power. The music includes not just rap, but boogie-woogie, blues, lush choral harmonies, as well as razzmatazz show tunes.

Since it will be a long time before Hamilton comes to Northeast Ohio, Rev. Renee Ruchotzke is hosting a Hamilton listening party (with some visual elements) for those who are interested.

Wednesday, June 8, 7pm in the UU Church Sanctuary.



## New and Improved Social Hour a Rousing Success

As the facilitator for May Social Hour, I would like to thank all the volunteers who together provided a much more welcoming environment for our guests and the congregation. They include the coffee, tea and juice makers....Kathie Slater, Joel Slater, and myself. Food providers....Sarah and Jeff Lang, Jennifer Gregg, Andrea Case, Lisa Slater, Becky Cline, Kathie Slater, and myself. Hosts....Andrea Case, Matt Slater and myself. Craft Activity Leaders....the Rome Family all 4 weeks! Cleanup....Joel Slater, Dan Hayes, Andrew Rome, Randy Ruchotzke, and Wendy Mann. It was a pleasure working with you all! Thank you again!

Marion Yeagler

## Six Weeks with Only One Service

Beginning Sunday, June 26 and continuing through Sunday, July 31, we will have one service only at 9:45 am. Religious Education will be concurrent with the single service. We will resume our regular two service schedule on Sunday, August 7.

## Children's & Family Library Focus from Dan Hayes

The library is pleased to announce a new subject matter, volumes for child care and expectant parents. There is a volume on children's medicines, a manual on breast-feeding, and even a guide to changing diapers. We expect a brisk circulation. Any new volumes are welcome.





## Kent Social Service Food Focus for June

Sincere gratitude for your on-going donations to our food baskets for KSS! They have greatly appreciated all the cereal donations which is a constant need. Per the Food Pantry, 2 current focus needs are rice (ANY kind) and canned fruit - mandarin oranges, peaches, pears, pineapple, mixed fruit but NOT applesauce. Let's see what we can do to help during the month of June. Baskets for donations are in the lower level closet by the elevator and on the sanctuary level just outside the elevator. If grocery shopping is not your \*thing\*, Acme gift card donations may be made at the grocery card table in Fessenden Hall between services.

Thank you in advance for your generosity of RICE and CANNED FRUIT.

Elaine Bowen

## We Hunger For Justice - July 2016

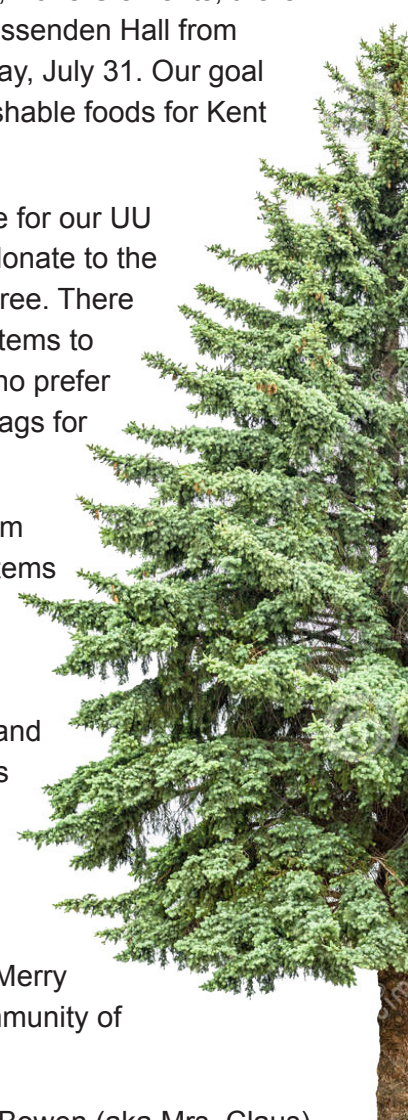
July is "We Hunger for Justice" month in commemoration and celebration of the UU Church of Kent's 150th Anniversary. Helping those of our wider community in need is part of our caring history and a reality of our present and future.

Recalling our late December message of "Christmas in July" by our Intern Minister, Dave Clements, there will be a Christmas tree in Fessenden Hall from Sunday, July 3 through Sunday, July 31. Our goal is to collect 150# of non-perishable foods for Kent Social Services.

There will be tags on the tree for our UU elves (YOUU) to select and donate to the gift wrapped box next to the tree. There will be a wide assortment of items to choose from and for those who prefer to not shop, there will be 15 tags for \$10 Acme gift cards.

Please select a tag (or 2) from the tree and return both the items and the tag to church by no later than Sunday, July 31. July is a busy month with vacations, Summer Institute and many other comings & goings as well as only one service at 9:45 am during the month. Sadly, hunger takes no time off from its affect on children and families. Let's make it a Merry Christmas in July for our community of neighbors in need..

Elaine Bowen (aka Mrs. Claus)



**WORDS  
TO  
LIVE  
BY**

*"Hunger is not an issue of charity. It is an issue of justice."*

~ Jacques Diouf



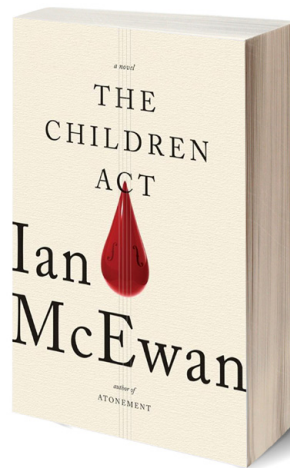
## The Children Act

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Thursday, June 9 at 7 pm in Founder's Lounge at church. Please bring a small snack to share and bring your own beverage.

This month we are reading *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan.

Fiona Maye is a leading High Court judge, presiding over cases in the family court. She is renowned for her fierce intelligence, exactitude and sensitivity. But her professional success belies private sorrow and domestic strife. There is the lingering regret of her childlessness, and now, her marriage of thirty years is in crisis. At the same time, she is called on to try an urgent case: for religious reasons, a beautiful seventeen-year-old boy, Adam, is refusing the medical treatment that could save his life, and his devout parents share his wishes. Time is running out. Should the secular court overrule sincerely held faith? In the course of reaching a decision Fiona visits Adam in hospital - an encounter which stirs long-buried feelings in her and powerful new emotions in the boy. Her judgment has momentous consequences for them both.

In July we will be reading *Flapper: A Madcap Story of Sex, Style, Celebrity, and the Women Who Made America Modern* by Joshua Zeitz. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



## Simple Gifts

### Kathie Slater

in honor of the Ohio Meadville District which for sixty years inspired, served and sustained our congregations and many others

### Mark Stephens

### Nancy & Jim Vanderstein

in honor of Lori Fatchet-McGee

Our Simple Gifts program is designed to encourage everyday giving. If members and friends of the congregation continue to remember the church with regular gifts, we will be well on our way to building the kind of endowment that can help ensure our congregation's continuing health and vitality.

No gift is too small or too large. Donations can be made in celebration, in honor of someone or something, in appreciation or to note a special occasion. If you would like to participate, the blue Simple Gift envelopes can be found in the pews; please include your dedication and name so we can provide you with a donation credit. Thank you.



## Last Chance!

Next month, I will be relinquishing the reins of The Chalice Flame to another worthy soul. The issue you're reading now is to be my final issue.

If you have an interest in document layout and design, and want to serve and feel more connected to your church community, this is a great opportunity for you. If interested, please contact MaryBeth, [churchoffice@kentuu.org](mailto:churchoffice@kentuu.org), for more details.





For a complete and up-to-date calendar, please visit [www.localendar.com/public/uukent](http://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 chalice flame**

NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH  
OF KENT

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