

*The Gift
of
Presence*

29 December 2024
Lori Mirkin-McGee, CLM
Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

The Gift of Presence

Order of Service: 11:00 AM

December 29, 2024

When you love someone, the best thing you can offer is your presence. How can you love if you are not there? The most precious gift we can offer others is our presence. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers.

--Thich Nhat Hanh

Gathering

Music for Gathering

Welcome

Lori Mirkin-McGee, CLM
Worship Leader

Chime

Prelude

To See the World
words by William Blake, music by Edvard Grieg
Vanessa Vesely, piano Diane Cardew, vocals

Call to Worship

Elaine Bowen, Worship Associate

Chalice Lighting

To Remind Ourselves What is Real
by Elena Westbrook

Opening Hymn

#6 Just as Long as I Have Breath
lyrics by Alicia S. Carpenter, ©1981;
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Diane Cardew, Hymn Leader

Time for All Ages

The Hanukkah Hamster
by Michelle Markel, illustrated by Andre Ceolin
read by Elaine Bowen

Reflecting

Holding One Another in Care and Compassion

*A time of silence, sharing our sorrows and losses,
pastoral prayer, and sharing our joys, wonder and awe*

Music Meditation *Filled with Loving Kindness*
trad Buddhist meditation, music by Ian Riddell, adapt. Mark Hayes
Vanessa Vesely, piano Diane Cardew, vocals

Reading *Living in the Moment: 10 Paths to Presence*
by Saiisha

Reflection Hymn #16 *'Tis a Gift to Be Simple*

Homily *The Gift of Presence*
Lori Mirkin-McGee

Returning

Offering *Ordinary Miracles*
by Alan Bergman, Marilyn Bergman, and Marvin Hamlisch
Vanessa Vesely, piano Diane Cardew, vocals

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of
community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until
we are together again.

Closing Hymn #1009 *Meditation on Breathing*

Benediction *Calling Us Home*
by Rev. Scott Tayler



Next Sunday, January 5, 2025

9:15 AM, an all-ages Worship
Led by Rev. Kristina Church and DRE Colleen Thoele with
Music Director Emily Hall

10:00 AM Lifespan Religious Exploration
and Social Hour in Hobbs Hall

11:00 AM, a traditional worship service
Led by Rev. Kristina Church and DRE Colleen Thoele with
Music Director Emily Hall

Activities & Events: Dec. 29 – Jan. 5, 2024

<https://kentuu.org/calendar>

kentuu.org/news/announcements-events

Dec. 29 Sunday

11:00 AM Worship – One service only

Dec. 30 Monday

7:30 AM Rental: Hobbs Hall Kitchen

Dec. 31 Tuesday

Jan. 1 Wednesday

Happy New Year

Jan. 2 Thursday

Jan. 3 Friday

5:15 PM Hobbs Hall Market set up

7:00 PM Drumming Circle

Jan. 4 Saturday

6:00 AM Rental Hobbs Hall Kitchen

8:00 AM Rental: Hobbs Hall & Kitchen

2:00 PM Hobbs Hall reset

Jan. 5 Sunday

9:15 AM Worship

10:00 AM Small Groups & Social Hour

11:00 AM Worship

5:00 PM Community Meal

Church Address: Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent
228 Gougler Avenue, Kent, OH 44240

Office – 330.673.4247

Email – churchoffice@kentuu.org

On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent

Church Office: The church office is located in the Eldredge Annex
(yellow house) next to the church building



CHURCH STAFF

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Congregational Administrator
Dir. of Religious Education
Director of Music Ministries
Accompanist
Campus Use Manager
Nursery Staff
Sexton
Tech Manager
Affiliated Community Minister
Affiliated Community Minister
Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)
Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

Rev. Kristina Church
MaryBeth Hannan
Colleen Thoel
Emily Hall
Vanessa Vesely
Katie Kuras
Michelle Bores
Brian Mulloy
Julie Swango
Rev. Renee Ruchotzke
Rev. Christie Anderson
Lori Mirkin-McGee
Kathy Kerns

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#6 *Just as Long as I Have Breath*

Just as long as I have breath, I must answer, "Yes," to life;
though with pain I made my way, still with hope I meet each day.
If they ask what I did well, tell them I said, "Yes," to life.

Just as long as vision lasts, I must answer, "Yes," to truth;
in my dream and in my dark, always that elusive spark.
If they ask what I did well, tell them I said, "Yes," to truth.

Just as long as my heart beats, I must answer, "Yes," to love;
disappointment pierced me through, still I kept on loving you.
If they ask what I did best, tell them I said, "Yes," to love.

#16 *'Tis a Gift to Be Simple*

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free,
'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

#1009 *Meditation on Breathing*

When I breathe in,
I'll breathe in peace.
When I breathe out,
I'll breathe out love.

Breathe in, Breathe out,
Breathe in, Breathe out