

My America Is . . .



5 July 2026
Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

My America Is . . .

Order of Service

July 5, 2026, 11:00 AM

"I love America more than any other country in the world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually."

-James Baldwin

Gathering

Music for Gathering	Holly Rivers, piano
Welcome	Heidi Sumser, Worship Associate
Chime	
Prelude	<i>This Land is Your Land</i> by Woody Guthrie (1940) led by singers from the Justice Choir of Northeast Ohio Holly Rivers, director
Opening Words	Henri Stevens, Worship Co-Leader
Chalice Lighting	
Musical Reflection	<i>Shenandoah</i> Chris Hook and Emily Hall, vocals Vanessa Vesely, piano
Time for All Ages	Chris Hook, Worship Co-Leader

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	<i>Hard Times Come Again No More</i> by Stephen Foster (1854) sung by Henri Stevens
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Reflection #1	Holly Rivers
Reflection #2	Julie Swango
Reflection Hymn	<i>This is What Democracy Looks Like</i> by Elizabeth Alexander Holly Rivers, song leader and piano
Reflection #3	Chris Hook
Reflection #4	Colemann Packer
Reflection #5	Henri Stevens

Returning

Offering	Heidi Sumser
Offertory	<i>Peace In Our Hearts</i> by Eliza Gilkyson Justice Choir of Northeastern Ohio and Kent UU Peace Chorus Vanessa Vesely, piano; Emily Hall, guitar
Extinguishing the Chalice	Henri Stevens
We extinguish this flame, but not the light of liberty, the warmth of equality, or the fire of commitment. Let our beacon glow with world-wide welcome until this land is made for you, me, and everyone.	
Closing Hymn	<i>#121 We'll Build a Land</i>
Benediction	

Summer service schedule: one service at 11:00 AM in Hobbs Hall.

Next Sunday, July 12, 2026
 Feel Something, Make Something
 Led by Kate Starks, Malachi Stevens, Susan Herrera and friends

- Sunday, July 5
 - 10:00 AM - Adult Reflection Circles
 - 11:00 AM - Worship: GA Sunday Closing Worship
 - 12:30 PM - Worship Arts Team
 - 5:00 PM - UUYJ Community Meal
- Wednesday, July 8
 - 4:30 PM - Knitting, Crochet, and Needle Point
- Saturday, July 11
 - 12:00 PM - Kids on Bikes RPG Gaming Group
- Sunday, July 12
 - 10:00 AM - Adult Reflection Circles
 - 11:00 AM - Worship: The Power of Shared Ministry
 - 12:00 PM - Social Hour

What's Happening? see kentuu.org/posts/ for details



Next Sunday, July 12
Feel Something, Make Something
Led by Kate Starks, Malachi Stevens,
Susan Herrera and friends
11 AM in Hobbs Hall



Sunday, July 5
UUYJ Community Meal
5:00PM in Hobbs Hall – All are welcome.
Dessert donations are especially appreciated.



Meals for Viv

UU Church of Kent member, Viv Sandlund, is in need of "meals support" from our community of helping hearts.
Sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/53thzyrh> Thank you!



This Land is Your Land, by Woody Guthrie

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
I saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me.

I roamed and I rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
While all around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking I saw a sign there
And on the sign it said "No Trespassing."
But on the other side it didn't say nothing,
That side was made for you and me.

In the squares of the city, In the shadow of a steeple;
By the relief office, I'd seen my people.
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking,
Is this land made for you and me?

This is What Democracy Looks Like, by Elizabeth Alexander

ONE: We see that there's a wrong to be righted.
TWO: We know that we are stronger when united.
THREE: We exercise our right to assemble.
FOUR: That's when the proud and mighty start to tremble.
Just in case you're wonderin',
Just in case you're wonderin',
Just in case you're wonderin',
Hey, hey, look this way!

This is what democracy looks like.
(Show me what democracy looks like!)
This is what democracy looks like.
(Show me what democracy looks like!)
This is what democracy looks like.
(Show me what democracy looks like!)
This is what democracy looks like.
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

#121, *We'll Build a Land*

We'll build a land where we bind up the broken.
We'll build a land where the captives go free,
where the oil of gladness dissolves all mourning.
Oh, we'll build a promised land that can be.

Come build a land where sisters and brothers,
filled by the Spirit, may then create peace:
where justice shall roll down like waters,
and peace like an ever flowing stream.

We'll build a land where we bring the good tidings
to all the afflicted and all those who mourn.
And we'll give them garlands instead of ashes.
Oh, we'll build a land where peace is born.

Come build a land where sisters and brothers,
filled by the Spirit, may then create peace:
where justice shall roll down like waters,
and peace like an ever flowing stream.

We'll be a land building up ancient cities,
raising up devastations from old;
restoring ruins of generations.
Oh, we'll build a land of people so bold.

Come build a land where sisters and brothers,
filled by the Spirit, may then create peace:
where justice shall roll down like waters,
and peace like an ever flowing stream.

Come, build a land where the mantles of praises
resound from spirits once faint and once weak;
where like oaks of righteousness stand her people.
Oh, come build the land, my people we seek.

Come build a land where sisters and brothers,
filled by the Spirit, may then create peace:
where justice shall roll down like waters,
and peace like an ever flowing stream.