

Former participants have said:

“Facilitating and participating in a small group was the most powerful spiritual experience I’ve had in my 8 years as a member of the congregation.”

“Fitting in one more thing was tough but I never missed a meeting and always left energized.”

“Loved the service project! It worked ideally for our group — good discussion to select project, felt helpful to church, increased our bonding, and was a new conversation starter as we run into each other.”

“I discovered new things about people I thought I knew.”

“Creating sacred space allows magic to happen between people.”

“I feel like I have a deeper connection to others in our group and I’m not sure that would have ever happened without the format of the SGM.”

“The service project was great. It helped the group become closer. It allowed us to give some thing back to the church. We can see the results of our efforts.”

The shared ministry of Chalice Groups provides opportunities:

To know and be known

To engage, support, and nurture each other

To explore questions that matter with people who care

To grow our souls

To complement and enhance our church experience

To encourage us as we bring our faith into the world

To experience the spiritual nature of service and enhance our church’s social justice mission.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

Chalice Groups

Enrollment Information for 2012 -2013

Introducing sessions
on our monthly
worship themes!



Sign Up Now!

Fill out the enrollment form and return:

- to the Adult Religious Exploration table before or after any service on September 9,16 or 23 or
 - send to the church office at 228 Gougler Ave., Kent, OH 44240 or
 - email to the church office at uukent@sbcglobal.net
- Include all information requested on the pre-printed form.

You must enroll by September 24th

If you have questions, contact Reverend Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

***This may be just what
you're looking for.....***

The Chalice Groups Program

The Chalice Groups program is a network of small covenant groups consisting of friends and members of the church whose understanding and companionship supports our journey of spiritual growth. Chalice Groups are an opportunity for us to share our stories, find meaning in life, and be with one another, allowing our souls to unfold.

Most of our lives are rushed and fragmented. These small, committed groups share a kind of sacred time together that participants find renewing, transformative, and deeply moving.

How it Works:

Each group has up to 10 members including two facilitators. Groups meet 12-13 times between October and May.

Chalice Groups get-togethers typically occur about once every three weeks, in a comfortable, quiet setting, often in the home of one of the participants.

Each meeting includes time for personal sharing, readings on a topic, and time to discuss that week's topic. No preparation is needed!

The sessions have a standardized format to transform the experience beyond ordinary meeting time into uplifting, sacred time.

Membership of each group is predetermined in order to combine new and familiar faces to promote diverse experiences.

Participation requires a commitment to the Chalice Groups season, and a willingness to accept future change knowing that the group will end and understanding that the new opportunity for growth will occur next year with a new group.

Chalice Groups will have the opportunity to participate in one meaningful service project of its own choosing, providing a further bonding experience and a chance to propel the energizing power of the group outward.

As a covenant group, each Chalice Group will develop a "covenant" which represents each individual's promise to one another about how he or she will maintain right relationship with others in the group. Often covenants address dependable attendance, intent listening, and honest sharing.

A trained Facilitator will participate with each group to ensure a supportive setting and to gently guide the process. Facilitators will assist with coordination of the group's service project. The Facilitators will meet together with the Planning Team and Minister periodically for programmatic communication

and to ensure the Chalice Groups program is complementing the church's overall ministry.

Although the Chalice Groups experience can be personal and uplifting, it is not intended to be therapy, a religious education class or replacement for Sunday worship. The Chalice Groups program is one more opportunity to participate in the church's ministry, in a smaller, more intimate way.

The program is overseen by the Adult Religious Exploration Committee and the Minister, but is guided by the input and desires of the church community. Your feedback on the program is always welcomed. In addition, an evaluation of the program will be conducted at the end of the season to provide each participant with an opportunity to comment on his or her experience.

Groups work best when:

- Members commit to attend the meetings and be present in mind and spirit.
- Members create an open, supportive, and nurturing environment
- Members openly share their stories.
- There is a willingness to engage in deep listening.
- Sharing and discussions are based on the wisdom of the head and heart.

Sample Topics*

- Reflecting on Mortality
- Sharing My Music
- UUs and Sports
- Beyond Pink and Blue
- Earth Stewardship
- Squirmy Patriotism

Sample Service Projects

- Perform grounds work around church building
- Visit a church member in a physical rehabilitation hospital
- Prepare a meal or collect items for the homeless shelter
- Work on a Habitat for Humanity house
- Write letters of caring to church member

*For a list of topics, see the church web site at www.kentuu.org/education/chalice-groups/chalice-groups-sessions-a-m