



Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

I'm not sure I entirely understand this poem, but I really love it. And I'm not really clear what it has to do with liberation, but I think it is connected.

The Otters and the Seaweed

This is what you need to know:
you need to know that otters wrap themselves
in seaweed so they won't,

while sleeping at night, float out to sea . . .
Are you imagining this?
Can you see the otters actually doing this?

Does it break your heart a little?
Does it seduce you just a bit
into loving more

this odd hard world?
Oh otters, wrap yourselves tight! And sleep,
exactly like you do, floating but seaweed-held

in our salty living waters! Oh otters,
wrap yourselves tight! And you,
the one who doesn't, the one who doesn't

tether himself down right,
we are with you as you float away,
we are with you as you sleep

and lose yourself in the night.

— Teddy Macker

I didn't know this about otters, so I had to look it up. I learned sea otters do indeed sometimes tangle themselves up in forests of kelp while they sleep. The kelp acts as an anchor to keep the

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, Ohio 44240
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Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

**Congregational
Administrator:**

MaryBeth Hannan
Office hours:
Mon. through Fri. 9 - 4

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Karen LoBracco
dre@kentuu.org
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DRE's Office Hours:

In Kent 11 days/month
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Deadline:

The 20th of each month

**POSITION
AVAILABLE**
(see page 10)



otters from drifting out into open seas. I also learned that otters sometimes sleep holding hands. By holding hands they avoid drifting away from one another in their sleep.

This month our worship theme is liberation. Maybe what the church offers is something like that forest of kelp, an anchor to return to again and again as a place to get our bearings and rest in community, so that we can be renewed for our work in the world.

Maybe what the church invites us to be is liberated from the illusion that we have to do it all alone. We don't. In fact, we can't. We are always in need of others. At church we practice being beloved community. Come practice with us this month. It will be good to be together.

In faith,

Melissa

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am



March 6 - What Does it Mean to Be a People of Liberation?

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

The history of our liberal religious tradition is woven through with stories of people who devoted themselves to the pursuit of liberation – theologically, politically, socially, spiritually . . . Are there core values in Unitarianism, Universalism and Unitarian Universalism that inspire such quests? What impact does that history have on us now? How can that legacy shape how we relate to the liberation movements of our own time?

March 13 - The Prison and the Key

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer
and Worship Associate Carolyn Andrews Schlemmer*

The young adult poet and author Johnathan Jena writes, “True wisdom comes in understanding that sometimes, you are both the prison and the key.” Do we really have the power to unlock some of the prisons that keep us bound? How can we develop what it takes to use the key for our individual and collective freedom?

March 20 - Not a Worldly King

*Intern Minister Dave Clements
and Worship Associate Andrew Rome*

When most people hear of “liberation theology,” they think of revolution. True liberation includes social justice and the struggle against issues like racism, sexism, and discrimination. Interest in liberation theology grew rapidly in North America and later found itself in black and women’s liberation movements. It is an ethical theology that grows out of social awareness and the desire to act. Liberation expresses the hopes of oppressed peoples and the realization that they are not seen as a passive element, but as an agent of righteous change in history. We will explore this concept of liberation theology and how it relates to our Unitarian Universalists beliefs and causes.

March 27 - Why an Alleluia?

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

He taught them. He healed them. He fed them. He loved them. He showed them the way. For his efforts, he was crucified. So why will we sing Alleluia today? Come join us for our special multigenerational celebration of Easter. Families with children are welcome to attend either service. Please see page 4 for all the egg hunt details and news of our “Easter tree” too!



Olive Hobbs, wearing
a shawl knitted by
the UUCK Knitters



Buy Eggs and Support Chicks Worldwide

from Karen LoBracco

Spring comes this month followed by Easter. March brings us colorful Easter Eggs which hatch into Heifer Project chicks. In coordination with our monthly theme of Liberation, the Religious Education Committee is looking at Liberation from Hunger. In partnership with the Heifer Project (www.heifer.org), our children and youth will be selling paper eggs - \$2 buys 1 chick, purchase 5 chicks for \$10 or an entire flock for \$20! You pay with cash or a check (made out to UUCK, memo Heifer), sign your name on one or more eggs, and we display the decorated eggs during March on our "Egg Tree" in the sanctuary. How many flocks of chicks can we buy? You decide!

ADULTS – check if your employer will match your gift.

KIDS – ask if you can earn money by doing extra chores.

EVERYONE – help fight hunger with the purchase of a chick and by bringing non-perishable food items to church on Easter Sunday.

This is a great supplement to our annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, March 27**. Bring your own basket or we will have collection bags. We will gather at 10:50am in the grassy area behind the sanctuary. Friends, relatives and neighbors are all invited to participate!

Parents as Sexuality Educators is a monthly gathering of the adults who care for the youth attending the Monday evening Our Whole Lives program. It is free and facilitated by our Interim Director of Religious Education Karen LoBracco. Upcoming dates:

March 14 – Consent Education

April 18 – Topic to be Decided by Participants

Addresses of UUCK Young Adults Needed

In April we will be assembling "Care Packages" for Young Adults who have graduated to college, work, or another stage of their lives. Stay tuned in April about how you can help with the "stuff", but for now please send names and addresses to Colleen Thoele at reassistant@kentuu.org.

Springing Forward...



The 2017 annual Stewardship Campaign officially begins on March 13 and will continue to April 17. The Stewardship Campaign is highly important to all of us since, as most of you are already aware, our UUCK programs, ministries, and day-to-day operating costs are primarily funded by our annual pledge commitments.

Please try to attend the congregational informational meeting, to be held on March 6 (see page 5 for details). Watch your e-nUUs and Thread from the Web for additional Campaign news and information; also, as always, Stewardship Committee members will be available in Fessenden Hall each Sunday, after both services, during the Campaign to answer your questions and receive your pledge cards.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Save the Date! UUCK Spring Circle Supper is Saturday, April 9

What is a Circle Supper? These are informal pot luck dinners for members and friends of the UUCK. The meal provides an ideal setting for an intimate gathering to share food and conversation. These are all about creating connections in our community – new members and long term members and visitors.

What does the host do, besides provide the space? The host coordinates the meal with the assigned guests. This includes issuing an invitation (usually by e-mail), setting a start time and determining how to handle the pot luck, whether assigned dishes or open choice for sharing. The host decides what part of the meal to provide. Many provide the beverage and /or a main dish.

Who attends Circle Suppers? Members, friends, people visiting or exploring the church. Circle Suppers are generally for adults, although hosts and guests may work out other arrangements.

How do I know who will be at the Circle Supper? Sign-up sheets allow you to see the names of others who have signed up, however, when numbers allow, tables will be assigned with an eye to changing up the mix of guests. Ideally you will be sharing a meal with at least one person that you have never really talked to before.

Why is the Membership Committee coordinating Circle Suppers? We have had some feedback from new members that it can be difficult to establish a sense of belonging, of becoming a part of our congregation. Circle Suppers are a low key and fun way for us all to get to know one another as we continue to grow and welcome new members.

How do I sign up? Watch the EnUUs in March for a link to SignUpGenius (on-line sign up) or directions for a sign-up in church.



MONEY MATTERS

Yes, it certainly does! So, please, mark your calendars to attend an important informational--and, hopefully, inspirational-- UUCK "money" meeting on March 6 between services at 10:50 A.M. or after second service at 12:35 P.M.; both meetings will be in the Sanctuary.

A knowledgeable panel of UUCK leaders representing the Board, the Finance Committee, and the Stewardship Committee, along with our Personnel Coordinator and Treasurer, will talk about the proposed FY17 Budget--including our long-held commitments to Fair Share and Fair Compensation--and will explain some changes being made in this year's annual Stewardship Campaign, "Springing Forward," to run from March 13 to April 17. Also, personalized FY17 stewardship packets will be distributed to those in attendance at the meeting.

This is an exciting time for UUCK, and we are confident that we can all "spring forward" together with enthusiasm and commitment to continue making our Vision a fully-realized reality. See you on the 6th!



**‘GROW OUR COMMUNITY, GROW YOUR SELF!’
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF KENT
WORKSHOP**

Saturday, March 12, 2016

2:00p - 5:00p



Most of us have thought, “I have found a wonderful community at the UU church! What can I do to thrive and grow with this great group of people?”

The **‘GROWING OUR COMMUNITY, GROW YOUR SELF!’** workshop is a terrific opportunity to bring your membership to the next level!

- Learn how you can DISCERN your place in our Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent community!
- Learn how you can GROW with our Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent community!
- Learn how you can meaningfully SERVE our Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent community!

There are so many possibilities to experience our Kent UU community. This workshop will connect you to the opportunities that await you as a part of our community. The Reverend Renee Ruchotzke will show how you can connect and involve yourself in the Kent UU community.

The vibrancy of our community is dependent on your creativity and participation. This day will be an opportunity to explore how you can take your membership to the next level. Be a part of the conversation, have an impact, and participate in the strategic activities of our community. Learn techniques that will be helpful at home, school and work, as well as at church!

ALL ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!

WHEN: Saturday, March 12

WHERE: Fessenden Hall, Kent Unitarian Universalist Church

TIME: 2:00p - 5:00p

ENGLISH TEA: 3:30p

RSVP: By Wednesday, March 9th

to MaryBeth uuck-office@sbcglobal.net or 330-673-4247

For more information contact:

Max Grubb

Saturday, Mar. 12th *Mustard's Retreat* www.mustardsretreat.com



David Tamulevich and **Michael Hough**, musically grounded in early traditional 60s folk music, were influenced by the songwriters of that time. Their shows now represent an eclectic blend of music, old and new, with a big dash of storytelling. In their own words, "Each night is its own unique moment, unique audience. For us, that is the exciting thing, the magic: to craft a shared experience and leave people entertained and moved...offering moments and songs to take home with you to remember, ponder, rediscover; hopefully for years to come." Many of those moments are the result of their well-respected and broad body of original material, written both individually and together.

Friday, April. 8th *Ayreheart* www.ayreheart.com



The talented musicians of "Ayreheart" return in April with their eclectic mix of Renaissance-inspired Folk, Celtic, and Acoustic Rock originals. Ayreheart was formed to feature the lute (the most popular instrument of the Renaissance) in a completely new context, mixing with vocals, electric bass, drums & hand percussion, guitar, violin, mandolin & komuz. Together they perform their own original music as well as Renaissance music from the time of Shakespeare

Saturday, May. 28th *Roger Hoover and Shivering Timbers*

www.rogerhoover.com www.shiveringtimbersmusic.com



Topping off the season in May we welcome both Roger Hoover and "Shivering Timbers" in one great evening of music. **Roger Hoover's** plaintive brand of arcane folk and blues seem to come from some unknown time and place. These are timeless laments and rambles of a guitarist and banjo player who performs with equal parts impassioned vocals and honest, heartfelt lyricism. "**Shivering Timbers**" (Sarah Benn, Jayson Benn, and Daniel Kshywonis) began making music when Sarah and Jayson started singing and crafting songs for their then-infant daughter. As she grew the music began to take shape, and a band was born. In 2014 they were voted Best Musician/Band in Akron Empire, and Second Best

Local Band in Akron Life Magazine. What's difficult to describe is the mood they strive to create, which can entrance and haunt you, while in the next breath, invite you into a whimsical, foot-stomping play land. Some people call it folk-rock, some Americana, others swear it's really genre-less. Listen and decide for yourself!



Ticket prices for all shows:
\$13/advance \$15/Door
\$35/full season \$5/under

Purchase tickets online:
<https://mkt.com/UUCK>

Call 330-673-4247 for more info

Find Cuyahoga River Concerts on



ALL SHOWS START @
8:00 pm
Doors Open 7:30

All Concerts held at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Kent - 228 Gougler Ave

Beyond the Walls of Our Congregation

from Dan Gottfried
Executive Director, Unirondack

As Unitarian Universalists, we often find ourselves wishing we could live in a world that more closely reflects our values. We want more of what we share within the walls of our congregation to exist outside the walls. Many of us dedicate our lives to creating small pockets of community that reflect our values.

It can come as a surprise to many Unitarian Universalists that there is already an established network of such communities throughout the United States and Canada. It's our Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers. And they have formed an alliance to help spread the word, the Unitarian Universalist Alliance of Camp and Conference Centers (UUACCC).

Each center is a unique place, often located in a spectacular natural setting. Most operate year-round or close to it, offering retreats, conferences, and summer camp experiences that reflect our UU values. They offer similar experiences to the summer institutes and assemblies but because they are center based they are able to do so on a continuous basis throughout the year with a great many opportunities for learning and growing in community.

Adults and families are often surprised to learn what a wide range of opportunities for fellowship, self-discovery, and learning Camp

and Conference Centers provide throughout the year. And all take place in natural settings of unparalleled beauty.

For those of us with children, the centers that offer summer camp experiences for youth are especially important. It can be challenging for our children to find peers who share their values, and a place to belong where they can live those values. Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers are often a home away from home for young people.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ALLIANCE OF
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTERS

In the words of a camper from Unirondack, a UU summer camp in the Western Adirondacks of New York State:

"You taught me to seek out the innate goodness in every human being. You taught me that there is no fully good person, and no consummation of evil...that everybody is a rainbow. You just have to pick which colors to see,...You taught me how to love. You taught me that love doesn't have to be between man and woman...that any two people can love each other. Love is holding hands, love is sitting together, reading together, singing together, holding each other up, holding each other back, and letting each other go. Goodbye Unirondack. I love you. And now I'm ready to go love some more."

Transformative UUnique experiences like this young person describes are an everyday occurrence at our Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Centers. There is something for everyone: youth, families of all kinds, and adults. Visit the [UUACCC website](#) to find links to UU experiences beyond the walls of our congregation.



Hunger and Economic Justice Update

March is host to not only National Nutrition Month but also the annual Harvest for Hunger campaign sponsored by Feeding America, the nation's largest organization of food banks. Our own Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank is a member agency and serves 8 counties including Portage, Summit and Stark. In the region it serves, 1 in every 7 adults and 1 in every 4 children experience either hunger or food insecurity. Think about those numbers. YOU are in the midst of people who are hungry, who do not know where their next meal is coming from or who need to choose whether or not to pay utilities or buy food.

For two decades, this congregation has been committed to helping our local food pantry at Kent Social Services with non-perishable food donations, monetary donations and Acme gift card donations. This month, our donation focus is boxed CEREAL, one of the Super Six most needed products for pantry clients. The other 5 items are peanut butter, tuna, canned vegetables, canned soup and beef stew.

Please commit to donating at least one box of CEREAL, any type or brand, to our collection this month. Easter is coming. When you are out shopping for basket treats for your children or grandchildren, consider the 1 in 4 children in Portage County who simply need to eat. Ask your child to choose a box of his/her favorite CEREAL and bring it to church. The donation baskets are in the closet next to the elevator on the ground level and outside the elevator on the sanctuary level.

If you prefer, Acme gift cards are available for purchase and donation every Sunday at the grocery card table in Fessenden Hall between services. Direct donations by check can be made to Kent Social Services, 1066 S. Water St., Kent, OH 44240; food programs on the memo line.

Thank you for your support and generosity,

Elaine Bowen

Mission Critical

The Master Plan Committee is beginning work on updating the UUCK Mission Statement. We are seeking input from as many church members as possible. Please return all responses to the Master Plan Committee mailbox in the Annex. Including your name is optional. Alternatively, you may visit the Church website, kentuu.org/2016/02/18/Updating-uuck-mission-statement/ to provide your response to the following question:

Using no more than six words, please write a statement that answers this question:

What is the purpose of our church?

Here are a few inspirational ideas to spark your thinking:

- "Becoming the people the world needs."
Doug Muder
- "Freedom in religion. Wholeness in faith."
Steve Dick
- "Spiritual quest explores, finds many truths."
Anne Johnson
- "The bonding of caring human fellowship."
Kathy Nielssen
- "Finding inspiration. Living thoughtfully. Loving life."
Jane Brooks
- "Inherent worth and dignity of everyone."
First Principle of the UUA
- "Respecting the interdependent web of existence."
Seventh Principle of the UUA
- "Reason, mystery, integrity, a multi-dimensional faith."
Jo Lane
- "Love radically. Serve gratefully. Wonder daily."
UU Planet
- "Seeds of grace sprouting love everywhere."
Sean Neil Baron
- "We are all each other's gift."
Joe Cleveland
- "Love and justice bend the arc."
Cynthia Landrum
- "Inspiring lives of meaning and purpose"
adapted from our current mission statement
- "Encourage curiosity, create peace and justice"
adapted from our current mission statement
- "Reverance, gratitude and care for Earth"
adapted from our current mission statement

Please submit your response by **March 31**.

Anthony Doerr Free Choice



The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday March 8 at 7 pm in the home of Kathy Kerns in Kent. This month we are reading another book by Anthony Doerr, the author of *All the Light We Cannot See*.

In April we will be reading *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



Meet and Greet: Every Second Sunday!

Meet someone new at Church? Why not invite them to the Second Sunday Meet & Greet? It's held the second Sunday of each month in the Founders' Lounge at 11:00. Better yet, bring them to enjoy conversation and light refreshments with members and friends.

Help to welcome newcomers, and respond to their questions, as we help to grow the ranks of free religious seekers in our community.

Simple Gifts...

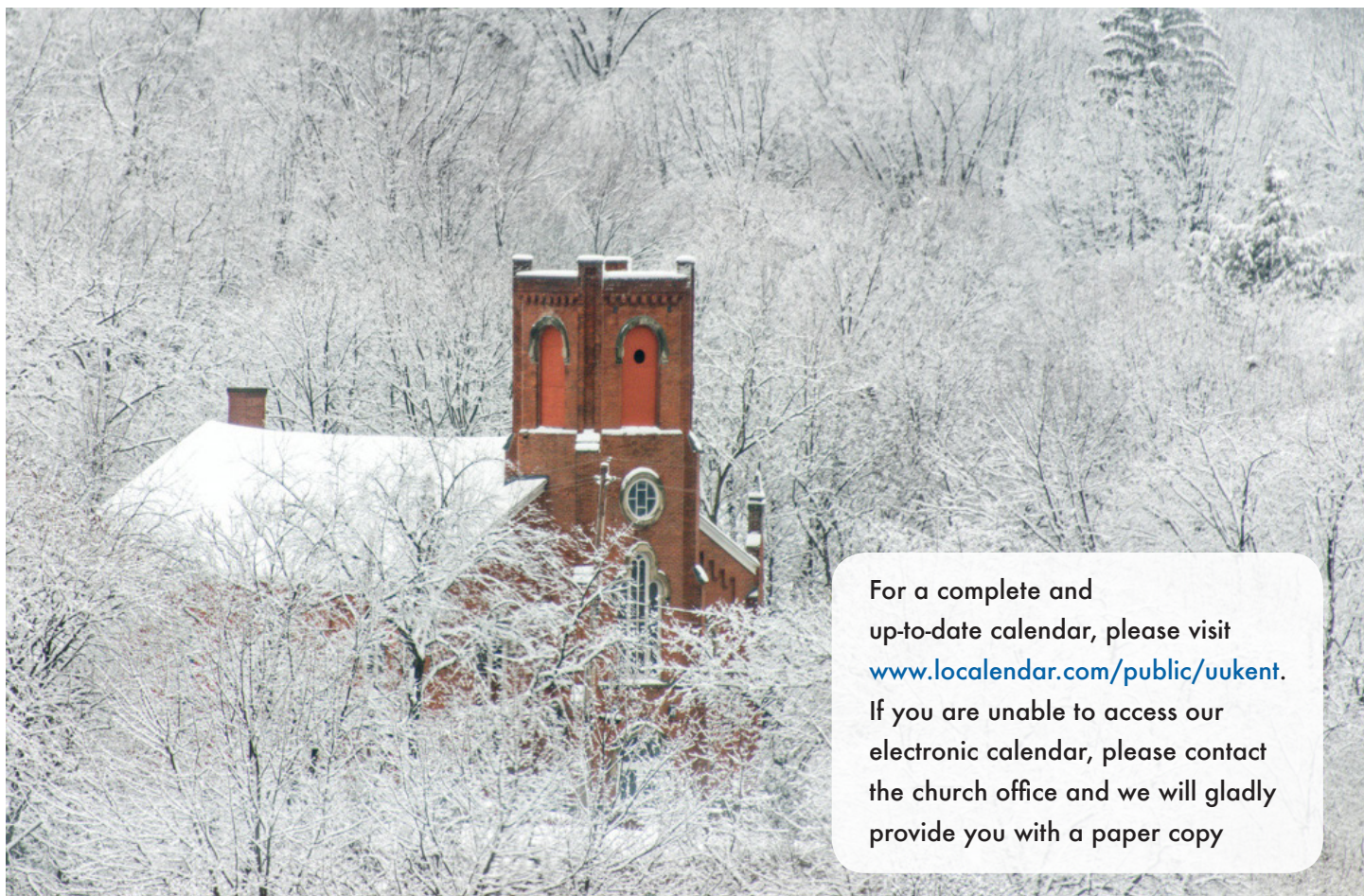
Our Simple Gifts program is designed to encourage everyday giving. If members and friends of the congregation continue to remember the church with regular gifts, we will be well on our way to building the kind of endowment that can help ensure our congregation's continuing health and vitality.

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.

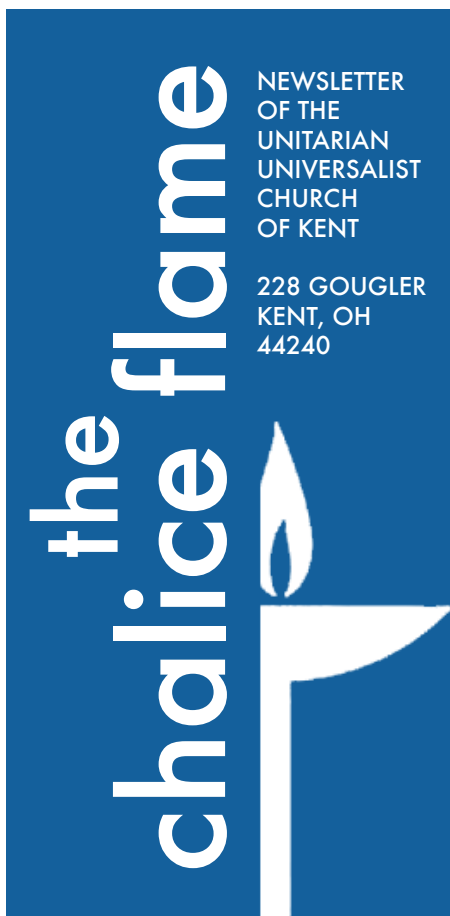
New Blood Needed

This summer, I will be relinquishing the reins of The Chalice Flame to another worthy soul. My last issue will be June 2016. 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 Saul Flanner, newsletter@kentuu.org, or MaryBeth, uukent@sbcglobal.net, for more details.





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



NEWSLETTER
OF THE
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