



Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

One of my greatest pleasures in parenting is watching the emergence of imagination. Right now my two and half year old child is at the place in which he believes he can create everything he can imagine. As far as he's concerned, once you imagine it, all you have to do is say it and it will be so. Therefore he spends his days becoming a great number of animals. One minute he is a grizzly bear, the next he's a painted turtle and turn around again and he will be a blunt-nosed dolphin. When he isn't busy being an animal, he's likely to be one of a cast of characters from his books or Sesame Street. When he paints or colors he narrates complex compositions as he works – today's painting involved an ox named Starsky, a shepherd, several mice and a mountain lion. And he's never met an instrument he cannot play. This morning he played drums, harmonica and a tambourine in a marching band. For now his creations are limited only by the limits of his imagination.

Part of growing up must involve learning what is and isn't possible. But I wish for him and for all children that it does not involve learning that only professionals can create. I don't know when it happens or how, but I know that so many adults believe that some people have creative talent and others do not. I don't think that is true. Imagination is a gift of our birth. And as long as we can imagine, we can create. The only real question is how.

This month our worship theme is creation. As the earth is bursting forth with new life and the colors of spring, it is a good time for personal reflection. How are you tending the creative spirit in your life? I look forward to seeing you in church.

Peace,

Melissa

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, Ohio 44240
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Fax: 330-677-4772
www.kentuu.org

Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
minister@kentuu.org

Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

Congregational

Administrator:

MaryBeth Hannan

Office hours:

Mon. through Fri. 9 - 4

Interim Director of Religious Education:

Karen LoBracco
dre@kentuu.org

Cell: 585-730-0686

DRE's Office Hours:

In Kent 11 days/month
Always available by email/phone

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Hal Walker

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christiea@neo.rr.com

Affiliated

Community Minister:

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Newsletter editor:

Saul Flanner
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Deadline:

The 20th of each month

**POSITION
AVAILABLE**

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

April 3 - In the Beginning

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer
and Worship Associate Jeff Marsh*

In her book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Robin Wall Kimmerer writes "like creation stories everywhere, cosmologies are a source of identity and orientation to the world. They tell us who we are." This Sunday we will begin exploring the theme of creation by considering what the foundational creation stories of our world have to tell us about who we are.

April 10 - The Creative Spirit

*Lori Fatchet-McGee
and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen*

Why do we create art? What is art? How does creativity feed our souls? Our annual Art Sunday service invites you to ask and answer these questions of yourself while we explore the topic of the intersection of creativity and spirituality.

April 17 - Growing Up As A UU Youth

*Led by our Youth and Interim Director
of Religious Education Karen LoBracco*

For this annual youth service, our high school group will explore, through music and words, the experience of growing up in a Unitarian Universalist community. Come to hear what a difference this congregation is making!

April 24 - Tending our Little Place in the Interdependent Web

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer and Worship Associate Jeff Marsh, with
Green Sanctuary Convener Mary Lou Holly*

The 7th Principle of Unitarian Universalism calls us to respect our interdependent web of existence. Come join us as we celebrate Earth Day by lifting up this strand of our theological heritage and reflecting together on our practice of this principle.



Calling All World Travelers!

from Karen LoBracco

The Summer multi-age Religious Education Program begins June 19 with weekly trips to a different country every week.

The intention is for the kids to have some relaxed, fun times with learning cleverly woven in, and for congregation members to be able to bring unique learning opportunities to the kids on a one-time or short term basis. Needed weekly are "Tour Guides" and "Chaperones" – no experience needed! Every week kids will have their "passports" stamped as they visit and explore countries through song, dance, food, games and activities.

The RE Committee invites you to visit our UU World Travelers signup during Social Hour beginning April 3 to match up your interests and availability with the special skills we will need. After all, our children are our "passport" to the future!



Children's & Family Library Focus from Dan Hayes

Celebrate Earth Day by taking a look at the almost 50 books in the INDEPENDENT WEB area of the Children's & Family lending library in Founder's Lounge across from the Nursery. Available for lending are fiction and non-fiction books, with selections like *The Little Hands Nature Book - Earth, Sky, Critters and More* geared for ages 2-6 and their families and the classic *50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save the Earth*.

Our Whole Lives Facilitator Training

Our Whole Lives is a lifespan sexuality education program that informs and empowers participants. A training to lead either Elementary level (K-1st and 4th-6th), Junior and Senior High or Young Adult/Adult levels will be held in Columbus, OH in June. Speak with our Interim DRE Karen LoBracco to learn more if you might be interested in the attending the 3 day training.



Eggs for Chicks Report

What a generous congregation that raised an incredible \$501 selling decorated paper Easter Eggs to benefit Heifer International! Our focus was on chickens, and with that amount raised 25 families will receive a flock of chickens and education on their proper care. THANK YOU!



Around the Church Important Reminders from Rev. Melissa

Single, Uncoupled or On Your Own?

Interested in meeting some new UU friends?

Whether you are single by choice or circumstance or both, with or without children, you are invited to a dinner time gathering on Tuesday, May 3 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in Fessenden Hall. Rev. Melissa will be leading the conversation which will include a chance to connect with others who share something of your experience, and the opportunity to reflect on ways UUCK can strengthen our ministries to meet the spiritual needs of single people.

We will supply hummus, baba ganoush and pita for everyone. You bring something to share to complement that for dinner or a dessert to share. Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, May 2 so that we can be sure to have enough food. Childcare will be provided upon request. Please RSVP to the Religious Education Assistant Colleen Thoele at reassistent@kentuu.org with a request for childcare by Monday, April 18. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa at minister@kentuu.org.



Rev. Melissa's April Schedule

Melissa will be on vacation from April 5 through April 11. If you have an urgent pastoral concern that week, please contact Commissioned Lay Leader Rev. Christie Anderson or Commissioned Lay Leader candidate Lori McGee for assistance. Melissa will be on study leave from April 12 to April 18, and will be participating in the Middle Church Leading Edge Conference that weekend. If you have an urgent pastoral concern while she is on study leave, Melissa will be available by cell phone.

Being Mortal

Talking about dying is never easy, but it is really important. Whether you are a young adult or an older adult, it can make a tremendous difference to your family and friends to know what matters to you in end of life care. Our Care Team would like to introduce you to the resources offered by the Conversation Project, which is designed to help facilitate these conversations.

You are invited to join us on Sunday, May 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm for a lunch time presentation and discussion. We will begin with a screening of the PBS Frontline special based on Atul Gawande's award winning book *Being Mortal* and conclude with some resources you can take home for further reflection with your loved ones.

Lunch will be provided and will be friendly to gluten free and vegan diets, as well as omnivores. Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, April 26 so that we can have enough food. Childcare is available upon request. Please RSVP to the Religious Education Assistant Colleen Thoele at reassistent@kentuu.org with a request for childcare by Monday, April 18.

Director of Religious Education Search Committee Update

The DRE Search Committee includes: Sarah Lang, Rev. Rod Thompson, Kathie Walker, Jack Graham, Personnel Coordinator, Mary Leeson, Chair of Religious Education Committee and Rev. Melissa. The committee has widely advertised the position and culled a large number of resources with information about our program for applicants to review. We are pleased to have had a number of qualified applicants and we have scheduled interviews for late April.



Moderator's Musings

from Kathie Slater

In a transition year, your Board of Trustees has been hard at work:

- Writing social justice and conflict of interest policies.
- Assessing various church ministries
- Overseeing fiscal aspects of congregational programs, of growth, and the new building.

We have also:

- Joined other church leaders to creatively reorganize Social Hour.
- Studied and reflected on congregational change.
- Served the congregation by doing the work for a Pancake Sunday fundraiser.
- Served the congregation, quite literally, at the Capital Campaign kick off luncheon.

As the year winds down, The Board will be:

- Asking for your assessments on lay leadership development, finances, communication, and dealing with conflict and change during listening sessions on April 3rd.
- Working with the Long Range Planning Committee to create a new Mission Statement.
- Planning the Annual Meeting, June 5th .



Your Reflections Are Needed

The UUCK Board of Trustees is hosting two listening sessions on Sunday, April 3rd. The early bird version will be held in Fessenden Hall at 9:00 A.M. over coffee and muffins. Topics for discussion include assessing how the church community handles and supports development of lay leadership, communications, finances, growth, and conflict and change.

A second session will be held after second service the same day. Join Board members for pizza as we listen to your comments on the same topics. Again, we will meet in Fessenden Hall. Questions or unable to attend? Share your comments with Moderator Kathie Slater.

Policy Update

from Andrew Rome

The UUCK Board has been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that our church runs smoothly and will continue to do so. To that end, a new Conflict of Interest (COI) policy has been adopted which covers all church employees, trustees, and committee members with financial decision making responsibilities. Essentially, any individual who has an outside/non-church interest in business the church is conducting must disclose that interest and let someone else make the decisions. For example, if I'm on the church committee hiring a landscaper, I have a conflict of interest if my landscaping company submits a bid for the job. I would need to inform the committee chair or Ministerial Executive Team of the conflict and follow the COI policy. The complete policy can be found by contacting the church office.

**WORDS
TO
LIVE
BY**

Follow effective action with quiet reflection. From the quiet reflection will come even more effective action.

~ Peter Drucker

Spring 2016

the Cuyahoga River Concerts

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

The UU Church of Kent kicks off our celebration in May of our 150 years together as a congregation. We will focus in the month of May on our congregation's past. Our opening event will be an address on Friday, May 6 at 7pm by longtime church member Gene Wenninger titled "*Legacy of Hope: 150 Years of Unitarian Universalist Values*." Gene's talk will be followed by a reception with delicious food prepared by Elaine and Bill Bowen. All are invited.

On Monday, May 30, our congregation will march in the Kent Memorial Day parade. We plan to wear Standing on the Side of Love shirts, and we will carry a banner. We will have environmentally friendly water bottles for sale in Fessenden Hall close to the day of the parade. Church members have planned activities each month for the coming year to mark this anniversary. Stay tuned for more information about these exciting events to celebrate our congregation's 150th anniversary.

Policy Update

The church board has recently approved a new policy governing social justice events sponsored by the church. The policy addresses what people should do to organize an action or an educational activity. For example, the policy says the following about educational events sponsored by the church:

"Task forces or groups at the church may organize educational events on any issue. Presenters at educational events sponsored by the church represent themselves and do not represent the position of the church on an issue. Organizers of educational events should make this clear at the event. If the church has passed a resolution on the issue being discussed, organizers of the educational event may announce this. Educational events at the church on social justice issues should be open to all viewpoints, and people with different views than those of the presenters should be given the opportunity to express their views respectfully

Groups that organize educational events will inform the Social Justice Coordinator of the planned event prior to the event and will agree to adhere to the church policy on educational events."

Making Sense of the Middle East Crisis

On Tuesday, April 12 at 7pm, Kent State University Political Science Professor Steven Hook will give a talk at the church titled "*Making Sense of the Middle East Crisis*." Professor Hook will address the roots of the upheavals in the Middle East during the past several years. Participants will discuss President Obama's response to the crisis and possible actions in the future.

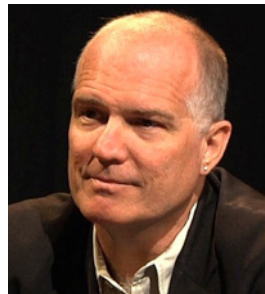
The format will be that of a salon, in which participants share constructive thoughts together rather than engage in policy debates. The public is welcome to participate. Professor Hook is the author of numerous books and articles on U.S. foreign policy and peace. The event will take place in Fessenden Hall.

DAVID COBB

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 7 P.M.

KENT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
228 GOUGLER AVENUE

**"CREATING DEMOCRACY &
CHALLENGING CORPORATE RULE"**



Move to Amend national spokesperson David Cobb will speak on "Creating Democracy and Challenging Corporate Rule," Tuesday, April 5, at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. His presentation is both history lesson

and heartfelt call-to-action. David will discuss the American creation myth and the Constitution regarding Corporate Personhood and illegitimate-but-legal corporate constitutional rights. Attendees can learn how to get involved in the campaign to end corporate personhood and demand real democracy.

Move to Amend is seeking a constitutional amendment stating that corporations are not people, and that money is not speech. Last November, the City of Kent overwhelmingly passed a charter amendment in support of such a constitutional amendment. For more details, contact Lee Brooker.



Capital Campaign Notes

Earn a lot more interest on your money and help with our new Fellowship Hall construction at the same time!

Later this year, as we complete construction on our wonderful new Fellowship Hall, we will need to pay our general contractor in full. Our capital campaign pledges are payable over three years to 2018.... so we need to finance that gap.

This is where you, the congregation can help keep the construction moving and help your self at the same time. We have added two additional lending levels to allow more congregants to participate. Here are three levels at which you can help.

- Buy a Chalice Bond for \$4,787.00 on July 1, 2016 and receive a payback of \$5,000 on December 31, 2018 – an interest rate of 1.75%
- Buy a Chalice Bond for \$9,573.00 on July 1, 2016 and receive a payback of \$10,000 on December 31, 2018 - an interest rate of 1.75%
- Construction Notes - lend a minimum of \$20,000 at a rate of 2.50%, and receive a quarterly interest check, with a payback of principal on December 31, 2018.

Check out the current rate on your savings account and you'll see that this is a great rate. It's also by far the most cost effective rate to finance construction now while we collect our pledges over the next three years.

While these notes are unsecured, the amount borrowed from congregants will not exceed the total amount of money that we expect to collect in capital campaign pledges. Your loan will be paid back in full by December of 2018 as we collect our capital campaign donations over the next three years.

Please consider this investment. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact the Capital Campaign Treasurer, Kay Eckman.

Springing Forward...



Have you made your pledge yet? The annual Stewardship campaign ends on April 17. Pledges made during the annual campaign make up the bulk of the financing for our self-supporting church. You and I provide the money that keeps the wheels oiled by paying our fabulous staff and maintaining our buildings. Our wonderful programs come from that base.

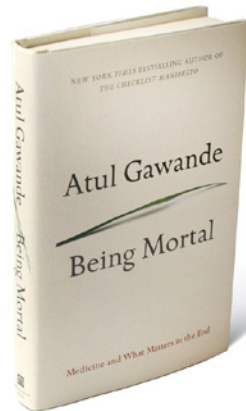
Budget details are available in our Stewardship brochures available in the foyer and at the Stewardship table in Fessenden Hall after both services through April 17. Pledge cards are available at the Stewardship table and in the pews. Completed pledge cards may be placed in the offering basket, taken to the Stewardship table, or sent to the office. Questions may be directed to any member of the Stewardship Team, Jennifer Walton-Fisette, Theresa Walton-Fisette, Claudia Miller, Sandy Eaglen or Marion Yeagler.



Being Mortal

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on a different day in April. We will be meeting on Thursday, April 14 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 *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. In *Being Mortal*, the author tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: how medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending. Gawande, a practicing surgeon, addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. He offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person's last weeks or months may be rich and dignified. Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, providing not only a good life but also a good end. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



Simple Gifts received...

Elaine Bowen

in honor and memory of Pat Pownall
on her birthday

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

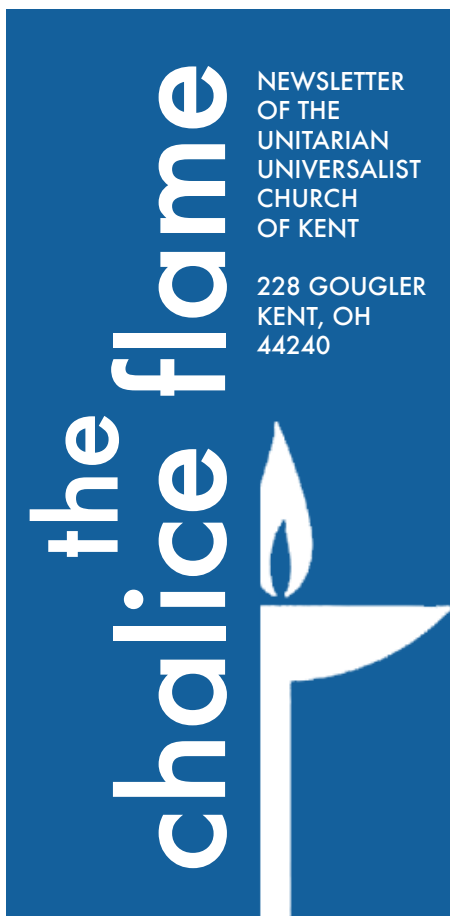
This summer, I will be relinquishing the reins of The Chalice Flame to another worthy soul. My last issue will be June 2016.

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, churchoffice@kentuu.org, 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
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
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OF KENT

228 GOUGLER
KENT, OH
44240