



Monthly Musings from [Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer](#)

Did you know that demolishing a house is a complicated affair? I didn't know; I've never had cause to pay attention to house demolitions before now! Over the last several months I have learned a lot as our wonderful congregational administrator MaryBeth Hannan has shepherded this process for us. You will recall it all began with emptying the house of the contents that were left behind. In addition to the household items, people claimed trunks, doors, cabinets and even the heavy, cast iron claw foot bathtub during our sale. We gave some items like the bannister and the mantle above the fireplace to the Wells Sherman House and donated everything else that was left behind to Restore.

After all that was done we had to have the house tested to find out the extent of the asbestos and decide who we would get the asbestos

abatement contract. The abatement will begin in early July. Once that is completed, we'll need another round of volunteers to help empty the contents of the basement and we will also have all the utility lines that run underground to the house cut and capped. At the same time, we'll have an architectural salvage company come in and take all the radiators and even the floor boards. By the time demolition begins in mid to late July, all that will be left will be the skeleton of the house. By the end of July that should be gone too and the contractor will have filled in the hole where the basement was with clean dirt. The ground will be left to settle for a year while we continue to work on our plans for expansion.

I have a sense that taking down the house is going to make our expansion plans seem closer still and a little more real. Without the house there,

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

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Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

Congregational**Administrator:**

MaryBeth Hannan

Office hours:

Mon. through Fri. 9 - 4

Religious Ed. Director:

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DRE's Office Hours:

Tuesday and/or Wednesday
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Music Director:

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Deadline:

The 20th of each month



Laura Teagle lends a hand (or two)
during the Mills house cleanup

we'll be able to see the clear land that will hold our future fellowship hall. It is an exciting time and I hope you have been sharing your ideas with the members of the Building Expansion Team. The BET is hoping to have an initial meeting with an architect soon. Meanwhile, the Capital Campaign Team has scheduled a videoconference with our consultant who will help in the planning phase.

Many good things are happening at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. I am so very grateful for the large cadre of committed lay leaders who are helping to make it happen. Have you been considering getting more involved in the life and work of the congregation? If so, there is room for you and I'd be very happy to have a conversation with you to help you find your niche. We need you. It is going to take all of us to live into the vision we dream!

In faith,

Melissa

One service only!

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 am (in July)

July 6 - Taking Perspective, Giving Perspective

Andrew Rome and Amanda Rome

Despite our best intentions, we don't always know how to listen well or talk about difficult situations. This service is comprised of a series of speakers, Shirley Kiernan, Ann Lapidus, Fred Smith, Trish McLoughlin, and Amanda Rome who will talk about their experiences and together we'll learn how to better care for each other as a community.

July 13 - Bringing Inspiration Home

*Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
and Worship Associate Mary Lou Holly*

Every year I go to the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Ministry Days and then to the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly. After a full week of outstanding worship, workshops, public witness and stimulating conversation, I return filled with inspiration. This morning I hope to share some of that inspiration with you.

July 20 - Spirit Voices

*Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate
John Marfy (with many other worship associates, too)*

This special service will feature poetry. I have invited all of the worship associates who are available to choose a poem that moves them, to share the poem with us and to tell us a little bit about how that particular poem touches their spirit. Beautiful poetry and music are in store for you today. Come be filled up!

July 27 - The Art of Change

Mike Hovancsek and Worship Associate Lori McGee

A service about ways the arts can change our lives on personal, spiritual, social levels. It will include personal reflection, findings from neurological research, and examples from history.



It's back! Summer Institute is in a new location, but our favorite camp is back for another year. Join 500+ UUs July 13-19 for an intergenerational week of fun, learning, networking and music at Oberlin College. The theme speaker is Rabbi David Horowitz, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Israel. Details at www.omdsi.org

Simple Gifts received...

Anonymous

In appreciation of Saunis Parsons and the Sacred Song Circle, from a grateful participant.

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.

Summer Hogwarts 2014

from Valerie Henry

Students might think KentHogwarts is all fun and games but you don't have to look very hard to see it's much more than that. Our 4 day summer session focused on letting go, transitions, and new beginnings. Professors used mandalas, terrariums, resurrection stones, owl pellets, muggle technology, and mini steamer trunks to demonstrate unity, inter-connectedness, inner strength, and the search for personal truth. We even had a visit from the Minister of Magic who taught us how to create a beautiful rain storm using only our hands and feet.

In a meaningful group activity, students wrote or drew a personal horcrux on a small bit of parchment. A horcrux is something that weighs on the conscience, a guilt or mistake that tears at the soul. We talked about how to make amends, forgive, and restore ourselves. Students then placed their horcruxes in a cauldron of water where



they magically dissolved. Together the horcruxes and water combined to make a powerful healing potion.

Professor FizzBOOM! announced his retirement from the position of Headmaster. We watched Lady Luna go through denial, anger, and eventually acceptance. Professor FizzBOOM! will be founding a new school, PoconosHogwarts in Pennsylvania. "I open at the close" was the puzzling phrase written on the snitch that Harry carries with him to the end of his journey. Like Harry, we found truth and inspiration in these words. We celebrated the close of another successful chapter in the KentHogwarts story and welcomed our new HeadMistress, Lady Luna, with an open heart.



Church members brought their dogs to church on June 8th for a Blessing of the Animals, offered by Rev. Carvill-Ziemer and Lori McGee.



Messages from the Moderator

Our current fiscal year is coming to an end and a new one is about to begin. But no matter the time of year there is always something happening at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. The fiscal year's end signals changes in the church's board of trustees, starting with the Moderator's position.

As your new Moderator, I welcome this opportunity to serve our congregation. From the first Sunday that my family (Shana Jane Steinhouse and Sophie Grubb) and I stepped into this church, we have experienced a wonderful sense of community; space for us to explore our individual spirituality and purpose. Since that day we have participated and serve the church in various activities and functions.

In the last year, I served on the board as assistant moderator where my energies were focused on our congregation's physical facilities expansion, rehabilitation and remodeling project. Our successful property acquisitions in the last year represented a significant shift, causing us to focus on developing capital funding and plans for implementing and completing the project. Thus, I worked with fellow board and church members in creating the Capital Campaign Team (CCT) and Building Expansion Team (BET) and charged them to move forward in the construction of the fellowship hall, rehabilitation of the church sanctuary and remodeling of Fessenden Hall, based on our church's mission and principles. These teams are now moving enthusiastically forward on their

work and I expect we will all experience the excitement as we grow physically and in love.

As this fiscal year concludes, I would like to thank the congregation for honoring and fulfilling their pledges. We have a few individual pledges that have yet to be met with two weeks left in this fiscal year.

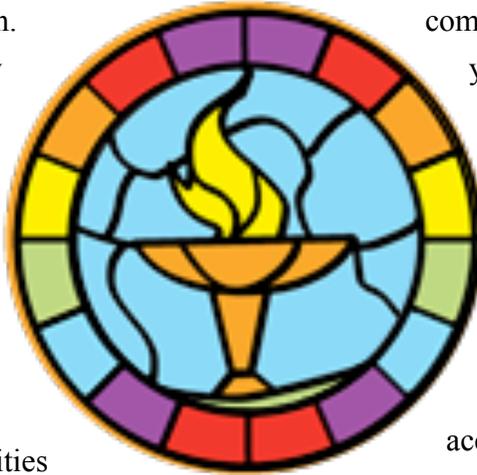
For those persons, I ask you to honor this commitment so that we can finish this year on a firm financial foundation.

If your financial circumstances have changed and you do not believe you will be able to fulfill your pledge commitment, please contact our treasurer or the church office so that we may plan accordingly.

So as your new moderator I will continue to serve our congregation, facilitating the board's work in serving the church's mission and needs. There is a lot of work to do in the new fiscal year and I encourage you to engage yourself in the numerous programs, activities and projects that are ongoing in the our church. Speaking for the board, we are looking forward to our service and to supporting the church's mission and endeavors.

These are exciting times at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, but of course there is never a dull moment with our congregation! Join me as we continue to grow in pursuing our mission, vision and principles.

Max V. Grubb
Moderator.



Heritage Program and Legacy Giving

I don't know what the future may hold, but I know who holds the future...

– Rev Ralph Abernathy

What gives meaning to your life and how will your legacy reflect this? The Heritage Program works with members who would like to remember the church in their will or final instructions. Donations to this program will go towards growing our fledgling endowment fund. An endowment fund is a type of savings account that is kept separately from the accounts that fund our day to day church operations. The earnings from the fund will be used for extra projects to keep our church strong and ensure that this liberal faith community is here for future generations to come.

If you have named the church in your will already, please contact Carol Gould or Kay Eckman on the Legacy Giving Team. We are taking the first steps in collecting and organizing information. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

For more information, contact Carol Gould or Kay Eckman.

When You Don't Know What to Say

The Committee on Ministry meets once a month to monitor and discuss the well-being of the congregation. During the course of the church year we also study a text to further our ability to engage in our task of promoting congregational well-being. We have recently completed our study of the book *How to Say It When You Don't Know What to Say* by Robbie Miller Kaplan. The book details what to say and how to support people dealing with a great many life circumstances including: illness, death, crime, violence, personal, and family issues. In many of these circumstances we find ourselves at a loss for words and unsure what we can do to be of most help.

Some of the phrases that we say or hear often in response to difficult situations do not truly convey what we mean and can sometimes be unhelpful or come



across as uncaring. Here are some phrases that Kaplan recommends that we avoid:

- I know just how you feel.
- If you think that's bad, wait until you hear...
- I (or my relative) had that same thing happen.
- It could be a lot worse.
- So what are you going to do about it?
- I'm sorry you feel that way.
- Don't worry.
- I'm sure everything will be okay.
- This is so sad, let's talk about something positive.
- Give me a call if you need anything. (Instead be specific in your offer to help, see next section.)
- Something good comes out of everything.

The book gives many well-considered pointers on how to help a friend or a loved one in some of life's most difficult situations. When you find yourself at a loss for what to say, here are some good general phrases to convey that you care:

- If you want to talk, I'm here for you no matter how you need me.
- Thank you for trusting me enough to share your feelings.
- I can't be in your shoes, but I can be by your side.
- I am willing to help in any way (Or be specific. Ensure that you follow through)
- How are you doing with all of this?
- I am so sorry this has happened.
- Take your time; you will do things as you are ready.
- This doesn't change the wonderful person you are.

Reading this book partly inspired the service topic *Taking Perspective, Giving Perspective* on July 6th. A copy of the book will be available in the church library. In Faith, The Committee on Ministry: Lori McGee, Trish McLoughlin, Eric van Baars, Amanda Rome and Melissa Carvill-Ziemer (ex officio)

Literary Liner Notes

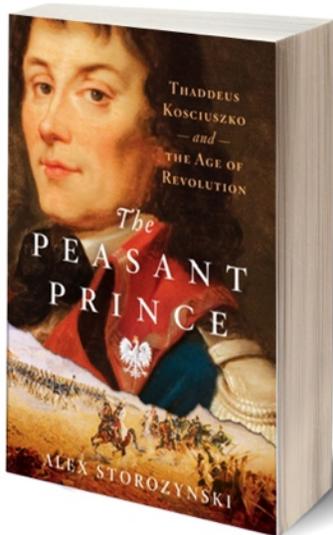
The Peasant Prince

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, July 22 at 7 pm in the home of Chris Hurlbut. This month we are reading *The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution* by Alex Storzynski. Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish-Lithuanian born in 1746, was one of the most important figures of the modern world.

Fleeing his homeland after a death sentence was placed on his head, he came to America with little more than a revolutionary spirit and a genius for engineering. He quickly proved his capabilities and became the most talented engineer of the Continental Army. A lifelong champion of the common man and woman, he was ahead of his time in advocating tolerance and standing up for the rights of slaves, Native Americans, women, serfs, and Jews.

Following the end of the war, Kosciuszko returned to Poland and was a leading figure in that nation's Constitutional movement. He became Commander in Chief of the Polish Army and valiantly led a defense against a Russian invasion. He lived the remainder of his life as an international celebrity and a vocal proponent for human rights. This definitive and exhaustively researched biography fills a long-standing gap in historical literature with its account of a dashing and inspiring revolutionary figure.

In the month of August we will be reading *Maine* by J. Courtney Sullivan or *The Bookstore* by Debroah Meyler. In September we will be reading *Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Woman's Prison* by Piper Kerman. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



Ohio Meadville District News

Looking for Workshop Information?

Did you miss a workshop? Want to go back and review what you learned? Heard rave reviews about that workshop at District Assembly? You can find workshop recordings and materials for events like Stewardship Day and selected workshops at District Assembly at the CERG On Demand Learning Center at www.cerguua.org/moodle - look in the Workshop Archive class. Or check our YouTube site for the videos at www.youtube.com/cerguua1

Young Adult Programming in the OMD

This year OPUS, the continental gathering of young adults will take place in the OMD. Registration is open and details are on the [OMD website](#). OPUS will take place August 12-17, 2014 at Nuhop Center for Experiential Learning on Ohio.

H-UULTI Is Flipping the Classroom!

CERG has changed the format of UULTI from an expensive residential leadership training to a hybrid / online training. H-UULTI uses online technology to create a "flipped classroom" experience. Presentations happen online so that when you are meeting in person, you are using your valuable time in experiential and team learning. Presentations and readings can be accessed on-demand so you can learn on your own schedule, and the low cost and flexibility makes it more accessible than a residential leadership school. Our process circles and "community of practice" Saturdays will help you connect and share wisdom with UU leaders from other congregations in your area and from around the country. Learn more at www.cerguua.org/HUULTI



For a complete and up-to-date church 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.

the
chalice flame

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH
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