

Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

If you were in church this past month you probably noticed some changes to our order of service. Over the summer the Worship Arts Team and I decided to experiment with using printed Caring Cards for sharing joys and sorrows, concerns and milestones. People who have something to share are invited to write on these cards for the worship leader to read, rather than speaking aloud themselves during the Embracing Meditation. The primary reason for this experiment was that the spoken time in our service was not inclusive of people who need amplification in order to hear. I know that there is some loss in this change. Some people prefer having the opportunity to speak aloud themselves for the catharsis that comes of speech and others have shared that they don't necessarily know that they have something to share until they are in the moment of meditation. I appreciate both of these points. However, I have heard from many more

people who have been grateful that they now can hear all that is being shared. I've also heard from some introverts who were not comfortable speaking themselves but appreciate the opportunity to share in written form. The Worship Arts Team will review this experiment when we meet again later this fall, but so far it seems to me that we have made real strides in inclusion and accessibility with this new approach.

We hadn't intended to make other changes to the order of worship this fall, but one of the advantages of having an Interim Director of Religious Education is the opportunity revisit how and why we do things the way we do. Karen LoBracco brought to our attention that the time our children and youth are in the sanctuary with adults seemed to be creeping from the intended 15 minutes to 20 or 25 minutes on a regular basis. As we considered this observation

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240
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Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

**Congregational
Administrator:**

MaryBeth Hannan
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Mon. through Fri. 9 - 4

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

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Hal Walker

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Deadline:

The 20th of each month



UU kids sing "Let It Go" from the movie, *Frozen*

and reviewed the order of service prior to the Time for All Ages, we realized that announcements are a variable that is difficult to control. We also quickly concluded that announcements are not a central part of faith development in the way that hearing and singing music, reading a Unitarian Universalist covenant, the Time for All Ages and the planned religious education classes are. Therefore, we are also experimenting with moving the announcements to another place in the order of service. While we are at it, we are also experimenting with moving the "greet your neighbor" portion of the service as well. We tried a few different combinations in October and will try a few more in November. The Worship Arts Team will review these experiments too and I'd like to include your feedback, so please let me know if you have a strong opinion about what you think has or has not worked well.

Finally, I'd like to encourage us all to use our print communications including this newsletter, the Thread from the Web and the enUUs for sharing (and reading!) announcements. The good news about a healthy, dynamic congregation is that there is always a lot going on. Our challenge is to figure out ways of communicating all that goodness! It is tempting to consider a verbal announcement during the worship services for all of our events, but I'd suggest that we try to reserve verbal announcements for events that are directed toward the congregation as a whole. Alternatively we could start the services 10 minutes early and have an open announcement time for sharing community news. Or we could aim to keep announcements the length of a tweet. Announcements are a chance for us to invite engagement and showcase the vitality of our congregation. But lots of church expert types say they don't really work? Tell me what you think. I'm still mulling this one over.

Looking forward to seeing you in church!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa".

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

November

Nov. 1 - With Reverence and Gratitude

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer
and Worship Associate Lori Fatchet-McGee*

Our worship theme this month is ancestry. We begin our exploration by considering the ways in which people relate to elders in our own country as well as other places around the world. What are the foundations of a spiritually whole and healthy response to elderhood?

Nov. 8 - Ancestral Echoes

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer
and Worship Associate Andrew Rome*

When we think of ancestors we often think of a family's heritage. This morning we will think instead of our nation's heritage. Our ancestors in this land were both native and immigrant. The history of colonial oppression of indigenous people affects us still. What does that legacy have to do with our spiritual health today?

Nov. 15 - We Are Because They Were

*Intern Minister Dave Clements
and Worship Associate Carolyn Schlemmer*

In the struggles we choose for ourselves, in the ways we move forward in our lives and bring our world forward with us, it is right to remember the names of those who gave us strength in this choice of living. It is right to name the power of hard lives well lived. Come and learn about those in our church community who served us well.

Nov. 22 - The Stories We Tell

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

The stories we tell shape the people we are. Come join us for stories, music and ritual in our annual, multigenerational celebration of Thanksgiving. In keeping with our tradition, we will offer communion and everyone is welcome to the table.

Nov. 29 - Our UU Forebears That We DON'T Talk About

*Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Retired UU Minister
and Worship Associate Lori Fatchet-McGee*

In this sermon I'll look at some of our religious predecessors that we don't like to claim. We readily claim many of our country's founding fathers and mothers and other famous persons as Unitarians and or Universalists, but there are some equally famous persons that we don't talk about. Why? Is it that we don't know about them? Or are we ashamed of them? Join us and find out.

EVENTS TO NOTE

GrUUvy Kent! Thanks-4-Giving Auction

Saturday, Nov 7th, 6:00pm
at the United Church of Christ
(see page 6 for details)

New UU Classes

Sunday, Nov. 8th and 15th
9:00 - 11:00 am
(see page 8 for details)

Pat Pownall Book Group

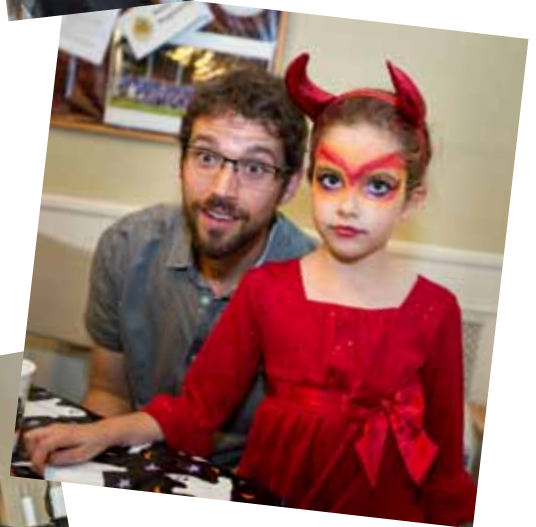
Tuesday, Nov. 10th, 7pm
(see page 11 for details)

Capital Campaign Celebration

Sunday, Nov. 22nd
(see page 9 for details)

Happy Halloween

Scenes of Mayhem and Merriment
from this year's Halloween Party





Feelin' GrUUvy?

Thanks 4 Giving Auction

Saturday, November 7th, 6:00pm
at the United Church of Christ
1400 E. Main St. in Kent



It's time to pull out your favorite bell-bottoms and tie-dye T-shirts so you'll be ready for GrUUvy Kent, UUCK's biggest and best social/fundraising event of the year! Join the rest of us swingin' hipsters at the United Church of Christ at 6:00pm for good food, good talk, and good buys. Get your ticket for just \$20.00, and PLEASE remember to turn in your donation forms by this Sunday, November 1! Well, off to look for our love beads so we can practice our funky chicken in style—see you this Saturday!



#LREDAWOW

from Karen LoBracco

I write this on my way home from the annual Fall Conference of the Liberal Religious Educators Association held in Morristown, NJ. What an amazing week of Board meetings (I serve as Treasurer) and the conference itself! The conference was titled *RE Without Walls*. What a mind-boggling experience to be in a room with 200 other attendees and to see on my neighbor's computer screen photos and commentary shared by persons all over the room reacting to what is going on! And that experience was being shared via Twitter and Facebook and more, with colleagues near and far. In real time!

The giant leap forward that LREDA as an organization is embarking on, and I personally have dipped my toe into, would not be possible without the firm foundation given to us by our ancestors. In that very room were some of my heroes, people that were faith development leaders 30 or 40 or more years ago. The initiatives were funded by grants from endowments, the UU Fund for Unitarian Universalism and the LREDA Endowment. The hopes of our ancestors coming alive!

Here at UUCK we are also a people living with and benefiting from the generosity of our ancestors. No escaping it! No escaping also the inheritance we received to be a beacon of acceptance and justice in Kent. May it be so!

Make Your Spare Change = Real Change for the UU Church of Kent

Have you been throwing your spare change in an old jar each evening? Not looking forward to counting and rolling it? The Capital Campaign Team has an easy way for you to turn that spare change into an extra donation that will mean real change for the UU Church of Kent.



Take your container of coins to the Downtown Kent office of Hometown Bank, and let them know that you would like to make a donation to the UU Church of Kent Capital Campaign Account. They will run the change thru their coin counter, and give you a receipt for the deposit.

To receive credit for your donation, put the receipt in the Sunday collection basket marked with your name and the notation "capital campaign".

Hometown Bank is located at 142 North Water Street, Kent. They are open 8:30-4:30 Monday-Thursday, and Friday till 5:00. If you cannot make it to the bank during the weekdays, Carol Gould has graciously volunteered to come to your home and pick up your coin donation in person.

In keeping with the theme of our October services, it will feel good to lighten up!

Help Wanted

Do you have a special talent for energizing people? Are you a good organizer? Would you like to work with teams of helpers? If you have these skills, you could be the next UUCK Fundraising Chair! Sub-committee members are already at work making pancakes, preparing for the Holiday Share, and many other fundraising activities. PLUS, the Policies and Procedures for this committee have ALREADY BEEN WRITTEN! Please, contact Claudia Miller to express your willingness to oversee this fine group of fundraising volunteers.



Thanksgiving Dinner

will once again be served at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Thursday, November 26 in Fessenden Hall.

This year, our hosts are Lori and Jo Fatchet-McGee who will be preparing a turkey for the feast. Turkey will be provided so there will be no charge for anyone; however, we will take a free will offering to help cover the cost of a few supplies and beverages. All who attend are asked to bring a favorite Thanksgiving dinner side dish or dessert to share. A variety of alcohol-free drinks will be provided. If you plan to come, consider bringing your favorite game to share if you'd also like to enjoy time relaxing with others after the meal. In order to prepare, please let us know if you are coming. A sign-up sheet has been posted in Fessenden Hall. Alternatively, you can email your reply to the church office. If you do reply via email, please let us know what you will be bringing and whether you are free to help with set up or clean up. Dinner time will be announced in the e-nUUs and Thread from the Web.



New UU Classes This Month!

Curious? Interested in learning more? Ready to take the next step?



Our New UU classes cover everything you wanted to know about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent in particular and Unitarian Universalism in general, but didn't know where to go or whom to ask. Well, maybe not everything, but we try to give you an overview, a starting point. Some history of both, some organizational details. Come join the conversation. And, if you're curious about membership, this is the place to be.

Part 1 will be on Sunday, **November 8**, from 9-11 am.

Part 2 will be on Sunday, **November 15**, from 9-11 am.

You may attend one or both, although attendance at both is encouraged. Different topics will be covered in each. We will gather at the Annex, the yellow house next to the church.

If you have any questions, contact Claudia Miller.

HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!

You'll need to stock up on food and gifts. Get your food at ACME and GIANT EAGLE and help out the church. You buy and use cards at full value, just like a debit card. If you use check or cash to buy the card at the grocery card table during coffee hour, the church gets 5% of the face value of the card, but you get full value of the cards at the store.

Of course you can always use them as gift cards in many denominations starting at \$10. Give them to teachers, kids, and friends. If you don't want to give groceries, you can use your prepaid grocery cards to buy many other kinds of gift cards, such as gift cards for movie theaters, AMAZON and many other places.

Also, don't miss an opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life this holiday season. ACME gift cards are a quick and easy way to make a donation to the Kent Social Services Thanksgiving Food Drive (deadline, Nov. 15th).

"Second Sunday Meet & Greet"

November 8th, 2015

And Every Second
Sunday at 11:00 o'clock



Each Second Sunday, the Membership Team will host a Meet & Greet for newcomers in the Founders' Lounge at 11:00. Please join with members of the Membership Committee and Church Staff for coffee, light refreshments, and informal conversation. Take the opportunity to make yourself known and to meet some friendly folks who can serve as your first circle of UUCK acquaintances! We'll do our best to make you feel welcome and comfortable. Andrea, Trish, Cheryl, Diane, Shannon, Mary, and Claudia will be on hand to help answer your questions, to alert you to activities and opportunities, to "show you the ropes," and to help you break into the sometimes daunting "Coffee Hour" experience.

Please stay for a short visit after First Service, or, come a little early before Second Service. We look forward to meeting you. Whether you are "brand new," "nearly new," "sort of new", or just want to meet UUs, plan to stop by the Meet & Greet table in the Founders' Lounge (same level as sanctuary) at 11 am every Second Sunday of each month. This is a family friendly event, so kids are welcome. Nursery care provided.

STOP BY and **BUY GROCERY CARDS**, or **CALL** the **CHURCH OFFICE** to pick some up, or **CONTACT BOB ERDMAN** for home delivery.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ENDS NOVEMBER 15

Have You Made Your Donation/Pledge???

There's still time to talk to a Capital Campaign Visiting Steward about the details of our three phase building expansion project. The Campaign ends on November 15 and the big celebration is on Sunday, November 22. Have you thought about what you are able to donate to help us **REALIZE THE VISION** and **LIVE OUR MISSION?** Together we can do it. You have heard all month from members who have told you what this project means to them and why they are contributing. We hope that you can make a stretch to help us bring this project, the *Realize the Vision; Not for Us Alone*, Capital Campaign to reality. It will be the legacy of



this generation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, increasing opportunities for our church, the local community, and our larger UU community in the district, region and more.

If you would like to talk to someone about the campaign, please contact Marion Yeagler or Kathy Kerns

More information is available on the church website www.kentuu.org.

SAVE THE DATE...



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION

We will have a big celebration to announce the grand total that was raised. Details will follow.

ADDITIONAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Listed below are the currently available naming opportunities in the new social hall and the renovated Fessenden Hall. Some other opportunities have already been taken. Opportunities in the new Sanctuary will be determined as that project gets closer. If you have not already, please indicate on your donation form your interest in a future naming opportunity. Groups may pool their donations in order to name a space.

NAMING OPPORTUNITY

kitchen fully equipped
classroom in the Gordon Vars Education Wing
library in the Gordon Vars Education Wing
lobby/foyer
coat room
covered walkway
new classrooms in Fessenden (5 opportunities)

DONATION

\$90,000
\$15,000
\$15,000
\$20,000
\$15,000
\$15,000
\$15,000 ea



FOOD WASTE A NORTHEAST OHIO CONVERSATION

Presented by Food Waste for Farms & North Central SARE

Come join in the discussion! Hear what local farmers, chefs, environmental leaders and composters are doing to redefine food waste in Northeast Ohio.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

10 am-2 pm

Tickets: \$10

CASE WESTERN RESERVE

November Meeting Center,

Squire Valleevue Farm

37125 Fairmount Boulevard

Hunting Valley, Ohio 44022



Food Waste For Farms, a pilot project out of Kent, Ohio, is linking area restaurants, food producers, schools, and farms to find more sustainable methods of managing food waste. Whether as animal feed or a compost material, Food Waste For Farms aims to decrease the amount of valuable waste in landfills.

tickets & more info at foodwasteneo.eventbrite.com



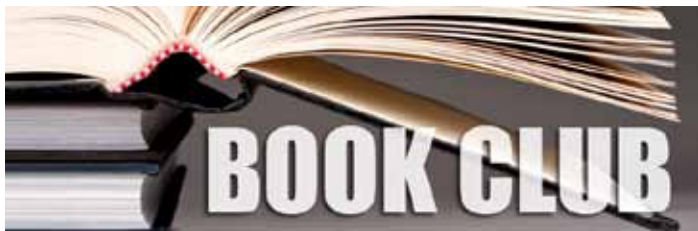
BON APPÉTIT
MANAGEMENT COMPANY

food service for a sustainable future®



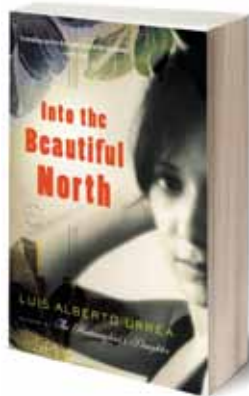
**good
land**
SUSTAINABILITY
CONSULTANTS

door to door
organics



Into the Beautiful North

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, November 10 at 7 pm in the home of Trish Kwartler at 2937 Overlook Road in Silver Lake. If you want to carpool, meet at the church at 6:30 pm. This month we are reading *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. Nineteen-year-old Nayeli works at a taco shop in her Mexican village and dreams about her father, who journeyed to the US when she was young. Recently, it has dawned on her that he isn't the only man who has left town. In fact, there are almost no men in the village—they've all gone north. While watching *The Magnificent Seven*, Nayeli decides to go north herself and recruit seven men—her own "Siete Magníficos"—to repopulate her hometown and protect it from the *bandidos* who plan on taking it over.



In December we will be reading *TransAtlantic: a novel* by Colum McCann. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.

Ohio Meadville District News

UUA Announces 2015-16 Common Read

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption is the UUA's 2015-16 Common Read. Author Bryan Stevenson advocates for those trapped by the U.S. criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and women. The book speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, timeless and important concerns of people of faith. Begin reading now; a discussion guide is available at uua.org/re/adults/read

OMD Nominating Committee Looking for Candidates

Are you a church leader who is passionate about serving your UU community? Are you a UU who wants to serve your fellow UUs in a leadership position? Do you know someone in your congregation or UU community who would be interested in serving? The District Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for elected leadership positions. We are looking for individuals with skills, dedication, and leadership experience to help shape the future of the District. Nominations for positions on both the OMD Board and the Nominating Committee will be made at the Annual District Assembly and we need to hear from YOU! Learn more about the process at ohiomeadville.org/leaders/committee/701-nominating

For more OMD news, visit:
ohiomeadville.org/news



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

