



## Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

**R**esistance. That is our January worship theme. My first thoughts are of cultural protest. There is a very long list of things that I want to resist in my life – racism, classism, sexism, ableism, xenophobia – oppression in all its many forms. The work of resistance can look like picketing and marching and lobbying, but before it is enacted in some outward form, resistance begins with education. Because none of us can be expert in everything, study is essential for broadening our horizons, learning our history, and listening to the experience of fellow human beings. The work of education may lead us to protest which, ideally, then leads to reflection and further education in an ongoing cycle. The first two services I will lead in January are rooted in this approach to resistance. I've wanted to explore income

inequality and classism for quite some time. This theme and the King holiday seem the perfect invitation.

There are other dimensions of this theme. Sometimes resistance is about resisting the cultural pressure to perform a certain version of an idealized human life. Part of the work of being an adult is having the courage to be our true selves. I get the sense that this isn't one of those things we do once, but rather over and over again as we endeavor to be authentic, no matter the circumstance or setting. We'll explore this together at the end of the month.

As I read the Soul Matters packet of material on this theme, I was intrigued to see some other expressions of resistance that I hadn't initially

**Sunday Services**

9:45 and 11:30 am

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Tuesday - Friday  
By appointment

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**Deadline:**

The 20th of each month



Knitting group on a weekday afternoon. Carol Gould and Mary Ann Kasper.

considered. In his book *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*, Walter Brueggemann invites us to resist our culture of busyness and anxiety. To him, striving is one of our greatest spiritual diseases. He says that resisting it needs to become one of everyone's core spiritual practices. Here are his Sabbath "instructions":

- You do not have to do more.
- You do not have to sell more.
- You do not have to control more.
- You do not have to know more.
- You do not have to be younger or more beautiful.

As this new year begins, I know that his instructions have something to offer to me. I suspect many of you will find them a worthy focus of your meditation as well. Blessings upon you in this new year. I look forward to continuing to grow and discover with you in 2016.

Peace,

## UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am



### January 3 - Confessions of the Ordinary Kind

*Kristina Spaude and  
Worship Associate Lori Fatchet-McGee*

What are your deepest, darkest secrets, those you shared with no one? It may be a “regret, fear, betrayal, desire, confession, or childhood humiliation” -- these are the secrets sought by the amazing mail art project called postsecret. We'll explore such secrets, and what might happen if we do share them. The creator of postsecret.com, Frank Warren, said, “Every single person has at least one secret that would break your heart. If we could just remember this, I think there would be a lot more compassion and tolerance in the world.”

### January 10 - Escalating Inequality

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

In 2014 the Unitarian Universalist Association chose Escalating Inequality as its 2014-2018 Study Action Issue. The escalation of income inequality influences many of the social injustices which are of our concern to our faith community. Today we begin the first of a two part sermon series trying to understand the big picture of income inequality today.

### January 17 - Walking the Walk

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer  
and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen*

This service picks up where we ended the week before by inviting personal reflection and exploring collective Unitarian Universalist responses to escalating income inequality. What actions can we take that might make a meaningful difference?

### January 24 - Mystery

Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer  
and Worship Associate Becky Cline

Last year Becky Cline won the opportunity to give me a subject for a sermon at our annual service auction. Since then, Becky has agreed to become one of our newest worship associates. Join us as we delve into the wonders and surprises of Mystery.

### January 31 - Nobody But Yourself

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer*

Quotations attributed to both e.e. cummings and Ralph Waldo Emerson tell us that the work of being yourself is truly an accomplishment. When others are trying to make you just like them or just like everyone else, being yourself is no small feat of resistance. What does it take to be nobody but yourself?



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

### New Building Update

Sunday, Jan 31st, 10:45am

### Presentation of Final Plans and Vote to Proceed

Sunday, Feb 7th, 12:30pm





## What's the Buzz About Childcare?

from Karen LoBracco

The good news is that the UU Church of Kent is full of busy young families! The good news is that those families are involved in all phases of congregational life and activities! The good news is that the UU Church of Kent always provides nursery care during Sunday worship and makes a good faith effort to provide childcare for events. But arranging that childcare is not always easy, so that is where you come in.

**EVENT ORGANIZERS** Contact our RE Assistant Colleen Thoele ([reassistant@kentuu.org](mailto:reassistant@kentuu.org)) at least 3 weeks before your event with your estimated childcare needs. Never assume that Colleen will automatically arrange for childcare. A request form is coming soon to make it easier for you to supply the necessary information.

**USERS OF CHILDCARE** Reserve your childcare spot with Colleen 1 week before the event to allow time to schedule the proper number of workers. And if your plans change, please notify her ASAP.

**CHILDCARE PROVIDERS NEEDED** Caring for our youngest members is a holy trust which UUCK takes seriously. We are seeking to employ more adults as paid occasional childcare providers as well as expand our team of capable teens. A training session will be scheduled soon. If you are looking for a way to earn a little extra money and/or serve the church community speak with Colleen Thoele or Interim DRE Karen LoBracco ([dre@kentuu.org](mailto:dre@kentuu.org)) about how to apply.

## WHY THE PUSH TO GET MORE ORGANIZED?

The good news is that we are receiving more requests for childcare, but when it is arranged last minute the result has sometimes been more children than expected. Or Colleen has scrambled to find workers only to have no children show up and of course those workers still need to be paid! Scheduling in advance helps conserve the precious congregational resources of time and money, even though it asks us to make commitments in advance. We can do it!

Karen Labracco

## IT'S A JANUARY 17TH CLEAN-UP PARTY!

You are invited – yes we mean you personally – to a joyful congregational cleaning and organizing party! Some of us have a pet peeve or area of the church building that could benefit from a bit of TLC. Others of us just find cleaning, organizing and fixing up are more fun and productive when we work as a group. Whatever your motivation or age (3 to 93), whether you have 15 or 115 minutes to spare, you can make a difference!



The Day: Sunday, January 17th

The Time: 12:30pm - 2:30  
or however long you can stay

What to Bring: One or more of the following – Cleaning supplies such as buckets, dusters, rags, window cleaners, vacuums, brooms, etc., a project that you want to tackle, willingness to work as part of a team with old or brand new friends, a tool box and/or a fix-it attitude, helping hands.

What UUCK will Provide: Brian Malloy our sexton and other staff will be there to support and assist with supplies, equipment and questions. No need to guess about what to do – just pick a task from the job board to match your schedule, abilities and interests. Great appreciation will be bestowed on all participants!

## Announcement about Announcements!!

If you have been in church for the past two months, you know that we have been experimenting with the placement of announcements and community greetings. The reason we began experimenting was 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 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.

However, after experimenting, reflecting and hearing feedback from at least a dozen members of the congregation, the Worship Arts Team and I concluded that the announcements and greetings truly fit best at the beginning of the service. This placement works best for our overall worship experience and also allows teachers and advisors to be present for this community time, in addition to giving children and youth the opportunity to participate in the community greeting.

So, after all our experimenting, we are going to leave the placement of the announcements where they were when we began. In addition, we are going to ask that all announcements spoken aloud at the beginning of the service meet the following criteria:

1. They pertain to something that day or the week ahead
2. They are relevant to the congregation as a whole
3. They can be announced concisely, perhaps the length of a tweet, which is 140 characters

As always, more complete announcements can be included in the Chalice Flame Newsletter, the Thread from the Web and the e-nuus. Thanks you for your patience with our experimenting and special thanks to those of you who took the time to offer feedback.

Peace,  
Melissa

## Hoarding: This Can Be Serious!

Saturday, January 16, 10:00-11:30 am

Hosted by West Shore UU Church

Led by Bert Rahl, MSSA, LISW-S

Bert Rahl is Director of the Mental Health Program at Eldercare Services, a division of Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI). He has been employed at BRI for the last 40 years. Mr. Rahl has intensive clinical experience working with mentally ill clients. He currently serves on many mental health-related committees. In recent years, he has been co-chair of the Hoarding Connection of Cuyahoga County. Bert will discuss hoarding behaviors, how they can effect families, and how those with the problem can be helped. Although such behaviors can begin as early as the teen years, the average age of those seeking help with their own hoarding is about 50. Questions will be accepted and answered.

## RE Committee Invites All To Hear Guest Speaker

On Saturday, January 9th the RE Committee is hosting its annual Retreat for all religious education teachers and assistants. The morning begins with a gourmet breakfast bar presented by professional chef Brandon Thoele at 9am, followed by a presentation at 10am which is open to the entire Kent UU community. Lori Pamer of Children's Advantage in Ravenna has accepted our invitation to share strategies and answer our questions about successful inclusion of children and youth with special needs. Since 1975 Children's Advantage has supported the mental health of children, youth and their families in Portage County. We share an emphasis on building on strengths by partnering with families. At 11am the program will switch to updates and reviews about RE procedures followed by time for teaching teams to meet and plan.

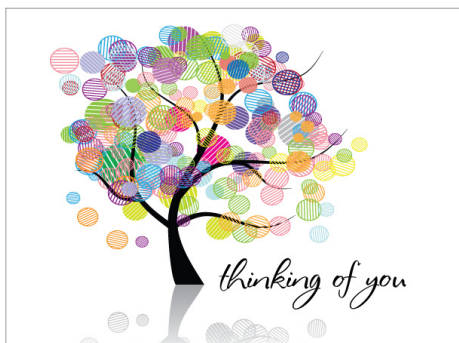
The entire program and childcare is FREE, but please RSVP to Colleen Thoele at [reassistant@kentuu.org](mailto:reassistant@kentuu.org) immediately so that we have adequate food, chairs set up and childcare providers.



# RESIST

## Is Resistance Active or Passive?

We are pleased to continue our monthly conversation about the worship themes with our next conversation on January 24. The conversation format will be similar to that of our Chalice Groups in that personal reflections and deep listening will form the core of our sharing. However, unlike Chalice Groups, the once-a-month gatherings will not require an attendance commitment. Participants can drop in for a session as schedules permit. There is no registration required. The discussion will begin at 1:00 pm in the Founders Lounge with Reverend Melissa facilitating. All are welcome to join the gathering on January 24 when we will share thoughts on "Resistance."



## Caring Cards During Coffee Hour

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent Care Team is inviting members and friends of the congregation to take turns hosting the caring cards writing table on Sundays during coffee hour. The work includes setting out the supplied cards on the table during coffee hour and then being available for folks who would like to come by to start or sign a card to someone connected to the congregation. At the end of coffee hour, the caring cards host writes a sticky note on each card about what it is for and then leaves it for people who want to sign after second service. Someone in the office will retrieve the cards and mail them out early each week. To sign up to host the table, visit [signupgenius.com/go/4090d48abad2ea46-caring](http://signupgenius.com/go/4090d48abad2ea46-caring)

## Simple Gifts received...

### Elaine Bowen

in honor of Lori McGee's &  
Jo Facht's wedding

### Olive Hobbs

no dedication

### Elaine Bowen

In celebration of  
Kailani Walker's Birthday

### Ed & Janee Krimmer

in celebration of  
Owen Amias Carvill Ziemer

### Claudia Miller

in memory of Gingr Vaughan

### Elaine Bowen

in celebration of  
Harper Walton-Fisette's 1st birthday

### Joel & Kathie Slater

in honor of Gingr Vaughan

### Joel & Kathie Slater

in memory of Betty Kendrick

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.





## Capital Campaign Construction Note Opportunity

Our Expansion project is on the move!  
The construction of our new Fellowship Hall, expected to start this summer, poses the following issue/opportunity....

As we complete construction, we will need to pay our general contractor in full. This is currently estimated to happen in late 2016 or early 2017.

Our capital campaign pledges are payable over 3 years, we will finish collecting all of our pledges by December of 2018.

This leaves us in a situation where we will be short of funds while our capital campaign collections catch up to our expenditures.

The good news is that approximately half of our total pledges have been collected already. This gives us a good start to fund construction, but sometime next summer, we will need to borrow funds to complete the project. We will pay off the borrowings as we collect our capital campaign pledges for the next three years.

This is where you, the congregation, can help. We can apply for a bank loan, but the closing costs and higher interest rate will take a bite out of our

construction budget. An alternative way for us to borrow is to ask our members to lend the funds for completion. This would free up more money towards construction. Here's how it would work...

- We are offering construction notes that would pay a competitive 2.50% interest rate (a much better rate than a bank savings account or CD is paying)
- Interest will be paid by check quarterly.
- 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.
- There is a \$20,000 minimum to participate.
- Participation is on a first come basis
- Currently it is estimated that the monies will be needed in July of 2016.

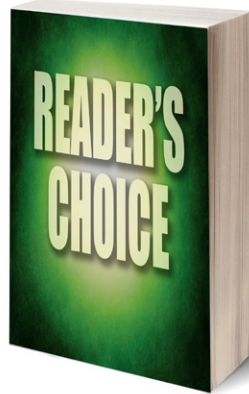
In order to get financing in order to ensure that construction starts this year, please indicate your interest by the end of February.

This project is our opportunity to make sure that this church will be here for people who need it in the years to come. We will never know their names, but as they come together for worship 50 years from now, they will know who we were. Please consider this investment. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact the Capital Campaign Treasurer, Kay Eckman.

## Reader's Choice

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, January 12 at 7 pm in the home of Shannon Osorio in Aurora. If you want to carpool, meet at the church at 6:30 pm. This month we are reading a biography or autobiography of your choice.

In February we are reading another book by Anthony Doerr, the author of *All the Light We Cannot See*. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



## Friday Afternoon Volunteer Opportunity!

Do you enjoy working "behind the scenes?" If so, we have jobs for you!

We are seeking individuals who are interested in regularly volunteering in the church office on Friday afternoons to assist with weekly tasks including but not limited to:

folding bulletins, creating name tags, updating bulletin boards, purchasing and setting up Sunday flowers, following through on visitor cards and welcome letters. This is a great opportunity to support the church and get to know how the office works! If interested, please contact MaryBeth, [uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uukent@sbcglobal.net) or 330-673-4247.



## Personal Care Needs for KSS

Kent Social Services helps clients with hot meals & food pantry items. What they lack funds for and SNAP (food stamp) benefits cannot pay for are personal care items, especially bar soap, shampoo & toothpaste. They hope to provide clients with these items on a monthly basis. We and other Kent area churches can help.

Full size bars of soap, 6.4 oz. or larger tubes of toothpaste & full size, 12 oz. & larger, bottles of shampoo are requested. Please leave donated items in the lower level closet by the elevator.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Ohio Meadville District News

### District Assembly 2016 UU Church of Akron April 2, 2016

We invite you to join us for a historic District Assembly

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Susan Ritchie  
with greeting from Jim Key, UUA  
Moderator

District Assembly is a chance for congregational leaders and ministers to meet, network, ask questions, provide input on the direction of the district and gather resources and information on a variety of topics and programs through workshops, the keynote address, the Gould Lecture and the Marketplace. It is an opportunity for education, leadership development and networking in a stimulating UU setting.

Don't miss this chance for your congregation to have your voice heard, gain knowledge, and collect new resources. Consider sending a congregational team to collect information from many workshops as well as to represent your congregation as delegates.

More details at:  
[ohiomeadville.org/districtassembly](http://ohiomeadville.org/districtassembly)

For more OMD news, visit:

[ohiomeadville.org/news](http://ohiomeadville.org/news)





For a complete and up-to-date calendar, please visit [www.localendar.com/public/uukent](http://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

