



## Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

One of the things I am most looking forward to when our new Fellowship Commons is complete is our increased capacity to host community events and events for Unitarian Universalists from other congregations in our region. As we look forward to expanding our connections, I encourage you to take advantage of several opportunities we have this winter and spring and summer to reach out and connect. Here is a month-by-month guide of events you might consider:

**February** – This year the musicians participating in Music Sunday will offer three services in order to make more room for more people to attend. Consider inviting a friend or family member to come with you to this special service. It will give them a little glimpse into part of what makes our congregation special. In addition to the usual Sunday morning times on 2/28, the same service

will be offered at 4:30 pm on 2/27. Childcare will be available on 2/27.

**March** – Consider registering to attend the historic District Assembly located in Akron in April or the annual General Assembly located in Columbus in June. The registration for the District Assembly is just \$15 and advance registration closes 3/20. The lowest rates for General Assembly registration are March and April, but applications for scholarships and for volunteering in exchange for registration are due by March 31. We also have some financial resources to help make this possible for those for whom cost is a barrier.

**April** – This District Assembly on April 2 is historic because we will be voting to disband the district as part of the move to regionalization. Up to 6 members of our congregation can serve

## Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

228 Gougler Ave.  
Kent, Ohio 44240  
Phone: 330-673-4247  
Fax: 330-677-4772  
[www.kentuu.org](http://www.kentuu.org)

### Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer  
[minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net)

### 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](mailto:dre@kentuu.org)  
Cell: 585-730-0686

### DRE's Office Hours:

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

### Music Director:

Hal Walker

### Commissioned Lay Leader:

Rev. Christie Anderson  
[christiea@neo.rr.com](mailto:christiea@neo.rr.com)

### Affiliated

### Community Minister:

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke  
[zimlar@juno.com](mailto:zimlar@juno.com)

### Newsletter editor:

Saul Flanner  
[newsletter@kentuu.org](mailto:newsletter@kentuu.org)

### Deadline:

The 20th of each month

**POSITION  
AVAILABLE**  
(see page 7)

as voting delegates, but you can attend whether or not you are a delegate. Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie will be delivering the keynote, there will be great workshops, opportunities to meet with Unitarian Universalists from other congregations and the opening worship will include my spouse Evin's ordination.

**May** – Our congregation turns 150 years old! Our fantastic 150th Anniversary Committee has planned a year full of wonderful events. The kick off to the year-long celebration will be on May 6 with an evening event called Legacy of Hope: 150 Years of Unitarian Universalist Values. This is another event to which you might consider inviting a friend.

**June** – The annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be held June 22 - June 26 in Columbus, OH. There will be a few thousand UUs in attendance from all over the country and around the world. Up to 5 members of our congregations can serve as voting delegates, but you can attend whether or not you are a delegate. With outstanding worship, engaging workshops and lectures (Krista Tippet of *On Being* will be the Ware Lecturer), a major public witness event and a chance to participate in the business of the association, this is a wonderful opportunity to deepen into Unitarian Universalism beyond our congregation. Hal Walker will be providing evening entertainment one of the nights. If you are there you can come cheer him on.

**July** – You may have heard members of this congregation talk about SI. Summer Institute is a week-long church camp for all ages held on the campus of Oberlin College. The incredibly talented and soulful musician Matt Meyer will be the theme speaker this year. SI includes time for learning, connecting, worshiping and playing and is another wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth and widening connections. This year the worship services are being led by a worship team which includes Rev. Christie Anderson, Rev. Scott Rudolph, Rev. Mel Hoover and me, along with the talents of a whole host of fabulous musicians. In order to create a little more breathing room for those will also be attending General Assembly, SI is one week later this year from July 17-23. We will post news about registration later this spring.

I'd be very glad to speak with you about any of these opportunities and hope many of you will join me in these chances we have to reach out.

In faith,



## UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

### February 7

#### Finding and Following Your Bliss

*Intern Minister Dave Clements*

Discerning one's bliss, requires creating a "sacred space" — a space for uninterrupted reflection and unrushed creative work. If you follow your bliss, you put yourself on a kind of track that has been there all the while, waiting for you, and the life that you ought to be living is the one you are living. Wherever you are — if you are following your bliss, you are enjoying that refreshment, that life within you, all the time. We will explore this concept of finding and following your bliss.

### February 14

#### The Heart Knows

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

This Sunday and next we will explore two sides of the same coin. How can attending to desire enhance our relationships and deepen our capacity for spiritual fulfillment?

### February 21

#### Insatiable Desire

*Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer  
and Worship Associate Lisa Thiel*

We continue the conversation about desire begun on Valentine's Day. This time we will wonder about the ways in which attending to desire can challenge our relationships and undermine our capacity for spiritual fulfillment. If we notice that may be happening in our lives, how can we get free?

# FEBRUARY

### February 28

#### ...As if Life Were a Song

*Our Annual Music "Sunday"  
Music Director Hal Walker and Friends*

**BONUS  
SERVICE**

*Saturday, Feb 27 at 4:30 pm and  
Sunday, Feb 28 at 9:45 and 11:30*

Due to the increasing popularity of this annual musical experience, we are expanding Music Sunday and offering a 3rd service on Saturday at 4:30! Our church's music program currently boasts a roster of 41 active members. The Peace Choir, The Golden Tones, The Peace Pipers, the Tone Chimers and the Fallow Time Folk Orchestra are all busy preparing for a late winter celebration of the remarkable musicianship of our congregation. This will be our music director, Hal Walker's 20th Music Sunday and he will be joined by worship associate, Christie Anderson exploring the subject, "... As if Life Were a Song." What a great opportunity to invite a neighbor or a friend to visit the UU church of Kent!







## Time to Make Summer Plans for Columbus!

from Karen LoBracco

It's February, the time some of us start planning for a summer adventure. This year we are so fortunate to have the General Assembly of the entire denomination meeting just down the road in Columbus, June 22-26. Many of you have experienced the magic of Summer Institute, mingling with folks from some of the 44 congregations in the Ohio Meadville District. GA = SI x 10, with thousands of attendees from all over the country and beyond, representing many of the over 1000 congregations that make up our UU Association. The worship is exceptional as is the music, and this year our own Hal Walker will be part of it. Add to that workshops galore, your chance to participate in the decision-making of our UUA, fabulous shopping and information booths, and social action opportunities.

Take advantage of the big push this year to bring more HS youth and young adults to GA! Not only are scholarships and grants available to individuals, but a special grant worth up to \$1000 is available for Youth Groups to participate. Check the details at [www.uua.org/re/youth/events/gacaucus/scholarships](http://www.uua.org/re/youth/events/gacaucus/scholarships). Financial aid applications are accepted in March. My daughter attended GA Youth Caucus when GA was in Rochester, NY, and it was one of those transformative experiences for her. Camp and childcare are also available for children. Check it out and let's talk more!

Karen LoBracco,  
Interim Director of Religious Education

## FIELD-TESTING OWL CURRICULUM FOR PARENTS

UUCK has been selected to test and give feedback for a curriculum designed to run in parallel to the Junior High OWL – Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators. On February 22 (6:30-8:30pm) our topic is Relationship Constellations (a youth topic during their January overnight), and March 14 we explore the timely area of Consent Education. You are welcome to join us for this free program offered monthly in the Founders Lounge.

## WELCOMING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: A GUIDEBOOK FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

This incredibly useful and spiritually grounded book is now available as a free online resource at <http://tinyurl.com/welcomingcwsn>. Print copies are also available in the RE Office. This was one of the resources discussed at the January RE Retreat.

## FELLOWSHIP FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

With all the joys that come with raising a family, there are also days that are stressful and difficult to get through. Of course, no two families are the same, but we do have common triumphs, struggles, milestones and needs. It is because of this common ground that The Parents of Young UU's group was born (pun intended) two years ago this month!

On the third Friday of each month we gather in fellowship to enjoy a potluck meal together in Fessenden Hall. After the potluck, babysitters entertain children upstairs while parents spend an hour discussing a topic and supporting each other with listening ears and open hearts. This month we will begin exploring the book *Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting* by Michelle Richards.

Have you been looking for a soft place to land and discuss all of the joys and concerns that come with raising small children? Please join us! Our next meeting is Friday, Feb. 19th. Potluck begins at 6:00 p.m. sharp. For a discounted copy of the book *Tending of the Flame* or more information about the group, please contact Colleen Thoele, [reassitant@kentuu.org](mailto:reassitant@kentuu.org).

## Moderator's Musings

### from Kathie Slater



New Year...new governance structures...new building...new members...new interim director of religious education. We are in the midst of change which can be unsettling and exciting, energizing and overwhelming or all of the above. The good news is that we are all in this journey together.

Many people are working to be sure that we all have a voice and a stake in the game as we plot our new directions. The Building Expansion Team has hosted an informational meeting for the congregation and soon will be presenting the final plans for the new fellowship complex. Look for announcements as to time and place. Tentatively scheduled after second service on Sunday, February 7th.

Stewardship/Finance/Board Presentation on Sunday, March 6th in the Sanctuary after both services. A panel of our own experts will bring you up to date with our current finances, our goals for the next fiscal year, and a look into the bright future for UUCK.

Our Board of Trustees has been implementing a congregational assessment plan that was developed by the Committee on Ministry. So far this year, Board members have analyzed our membership policies via meeting with the Membership Committee and Volunteer Coordinator Claudia Miller to reflect on how we live out our best intentions in this area of congregational life. Likewise, Trustees have analyzed our communications and financial processes.

To open this assessment process even further, we will be hosting an open conversation session during April. This Sunday afternoon discussion will provide an opportunity for members and friends to share their ideas on communication, fellowship, membership, growth, finances, and leadership. Look for future articles under the title: *Pizza and Perceptions*.

After these discussions, the Board of Trustees will be sharing summaries of their findings on these areas of congregational life via reports in the Chalice Flame.

## FYI:

**Fundraising.** Did you know there is a form to fill out if you are planning a fundraiser for your committee, team, or group? Check out the Church website for a link for the forms and further information.

If you are interested in attending the **Annual District Meeting**, contact Kathie Slater. This year the meeting will be at the Akron Unitarian Universalist Church on April 2.

A Search Committee for a **New Director of Religious Education** has been created and is initiating a search process.

**150th Anniversary** Team has planned a year of celebrations and service opportunities in the wider community. **Save the Date: Friday, May 6th** for an evening of joyful remembrance as we kick off our celebratory year.

Kathie Slater  
Moderator, Board of Trustees

## Message from the Board of Trustees

In this political season, it seems wise to review the IRS guidelines that govern exempt organizations like the Church. 501(c)(3) organizations are prohibited from any participation or interventions in political campaigns on behalf of candidates running for public office. Types of actions prohibited include:

- voter education
- voter polling
- voter guides
- communications that express approval or disapproval on a candidate's position or actions
- other activities that appear to support or oppose candidates for public office.

In simple terms, we as a group can support issues, but not candidates. Therefore, we ask all members and friends to refrain from lobbying or advocating for candidates or political parties on church grounds, at

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(continued from page 5)

church functions, or in communications where church business is also being conducted. Members are free to discuss candidate preferences with others at church who want to be involved in a civil conversation, but there is a fine line between having a discussion and lobbying another person or advocating for a candidate. Please avoid the latter as prohibited activity could jeopardize our exempt organization status and the benefits we receive such as legal tax deductions for contributions to the church and exemptions from sales tax.

In addition, we would like to remind you that we come together in great diversity including political viewpoints. To honor our diversity and the Unitarian Universalist Principles that guide us, we must remember that our congregation is made up of folks from several political party affiliations such as Republican, Democratic, Independent, Green, Libertarian, and/or Tea Party. Though our politics are diverse, we are united by our covenant as Unitarian Universalists.

In words oft attributed to Francis David, "we need not think alike to love alike." Thank you for your consideration.



### Meet and Greet: Every Second Sunday!

Meet someone new at Church today? Why not invite them to the Second Sunday Meet & Greet? 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.



### Black History Mont Event: Yoruba: an African Native Religion

**Sunday February 14, 1:00 PM, in the annex**

Yoruba originated in Nigeria, where it is still practiced, along with Islam and Christianity. It is the religion of the ancestors of slaves from West Africa. Today's film traces the pilgrimage of African-American women to Nigeria to discover their religious roots. A mix of polytheism and pantheism, Yoruba's rituals are designed to allow practitioners to recover their true destiny. Curious? Join us. Film and discussion.

### Springing Forward

Did you know that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent is completely self-funded? We are supported financially mainly by donations promised, in pledges made, during our annual stewardship campaign. Other internal fund-raising efforts and donations help us meet our budget needs. The bulk of our costs are for our wonderful staff and the buildings. And, of course, people and buildings make our programs possible. As our annual campaign nears, and you consider your pledge, please keep in mind that those costs are rising. Help us expand our programs into our new facilities, while we live our Mission.

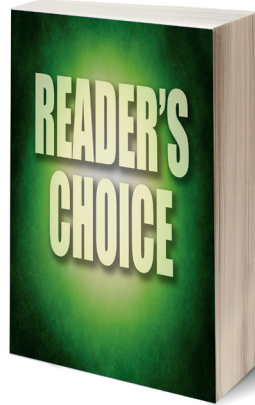




## Reader's Choice

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 9 at 7 pm in Founder's Lounge at church. Since our January gathering was cancelled due to weather, we will be discussing a biography or autobiography of your choice.

In March we will be 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.



## 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 Unitarianism and Universalism, as well as 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, February 14, from 9-11 am.  
Part 2 will be on Sunday, February 21, 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.

## Simple Gifts received...

**Amy & Chris Edmonds**  
in celebration of Christmas blessings

**Bonnie Harper**  
in memory of Betty Kendrick

**Adam Marsh**  
in celebration for Rev. Melissa

**Laura Sinclair**  
Simple Gift Endowment donation

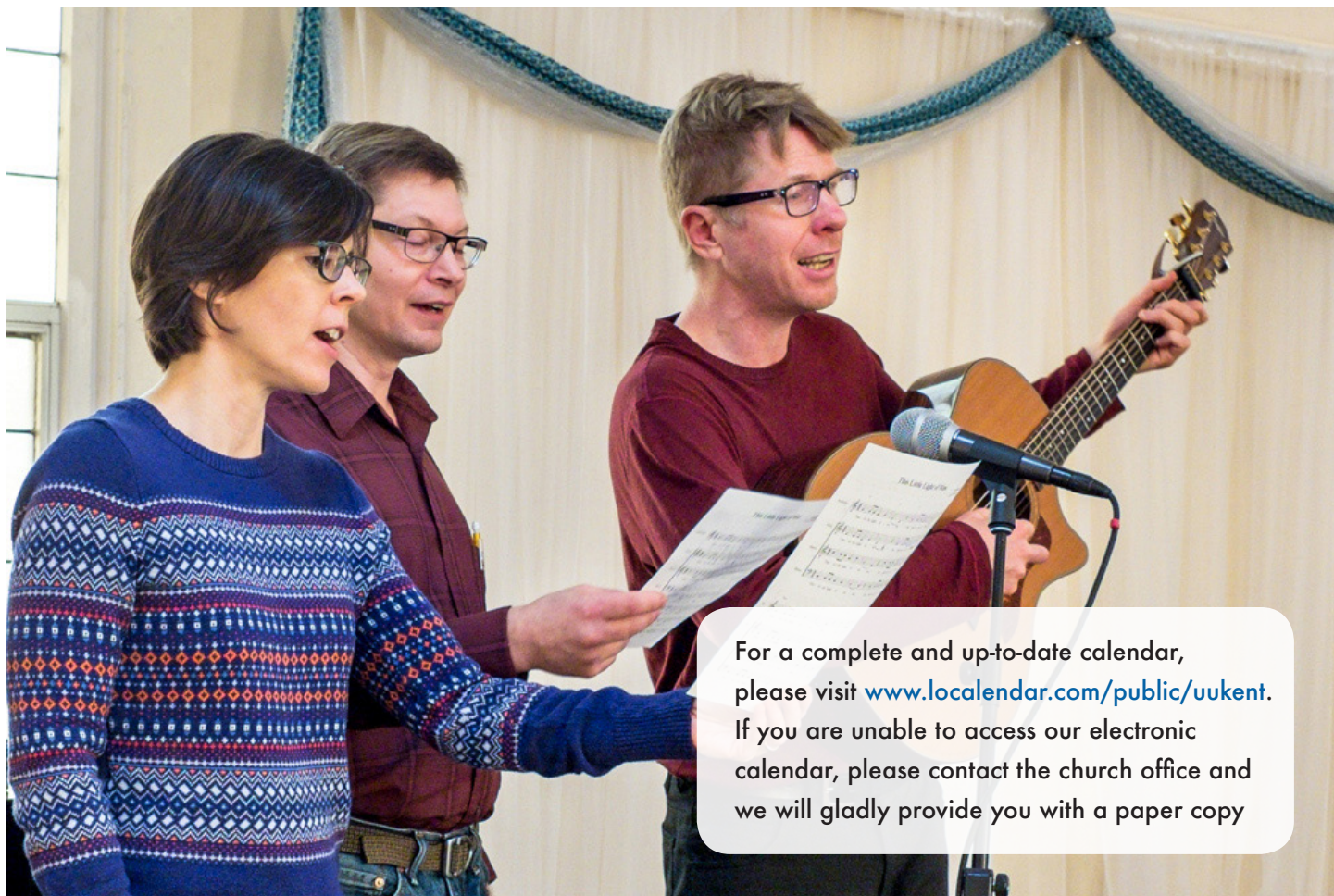
Our Simple Gifts program is designed to encourage everyday giving. If members and friends of the congregation continue to remember the church with regular gifts, we will be well on our way to building the kind of endowment that can help ensure our congregation's continuing health and vitality.

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, or simply want to learn, 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](mailto:newsletter@kentuu.org), or MaryBeth, [uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uukent@sbcglobal.net), for more details.





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

the  
chalice flame

NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
UNITARIAN  
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CHURCH  
OF KENT

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