



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

Back in the 1950's there was a popular Unitarian ad campaign. The title on the ad read, "Are You a Unitarian Without Knowing It?" That ad ran in major newspapers and was widely considered to have contributed to a big upswing in membership in Unitarian congregations across the country.

Since then Unitarian Universalists have tried a whole host of marketing and public relations efforts ranging from words on billboards to Google ad words. We still take out newspaper and magazine ads and post bumper stickers. We host events in our congregations and invite the larger community. We participate in interfaith and community social justice initiatives and people get to know our tradition in those settings. These days we rely on our websites and use social media platforms to get the word out. All of that is good and important and there is much

we can learn about how to use all these venues more effectively.

And yet, none of those methods for sharing Unitarian Universalism can stand in for personal connections. When we tell people that we are Unitarian Universalist (whether in person or on line), we give them an opportunity to engage with a being rather than a message. If they are interested in learning more, we can tell them what Unitarian Universalism is and what it means to us. If they remain interested, we can invite them to join us for a Sunday service or an adult religious education program or a movie night in our congregation.

I know it can be a little uncomfortable to talk with other people about religion sometimes. But when the time is right and people are interested in learning more, I hope you will take the chance to share. Recently one of the newish members of our

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

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By appointment

Congregational

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MaryBeth Hannan

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Deadline:

The 20th of each month

Special School Millage Issue

than the amount requested by the Dade County School Board. 10-mill levy in 1955. In the two preceding school millage elections—1951 and 1953—they approved 9-mill levies.

Voters cannot approve more than 10 mills. The tax, plus the 10 mills already levied by the Dade County School Board, totals 20 mills. Under the Florida constitution, no county can levy more than 20 mills for schools.

Carl Holmer, Dade County registrar, said about 233,600 are qualified to vote in the election. "I'm ashamed to try to predict how many will vote," he said. "I think we'll have a very, very small vote."

"It's a very important election, and we should have a good turnout." Dade freeholders approved the

Exclusive Men's Wear Shop

ey, Ltd. Co.

LINCOLN ROAD

THE STOCK OF
PORTCOATS—SLACKS

OUR

ARE YOU A UNITARIAN WITHOUT KNOWING IT?

"We had been Unitarians in thought for years before we knew that anyone else believed as we do, much less that there is a church built upon these beliefs." This is a statement from a person who answered one of our ads. This is not unusual. Many times a year we hear this same statement. There must be many people who are Unitarians without knowing it.

Do you believe religious truth cannot be contrary to truth from any other source? Do you believe that striving to live nobly and constructively is more important than accepting a religious creed?

Do you believe in the brotherhood of man, irrespective of color, culture, or country? Do you believe the primary responsibility for human progress rests upon man?

If so, you are professing Unitarian beliefs.

Knit Sleep

reg. 2.50

for boys and girls

2-piece co

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Two-piece pajama

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From the Miami Daily News, November 1st, 1957. Image courtesy of [Google News](https://www.google.com/news).

congregation shared that he was shocked to learn that he had lived near Unitarian Universalist congregations his whole life and only just heard of this tradition a few years ago. We are still too little known.

The reason for talking with others about Unitarian Universalism is because there are still lots of people who are Unitarian Universalist and don't know it. If you feel that there is something valuable and meaningful happening in this tradition, consider sharing it with someone else who might just be looking for what we have found. You never know, one little conversation with a friend or family member could be the opening to a doorway that changes a life for the better.

Several of our services in August are being crafted specifically with visitors in mind. This would be an excellent month to invite someone to come with you to church.

In faith,

Melissa

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

August 3 - Spiritual But Not Religious?

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

Have you heard people use that phrase to describe themselves? Media, scholars and pollsters have all invested a great deal in understanding who the “spiritual but not religious” are and whether they might have any interest in formal religious communities. This morning we explore the growing “spiritual but not religious” identity with a Unitarian Universalist lens.

August 10 - The Inside Out Church

*Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
and Worship Associate Bonnie Harper*

This year at General Assembly there was a lot of talk about Unitarian Universalists becoming more missional. What does that mean, you wonder? Come today and find out.

August 17 - Advice to my Younger Self

Saul Flanner and Kathy Walker

If you could travel back in time, and offer a few pointers to yourself as a younger person, would you? If so, what would you say? And would your younger self even recognize the person you are now?

August 24 - G"UU"GLE It

Lori McGee and Worship Associate Sophie Smith

This service will explore various aspects of Unitarian Universalism. From social justice to covenant, from religious education to ministry, we will endeavor to show how our chosen religion works for freedom, love, and justice in the world today.

August 31 - Jumping Into the Fire

Lisa Thiel and Worship Associate Mary Lou Holly

Many traditions, particularly from the East, hold that difficulties are our greatest teachers. Yet, much of the time, we try and avoid them by running away. It is only when we courageously embrace our difficult experiences or relationships, that we can grow deeply and experience wholeness.



A Conversation with Lee Brooker: Mississippi Civil Rights Journey

Join Lee Brooker on Tuesday, August 5 at 7pm in Fessenden Hall. He would like to share his experience on the UU College of Social Justice/UU Living Legacy Mississippi Bus Journey through Mississippi (while everybody else was at Summer Institute!) visiting Civil Rights Movement sites.

Simple Gifts received...

Barbara Myers

In appreciation for the plans to expand.

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.

Simple Gifts

from Karen Lapidus

The children and younger youth of our church have been learning that even small efforts can make a big difference. This summer our program of religious education has been involved in simple, mostly stand-alone, service projects.

We have baked cookies which were served the next day at Kent Social Service's lunch program. We created tote bags from discarded t-shirts which were given to the children currently residing at Safer Futures shelter. We painted rocks to leave around the church and yard as "love gifts" to the adults of our congregation. Later this summer, the children will be making a bird feeder, which will be hung in the new green play space at the back of the church. The RE classes will take turns feeding the birds throughout the fall and winter.

Our biggest of the simple gifts will benefit the residents of Kent Healthcare Center. We have decorated paper placemats and are in the midst of crafting several fleece lap blankets (they are lovely!). We are polishing our singing skills and selecting songs to sing so that we may delight the residents when we visit with them on Sunday, August 10th.

While our hands have been busy with all these activities, we have talked. The children have talked about what it means to be hungry and how a simple homemade cookie can be such a treat. (I am so proud to report that none of the children asked to have a cookie while we were baking. Everyone wanted all the cookies to be delivered to KSS!) They have talked about how having a special place to stow and carry your possessions might be very comforting if you are a child in a difficult and confusing situation. We talked about how random acts of kindness and love can bring happiness. We've talked about how to be good guests to the folks in the nursing facility and how to bring a little joy into their day.

Summer Religious Education continues through August 31st, so it is not too late to get involved in creating and giving simple gifts. We've added a class for preschoolers this summer, as well. RE happens at 9:45. As always, nursery care is provided for the youngest among us during every worship service.

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus
Director of Religious Education



In Our Own Backyard: The Immigration Crisis in Ohio



Saturday, September 13*

This emergency conference of Unitarian Universalists will gather to worship and learn together and to begin creating the foundations for an ongoing, collaborative Unitarian Universalist response to the immigration crisis as it is unfolding in Ohio. Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be our preacher and special guest.

*The time will be something like 9:30 to 4:00 and the location will either be West Shore or the Akron Unitarian Universalist Church. Please check the Thread from the Web and e-nUUs for updated information.

Messages from the Moderator

I recently reflected on my Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (UUA GA) experience at our church service a couple of weeks ago. This was my first experience with a major UU event. I have not attended a district UU assembly meeting or for that matter, Summer Institute. (Hopefully next year!) As a child, I grew up in fundamentalist Baptist environment. So, my only experience with extraordinary religious gatherings involved evangelism based on hell, fire and brimstone, with saving people for God as the goal.

But from the moment I checked in at the registration desk, got my credentials and reviewed the program I knew I was in for a totally new experience. With this year's theme, 'Love Reaches Out,' I experienced on a grand scale what it means to live in a covenant community. For five days I attended panels, a workshop on board governance, services and spoke with various UUs from across the nation, all of which served to remind me of the paths that we as UUs have chosen.

It wasn't just one message or issue that impressed me while attending UUA GA, there were many items that were discussed and acted on. It was being with over 4700 UUs that not just talked about the UU mission, vision, principles or values, but lived it. It was becoming increasingly aware that our UU community does not just involve engaging our members, but reaching out and engaging the communities that surround us. It was acknowledging that if we as UUs are to live our values we must reach out, connect and engage with other communities.

The UU Ware Lecturer, Sister Simone Campbell, National Coordinator of NETWORK, a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, challenged us "to walk toward community and away from the unpatriotic lie

of individualism... That we need to reach out and have conversations about our values." That living our values means putting ourselves out there on the front lines where inequality exists and injustice calls us. We do this by reaching out with love.

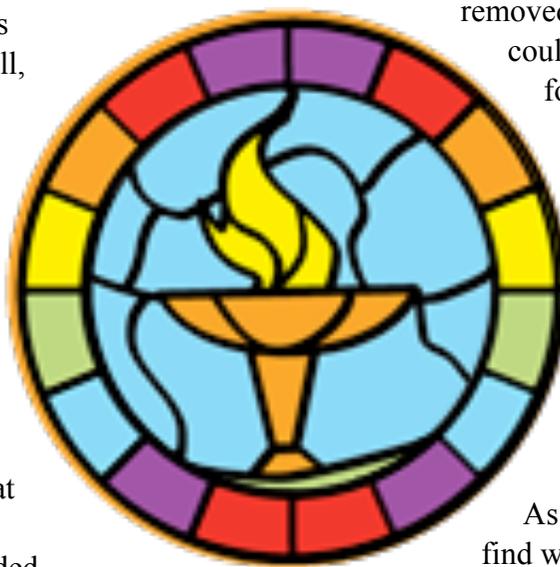
On another note, we are moving forward on the Mill's house demolition. Recently, asbestos was removed from the house and what items could be saved were salvaged. We foresee that the house demolition will take place by the end of the July. Meanwhile both the Capital Campaign and Building Expansion Teams have been busy meeting and working hard on the expansion project. Support them in this important work as our physical space grows.

As our UU community grows, let us find ways to reach out, communicate our values and engage other local communities.

Max V. Grubb
Moderator.

A Note from Your Treasurer:

Many thanks to those of you who made a pledge commitment for the new 2015 fiscal year which began July 1; your pledged contributions are an important facet of our budgeting process. Thanks also to those of you who, for whatever reason, choose not to pledge but who contribute non-pledged donations and/or give contributions to the Sunday plate. If you do make pledged donations, please remember to maintain your scheduled payments throughout the busy summer months. Wishing all of you a wonderful rest-of-summer!



A Life Changing Experience

from Alan Kerns

Goldmine Youth Leadership School is an intense leadership program for youth, ages 14-18, focusing on self-reflection and leadership skills. Our own Alan Kerns had the opportunity to attend in January, and had this to say about the experience:

Goldmine for me was not my solution to any particular problem back home, but rather, being able to equip myself with tools for leadership, should the opportunity ever arise. Just like how you don't go around trying to do everything with a hammer, simply adding or removing screws. I thought Goldmine did a wonderful job at this. The leadership skills, I thought, were actually applicable, anywhere from reading body language, giving constructive feedback, or handling obnoxious members in a group. The leaders all did a wonderful job. In the past it's always seemed that teachers like to just read the same list over and over again until, miraculously, you think it's useful. Not the case at Goldmine. The teachers went very in depth, telling us why we have to do something and not just what to do.

Of course, that's just brushing on the surface of my experience. Every day we had an hour of individual time, contemplating questions that dug very deep into who we are. To ensure honest writing, there was an opportunity (not mandatory) for sharing. I felt like I actually learned a lot about who I was. When I chose to share, everyone listened very attentively, silently



showing their agreement, not interrupting, not arguing, not criticizing. Just listening. I hadn't expected it to be as spiritual as it was. I say spiritual, not religious, but the leaders strove to push our comfort zone, going into the grey area between spirit and religion, just enough to make us really think, just enough to touch the surface. We even planned two worships in small groups, which allowed us to share our individual methods of practicing religion, or lack thereof. Goldmine far and above exceeded my expectations, I would recommend it to anyone who has trouble speaking out or any other leadership shortcomings, anyone who wants to experience something new spiritually, anyone who would like to learn more about themselves, anyone who wants to spend more time getting to grow and learn with other youth attending Goldmine. It was truly a life changing experience.

Islam 101: Friday, September 5, 2014

Join us for an evening in developing cultural and religious awareness presented by Mr. Isam Zaiem, founder of the Cleveland chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Mr. Zaiem's lecture, "Islam 101 and Being Muslim Post 9/11: Challenging Islamophobia and Marginalization", on Sept 5th is the introductory event to three fall Symposiums, sponsored by the Library Committee.

"Art and Allah: Increasing Our Understanding of Muslim Art, History and Culture" will be held at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary on the following Wednesdays: September 24, October 22 and November 22. The first two events will be presented by Gingr Vaughn and will concentrate on Islamic Art as an expression of the Islamic belief system and culture.



The 3rd event will concentrate on Islamic history with presenter TBA. Mark you calendar for the dates above. Recent political developments in the Middle East make this a special learning opportunity for our entire congregation.

Our Circle of Care

Caroline Arnold is receiving hospice care at Kent Health Care. Though she does not wish to receive visitors at this time, she welcomes your notes and cards.

Caroline's Message to her Community

I want to thank my thoughtful friends. I wish I could see each of you to thank you in person. I want to thank this wonderful community. I love your engagement with one another.

Like rivers everywhere, this community carries its own warmth and depth. The river goes on. The river goes on.

Esther Duncan continues to live at Heritage of Hudson and enjoys receiving visits from her friends at the church. Several folks have told us they find visiting in pairs most effective, that way Esther can listen in on friendly conversation even if she doesn't feel like talking. Her sister Nancy sent us a note recently to thank us on Esther's behalf for continuing to visit and send cards. They notice that it makes a difference in Esther's quality of life to remain connected to her community.



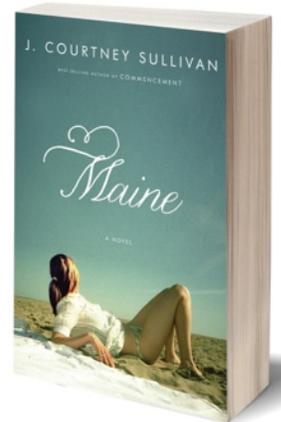
Esther enjoying her visit with Melissa and her son Rylan.

Literary Liner Notes

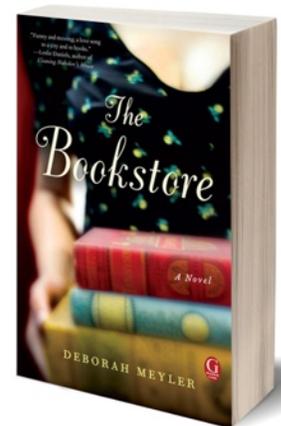
Maine / The Bookstore

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, August 12, at 7 pm in the home of Marion Yeagler in Kent. This month readers may choose between two novels.

Maine by J. Courtney Sullivan is the story of three generations of women who converge on the family beach house in this wickedly funny, emotionally resonant story of love and dysfunction.



The Bookstore by Deborah Meyler is a witty, sharply observed debut novel about a young woman who finds unexpected salvation while working in a quirky used bookstore in Manhattan. Impressionable and idealistic, Esme Garland is a young British woman who finds herself studying art history in New York. She loves her apartment and is passionate about the city and her boyfriend; her future couldn't look brighter. Until she finds out that she's pregnant.



In September we will be reading *Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Woman's Prison* by Piper Kerman. At October's gathering, we will have a book exchange so begin thinking about books you might want to trade with other book group members. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



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 flame
chalice

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
UNITARIAN
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CHURCH
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