

April 2011

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

2231 Jefferson Road

Clarklake, MI 49234

(517) 529-4221

The Bellnote

LOCATED 3/4 MILE WEST OF U.S. 127



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MINISTER ~ Rev. Cynthia Landrum
Is currently on Sabbatical until 4/11/11

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Minister's Column

It's so good to be coming back at last! Sabbatical was both more and less than what I expected — big plans got put aside as life took its usual twisting course, but, at the same time, there were insights and learning's and the important relaxation and renewal. It was a good break, but I'm more than happy to return from it! My biggest project was working on a book of sermons. The final editing is still being done as I write this, but it's reaching an end, and I hope that by the time I return I will have a release date to announce to you. Another project I ended up embarking upon was taking ceramics so that I could explore my faith through a non-verbal medium, and bring out my artistic side. This has been a lot of fun and a good challenge, as well. The class ends a couple of weeks after my sabbatical, so I'm hoping I can continue to participate after my return, but it will be okay if I miss classes at that point. Realizing it would be hard emotionally to drop out if I took it for a grade, I chose to audit the class to give me more flexibility with the dropping out concept. Even at this point in my life, old school habits die hard! I'll have some of my art to show to you, if you're interested, but remember that I'm still very much an amateur! My final project of looking at growth resources for our congregation hasn't gotten very far off the ground, but I'm hoping to continue to pursue it during my regular summer study leave time. Then there are smaller experiences to talk about — visiting other churches, some social justice work, and what I learned from myself about spiritual practice, balancing family and ministry, and, as I'll talk about in my first sermon, the heart of our faith.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Peace,



Religious Education Report

I've really enjoyed Spring coming along at UUCEL. Both younger kids' classes got to go outside today (Mar 20) in fairly good weather. The preschoolers hung a "bird nest supplies kit" on their class tree, by the small swing set. We'll monitor that and take down what the birds don't take for nesting supplies after a few weeks. The K-5 class made animal masks for a "Council of All Animals." The youth planned their social action project this month, a dog and cat food and supplies drive for Cascades Humane Society's pantry. They'll have some dog-toy making sessions and give out the dog treats recipe to any who care to participate, dropping off these things and having a tour on a Saturday in April (see separate article). They also started talking about human rights with a lesson on the Holocaust and modern-day antibullying efforts.

I was able to take a long weekend break in the second week of March- thank you to teachers who "carried along" without me! And thanks for all the flexibility when scheduling challenges came up this month. It's been working out well to keep in touch with preschool kids' parents on Facebook, so we have an idea of whether the class will run with 2 or more kiddos before we get to church.

I've also been privileged to be involved with the Religious Educators "cluster" group in Michigan, which meets every month at OUR church! We skipped the meeting in February but in March we had a good talk about encouraging church growth through multigenerational experiences. One of the authors that we discussed, Michelle Richards, asked these questions to help congregations reflect on whether they are family-friendly:

- How can our church empower families to share and live their Unitarian Universalist faith at home and help them

grow together as a family?
(Members of the Flint UU church, for instance, made chalices to light at home at dinner-time.)

- How can our church help families connect with other families in family or intergenerational groupings to share and celebrate their UU faith?
- How can our church help families connect with other family or intergenerational groupings to serve others in the congregation or community? (I was able to brag a little about this year's social action focus and the Jxn Community Forum, for instance.)
- How can our church help families understand and address the family developmental issues appropriate to their family life cycle stages?

I'd love to hear your input about these questions! We also got to share favorite children's books, and I'll probably be able to get a copy of that bibliography, which I'll try to get out to parents. We're not meeting in April because of the District Assembly (which I'm attending in Muncie, IN on April 2, but will be back in church on April 3). In May the DRE meeting will be discussing adult education (and I'll be inviting Rev. Cindy to attend along with me).

I'm happy to say that we'll be holding another Little Caesar's Pizza kit sale as a church fundraiser, with a prize for the family that sells the most kits. We'll have flyers and start selling by April 10, and have pick-up around May. There's something for almost everyone on this sale flyer; my favorites are the personal-sized pizzas,

Continued on top of next page...

and the whole wheat crust , the Italian Bread sticks, and the cookie dough...ok, can you tell I love carbs? I'm going on my South Beach diet until these pizzas arrive! Then I think it will be celebration time!

Yuurs,

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

**~ 16 days till ~ Monday, April 11 ~
but who's counting!**

With Rev. Cindy's permission; here is the count-down till she returns from her Sabbatical. She will be back with everyone soon and will meet one new member and many new regular attending visitors. She'll be back to regular church meetings and back to the pulpit.

P.S. she is counting down also.

"Go now and live your religion.
Its truth reflect in all you do.
Go, may love's presence ever guide you.
Live the good life the whole day through."
~~ Our Closing Song~~



Church web page
www.libertyuu.org

Notes from the Board

The UUCEL board would like to remind everyone of several upcoming events, and some date changes. The next board meeting will be held on April 20th, and Cindy Landrum will be joining us. The Board will be sponsoring the first Friday dinner in April (April Fools Day, but we will really have food!). However the first Friday dinner for May has been moved to Friday May 13th. The popular "Men who Cook" theme is being reprised on that day. Also, we will have a silent auction, so bring your wallets...lots of good stuff will be bid on and awarded Friday night, prior to the big auction on Saturday. Lastly, please plan to attend the annual meeting, after the service on Sunday, May 22. We need all members to help us develop the budget and deal with other important issues. See you there!

Respectfully Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President

Annual Business Meeting

Please plan to attend the annual meeting, after the service on
Sunday, May 22.

We need all members to help us develop the budget
and deal with other important issues.

This will take place in the sanctuary.

Reminder to all committee chairs: please get your reports to our board secretary by
May 7th, please e-mail to Becky Bowen at rbowen@umich.edu or those wishing to turn in
hard copies, please place them in the secretary mailbox at the church or
hand deliver them to Becky by May 7, Thank you in advance.

Submitted by Gracia Karmes and Becky Bowen

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

First Friday Dinner

The Board will be sponsoring the first Friday dinner in April. **April 1st** and it's not an April Fools Day joke, there will be real food! The time will be announced from the pulpit on Sunday morning, probably 6:00 or 6:30 as in the past. The fools part will be - you need to attend to know the menu. It was not given to the editors before hand.

Goods and Services Auction Weekend May 13 and 14

Silent Auction Chefs on the 13th Annual Live Auction on the 14th

The first Friday dinner for May has been moved to the 2nd week to coincide with our annual goods and services auction weekend with a few new added events. The male chefs will prepare the Second **Friday Dinner on May 13**, the day before our annual auction. Now is the time to show your stuff(ing), guys. Contact Steve Beison if you want to put together your favorite dish and help us kick off our auction weekend. Along with the cuisine, our guests will be allowed to view and bid on silent auction items before the big event on **Saturday May 14**. Lots of good stuff so bring your wallets....both nights. The plan of moving the silent auction to a separate day this year will make the live auction go smoother and faster. So please mark your calendar and attend both nights if you can.

The auction committee members will be making phone calls in early April asking for donated items. Some ideas of past donations are - Baked Goods - Home Cooked Dinners - Many forms of Crafts Items - Home Grown Fresh or Canned Goods - Few Hours of Yard Work - Flowers, Plants & Trees - Donation of Cash - Personal Lessons/Classes - And Much More - The committee will decide which items will be available for the silent auction. Thanks

Submitted by: Steve Beison,
Gratia Karmes & the Editors

JXN Community Forums

...are free and open programs to facilitate dialogue about the challenging issues of our time. Forums are usually held at the Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch, located at 244 W. Michigan Ave. between Blackstone & N. Jackson Street. Forums are usually on the third Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 pm. The Forum's are co-sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty (UUCEL) and the Jackson District Library (JDL).

JXN Community Forum with the Jackson Sierra Club Presents: A Partial Viewing and Discussion of "GASLAND" a Documentary Film by Josh Fox.

In recognition of Earth Day, on **Thursday, April 21**, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the Carnegie Library Auditorium, in honor of John Muir's 173rd birthday, founder of the Sierra Club, and Earth Day there will be a viewing of 2010 Academy Award nominated feature documentary "GASLAND", which investigates the hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" method of natural gas extraction throughout the United States and its effects on air, water, and people. Rita Chapman, Director of the Clean Water Program, Michigan Sierra Club, will lead a discussion of "fracking" in Michigan.

Childcare may be available for a modest donation; contact Nancy Smith to RSVP for childcare. Call the Library at (517)788-4087 for more information, or see the Library's website at www.myjdl.com

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

All Committee Night Meeting

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month through April. Outreach at 5:30, Worship 5:30 and RE 6:30 pm and all other committees are welcome to join in as well. Take part at the downtown library in the auditorium. This is for better communication about all church upcoming events. The next meeting is

Wednesday, April 13th.

Cascades Humane Society

The youth group is having a food drive for the Cascades Humane Society. If you would like to bring in food and or toys items for the animals that are there a box is at the church to collect them. Thanks.

Submitted by: Laura Thurlow

Caring Committee

The following is a list of Caring Committee members, please

contact them as your needs arise:

~ Alyce Oosting - chair person ~ Nena Obits ~ Gretchen Marshall ~ Jane Volk ~ Martha Koopman ~ Jann Krupa ~ Peg Gordon ~ Mindy Radseck

Here is a short explanation of what our committee does: We support and meet the needs of our church community by doing such things as; driving people to appointments - delivering meals - making phone calls - friendly visits - listening - sending out cards. The next Caring Committee's meeting will be **April 17** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Sale

We will be holding another Little Caesar's Pizza kit sale as a church fundraiser. A prize for the family that sells the most kits. The flyers/order cards will be available to start selling by **April 10** with a pick-up in May, date to be announced soon. There's something for almost everyone, — the personal-sized pizzas — the whole wheat crust pizzas — the Italian Bread sticks — cookie dough — and many other items to choose from.

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

Service Project

Volunteers Needed for Serving Dinner at the Interfaith Shelter. Arrangements have been made for our church to serve dinner at the Jackson Interfaith Shelter on **June 5th**. We need approximately 6 volunteers. Volunteers would need to meet at the shelter at 4:00 pm, and we should be done by 5:30 pm.

I would like to thank those that participated in helping serve dinner on March 6th: Kathy & George Haynes, Jane Volk, Alyce Oosting, Lynn Hightower, Steve Nason, and Sharon Pederson. Seeing the guys wear hairnets on their beards was priceless! If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer please contact me. Thank you!

Submitted by: Michelle Vanover

District & Denominational Meetings and Events

Heartland District Assembly

Please join us in April at the 11th Annual Heartland District Assembly. Come celebrate being a UU in the Heartland. We are honored to have Gini Courter, UUA Moderator, as our featured keynote speaker. In her keynote address titled "2061 The Next Fifty Years", Gini will help us explore the issue of leadership ~ where we've been over the past 50 years of our UUA, and where we are going and need to be for the next 50 years. This will be an inter-active keynote offering times to reflect, respond and renew our understandings of leadership.

District Assembly is the time we come together to learn from each other, join together in worship, and renew our commitment and understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. It is also the time we come together to conduct the business of the District.

Where: Horizon Convention Center
401 South High Street
Muncie, IN 47308

When: **Friday April 1, 2011** 5:00 pm
- **Sunday April 3, 2011** 12:00 pm

Questions? Contact the District Office at:
office@heartlanduu.org

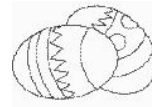
First Friday Dinners

Board members are looking for other committees, groups and/or individuals who would like to host the 1st Friday Dinners. We'd like to have one every month since the dinners are an important part of our fundraising. Information can be given to the editors to print in the newsletter and/or by making an announcement on Sunday morning.

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

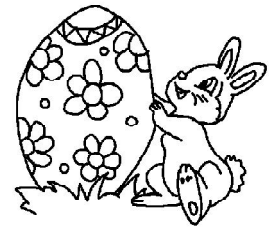
Michigan UU Happenings - From Rev. Cindy

As Chapter President of the Heartland UU Minister's Association, Rev. Cindy is asked to attend some ordinations and installations of her colleagues. Two such events are coming up this spring in neighboring churches. The Community UUs in Brighton will be installing the Rev. Yvonne Shumacher Strejcek on May 1st (in the afternoon), and Rev. Cindy has been asked to give the "charge to the congregation." This is a first for her, so she's very excited about it! Rev. Yvonne is the newly settled minister in Brighton. On June 12th, in the evening, the UU Community Church of Southwest Michigan in Portage is ordaining Cassandra Howe, and Rev. Cindy plans to bring greetings from the UUMA chapter to the soon-to-be-Rev. and the congregation. Cassandra Howe has been serving there part-time as a consulting minister this year. There has been a lot of transition in the last couple of years in the Michigan churches. One church, Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, has announced a candidate for their minister, the Rev. Shelley Page. The Rev. Page has been serving as the interim minister in Flint this year. We offer our congratulations to all these sister UU churches in Michigan and their ministers!



Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Morning after the church service the children will have fun finding Easter eggs in the church lawn.



www.uuclesons.com

We Welcome Your Membership Not a member? We'd love to have you join our spiritual community. New members signify their commitment by signing the Membership Book during a scheduled church service. It is understood that members actively support their congregation through attendance, service and financial commitment. To start your process of becoming an official member of our lively, compassionate and challenging congregation, speak with Rev. Cindy Landrum, (517) 529-4221, or a member of the membership committee, including Kathy Haynes, Joan Bernstein, Jann Krupa, and Carole Hartsuff.



FROM THE EDITOR:

"THE BELLNOTE" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF UUCEL. IF THIS IS YOUR 1ST COPY OF THE CHURCH'S NEWSLETTER, WELCOME. OUR CHURCH YEAR RUNS FROM JULY 1-JUNE 30. THE CHURCH BOARD ASKS THOSE THAT RECEIVE THE PAPER VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER TO PAY A \$17.00 PER-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FEE. NEW VISITORS WILL GET 3 MONTHS FREE, AFTER THAT A SUBSCRIPTION FEE WILL BE ASKED FOR, OR CHANGE TO AN ON-LINE VERSION THAT IS FREE OF CHARGE.

THE MAY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:

SUNDAY, APRIL 17 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU -

We want to thank; Steve Beison, Gratia Karmes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Laura Thurlow, Michelle Vanover, Outreach Comm. and Membership Comm.

for their news items this month.

OUR 7 PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

WE, THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, COVENANT TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE:

- ~ THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON
- ~ JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS
- ~ ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS
- ~ A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING
- ~ THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND IN SOCIETY AT LARGE
- ~ THE GOAL OF WORLD COMMUNITY WITH PEACE, LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL
- ~ RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART

The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

April

- 1 Fri. First Friday Dinner ~ Hosted by the Board ~ Time -TBA
 3 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Guest Speaker - Tonya Wells ~ 11:00 am
 7 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
 10 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Sabbatical Committee and/or Church Board~ 11:00 am
 10 Sunday Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Sale ~ Start Date
 11 Mon. Rev. Cindy is back from Sabbatical
 12 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
 13 Wed. All Committee Night Meeting @ Downtown Library Auditorium - through April
 Outreach 5:30 pm - Worship 5:30 pm - RE 6:30 pm, other comm. are welcome
 14 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
 15 Fri. Regional "Cluster" Meetings of Religious Educators ~ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 17 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 17 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
 20 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
 21 Thurs. JXN Community Forums "**GASLAND**" a Documentary Film
 @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
 24 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am ~ Easter

Upcoming Events

- May 13 2nd Friday Dinner hosted by ~ Male Chefs - with Silent Auction Bidding
 May 14 Annual Church Goods and Services Auction
 May 22 Annual Meeting ~ After the Service - see page 3
 May 31 Brooklyn Food Pantry - Church Volunteer Needed ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 June 2 Brooklyn Food Pantry - Church Volunteer Needed ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Apr. 3	Apr. 10	Apr. 17	Apr. 24
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper				
Ushers	Steve J		Martha	
Social H. Host		Welcome Back Cindy	Anita Nancy S	Nancy J Joyce K
R.E. Pre.		Jane Jackie	Barbara Becky	
R.E. K-5	Spring Break Crafts Sharon and Michelle	Kerry Anne	Jon Rob	Intergenerational
R.E. Youth		Gretchen Alyce	Cecily Chris K	Intergenerational

All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am ~ Celebrating Over 150 Years of Liberal Religion

April 3 - "Seeing the Shades of Gray"

- Guest Speaker - Tonya Wells

April 10 - "Our Experiences During the Sabbatical"

- UUCEL Lay Leaders - Sabbatical Committee and/or Church Board
Rev. Cindy's return! She will be attending this "Welcome Back" Service today.

April 17 - "The Heart of It All"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Our minister returns from sabbatical with a service about what she learned on her sabbatical about the heart of our faith.

April 24 - "Easter Sunday: Voices from Christian UUs"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
This Sunday we explore Christian voices from Unitarian Universalism past and present about what is important to them about the message of Jesus. Children are invited to stay for the Easter Egg hunt following the service.

Where people care about each other and care about the world.
<http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html>
www.libertyuu.org

Return Service Requested

Clarklake, MI 49234
2231 Jefferson Road

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty



