

The Bellnote

Universalist Unitarian
Church of East Liberty
2231 Jefferson Road,
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 529-4221

August 2009

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MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: Her day off
Tuesday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Wednesday: By appointment
Thursday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Friday: Sermon-writing day
Saturday: By appointment
Cindy works mostly from her home office

STAFF

MINISTER Rev. Cynthia Landrum
R. E. COORDINATOR Sharon Pedersen
MUSIC DIRECTOR Nancy Cooper
NURSERY & CHILD CARE Vicki Haynes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TRUSTEE Kerry Hart
TRUSTEE Jane Volk
TRUSTEE Becky Bowen
TRUSTEE Gratia Karmes
TRUSTEE Nancy Smith
TRUSTEE Cecily Savick

CARING COMMITTEE

Alyce Oosting

BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Weatherwax

Carol Bowen

Nena Obits



Minister's Column

This year I didn't go to our Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly, but I found myself very much missing it. So, I did something I've never done before, which is watch the live videos of the plenary sessions, even though I was unable to vote from my home office. The activity of watching the plenary sessions was made more interactive by the fact that I was using twitter to follow and participate in some of the conversation about what was happening. It was a moment of amazement for me to see what changes have been made by technology. I was learning, through video, Twitter, Facebook and blogs, about the decisions that were happening at General Assembly in real time, and able to hold conversations with colleagues and UU members around the country as things were happening. Of course, this doesn't replace the real experience of attending a General Assembly, and if you've never attended one, I encourage you to do so. There's nothing like it. It's a wonderful experience to see thousands of UUs from all over the country (and world) and exchange ideas, learn new things, and experience the holy together.

This was an exciting year at our General Assembly. First, we elected a new UUA president. That was something I was able to vote in, and we had our delegates voting as well by absentee ballot. The new UUA president is Rev. Peter Morales, someone whom my husband and I both attended seminary with, and who I know will do a fine job. He is a dynamic and passionate speaker on the issue of growth, and we are certainly hoping that these years with him as president will be years to grow our faith.

The second major issue before the General Assembly was a proposal to considerably change Article II of the UUA Bylaws, otherwise known as the Principles and Purposes. This vote failed for a number of reasons, one of which was frustration that many delegates felt with a process that did not allow for any amendments to the new proposed Principles and Purposes document. While I agree with this decision, it is also definitely necessary for us, as an association, to review the Principles and Purposes regularly. Some people feel it's important to change them regularly, too, lest they become enshrined as a creed. More drastic than the changes proposed to the Principles were the changes proposed to the section following them known as the "Sources." I very much like our current "Sources" statement, and so, beginning in the fall, I'll be doing a sermon series, spread out over the year, on the sources from which we draw our faith.

Continued on next page . . . ~1~

Our UUA General Assembly passed several “Actions of Immediate Witness” (AIWs) this year, too. They are:

- AIW 1: Advocate Pending Legislation Toward Clean, Honest, and Fair Elections in the United States
- AIW 2: U.S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- AIW 3: In Support of America's Red Rock Wilderness Act
- AIW 4: Support Bolivian UUs Struggling for Justice and Human Rights
- AIW 5: U.S.-Sponsored Torture: A Call for a Commission of Inquiry
- AIW 6: Oppose Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity-Based Violence in Iraq

There are also two current UUA "Study/Action Issues": Peacemaking and Ethical Eating. We have some exciting ways to learn about these various issues and join in the advocacy work, from guest speakers, to commUnity forums, to passing congregational resolutions. If one of these subjects inspires you, and you'd like to see our congregation do some work around it and have some ideas how, please let me know.

Namaste, Cindy

Starting in August, new office hours:

Monday: Day off

Tuesday-Thursday: Office Hours
9:00am – 5:00pm

Friday: Sermon-writing day

Saturday & Sunday: Available by appointment

The minister works mostly from her home office. For an appointment, please call her home number.

[illegible]

Homecoming Sunday: Remember to save water from your summer travels for our Homecoming service on **September 13th.**

Religious Education Report

Hard to believe that summer's half over already! We had a good turnout at Summer RE in June, then just one child besides nursery kids on July 12, so she played in the nursery too and the teachers who were lined up enjoyed the "Friendship and Love in Music" service. That's ok, we'll just hold that lesson over and see if there are kids to do RE with on July 26. There will be two lessons in August, too, and I thank Gretchen Marshall, Kerry Hart, Rob Gaecke, and Peter Morrison for helping teach this summer.

I'm glad to report that, with some additional pledges and commitments of individuals to help cover our janitorial needs, it looks like we will be able to restore the RE program to full funding this year. We're still pursuing grants and would love for church members to suggest special fundraising ideas as well.

We are gearing up for the fall already. I hope the RE Committee will be able to meet with the Worship Committee in August—a joint meeting is so helpful in planning worship and RE calendars! Then we'll set dates for training/start-up sessions, to familiarize teachers with this fall's curriculum and the "Rules and Regulations" for RE teaching. Finally, an important part of these meetings is scheduling teachers, so we know who's teaching when. There's nothing more satisfying than a completed RE Calendar! We'll probably have the K-5 and middle/high school teachers meet separately, so each group can schedule together and have time to review their curriculum.

So here's how you can be involved, even if you're not teaching this Fall: I've listed items (see page 4) that the RE program needs for the curriculum, and the more that's donated, the less needed to purchase with the RE budget. So if you have or could easily acquire any of the below items, feel free to pass them along to RE. Thanks again for all your support.

Yours TrUUly,

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

Paper copy of “The Bellnote”

It is time to send in your yearly payment of \$17.00 to receive the paper copy of the church's newsletter “The Bellnote.” Please give to Kathy Haynes or mail to her. She has the list of those who now receive the newsletter and will mark you paid upon receiving payment and then turn the money over to the church treasurer. Please make checks payable to UUCEL and on the memo line write “paper copy newsletter.” There are a few friends of the church that just sent in their payment for the newsletter after getting 3 months free, thank you, and you know who you are. The church calendar runs July 1st – June 30th so you decide what to send. The \$17.00 covers the cost of printing and postage for one year. Thank you for your prompt payment.

~~~~~There are **47** members and friends that receive the monthly paper copy; payment has been received from **21** with **1** changing to the on-line version (at no charge) and **4** Rev.'s that are not charged. That leaves **21** others that need to make contact with payment or change to on-line; this needs to be done by **August 27th** or this will be your last issue of the “Bellnote Newsletter.” ~~~~~

Submitted by: the Editors  
Kathy & Vicki Haynes

## Rev. Cindy's Sabbatical Info

As our congregation contemplates the Rev. Cindy's sabbatical leave, we look for background to the *Handbook on Sabbatical Leaves* by Helen L. Cohen and David C. Pohl: “We seek ministers who offer religious and organizational leadership that will help our churches be ‘serious houses on serious earth.’ We look to them for help in understanding our lives and times, for inspiration and insight, an attentive ear and a reliable presence, and a mind well-versed in the great issues that brings to them a critical and creative temper. To expect our ministers to embody such qualities, and to nurture them in our congregations, means understanding that sabbaticals offer an opportunity that neither vacations nor study leaves alone can provide. The sabbatical, as an extended leave from normal duties, enables the minister not only to experience rest and recreation but the renewal that follows detachment, reflection and new learnings, renewal that brings fresh enthusiasm, new ideas and a clearer focus to the relationship.”

Submitted by: Steve Beison, Ann Green,  
Carole Hartsuff, Victor Marshall  
—the Sabbatical Committee

## Meijer Community Rewards Program

A small percentage of your **cash, debit card or Meijer Credit Card** purchases can go to help our church. If you are not already registered for this program call 800-962-7011, or go online at <http://www.meijer.com/mymeijer/SignUp1.asp?pgm=mcr&url=/rewards/mcrsignup2.asp>

### Bellnote Policies:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO COMMUNICATE TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ABOUT THE UUCEL MINISTRY, BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES. THE NEWSLETTER ALSO SERVES AS A WINDOW INTO THE CHURCH FOR VISITORS. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION THAT SERVE THIS PURPOSE. ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE REVIEWED AND PUBLISHED AS SPACE ALLOWS. CONTENT MAY BE EDITED. THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE IS AVAILABLE TO RESOLVE ANY EDITORIAL DISPUTES. ALL JOYS AND SORROWS ARE SELF-REPORTED. SEE THE “NEWSLETTER POLICY” FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**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.

# Meetings and Events

## U.U. Church of East Liberty

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### Annual Church Picnic/Potluck

Please join us on  
**Sunday, August 2nd**

for the annual church picnic. It will be held at the church yard, right after the service. We'll put a few extra tables and chairs outside, also feel free to bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on. We are asking you to bring a passing dish and your own table service; gardeners are encouraged to bring dishes made of their homegrown veggies and fruits. Lemonade and iced tea will be provided.

Submitted by: Nena Obits  
and Membership Comm.

### Cooks needed

Looking for volunteers to step up and take a turn at cooking/hosting the First Friday Dinners for the months of **September** and beyond. Let someone on the membership committee know if you would like to do so.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

### *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, 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 commUnity forUm is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in conjunction with the Jackson District Library.

The forums are not held in the month of August; they will return in September. If you have any ideas or questions please contact Nancy Smith or Lynn Hightower.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

### Caring Committee

The Caring Committee now has a new chairperson, Alyce Oosting.

Their next meeting is **August 16th** after the service. The caring committee will be meeting on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

### Ice Cream Social

Join us following the service on **September 13th** (Homecoming Sunday) for a special ice cream social. The ice cream social will be a fundraiser for religious education.

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

### Cascades Humane Society

Dedication of Gardens and Blessing of the Animals will be on **Saturday, Sept. 19th** noon – 2:00 pm, 1515 Carmen Drive, Jackson. Our Rev. Cindy Landrum will be participating in this event.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

### Wish List for RE Fall/Winter 2009-2010:

- Box of business size, white envelopes
- Grocery bags
- Newsprint/flipchart pad, 18" x 24"
- "People" (book) by Peter Spier (you can order an inexpensive new or gently used copy on Amazon.com – go to it from the libertyuu.org website and the church gets a little commission!)
- Inflatable globe/world ball

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

"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~~





## UUCEL On-Line

### **Easy On-Line Fundraisers**

UUCEL has three easy ways you can earn money for the church while going about your usual on-line activities. The first is through Amazon.com. If you're shopping at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), first go to our church webpage at [www.libertyuu.org/shop.html](http://www.libertyuu.org/shop.html) and click on the link to Amazon. Once you do that, the church will earn a percentage (usually 4%) of the amount you spend at Amazon.

The second method is to use GoodSearch as your search engine. It works like other search engines, such as Google. Whenever you're searching the web, go to [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com), enter Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty as your agency you're fundraising for, and then every time you search the web we make a penny.

Third, use GoodShop before shopping. Go to [www.GoodShop.com](http://www.GoodShop.com) and enter Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty as your agency, and then click from there to any number of on-line business, from e-Bay to Orbitz to iTunes, and when you make your purchase at the store, UUCEL will earn a portion of your sales.

### **Connect to UUCEL, UUCEL Members, and Rev. Cindy On-Line**

Did you miss church on Sunday? Are you looking for spiritual renewal or community connection during the week? Now there are several ways to connect electronically to our church community:

Follow Rev. Cindy on Twitter (she is "@revcyn"). Check out who she's following on Twitter, as well, and who is following her, and you will find more UUCEL members who "tweet."

Follow Rev. Cindy's blog at <http://revcyn.blogspot.com>. She writes a weekly column there about a variety of subjects. There's a column on her blog's page with her "tweets," as well.

On Facebook, look for the (unofficial) Unitarian Universalist Church of East Liberty facebook page. It gives you news updates if you become a "fan" of the page, and is a way to find other UUCEL members through Facebook. Rev. Cindy's blog posts come through on the facebook page, too.

## Notes from the Board

At the next board meeting the following members will vote for the officers for the year. After that takes place the congregation will be informed of the results. With that information the phone tree will be updated and passed out to those that make the calls when the phone tree is active. If you are a non-member that attends regularly and would like to be added to the phone tree (calls about deaths, cancellations due to power outages, weather info. etc.) please get your name and phone number to Kathy Haynes as soon as possible; call or e-mail. Thank you.

Submitted by: The Editors

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| TRUSTEE | Kerry Hart    |
| TRUSTEE | Jane Volk     |
| TRUSTEE | Becky Bowen   |
| TRUSTEE | Gratia Karmes |
| TRUSTEE | Nancy Smith   |
| TRUSTEE | Cecily Savick |

#### FROM THE EDITOR:

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST COPY OF THE CHURCH'S NEWSLETTER "THE BELLNOTE" WELCOME ABOARD, AND HAPPY READING. OUR CHURCH CALENDAR 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 AND WE STARTED THIS IN AUG., 2007. NEW VISITORS WILL GET 3 MONTHS FREE, AFTER THAT A SUBSCRIPTION FEE WILL BE ASKED FOR, OR CHANGED TO AN ON-LINE VERSION THAT IS NO CHARGE.

THANK YOU – KATHY AND VICKI

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER IS:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

uucel\_bellnote@yahoo.com

Kathy & Vicki Haynes

or the Bellnote mailbox.

We want to thank --Rev. Cindy Landrum, Ann Green, Nena Obits, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Outreach Comm. and the Membership Comm., for their news items this month.

"May it be true that a joy shared is a joy doubled  
and a sorrow shared is a sorrow halved"

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#### 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

## August

1 Sat. Minister is on Study Leave  
 2 Sunday Minister is on Study Leave  
 2 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leader - Jon Hart  
 2 Sunday Picnic after the Service ~ Outside at Church  
 5 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm  
 6 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm  
 9 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ -Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum  
 11 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am  
 12 Wed. Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm (to have RE & Worship the same time)  
 12 Wed. Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm  
 13 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:30 pm  
 16 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum  
 23 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Guest Speaker - Mary Westerlund  
 27 Thurs. Last day for payments due to the editors for your paper copy "Bellnote" July '09-June'10  
 30 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum  
 No commUnity forUm in August

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 13 Homecoming Sunday and Ice Cream Social an R.E. Fundraiser  
 Sept. 29 Brooklyn Food Pantry; work day ~ 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
 Oct. 1 Brooklyn Food Pantry; work day ~ 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Reminder to all:** Please check regularly the sign-up clipboards in the social hall on the corkboard wall for open dates. Starting in July the **Nursery now starts at 11:00** am not at 11:15 am. So the nursery worker Vicki and the helper for the day need to be with the children under age 5 before the service. The volunteer list needs to be full each month.

### WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

| Sun.   | Greeters  | Ushers              | Social Hour Host  | Nursery Helper | R.E. Teachers |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Aug 2  | Alyce O.  | Gary T. & Gratia K. | Picnic            | Joyce W.       |               |
| Aug 9  | Grace M.  | Gary T. & Paul J.   | Pat & Peg G.      | Margaret E.    |               |
| Aug 16 | Joan B.   | Gary T. & Paul J.   | Alyce O. & Ann G. | Open           |               |
| Aug 23 | Betty G.  | Gary T. & Paul J.   | Grace M.          | Open           |               |
| Aug 30 | Carole H. | Gary T. & Paul J.   | Open              | Joan B.        |               |

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

Aug 2 - "Buddhist's Beats and Jazz"  
- Lay Leader - Jon Hart

Aug 9 - "Summer Poetry Series,  
Part 1: Answering Our Call"  
-Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum  
Our minister returns to the pulpit after summer study leave with a three-part series on poetry that inspires her calling and her faith.

Aug 16 - "Summer Poetry Series,  
Part 2: Overcoming Our Struggles"  
-Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum

Aug 23 - "Artist Sunday"  
- Guest Speaker - Mary Westerlund  
The guest speaker will be Mary Westerlund an artist and teacher from the Armory Arts in Jackson. She will enlighten us as to how we can support and benefit from the art being produced in our own back yard.

Aug 30 - "Summer Poetry Series,  
Part 3: Changing Our World"  
-Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum

http://www.geocities.com/kemit\_210/the\_bellnote\_uucel.html  
www.libertyuu.org  
eastlibertyuu@yahoo.com  
Where people care about each other and care about the world.

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