

August 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

## MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: Minister's day off  
Tuesday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Wednesday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Friday: Sermon-writing day,  
no office hours  
Saturday: By appointment  
Sunday: By appointment

## STAFF

MINISTER ~ Rev. Cynthia Landrum  
revCyn@ugaalum.uga.edu

R. E. COORDINATOR ~ Sharon Pedersen  
sspetersen@sbcglobal.net

MUSIC DIRECTOR ~ Nancy Cooper  
nankjcooper@gmail.com

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT ~ JANE VOLK  
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Nena Obits  
nena\_obits@hotmail.com



## Minister's Column

This fall, I'm going back to school! At our General Assembly this year, we passed a Responsive Resolution which, in light of the "Justice GA" in Phoenix this year and our increasingly multicultural world, "urges members of congregations and religious professionals to engage in continuing education programs in the Spanish language, beginning as early as July 2011." Since my husband Peter and I have both taught adjunct classes at Jackson Community College, I can take some free courses, and so I've decided to take Spanish 131 this fall on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Even with free tuition, though, I need to get the textbook. What a shocker the price of textbooks was, for someone who has been out of school for ten years now! But I'm excited about learning the language, and also looking into the opportunities for intensive courses through Solexico (see p. 5) as a possibility for the winter.

Speaking of ten years... this month I celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when I started ministry. I started ministry in early August of 2001 in Houston, Texas, shortly after graduating from seminary that spring. I've been meaning to plan some sort of celebration to recognize this anniversary, but if I or we do so, it'll be later in the fall. After all, it'll be my tenth year all year long! The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary brings with it somewhat of a sense of pride in the accomplishment. I've seen too many colleagues "burn out" in this profession before they reach this milestone. But at the same time, I've realized in the past year that somewhere along the line I stopped feeling like a "newbie" in the ministry, and that my colleagues are viewing me as something of an "old-timer." I've been taking on more roles in our larger movement as part of that.

Shortly after beginning my ministry, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 came. We're recognizing the tenth anniversary of that day of national tragedy next month in a Sunday service. My ministry has been forever marked by that day. With it came a rise in fundamentalism and an increased need in our liberal faith to love our neighbors and join hands with our interfaith partners. I'll be talking about this more in the fall, too. As the voices get louder this fall wanting to "Take America Back," I invite us to think about what the subtext of that vision is, and what it means to be a liberal religion which embraces diversity and religious freedom.

Namaste,

# Religious Education

## Report

Wasn't that intergenerational "Honoring our Mother Earth" service fun? We have a bunch of wonderful UUs coming up in this next generation, don't we?

August is always a "hustle-bustle" month, what with preparing and starting the new RE year. There will be K-12 RE classes all of August after the intergenerational Water Communion/Picnic on the first Sunday. Then after Labor Day, the new curricula get started, and we're preparing for that with a teacher training/scheduling meeting in August, date to be announced. Reverend Cindy and I have met to review our plans for the church year, and we go over these with the Worship and RE Committees in August, also. I believe we have a tentative new meeting day, First Thursdays at 6:30pm at church, so that Michelle Vanover can still meet while she's in school for early childhood education, and so that Dee Reed can join the committee. Gretchen Marshall has agreed to chair the committee, "pending board approval." (Thanks again to Anne Seifert for all her years of dedication in this capacity.)

Here are supplies needed by the RE Program for this year's lessons. Toward the end of August I will also email or call those of you who graciously said you could help with RE supplies to see if you can pick up some of these for us.

- Posterboard: up to 12 sheets
- Flat bed sheets, any size - 2
- Newsprint/flipchart pads
- Gold & silver paper
- Paper plates, 8-9"
- Chenille pipe cleaners
- Brown craft wrapping paper
- Construction paper, 9 x 12," variety of colors
- Tempera paints – brown, blue, green, silver, gold, and many colors
- Gift certificates/cards for Michael's or Jo-Ann Fabrics, Kroger
- Markers
- Kids' Scissors
- Aluminum foil

Thanks for all your support, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

*Sharon*



~2~ **Religious Education Coordinator**

# Notes from the Board

Jane Volk the president of the board will begin writing articles for the Bellnote starting in October.



## Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

### JXN Community Forums

JXN Community Forum for **September 15** is "**LOOKING FORWARD**": Jackson's new City Manager and County Administrator join us to meet Larry Shaffer, the new Jackson City Manager and Michael Overton, the new Jackson County Administrator. They will share their visions and views on Jackson's present and future. The audience will then have the opportunity for questions and comments. The JXN Community Forums are free and open programs to facilitate dialogue about challenging issues of our time. The forums are co-sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty and the Jackson District Library. For more information, please call Debby Sears at the Jackson District Library, 517-788-4087.

Childcare may be available for a modest fee. Contact Nancy Smith (See Supplement Page for more contact information) if you need childcare.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Our New Redesigned  
Church Website  
[www.libertyuu.org](http://www.libertyuu.org)

## UUCEL Has Gone Mobile!

About a quarter of people viewing our webpage are doing it from mobile phones. In response to this, UUCEL is now one of the first UU churches to have a separate webpage designed specifically for mobile phones! It's been tested on Android and iPhone phones, and has features like a phone number that you can click on, a map that works with some navigation applications, and a smaller size designed to fit on a phone screen. We're still working out the details of how to route people there directly instead of through our regular site, and we're hoping to add videos and podcasts over time, but meanwhile the site is up and operational. To see the page, use your phone's browser to go to <http://www.libertyuu.org/mobile/>, or scan the QR Code here with your phone's barcode scanner!



## Webpage Redesign

Our webpage at <http://www.libertyuu.org> has been undergoing some changes. If you haven't been there in a while, check it out! We're looking for members who would be interested in helping with adding podcasts/MP3s or doing webpage updates. If this might be you, talk to Rev. Cindy for more information.

## Jesus Seminar

Our church is once again joining in co-hosting the Jesus Seminar on the Road! We will have sign-ups in September to help with tasks. Registration for the Jesus Seminar is available now:

**Friday and Saturday September 23-24**

Re-Imagining the Death of Jesus  
*Hero, Martyr, Sacrifice?*

**Arthur J. Dewey** (Th.D., Harvard University) is Professor of Theology, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, and **Perry Kea** (Ph.D., University of Virginia) is Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and the chairperson of the Philosophy and Religion Department at the University of Indianapolis.

**LECTURE - Did Jesus Die for Us?** A New Look at the Classical Notion of Atonement: From Anselm to Billy Graham. How do we make sense of the death traditions about Jesus in the twenty-first century? — Friday, 7:30–9 pm

**WORKSHOPS - A Creative Moment: The Pre-Pauline Tradition** How did the early followers of Jesus make sense of his shameful death? — Saturday, 9:30–10.30 am **Paul's Break-through Insight** A crucified messiah?! How did he understand the folly of God? — Saturday, 11:00 am–Noon **Mark's Contribution to the Tradition** Why does Mark present Jesus as a martyr? Did Mark expect martyrdom for his audience as well? Why does Mark tell the death story of Jesus in the way he does? — Saturday, 1:30–2:30 pm **Re-Imagining Atonement for the 21st Century** What metaphors and images will be meaningful for 21st century people? If Jesus "died for us," what might this mean today? — Saturday, 3–4 pm

**SPONSORS:** Arbor Grove Congregational Church, First Baptist Church 517-784-3151 & Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

**ALL EVENTS AT** - First Baptist Church  
201 S. Jackson Street, Jackson, Michigan 49201

**FEES & REG.** - from \$20.00 - \$75.00 Register by mail using the [printable registration form](#).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT-**

Nancy Angelo, Arbor Grove Congregational Church 517-750-9895

## Annual Church Picnic

This year's annual church picnic will be on **Sunday, August 7th**. It will be a potluck style picnic held at church. Please bring your own tableware, a passing dish along with your outdoor folding chairs you may want to sit on, and stay for an afternoon of fun. We will be asking for help that day to move a few tables and chairs to the backyard. The food table will be inside and we're asking folks to eat in the outdoors. We are also planning a few games for all ages like — tug of war — water balloons toss — clothes pin drop. Come and enjoy the fellowship of others.

Submitted by: The Membership Comm.



The Brooklyn Food Pantry is an organization that we voted to support under our Social Mission policy.

### Brooklyn Food Pantry

It is our church's turn to have one or two volunteers to work at the C.C.I.S. Brooklyn Food Pantry; 171 Wamplers Lake Road, Brooklyn. The days the pantry is open are every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There are local churches that take turns to help fill the orders of those in need of food and restock shelves. Our next dates are **August 16 and 18**. If you are available to help in this rewarding work please contact Paul Jenkins (See Supplement Page for more contact information). Don't forget to bring canned food or any non-perishable items for donation to the pantry. There is a basket in the foyer under the desk and a box under the table by the nursery door for your contributions. Canned fruit is especially appreciated. Thank you!

Submitted by: Paul Jenkins

## Committee news:

The following is an update of our regular committee meetings.

**Board Meetings** have traditionally met on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the church social hall. The next is at home of A. Pepper on **August 3** at 6:30 pm.

— President, Jane Volk

**The Worship Committee** will now be meeting the third Tuesday at 2:30 pm at the Jackson Coffee Company, in downtown Jackson on Mechanic Street. There will be no meeting in July. — Chair, Lynn Hightower

**RE Committee** will now be meeting the first Thursday starting in September — New Chairperson will be Gretchen Marshall — RE Coordinator Sharon Pedersen

**Membership Committee** will be meeting in the church social hall on the 2nd Thursday at 10:00 am. — Chair, Kathy Haynes

**Outreach/JXN Community Forum Committee** will be meeting at the downtown Library at 5:30 pm 2nd Wednesday. — New Chairperson will be Kerry Hart

**Caring Committee** will be meeting on 4th Sunday after the service through September. The next is August 28, then back to the 3rd Sunday in October - December. —Chair, Alyce Oosting

## First Friday Dinners

Board members are looking for committees, groups and/or individuals who would like to host the first 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 communicated by making an announcement on Sunday morning.

We have an offer from Lauralynn Browning to help set up a musical kind of entertainment and or karaoke to go with a first Friday dinner. Please contact Lauralynn (See Supplement Page for more contact information) when thinking of hosting our next fundraising dinner. Submitted by: Membership Comm.





### UUA Common Read Book

For 2010-2011, the UUA announced a "Common Read" book (much like the NEA "Big Read" that we've done in the past). The book they chose was Margaret Regan's *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands* from Beacon Press (Beacon Press is our UU press). The book is a quick and fairly easy read, and very engaging. It tells the story of our immigration system and its ramifications through narratives of migrants crossing the Arizona-Mexico border. The General Assembly will be in Arizona in June of 2012 and will be a special "Justice GA," and so this year in our congregation we will have several opportunities to learn about the work that our association is doing and to engage in deeper discussion about the issue. As preparation for that discussion, members and friends of UUCEL are invited to join in reading the Common Read book. A link to purchasing the book on Amazon will be put on our webpage at <http://www.libertyuu.org/shop.html>. We will have an opportunity or two for book discussion in mid-September, and Rev. Cindy will preach on the subject in September or October. Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

### Solexico

In preparation for this coming June's "Justice GA" – a special UU General Assembly focused on immigration issues in Phoenix, AZ – this past General Assembly passed a Responsive Resolution urging delegates to begin to learn Spanish. Solexico, a Spanish immersion program in Mexico, is offering UUs 20% off of classes this year, plus half off the registration. To learn more about Solexico, see <http://www.solexico.com/>. If you are interested in attending, talk to our minister, Cindy, who can help you coordinate with other UUs. Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

### Engaging in Worship Project ("Sermons Inside-Out")

There has been a lot of discussion among UUs in the past couple of months about the changing nature of worship in the internet age, or doing sermons "inside-out." In response to this and to declining enrollment in adult education offerings, Rev. Cindy is going to try a new model in the fall. Once or twice a month there will be a Sunday service where members and friends will have several opportunities to engage with the sermon topic outside of worship. It will begin with recommended readings announced in the newsletter, and then a discussion topic will be posted on the UUCEL Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu>) under "Discussions" in the left-hand column. Then, the Tuesday before the sermon there will be a sermon topic discussion group that meets either at lunch in Jackson or in the evening at church (maybe alternating times). The online and group discussions will help develop the sermon topic prior to Rev. Cindy's sermon preparation time. Then, following the Sunday service, after or during social hour, or the following week, depending on the schedule, there will be a sermon discussion group to further discuss the topic. If you have ideas about when this group would be best for your schedule, or sermon topics you would like to have the opportunity to discuss, please see Rev. Cindy. One of the first sermons we will have these discussions and meetings for will involve the "Common Read" book (see p. 5). For August's sermons, a discussion topic has been posted on the Facebook page, so that we can try out this new format.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

"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~~

## Paper Copy Newsletter

A reminder from the editors; July was the start of a new calendar year for our church. To the 34 friends & members that receive the paper copy newsletter; three issues go to a minister for free, one has changed to the on-line version at no charge, only 11 subscriptions have been paid for the up-coming calendar year. Now I'm looking for payment from the **last 19 names on the list**. The \$17.00 fee is asked from each of you. You can pay by cash or make your check payable to UUCEL and write 'newsletter' on the memo line. Please give the payment to Kathy Haynes, our newsletter editor, and she will keep track of who owes, and the money will be turned over to the church treasurer. Or if you prefer you can mail your payment to:

Kathy Haynes 3457 Tracey Drive Jackson, MI 49203

Thank you from the editors, Vicki and Kathy Haynes; we hope you enjoy reading each issue as we enjoy putting it together and spreading our news.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes



### Rev. Cindy's book,

*An Extremist for Love & Justice* is now available! She'll be bringing copies to purchase, but it is also available online at <https://www.createpace.com/3593257>. Use the coupon code 88R6LTTM for \$3.00 off at CreateSpace. It is also available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.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 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 AUGUST ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:  
SUNDAY, JULY 24 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:  
UUCEL\_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU -

**We want to thank;** Kathy Haynes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Pedersen, 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

## August

3 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm  
 4 Thurs. AUUW Metting ~ 12:30 pm  
 7 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 7 Sunday Annual Church Picnic ~ After the Service held at Church this year  
 9 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am  
 10 Wed. Outreach/Forum ~ Downtown Library ~ 5:30 pm  
 11 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 10:00 pm  
 14 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 16 Tue. Brooklyn Food Pantry work day ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 16 Tue. Worship Comm. ~2:30 pm at the Jackson Coffee Company  
 18 Thurs. Brooklyn Food Pantry work day ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 19 Fri. Regional "Cluster" Meetings of Religious Educators ~ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 21 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 28 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 28 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 15 JXN Community Forum **September 15 ~ "Looking Forward: Jackson City Manger"**  
 Sept. 23 Jesus Seminar on the Road! ~ at the First Baptist Church  
 Sept. 24 Jesus Seminar on the Road! ~ at the First Baptist Church

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug 7</b>	<b>Aug 14</b>	<b>Aug 21</b>	<b>Aug 28</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Betty G
<b>R.E. Greeter</b>	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
<b>Nursery Helper</b>	-	Grace M	Donna H	-
<b>Ushers</b>	Gary T Steve J	Gary T -	Gary T -	Gary T Carole H
<b>Social H. Host</b>	PICNIC	-	-	-
<b>R.E. Pre.</b>				
<b>R.E. K-5</b>				
<b>R.E. Youth</b>				

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

August 7 - **"Water Communion"**

- **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**

Bring water from your summer travels or summer times at home to our annual water communion service celebrating the water of life that connects us all.

August 14 - **"Geeks, Nerds & Losers"**

- **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**

Drawing on popular culture themes such as Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" and "Loser Like Me" from the popular television series "Glee," this service will explore what it means to be a Universalist religion which embraces outsiders in our culture.

August 21 - **"Voldemort, Vader, & the Meaning of Redemption"**

- **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**

What, if anything does the idea of redemption mean in our "no Hell" religion? This sermon will examine this question while drawing on references from popular culture.

August 28 - **"Facebook Theology"**

- **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**

Drawing on the work of Clay Shirkey, this sermon will explore the "social media revolution" and its implications for our theology and how we build religious community.

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Where people care about each other and care about the world.  
<http://www.libertyu.org/newsletter.html>  
[www.libertyu.org](http://www.libertyu.org)

Return Service Requested

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