December 2010

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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Is currently on Sabbatical until 4/11/11

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Minister's Column

I'm now one month in to my sabbatical, but it feels like it's just starting. I took a week of vacation in the first month, and I also spent a week going to my minister's study group, which is an annual occurrence, so there have only been two other weeks to fall into the new pattern for

the next five months, and this half-week of Thanksgiving as I write this. Those weeks are punctuated by my daughter's and husband's schedule, and also by the rhythm of teaching class, since I'm teaching at JCC this semester (out in Adrian) and next (back in Jackson). In between these things, I have had time for some reading and reflection and some new learning, but I'm off to a slow start. This was intentionally planned, however, to have some time to unwind before diving into projects!

It's going to be quite a different holiday season for me this year, and I'm looking forward to attending a couple of other churches and learning how they do things during December. One of the places in my ministry where I feel the most out of ideas is in dealing with the holidays—the holidays don't drastically change from year to year, so it's hard to keep what I have to say about them fresh and interesting. I've already gotten some good ideas from colleagues this month, but I know I'll get even more from seeing how other ministers handle things.

Meanwhile, I do miss the holiday season back at East Liberty! I know you're hanging the greens and starting to get ready for a children's pageant, and the plans for things like Santa's Workshop, the annual AUUW holiday luncheon, and a bake sale or cookie exchange are underway. It's hard to stay removed from all of that, because it's become an important part of my yearly holiday ritual to help our church celebrate the holidays! Don't be surprised if you see me poke my head in the door once or twice this month.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season,



~ 20 weeks ~

With Rev. Cindy's permission; here is the count down till she returns from her Sabbatical and back to the pulpit. P.S. she is counting down also.

Religious Education Report

We are looking forward to December's activities: <u>Santa's workshop on December 12</u> during social hour, and the <u>pageant on December 19</u>, during the service.

We plan on having a pageant rehearsal for preschool through 5th graders on Saturday Dec. 4, and for youth on Saturday December 11, both days 11am – 1:30pm. We will feed them lunch both days! We are also looking for some folks who like to sew to make a few simple costume props. See Sharon if you can help with this.

We are wrapping up our duffel bag/ suitcase drive, with good response so far. On December 24 the nursery will be available as a "crying room only," meaning one adult volunteer (or me), and a parent/adult family member must stay with their child if they need/want to bring them down.

The youth will be serving lunch at the Interfaith Shelter on Sunday December 26 during the service. We will have permission slips and would welcome a few adults to come along too—we need a crew of at least 8, so Michelle Vanover and I are taking RSVPs for this meaningful service activity.

We are also scheduling teachers for what I call "Winter/Spring semester," January through June. I would like to meet with preschool teachers for a few minutes on December 5 and youth teachers on December 12 during social hour to do this scheduling; K-5th grade teachers met already so if I missed you, please be in touch.

Speaking of K-5, we will be running an experimental approach to accommodating the range of ages and interests in that class starting in January. Because some Sundays we have mostly K-2s and some mostly 3rd-5th graders, and some a good mixture of both, we will have start using two curricula, both "In Our Hands: a Peace and Justice Curriculum," but one geared toward the younger age set and one for the older. Since we have two teachers each Sunday, one will do the primary preparation for the K-2

curriculum, and one for the 3-5 curriculum (reading through both for familiarity). Then they will decide together based on who shows up for class whether to do one or the other, or split the kids into two tables and offer both! We'll give this a try and see if it meets the kids needs a little better.

Congregation members and friends—have I told you lately how much your support of the RE program means to me? We couldn't offer such a fine program without you! Hopefully you are enriched by the young 'uns in return, as I am.

Sincerely

yUUrs,

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

RE Schedule

<u>Dec 4</u>: Pageant rehearsal for preschool – 5th graders, 11-1:30 (lunch provided)

<u>Dec. 5</u>: Preschool: Jane, Sharon (Lesson 7) K-5: Anne, Barbara

Youth: Gretchen, Chris: (pageant rehearsal)

<u>Dec. 11</u>: Pageant rehearsal for youth, 11-1:30 (lunch provided)

<u>Dec. 12</u>: preschool & K-5: Sharon (pageant rehearsal; need 2nd adult)

Youth: Steve Nason, Alyce Oosting (Lesson) **Santa's workshop** (holiday craft projects during social hour)

<u>Dec. 19</u>: Pageant: "Would you Like to Hold the Baby?"

<u>Dec. 24</u>: Nursery only, crying room only: (one parent must stay with children if nursery care is needed)

<u>Dec. 26</u>: Intergenerational; youth do service project, at the Interfaith Shelter

Visitor Orientation

Question & Answer - If you would like to learn more about the church, please join with Ann Green, Lynn Hightower and Jane Volk after the service for a short informal conversation on **Sunday, December 5**. Meet in the foyer after the service for the Q. and A.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

Notes From the Board

The Board met without a quorum on Wednesday, Nov 3. We did take action on several items, getting the necessary votes by telephone! One important issue is that we need more fundraisers—as in, ideas for events, and people to organize them. This is partly due to higher than expected costs of recent repair work on the steeple (although we also got more donations than expected so the news isn't all bad.) We approved a check to pay for the bucket truck, and also another check for the estimate on the piano repair. Our church supported the PFLAG Day of Remembrance that was held in November. It was a evening of remembering our LGBT friends who have experienced violence. Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the church social hall.

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes Board President

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 www.Amazon.com, first go to our church webpage at 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, 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 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.

Profile of New Members: Harry and Dee Reed

If you ask Harry and Dee Reed about the church, they say they are very happy being here. However, it was a journey, as it has been for many of us. Harry's parents were English immigrants so, when he was a little boy, they took him to the Church of England and then to a spiritualist church. Dee grew up unchurched but later she and Harry attended the Congregational church where they liked the warm welcome. Still, Dee says she "never learned the language" of the church. Now at our UU church, she says, "I can understand what it's all about."

Harry was the editor of the *Jackson Citizen Patriot* from 1976-85 but chose an early retirement from this high-stress position in the wake of a heart attack. He has a degree in political science from U of M but went right into journalism where he stayed, moving up from reporting to supervision.

Harry and Dee met at U of M where Dee graduated from as well. They have been married 58 years. Dee is a retired psychologist who practiced in Jackson and Grand Rapids. While Harry is happy not to be in a supervisory role any more, Dee is ready to jump into church activities and get involved. She'll be working on the book sale early next year.

On a summer day you can find the Reeds enjoying their non-motor boats at their home on Crispell Lake. They have three sons – all of whom are in music – grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Their son Mike and his family live close by. Harry is a voracious reader and Dee is passionate about watercolor painting which she has done all her life. You can see her work on display in the social hall. Please welcome the Reeds. Submitted by: Ann Green

Ingathering Service

On **Sunday**, **December 12** we will have our next ingathering of our friends becoming members of the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty. If you would like to be a part of the ingathering service please talk with Joan Bernstein, Kathy Haynes, Carole Hartsuff or Jann Krupa.

Submitted by: Membership Committee~3~

Meetings and Events U.U. Church of East Liberty



AUUW Christmas Luncheon

The AUUW Christmas Potluck Luncheon will be Thursday, December 2 at 12:00 noon. Please bring a passing dish. You will be entertained by Ann Green with a Christmas program that has audience participation. There is a sign up sheet in the social hall. This event is open to everyone. Submitted by: Joan Bernstein

Mark your calendar for the **December's - First Friday Dinner**

An Evening of Dinner and Song starring our favorite vocalist, Matt Walch.

Our First Friday dinner of lasagna and all the trimmings will be on **Friday**, **December 3rd**, at 6:00 pm. We are pleased to announce that Matt Walch will provide our entertainment in song—a very welcomed treat for us! We will meet in the Social Hall first for dinner, and Matt will begin his program upstairs around 7:00-7:15 pm.

The fee for both the dinner and the program will be \$10.00 for each adult and kids ten years and under will be \$5.00. Tickets will be sold that evening at the door, or AVOID that wait in line by buying your tickets in advance form Wesley Smith or any of the members of the Caring Committee. There will be a sign-up sheet in the social hall, and we encourage you to inform us if you are plan on attending so we can plan the amounts of food accordingly. See you there! CARING COMMITTEE: Alyce Oosting, chairwoman, Peg Gordon, Gretchen Marshall, Nina Obits, Mindy Radseck and Jane Volk. Submitted by: Jane Volk

(Editor's note's: for those that do not know, Matt is married to Wesley Smith's granddaughter, and he sings in the style of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Elvis Presley. This one hour musical evening will be ~4~ wonderful and a great fundraiser.)

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 cosponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty and the Jackson District Library.

There will be no Community Forum held in December, it will return in January.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Baked Good Sale

A baked goods sale will take place during the Social Hour on Sunday, December 19th. We are asking you to please bring all kind of goodies ready to sell. Of the cookies that come in we will be repackaging them into small Ziploc bags, so you are able to buy a variety of different kinds of cookies. Or if you can place 3 or 4 cookies per Ziploc/baggie that would be helpfull. Also looking for any kind of other baked good items. And of course we are looking for **buyers** of our delicious homemade baked goods. Add the date to your calendar Sunday, December 19th. Please note this is a changed date from the last month Bellnote, it was planned for the 12th but to many other events happening that day.

All Committee Night Meeting

This meeting will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month through April. The start times are staggered with Outreach at 5:00, Worship 5:30 and RE 6:30 pm, with one person each for the board and membership there also. All other committees are wel-come to join in. All this takes place at the downtown library in the auditorium while Rev. Cindy is on Sabbatical so each committee can have better communication about all church upcoming events. Thanks; the next meeting is Wednesday, December 8th.

1st Friday Dinners Host

We are looking for other committees, groups and or individual would like to host the 1st Friday Dinners. We would like to have one every month since the dinners are an important part of our fundraising. Information can be printed in the newsletter by contacting the editors or making an announcement on Sunday morning.

Brooklyn Food Pantry Christmas Food Basket

Our church was asked to participate in the food basket drive by the Brooklyn Food Pantry, an organizaion we have voted on to help support and they are asking for our help now. Their needs are higher now than last year with 280 families that will be getting a Thanksgiving and a Christmas Basket. Each church will collect only one item that goes into the baskets, and our item is small boxes of Jiffy Muffin Mix. We have 275 boxes at the time of printing this issue leaving only 5 more to collect. If we get more that the 5 boxes in the next few weeks, all will be denated to the pantry. All the boxes will all be delivered on December 7.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

4 Services within 8 Days

The Holiday times are busy and full. Please try to make a point to attend as many of our UU service's as you can. As you can see the information in this" Bellnote" issue is full of many opportunities; R.E. Pageant is Sunday 11:00 am on the 19th - Them on Tuesday 21st, 7:00 pm is the Winter Solstice full of singing, meditative, story telling and more - Friday 24th at 7:00 pm is the traditional Christmas Eve Service. The day after Christmas is the Sunday 26th 11:00 am is the regular Service titled A Childs Christmas.

See you there!

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 Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 **December 28 and** 30 if you are available to help in this rewarding work please contact Paul Jenkins at church or give him a call. 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 for your contributions. Canned fruit is especially appreciated. Thank you! Submitted by: Paul Jenkins

Fundraisers ~ Items for Sale ~

Church Wall Calendar with photos are available for sale, 35 calendars are on hand for the first order. They have 12 different photos in the calendar taken around the church of different events, in the last few years. The photos were taken by Nancy James and Tom Pepper. You will see captions under the photos, but no names listed of people in the pictures. The price will be \$11.00 per calendar, great price maybe you can buy one to give as a gift also.

We still have some <u>Holiday Cards</u> from last year's sale. They say "Season's Greetings" with a color winter scene of the church on the front, and "Wishing you joy and peace this holiday season and always" inside. On the back is our church name. The cards are for sale in the social hall in a small plastic basket. You can buy 10 cards with envelopes for \$7.50 if you are interested. See Kerry Hart for more information. Submitted by: Kerry Hart



Used Book Sale

Book Sale is coming in January or February the date to be announced soon. Start looking to see if there are any books at your home that you can donate to the used book sale. Bring in your books to the schoolhouse under the long table in the front or on the table. They will then be transferred to the social hall closer to the sale time. The chair person for this event is Jon Hart. Please contact him for more information or if you would like to help.

Submitted by: Jon Hart

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee's next meeting is **December 19** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Christmas Sayings

~~A three year old once gave this reaction to her Christmas dinner: "I don't like the turkey, but I like the bread he ate." ~~Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall. Larry Wilde ~~ "Place shoes by side on Christmas Eve to prevent a quarreling family." ~~Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling. Edna Ferber ~~"A clear star-filled sky on Christmas Eve will bring good crops in the summer." ~5~

Game Night

We will be having a fun night on Friday, January 21 of playing board games. Meet at 6:30 pm in the social hall. This free event features many board games set up and ready to play. We are asking a few people to bring snacks (not a meal). We are looking for someone to host this event. If you are interested speak with Joan Bernstein, Carole Hartsuff or Kathy Haynes.

Our Bell Tower

The church belfry tower has been repaired and repainted. Look up next time you are there to see the renewed tower. Some of the expense were donated, for the bucket truck to get up there, the painting and wood repairs. The Matt Walch fundraiser December 3 will help offset the belfry expenses.

> Church web page www.libertyuu.org

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.





District & Denominational Meetings and Events

"2061: The Next Fifty Years" Heartland District AssemblyApril 1-3, 2011

The Heartland District office is now accepting applications to present a workshop at its 2011 District Assembly. We are seeking workshop applications that will foster leadership development and grow our UU community. Please note that procedures have been changed beginning with the 2011 District Assembly. Workshop presenters, if attending any part of the District Assembly in addition to their specific workshop slot, will need to pay a registration fee. from more information sent an e-mail to office@heartlanduu.org Deadline to submit application: December 15, 2010

> "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~~

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 CHANGED TO AN ON-LINE VERSION THAT IS FREE OF CHARGE.

THE JANUARY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO: UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING

TO KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU -We want to thank; Joan Bernstein, Ann Green, Jon Hart, Kerry Hart, Kathy Haynes, Paul Jenkins, Gratia Karmes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Outreach Comm. & 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 8
- JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS 8
- 2 ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS
- A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING 8
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large 20
- 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

December

1 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm

2 Thurs. AUUW Annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon ~ 12:00 pm 3 Fri. 1st Friday Dinner ~ Caring Committee is Hosting ~ 6:00 pm

3 Fri. Matt Walch Sings Fundraiser ~ After the 1st Friday Dinner ~ 7:00/7:15 pm 4 Sat. Pageant rehearsal for preschool – 5th graders, 11-1:30 (lunch provided)

5 Sunday Last day to bring in small Jiffy Mix boxes; 280 in total are needed Last day to bring in Duffle bags/Suitcases, looking for 50 in total 5 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Visiting Minister - Gail Geisenhainer ~ 11:00 am

5 Sunday Visitor Orientation; Q & A ~ After the Service

8 Wed. All Committee Night Meeting @ Downtown Library Auditorium - through April

Outreach 5:00 pm - Worship 5:30 pm - RE 6:30 pm, other comm. welcome to join in

9 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm

11 Sat. Pageant rehearsal for youth, 11-1:30 (lunch provided)
12 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Guest Minister - Rev. Jill Terwilliger ~ 11:00 am

12 Sunday Ingathering Service ~ Friends becoming Members

12 Sunday Santa's Workshop ~ Druning Social Hour 14 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am 18 Thurs. No - JXN Community Forums, this month

19 Fri. Regional "Cluster" Meetings of Religious Educators ~ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

19 Sunday ~~~~ Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - Sharon Pedersen and the R.E. Pageant ~ 11:00 am

19 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service19 Sunday Baked Good Sale ~ Durning Social Hour

21 Tue. Winter Solstice Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - Lori Bowden ~ 7:00 pm 24 Friday Christmas Eve Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - Gretchen Marshall ~ 7:00 pm

26 Sunday ~~~~ Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - Lynn Hightower ~ 11:00 am

28 Tue. Brooklyn Food Pantry -work day10:00 am -2:00 pm 30 Thurs. Brooklyn Food Pantry -work day10:00 am -2:00 pm

Upcoming Events

Jan'21 Board Game Night ~ 6:30 pm

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec 21	Dec 24	Dec. 26
Greeters R.E. Greeter	Alyce O Sharon P	Grace M Sharon P	Joan B Sharon P	Needed Needed	Needed Needed	Carole H Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Needed	Sharon M	Joan B	Needed	Needed	Needed
Ushers	Gary T Steve J	Gary T Needed	Gary T Needed	Paul J Needed	Paul J Needed	Gary T Needed
Social H. Host	Gratia K Jackie J	Margaret J Nena O	Jon H Kerry H	Needed	Sharon P Cookies from ma	Lynn H any
R.E. K-5 A	ne H- Sharon P nne S- Barb H chen M-Chris K	Sharon P-Helper Sharon P-Helper Steve N-Alyce O	Pageant Pageant Pageant			Intergenerational @ Interfaith Shelter

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

Dec. 5 - "The Work of the Church"

Visiting Minister - Gail Geisenhainer

- E. B. White said, "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day." Gail is from the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor.

Dec. 12 - "Taste the Blessing"

Guest Minister - Rev. Jill Terwilliger

- Reflections on loaves, fishes and what it means to be satisfied.

Ingathering Service also today.

Dec. 19 - "Christmas Pageant"

<u>UUCEL/Lay Leader - Sharon Pedersen</u> and the Children **Dec. 21 - Tuesday - 7:00 pm** "Winter Solstice"

<u>UUCEL/Lay Leader - Lori Bowden</u>

- Come share in this Winter Solstice Ritual Service. It will be full of lots of singing, a bit of dancing, meditative, story telling and rejoicing.

Dec. 24 - Friday - 7:00 pm

"Candlelight Christmas Eve Service"

UUCEL/Lay Leader - Gretchen Marshall

- Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service of singing, lighting candles, and telling the age old story of the birth of Jesus. Bring a plate of holiday treats or snacks for the social time following.

Dec. 26 - "A Childs Christmas"

UUCEL/Lay Leader - Lynn Hightower

- Bring your first or best memories of your childhood Christmas'. Or bring the traditions you hope your child will remember.

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