

# 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**

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## Minister's Column

Happy Holidays! There are so many things to write about at this time of year that it's hard to pick. As a parent of a young child, I get quite caught up in the holiday spirit, but I know for others seasonal depression can set in and for people with recent losses of loved ones the holidays are a particularly hard time. For others, holidays can represent stress of family tensions, financial concerns, and just too much to do.

One of the things I'm preaching on this year is the "Season of Peace." While I may focus more on peace as a global concept than as a personal concept, peace begins in the heart, and what better way to find focus in this holiday season than to focus on peace? If you're dealing with sorrow or stress or hustle and bustle, finding some time to think about peace can bring meaning to your holiday season.

Another thing I recommend is spending some time with the Principles and Purposes at this time of year. As people talk about the religious roots of Christmas, saying "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," think about what *your* religious beliefs call you to at this time of year. How is respect for the interdependent web of all existence present in your gatherings? How do you show belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person in the way you celebrate the holiday? Spending some time with these questions can make a holiday season even more meaningful.

Whatever you do to bring peace and joy to your life this holiday, I hope you will share it with others at our church - we grow so much from learning from each other.

Peace & Blessings,



# Religious Education Report

The K-6 class is enjoying their Bible stories and the craft projects with each one. We're in the middle of a three-part series on Moses, complete with murals to depict these awesome Bible stories.

The preschool and youth classes have struggled to have enough attendance to "run." We should have a minimum of two kids to have a class. When some kids can only be here every other weekend, we'll try to run classes then, except during intergenerational service or "no RE" Sundays, which of course happen more frequently during the holidays.

Still looking for volunteers (kids and adults alike) for the intergenerational holiday pageant.

*Sharon*



**Religious Education Coordinator**

# Notes from the Board

A Board Retreat was held at my house on Saturday, November 19th. We have scheduled another Retreat in January at the home of Anita Pepper.

During the winter months, the Board will meet in each other's' homes in order to prevent an increase in the Church's utilities. The December meeting will be held at my home with subsequent meeting places to be announced. Our meetings are the first Wednesday of every month and are open to the congregation.

We have the opportunity to hear both the digital and acoustic pianos in the sanctuary on January 22nd and 29th. The congregation will be voting on its preference after the January 29th presentation. Please plan to attend one or both of the meetings.

A history of the Steinway as we know it will accompany the piano to Mr. King's business. He stated that he would research the history of the piano before Ron Rhees owned it, and this information will be included with what we compiled, and then

Continued on top of next column...

**Thermostat Instructions- Please take Note:** The below information inside the "quotation marks" is also posted in the Social Hall near the kitchen door above the Thermostat. *...The Historic Building Architect recommended that we always keep the temperature above 50 and below 85 to protect the building, and that the thermostat settings accomplish that goal...*

"Please do not change the thermostat program! It is set to protect the building from mold and temperature extremes as well as to minimize energy cost. Any question, please call Vic Marshall @ 517-914-1903 or a Board Member

**TO TEMPORARILY CHANGE THE TEMPERATURE:** Press the "Up" and "Down" arrows, and then "Hold" for temporary changes.

**WHEN YOU LEAVE:** Please press "Run" to return to the set program."

will be given to the new owner. Mr. King also said that we may learn the name(s) of the new owner of the Steinway. We have not yet decided

how to best honor Ron Rhees; if you have any suggestions, please contact one of the Board members.

The December First Friday dinner, sponsored by the Caring Committee, will be held on **December 2nd**. Please plan to attend. This is a time of delicious food, good fellowship, and also a way to provide some much needed income. We are in need of other committees or individuals to sponsor other First Friday dinners. Please contact a Board member if you are willing and able.

Our Christmas pageant will be comprised of both adults and children. If you'd like to join in the fun, please contact either Rev. Cindy or Sharon Pedersen. We will also have a Christmas Eve service, and we hope to see you there.

As Thanksgiving begins our Holiday season, spend some reflective time appreciating our wonderful Rev. Cindy, our fantastic congregation, and our beautiful historic building. We are very fortunate UU's!

Happy Holidays!

Submitted by: Jane Volk  
Board of Trustees President



### Honoring Ron Rhees

As we move forward with the decision from our congregational meeting last month to trade in our piano and get a new upright acoustic or digital piano, one thing that is very much on my mind is how we honor Ron Rhees in this transition. I want you to know that the board is very aware of the fact that our current piano was donated in memory of Ron, and that whatever piano we get will be in thanks to this donation. The board and I are working out the details of how to best honor Ron's legacy in this time, as our plaque which references our current piano will no longer be accurate. What we will probably decide on is to continue to have a plaque in Ron's memory, but to change the wording on it. Another way of honoring his memory is that we can send along with the Steinway piano the story of Ron and our church, so that the new owner will know the story. If it is okay with whomever purchases the Steinway, King Instruments will also tell us who the new owner is. Whatever we end up doing, I want you to know that I understand that honoring his legacy is important as we make this transition.

—Rev. Cindy



### Santa's Workshop and Carol Sing

Following the Sunday Service's Christmas Pageant on **December 11th**, there will a Santa's Workshop. Please join us downstairs for a fun time with Christmas craft projects to do during the social hour for young and young at heart. Also going on will be singing of Christmas Carols, this will be taking place upstairs in the sanctuary at the same time. Join Nancy Cooper and all that would like to sing in.

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen  
& Nancy Cooper

### Contact Information Updates

We are looking to update our mailing list, telephone calling tree and computer e-mail contact list. If you would, Please Pass On any new information that may have changed from any of our members and friends by passing it on to the Bellnote Editor, Kathy Haynes; send to [uucel\\_bellnote@yahoo.com](mailto:uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com) or give to her at church so the calling tree and friends and members printed listing can be updated.

**Please remember to pass along your changed information now.**

In the spring of 2012 we will be having a new Church Directory made from the Life Touch Company and having this information now will be very helpful.

—Thanks in advance

# Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

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## **AUUW Christmas Luncheon**

Everyone is welcome to attend the AUUW annual Christmas luncheon **Thursday, December 1** at 12:00 noon in the church social hall. Please bring a passing dish to share and stay for the program hosted by Nancy Cooper she will be sharing information about what Christmas is like in another country. Come and have a fun afternoon. The table service will be furnished and you are asked to please sign the sheet in the social hall if you plan on attending.

Submitted by: Joan Bernstein

## **December's Friday Dinner**

Caring Committee will be hosting the First Friday Dinner on **Friday, December 2**. Serving will start at 6:30 pm. The menu will be a variety of homemade casseroles, both vegetarian and meat choices, plus salads, breads and desserts. Come and enjoy a great meal with church friends old and new, please come and help us raise funds for the church.

Submitted by: Caring Committee

## **Holiday Pageant Rehearsal & Information**

There will be a rehearsal for people playing roles in this year's holiday pageant on **Saturday, December 10** at 10 am until noon in the sanctuary. It is not necessary to participate in the rehearsal to be in the pageant, although it is helpful. If you are interested in being in the pageant, please let Rev. Cindy or our Religious Education Coordinator, Sharon Pedersen, know. The pageant will be the following day on December 11th.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

**Christmas is Sunday, December 25** ~ As you will see on the calendar Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. The Worship Committee did a quick survey a few weeks back and the results showed that there was not enough interest to hold a Sunday service but there was some interest in a Christmas brunch. There is a sign-up sheet in the social hall. If anyone is interested they will need to contact each other to organize the brunch.

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## **JXN Community Forums**

..are free and open programs to encourage dialogue about the challenging issues of our day. The series is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty and the Jackson District Library. All forums are held at the JDL, 244 West Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI and they are usually on the third Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 pm. Childcare may be available for a modest donation: (See Supplements Page for contact information) to RSVP for childcare. Call Debby Sears at the library at 517-788-4087 ext. 234 for more information or see the JDL website at [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com)...

**JXN Community Forum Thursday, Dec. 15**, "Bullied- A Student, A School, and a Case that Made History". As part 1 of our series on bullying, we will show this documentary film by Teaching Tolerance and the Southern Poverty Law Center. The film chronicles one student's ordeal at the hands of anti-gay bullies and offers an inspiring message of hope to those fighting harassment today. Discussion will follow the 40-minute film.

6:30 pm, Jackson District Library,  
Carnegie Branch, Sergeant Auditorium.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

## **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 had an offer from Lauralynn Browning to help with musical kinds of entertainment to have with a fundraising dinner. Some ideas are: Musician/talent night, Open mic- poems, stories-jokes etc. If you are able to help host a dinner please contact a board member and if you would like Lauralynn to add some music ask her about it. (See Supplement Page for more contact information).

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night



## Piano Information

As you will see mentioned on page 2, in the column of "Notes from the Board" our dates for trading in our piano have been set. However, there has been a change in pianos from previously printed information. In November's newsletter, we described the acoustic and digital pianos that will be brought to the church for demonstration and a vote between them. However, it came to our attention that the digital piano that had been offered by King Instruments was not the one that would best meet our needs, and so we have renegotiated with King for a different digital piano instead. The piano would still be an even trade, with no additional funds needed. We'll have more information on its specifications in either January's newsletter or in information sheets at the congregation, but the key differences are that the "CVP" model of the Yamaha Clavinova has 120 preset songs rather than 50 with the "CLP" model, hundreds of "voices" (instrument sounds) rather than 14, and has percussion (drum) choices that the other did not.



"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 --

## 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  
This 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 **December 18** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

## Social Mission

Thank you to Lynn Hightower, Martha Koopman, and Cecily Savick, who helped serve dinner at the Jackson Interfaith Shelter on Nov. 13. A crew arrived from Spring Arbor Free Methodist to relieve us, so we had a short shift. Here are items the Interfaith Shelter could use as donations:

laundry soap	hygiene products
dish soap	dish towels
pot holders	paper cups
paper plates	

I would be happy to deliver anything from this list that you bring to church for the Shelter.

December's social action project is helping with a breakfast for Big Brothers, Big Sisters on **Saturday, December 3** 10am-noon at First United Methodist Church in downtown Jackson. Please let me know if you can help that day. We welcome kids' participation with their parents!

Here is a picture of Lindsey, Andy and Sarah S. when they visited Cascades Humane Society for a tour last spring. Sarah is holding a chihuahua named Peanut who is a pet resident of the Humane Society because he has a dog form of cerebral palsy and needs special care. Mason also had a big role in the Humane Society social action project last spring — he brought in boxes, made an announcement in church, and helped get donations of pet food that was available to the Humane Society's "Pet Food Pantry." Thank you also to Laura Thurlow and Steve Nason for setting up the tour and advising the youth on this project.



Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen ~ 5 ~

**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).



### Offertory Policy

The 1st of July, we started a new offertory policy for Sunday services. This was a vote decided at our annual meeting for a one-year trial basis, to be reviewed next spring. All cash received in our offertory is split between the church and social justice agencies that we have voted to support: Planned Parenthood, the Aware Shelter, the Jackson Interfaith Shelter, and the Brooklyn Food Pantry. Checks may also be made directly to these agencies. Checks to the church will be put in the operating budget, unless otherwise designated in the memo line.

- Church Website <http://www.libertyuu.org>
- The Bellnote Newsletter <http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html>
- Church e-mail [EastLibertyUU@yahoo.com](mailto:EastLibertyUU@yahoo.com)
- Church's facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu>
- Forum facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum>

**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 JANUARY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:  
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:  
 UUCEL\_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

**We want to thank:** Joan Bernstein, Kathy Haynes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Vic Marshall, Alyce Osting, Sharon Pedersen, Jane Volk, Caring Comm., 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

## December

- 1 Thurs. AUUW Christmas Potluck Luncheon ~ 12:00 pm  
 1 Thurs. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 Pm  
 2 Fri. RE Regional Cluster Meetings ~ 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
 2 Fri. First Friday Dinner ~ Hosted by the Caring Communittee ~ 6:30 Serving  
 3 Sat. Social Mission Project; Serving Breakfast for the BB/BS ~ 10-12 ~ First Methodist Church  
 4 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 7 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm at a Board Member Home  
 8 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 10:00 pm  
 10 Sat. Rehearsal for people playing roles in this year's Holiday Pageant ~ 10:00 am until noon  
 11 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 11 Sunday Santa's Workshop and Carol Sing after the service  
 13 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am  
 14 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting. ~ Downtown Library ~ 5:30 pm  
 15 Thurs. JXN Forums "Bullied- A Student, A School, and a Case that Made History"  
                   @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm  
 18 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 18 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service  
 18 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter Submissions Due  
 20 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ 2:30 pm at the Jackson Coffee Company  
 24 Sat. Christmas Eve Service ~ 7:00 pm  
 25 Sunday ~~~~ A Christmas Brunch; for anyone that signed up to help organize the brunch

## Upcoming Events

Jan. 22 & 29          Digital and Acoustic Pianos in the Sanctuary

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec 4</b>	<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>Dec 18</b>	<b>Dec 25</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	?
<b>R.E. Greeter</b>	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	?
<b>Nursery Helper</b>	Chris B	-	-	?
<b>Ushers</b>	Gary T Steve J	Gary T Nancy J	Gary T Steve J	? ?
<b>Social H. Host</b>	Dorothy K Margaret J	Lori B	Alyce O Jane V	Brunch, for those that come
<b>R.E. Pre.</b>			Sharon P Jane H	
<b>R.E. K-5</b>	Peter M Rob G	Kerry H Michelle V		
<b>R.E. Youth</b>	Steve N Cecily S	Lynn H Cecily S		

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

### Dec 4 - "Season of Peace"

- Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum

One of the meanings of the holiday season most precious to Unitarian Universalists is the message of peace. This service will talk about ways to bring more peace into our lives this holiday season.

### Dec 11 - "Following Yonder Star"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum and Sharon Pedersen, Religious Education Coordinator, along with a mutli-generational cast

Many of us sing the carol "We Three Kings" at the holidays—but who were the three kings, the magi? This holiday pageant playfully explores the legend of the magi, reimagining the story to include their wives, who also make the journey to Bethlehem.

### Dec 18 - "Holiday Lights "

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This service will explore some of the common threads in the many holidays from different religions that fall at this time of year, and how some of them relate to the Christmas story.

### Dec 24, Sat. - "Christmas Eve Service" 7:00 pm

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service of storytelling, caroling, and candlelight.

Dec 25 ----A quick survey showed that there was not enough interest to hold a Sunday service but there was some interest in a Christmas brunch. There is a sign-up sheet in the social hall. If anyone in interested they will need to contact each other to organize the brunch.

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<http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html>  
[www.libertyuu.org](http://www.libertyuu.org)

Whe

Return Service Requested

Clarklake, MI 49234  
2231 Jefferson Road

Unitarian Universalist Church of East Liberty





