

The Bellnote

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

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

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**

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Nena Obits



Minister's Column

When, at the Presidential Inauguration, Rev. Joseph Lowry read the words to "Lift Every Voice and Sing" to begin his prayer, tears came down my face. The words he read are:

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

We had sung that hymn in our church just two days prior. I'm proud that we have that song in our hymnal, and I'm proud that we sing it as a church.

There were so many moments of religious inclusivity in the service, as well, from Rev. Rick Warren invoking both Judaism and Islam by saying, "The Scripture tells us, 'Hear, oh Israel, the Lord is our God; the Lord is one.' And you are the compassionate and merciful one" to President Obama saying, "We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus — and non-believers."

Unitarian Universalism has been a religion for decades which has promoted religious tolerance and religious freedom, which has been a religious home to Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus — and non-believers. It was wonderful to hear these sorts of messages proclaimed on a national level.

At the same time, there is still a lot of bigotry and prejudice in our world. And too often we hide our light under a bushel—I've often heard UUism referred to as "the best-kept secret." This February — a month about friendship and love — share the loving message of Unitarian Universalism with a friend or loved one. Spread our message of universal love, religious freedom, and celebrating diversity with someone who might be secretly yearning to have our "secret" shared with them. Let's make "secret friends" be transformed into friends we share this best-kept secret with!

Namaste, *Cindy*

Religious Education Report

Already the month (and new year) is flying by!

February is "Church Friends" month. This is a great way to get to know other UUCEL families. Let me know if you missed the sign-up—I might be able to squeeze you in! We will wrap Church Friends month up on **February 22nd** with a breakfast and RE-led church service.

On "No RE" days (Sundays where we don't have formal RE classes, but the service is not intergenerational, either—most often on holiday weekends) the kids have been working on a banner with RE volunteers. Our first one will be "Blest are the Peace Makers", taken from Jesus' words within the Sermon on the Mount. This is just one lesson that the youth are learning in their curriculum on Jesus—and the K-5 kids have been helping on the banner, too. Steve Nason and a guest from Temple Beth Israel in Jackson are giving the teens and 'tweens a lesson on Judaism on **Sunday February 1st**.

The K-5 class has been learning about moral values and choices. Each week they share some "gems of goodness," good deeds they've done or observed, and hear another story that helps fill theme words in on our "moral compass."

Preschoolers continue their twice-monthly lessons from *We are Many, We are One*. The last session in January is on the Chinese New Year, which falls on January 26th this year.

Thank you to all teachers who have prepared for lessons this Winter, sometimes to find there are not enough kids to teach that day. We've had to do some combining of classes at times, to maximize the teachers and kids available. The kids always seem to enjoy RE, and learn something, too. It's great that teachers remain so flexible.

We're still trying to put together an interfaith youth group, for teens and 'tweens. This group needs to be youth-driven to be successful, so I hope for lots of youth participation. Keep posted for the next meeting, Sunday late afternoon/evening, **February 1st** (may make it the **8th** in deference to the Super Bowl).

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In February the RE Committee will start to talk about next year's curriculum. The Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, so feel free to attend if you'd like to give some input on this topic, or if you'd like to join the committee.

As always, thank you for your support of religious education!

Yours Truly, *Sharon*



Religious Education Coordinator

Amazon Shoppers –

You Can Help the Church!

If you're shopping on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) remember to go first to our church's webpage and click on the "shop" link www.libertyuu.org/shop.html. If you click from there to Amazon.com, our church will receive a percentage of the profits! It's a simple and easy way to support the church while doing your book shopping from home.



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.

"Church Friend"

While we're renaming "Secret Friends" to "Church Friends" this year, the traditions remain essentially the same. We'll do the "double blind" method again this year, where neither the child NOR the adult know who their assigned "Church Friend" is.

The profile information I give you should give you all you need to know to be a "Church Friend". Adults, -buy or make gifts in the \$2-5 value for Sundays, Feb. 1-15, and perhaps a bigger gift for Feb. 22, but **spend no more than \$8 – \$20 total** on your Church Friend. Children, try to leave a note or "goodie" up to \$5 in value for your Church Friend every week, too, with perhaps a nicer gift for Feb. 22, but again, spend no more than \$20 total on your Church Friend; less or "all home-made" ok.

You will have a bag with an assigned "symbol" on it, and a matching one for your Church Friend. One set will be on the hat shelf in the foyer outside the sanctuary, and the other set will be on the windowsills in the social hall. At the Church Friends breakfast at 10:00 am on Feb. 22nd, we will "reveal" the matches; so see if you can keep your identity a secret until then!

A few things to keep in mind:

1) There are people with differing financial means who attend church. Try not to make this a contest of who can give/get the "neatest stuff." Also, accept homemade gifts and food items with the love in which they are given.

2) If you cannot attend on a Sunday during Church Friends month, see if a friend can deliver your Church Friend's gift for you, or let Sharon know as a last resort. On the other hand, recognize that time conflicts come up, and perfect attendance of your "Church Friend" is rare. If you miss a Sunday, it's still best to "make it up" the next week, with two notes/gifts/etc.

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen
RE Coordinator

Looking for a copy of the sermon?

Cindy's sermon "The Dream Renewed" from Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday is now available from the church's webpage at <http://www.libertyuu.org/sermons.html>

Minister's Blog

A few years ago our minister Jill Terwilliger sent out weekly e-mails to members with spiritual or other writings. Now, you can subscribe to our minister's blog and have it sent directly to you. Our minister has moved her blog to a new location. Check out Cindy's writings at <http://revcyn.blogspot.com> Also, it's being duplicated currently at <http://revcyn.wordpress.com> Her goal this year is to post at least weekly, so if you have trouble getting to church, this is another opportunity to hear her thoughts on different subjects. There is a link to click with directions if you want to subscribe to the blog. And if you visit it, please feel free to post a response!

Minister's New Office Hours:

Cynthia usually works from her home office and her office hours are T-Th 10-6. She is available other days by appointment. Friday is her sermon writing day and Monday is her day off.

Singing the Journey

The UUA hymnal supplement, *Singing the Journey*, is in the back of the pews with the regular hymnal. If you would like to make a donation for the cost of a hymnal supplement, please make out a check for \$15, payable to the U. U. C. E. L., with "hymnal supplement" on the memo line, and give it to a member of the Worship Committee: Lynn Hightower, Nancy Cooper, George Tramp, and Cindy Landrum.

A chalice bookplate will be placed in a hymnal supplement to honor your donation.

Submitted by: Worship Committee

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

First Friday Dinner of February

Alyce Oosting and Carole Hartsuff will be the hosts for the **February 6th** First Friday dinner. Due to illness of Jane Volk, she will not be able to help with this dinner as first planned and the menu has also changed. First Friday dinner. The dinner starting at 6:30 pm will have a new menu of soups, sandwiches, salads and desserts. It will be very good food and fellowship. There is a sign up sheet posted in the Social Hall. Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Darwin's Birthday Bash

Please join us on **Sunday, February 15th** for a Charles Darwin's 200th Birthday Bash. There will be a potluck dinner following the service, with a meat dish provided (the leftovers from the fall pig roast that have been frozen till now) and a birthday cake too! Also on that day will be a slideshow from Marge Duane of the Galapagos Islands and some of John's books on display for people to look at.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

Adult and Family

Religious Education Opportunity

The start-up of our **"Evensong for Families"** class has been postponed until the first Tuesday in February, so there's still time to sign up.

"Evensong for Families" is an 8-week series of spiritual worship-style gatherings grounded in the understanding that communication strengthens bonds within families, between families, and between families and their congregations. All kinds of families are warmly invited to join. Babies and young children are welcome; parents know best whether an experience like this is best for their children. Please sign up in the social hall on the bulletin board sign-up list. We will close registration at roughly 20 participants. Sessions include "Who Is Your Family?", "Things You Love to Do Together," "Good Times and Bad," "Your Family's Ten Commandments," and more.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

Hidden Lake Gardens Trip

(Note: Date changed from Jan. Bellnote). **Sunday, Feb. 8th**, 1:00 pm Outing to Hidden Lake Gardens to tour their beautiful indoor botanical gardens. This is a great mid-winter treat! Please bring a lunch to eat at church before we go. Entrance fee is \$3.00 and donations to the church of \$4 per person or \$8 per family are appreciated. Call me for more info.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Craft Day

Please plan to attend the Saturday, **February 28th** Scrappin' & Craftin' Day (any kind of craft project you are working on, bring it and your supplies to work on it; as others do theirs). Our monthly get-togethers are on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Caroline if you are interested in coming. The time is from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. There is no charge for participating, but donations to help cover the church's costs are welcome.

Submitted by: Caroline Landrum

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. This month's forum is at a special time and location. The commUnity forUm is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in conjunction with the Jackson District Library.

Thursday, Feb. 19th at 6:30 pm

"Darwin and Evolution –

Common Misconceptions"

Dr. Stephen Beison, Retired Biology Professor, JCC and Laura Thurlow, Associate Biology Professor, JCC. [Darwin and Evolution – Common Misconceptions](#). In this year of Charles Darwin's 200th birthday, the man and the theory that is now the organizing paradigm of biology still generate much discussion and interest. What are some of the most common misconceptions about evolution by natural selection and Darwin himself, and what is the real story?

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Caring Committee

Our next Caring Committee meeting will be on **Sunday, 22nd** after the service.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Are you on Facebook?

If so, the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty now has an un-official **Facebook** page. Search for it, or ask our minister for more details. Use it to get updates on the church, find church friends, or read the minister's blog.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

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>

~~A reminder to those that help with social hour and anyone else: **"Please sweep the floor."** This is asked by the cleaning person who comes only once a month and by then it is ground in and hard to remove.

~~Thank you

~~Visitor Tips for Everyone~~

Here are some ways to make people feel welcome that everyone can follow:

- ~ Introduce yourself and get to know a visitor by name,
- ~ Invite a visitor to social hour,
- ~ Wear a nametag,
- ~ Sit toward the middle of the pew or nearer to the front of the church so visitors can be more anonymous if they choose,
- ~ Watch for people who may be alone during social hour and ask them about the sermon or their faith journey.

Church growth is everyone's responsibility

Would you like...

Would you like to play with the little ones under age 5? Sign up on the Nursery clipboard on the bulletin board in the social hall.

Would you like to share an idea of an upcoming social event? Contact the membership committee.

Would you like to help with social hour? Sign the clipboard on the bulletin board in the social hall on a day with a name all ready there and they will show you what to do.

Would you like to share a song idea? Contact our pianist Nancy Cooper.

Would you like to be an usher? Sign the clipboard on the bulletin board in the social hall on a week with Gary, Paul or Steve and they will guide you.

Would you like to share an idea for the church service? Contact the worship committee.

Would you like to teach a R.E. class? Contact Sharon Pedersen.



District & Denominational Meetings and Events

A Heritage of Peace, Love & Justice Spanning Three Centuries

The Heartland District of the UUA invites you to join other Heartland UU's at our family-friendly Annual Spring Conference. To be held in Muncie, Indiana at the Horizon Convention Center from April 3 through April 5, 2009. Come and join us for Workshops, Keynote Speakers; Dr. Sharon D. Welch and Rev. Dr. Elizabeth M. Strong, good food and great fellowship. Information can also be found on our website <http://www.heartlanduu.org> 888.948.4883 (toll free)

Submitted by: Colleen Kelly of the Heartland District of the UUA

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 MARCH NEWSLETTER IS:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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, Sharon Pedersen, Alyce Oosting, Caroline Landrum, Nena Obits, 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"**

"Go now and live your religion;
It's 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~~

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

February

1 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
1 Sunday	Interfaith Youth Meeting ~ Location to be Announced (may change to the 8th)
3 Tue.	1st of an 8-week "Evensong for Families" Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm
4 Wed.	Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
5 Thurs.	AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
6 Fri.	1st Friday Dinner hosted by Alyce Oosting and Carole Hartsuff
8 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
10 Tue.	Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
10 Tue.	2nd of an 8-week "Evensong for Families" Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm
11 Wed.	Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
12 Thurs.	Membership Meeting ~ 1:30 pm
15 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leaders - Laura Thurlow and Steve Beison
15 Sunday	Potluck Dinner and Charles Darwin's 200th Birthday Bash
17 Tue.	3rd of an 8-week "Evensong for Families" Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm
18 Wed.	Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm
19 Thurs.	commUnity forUm ~ "Darwin and Evolution - Common Misconceptions" @ Jackson District Library ~ 6:30 pm
22 Sunday	Church Friends Breakfast formerly known as Secret Friends ~ 10:00 am
22 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leader - Sharon Pedersen and R.E. Secret Friends
22 Sunday	Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the service
24 Tue.	4th of an 8-week "Evensong for Families" Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm
28 Sat.	Scrapping & Crafting ~ 9:30 am - 5:30 pm

Upcoming Events

Mar. 6	First Friday Dinner
Mar. 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sun.	Greeters	Ushers	Social Hour Host	Nursery Helper	R.E. Teachers
Feb. 1	Alyce	Gary & Paul J.	Open	Margaret E.	K-5; Rob & Chris K. Teens; Gretchen & Alyce
Feb. 8	Grace	Gary & Gratia	Jon & Kerry	Open	Pre; Jackie & Jane H. K-5; Anne & Peter Teens; Lynn & Becky
Feb. 15	Joan	Gary & Steve J.	Potluck Dinner	Paul J.	Intergenerational
Feb. 22	Carole	Gary & Steve J.	R.E. Committee	Steve B.	Intergenerational

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

Feb. 1 - "Emerson"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -

Following up on her service on Thoreau, our minister turns to examine another famous Unitarian transcendentalist, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and particularly her response to his words on self-reliance.

Feb. 8 - "Fuller"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -

The last part in her series on the Transcendentalists concludes with a look at a lesser-known, but very important transcendentalist woman: Margaret Fuller.

Special Collection: Jackson Interfaith
Peacekeepers

Feb. 15 - "Darwin: The Man and His Science"

- Lay Leaders - Laura Thurlow & Steve Beison -

How did the times he lived in, Darwin's experiences, and his life as a husband and father shape the science that has forever changed biology?

Followed By: A potluck dinner and special Darwin birthday party social hour!

Feb. 22 - "Celebrating the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Human Being"

- Lay Leader - Sharon Pedersen and the
RE Secret Friends

We "unveil" Church Friend matches and enjoy an uplifting service that celebrates mutual respect, friendship, and love.

Where people care about each other and care about the world.
http://www.geocities.com/kemit_210/the_bellnote_unce.html
www.libertyuu.org
eastlibertyuu@yahoo.com

