

February 2013

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

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and Grace Mulnix



Minister's Column

February is, of course, the shortest month. We may wish it was longer this year, because in February we'll be doing a lot to get ourselves ready for March! In March we'll be having our annual book sale, for which we are already collecting books. Also in March, the Committee on Ministry will be hosting a leadership workshop, the preface for which is the service at the end of February which will hopefully help people to build deeper connections to this church and each other through understanding programs and opportunities for service. And lastly, the Worship Committee, Membership Committee, and Religious Education Committee have been working with me for the last month or more to create a "bring a friend service" on March 17th. In February, we're asking you to start thinking about friends you can invite, particularly whole families that might be interested in our church and find a happy home here. The sermon on March 17th will be titled "No Guilt, No Dogma, No Creed," and we'll be having a special visitor-friendly religious education program that day, as well. The Worship Committee is working on some skits to share with you about how to invite friends. The Membership Committee will be working on special invitation cards or flyers for you to hand out. For those on Facebook, we'll be creating a Facebook event that you can invite people to, as well. And we're looking for some people to sign up to make sure social hour that day isn't a "clean out the cupboards" kind of morning. It takes a lot of coordination to make sure we're putting our best face forward!

Meanwhile in February I'm turning my thoughts to a subject that has been on the minds—and hearts—of America: gun violence. As I delve into my own thoughts and endeavor to make them informed and nuanced, I'm mindful of the fact that our congregation includes people on a diverse spectrum, particularly on this issue. I want to make sure I hear the voices of that diversity, and so I would love to sit down with some of you at the beginning of February and talk about what your perspectives are. Please share them with me! And, as always, I'm grateful for the religious freedom we embody in our congregation, both in the freedom of the pulpit, where I am free from censure, and in the freedom of the pew, where we do not require you to believe a single creed, much less everything the minister says!

Lastly, in February the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign continues its "Thirty Days of Love." If you're online, check out some of their wonderful daily articles. And may all of us find ways to increase the love and justice around us in this month of February!

Namaste,

Religious Education

Report

Brrrr! Thank goodness for heat! I'm glad my home and the church has been toasty during these chilly days. I've also found myself longing for Spring, and realizing that it's not far around the corner, though we're bound to have some chilly days between now and then. Thank you to Vic Marshall, who has been troubleshooting the schoolhouse door and furnace issues.

It's a fun time of year in RE, with many neat lessons and preparation for "Bring a Family day" in March, along with choosing next year's curriculum. In January, the kids learned about the origins of Islam, and had fun acting out Rosa Parks' bus protest and subsequent boycott, which led to breaking down color barriers in her home town. And on the last Sunday of January they had a preview of Spring celebrations with Powamu, a Hopi bean -planting ceremony that included learning about kachinas. It's likely that for next year's curriculum, the RE Committee will look at the wealth of free, on-line curricula available to choose from the UUA.

In February the lessons will be on Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year, Susan B. Anthony's birthday, and a preview of St. Patrick's Day. Since we've had three to four families at the most recent movie nights on first Sundays (with the parents enjoying each others' company as much as the kids, I think!) we'll have another pizza and movie night, title to be announced, on **February 3** from 5-8pm. (Please RSVP to Sharon your plans for attending.)

Be thinking ahead about friends and family members who have children ages 0-18, to invite to our "Bring a (kid) Friend Sunday," scheduled for March 17. (See more information on page 1).

February is Church Buddies month, where we pair up kids who'd like to meet a new Church Buddy with adults who drop them a note and inexpensive gifts for the month. We'll have a Church Buddy breakfast ~2~

Continued on next column...

on the last **Sunday, February 24** at 10:00 am. See Sharon for sign-up forms before the first Sunday in Feb., or email sspedersen@sbcglobal.net.

Sorry I may have confused folks by taking a vote on your interest in RE supplying donuts, etc. for social hour. The RE committee will discuss this option at our February meeting, and let you know ASAP what is decided. In the meantime, please continue to sign up for helping with social hour, which has been broken into two halves so you can sign up to bring and serve food, and/OR clean up afterward—the membership committee has made it easier for you to volunteer to help serve visitors, friends and members of the church. Thanks for your participation!

Yuurs Truly,

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator



's from the Piano Bench

Hopefully by now, you have met our new second pianist at UUCEL, Gary Grueneberg! Gary and I take turns providing live music for our services, and I am very happy to be working with him. The first time he played at church, I noticed his big bass voice as he introduced the singing of a new hymn. I couldn't wait to have him work with the choir. Gary and I discussed how to best combine our abilities with the choir, and we are trying a new arrangement. I am playing piano accompaniment, and Gary is working with the vocal parts and directing. Our first practice was full of smiles and enthusiasm, and we are practicing for a lively song at the end of January. I expect you to clap along! Choir meets at 10 AM before the service for practice, and we love to have people join us. If you enjoy singing at church, you are more than qualified to sing with us, so please come! We would love to have more choir members.

Tom

Submitted by: Tom Pepper

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Be the Change You Want to See

Because our congregation has so many new people, the Committee on Ministry wants to share how a great deal of the important work of our church is accomplished. We have set aside the service on **February 24** for some of the people who do this work and love it to talk about their service on the board and on the committees for religious education, worship, and membership. Q and A will follow the service during social hour. On **Sunday, March 3**, after the service, we will offer a special time to review how our church is set up and discuss ways to "run" it well.

Submitted by the Committee on Ministry



Book Sale

Our next Book Sale will be in **Mid-March**: the date has not been announced yet. But please keep it in mind as you clean your bookshelves or those of family members. This sale will be in the schoolhouse next to the church. If you have any questions or would like to help please contact Jon Hart as he will be the chair person for this church fundraiser event.

Submitted by: the Editor

Cookie Booth

Our church Girl Scouts will be holding a cookie booth on **Sunday, March 3** and **Sunday, March 10**. Because of this, you will not be hearing them asking you to sign up for cookie orders as much. However, if you wish to place an advance order, particularly if you are not available the first couple of weeks of March, your church Girl Scouts will be happy to take down your cookie wishes.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum,
and Girl Scout Leader of troop 60051

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.

Thursday, February 21

POVERTY: IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK

Showing short movie "The Line" about the new face of poverty in America. Followed by panel presentation and discussion on poverty in Jackson during the current recession. Panelists will include: Shaunta Patton (Love Inc.), with other organizers and volunteers of the Jackson Personal Care Ministry.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.



Personal Care Ministry

The Jackson Personal Care Ministry has been very successful, serving 120-150 Jackson County households per week. Each week the following items are offered: shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, and tooth brushes, deodorant, bar soap, razors, combs, sanitary napkins, dish and laundry soap, all purpose cleaner, toilet paper and paper towels. Donations of products and monetary gifts are needed. Donation baskets are located in the Social Hall and in the church foyer. Checks can be made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church with Personal Care Ministry written on the memo line. Our church has had good participation and I'm encouraging everyone to volunteer. We work on the **Second Thursday** of each month, 4:30-7:00

Submitted by: Nena Obits

The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

February

~~ February is Church Buddies Month ~~

- 3 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader, Lynn Hightower ~ 11:00 am
- 3 Sunday Movie Night, Title to be announced ~ 5:00 -8:00 pm
- 6 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 7 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 7 Thurs. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 Pm
- 10 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 12 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 13 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm
- 14 Thurs. Membership Committee ~ 10:00 am
- 14 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ 4:30-7:00 pm @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson, Help Distribution
- 17 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 17 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 17 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter Submissions Due
- 21 Thurs. JXN Community Forum **"POVERTY: IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK"**
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
- 24 Sunday Church Buddy Breakfast 10:00 am
- 24 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Lay Leader, Ann Green ~ 11:00 am
- 26 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening

Upcoming Events

Mid-March Book Sale

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Steve B	Jackie J	Becky B	Joan B
Ushers	OPEN	Gary T	Gary T	Gary T
Social H. Host R.E. Pre.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
R.E. K-5	Kerry H Dee R	Cecily S Laura T	Sharon P Nancy S	Michelle V Dee R
R.E. Youth				

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

Feb. 3 - "Favorite Things Sunday"

- Lay Leader, Lynn Hightower

"Raindrops on Roses and....." Favorite Things will be today so get your Julie Andrews on and bring your favorite things to share with your church community. As usual, we won't hold to any rules. Things can mean places, activities, or people. The sharing of your favorite "thing" should be about 1-2 minutes. Contact Lynn Hightower with any questions.

Feb. 10 - "Guns & Violence"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

During this season for nonviolence, and in light of recent shootings, Rev. Landrum will share her thoughts on gun reform and nonviolence. She will include multiple perspectives, and would welcome members sharing their perspectives prior to this service.

Feb. 17 - "Susan B. Anthony"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

In conjunction with the children's religious education program on Susan B. Anthony, this service will share information about this famous Unitarian.

Feb. 24 - "Be the Change You Want to See"

- Lay Leader, Ann Green

Four of the many committees that do the work of this church describe what they do and why they love it: the Board of Trustees, Religious Education, Worship, and Membership. Q and A follows the service.

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http://www.gouytr.edu

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