

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

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Minister's Column

For the last several years, the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign has had a "Thirty Days of Love" initiative that has gone from mid-January to the Sunday nearest Valentine's Day, called "Share the Love Sunday." This year it is from January 18th through February 16, so we are in the midst of it right now. The Thirty Days of Love program called itself a "Spiritual Journey for Social Justice" and has daily activities about how to spread love and justice. Information can be found at <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org>. They have a wealth of ideas, but the general gist is to reach out and do something for love and justice this month. I have a few suggestions of ways our church or church members are involved that you could tap into this month if you're interested:

- Our church is one of the churches involved in the **Jackson Personal Care Ministry**. This important resource collects and distributes personal care items to our Jackson-area neighbors in need of assistance. You can donate items for the Personal Care Ministry in the baskets in the social hall, or volunteer to help on the third Thursday when our church is one of the churches involved in passing out the items at First Baptist Church in Jackson. To volunteer, contact Nena Obits.
- The **Jackson Together** group is working again to get a civil rights ordinance passed by the Jackson City Council that bans discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals in public accommodations, employment, and housing. Two ways to get involved are to go to the next Jackson Together Meeting on Saturday, February 22 at 2pm at City Hall, or to go to the next City Council meeting on February 25th and share your support.
- A few of our members have been getting involved with the **Jackson Area Civil Rights Awareness Association (JACRAA)**. JACRAA is holding book discussions on *The New Jim Crow* on Tuesday evenings 6-8pm at St. John's UCC. Those book discussions will be continuing through mid-February. Meetings of JACRAA are held every Wednesday at 10:30 am at First Congregational Church. Whether you choose to get involved in one of these organizations or not, I hope you find a way this month to stand on the side of love and get involved in your community.

Namaste,

Cindy

Religious Education

Report

A new year always brings anticipation of new events at UUCEL's RE program. We often start a new curriculum, as we did this month with "Sing to the Power" by the Rev. Lynn Ungar. The goals from this curriculum are to:

- Explore kinds of power that can be used to create positive change
- Enrich Unitarian Universalist identity with stories of people who used their power for the sake of "justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love"
- Develop participants' sense of themselves as leaders
- Promote exercising one's own powers to create positive change, even in very small ways
- Build community, with an emphasis on the power of religious community to change the world for the better.

We do this with stories, art projects and activities, using the metaphor of the four elements—earth, air, fire and water—as a framework to explore different forms of power. Kids seem to be enjoying the lessons so far, and I am especially handing out "kudos" to Kerry H. and Laura T. for teaching a class of nine, including two young visitors, on January 19! Thank you also to Vic fM. or getting the schoolhouse furnace fixed.

A couple of special events coming up: first, Church Buddies month is February, and I'm looking for both children and adults who would like to participate: kids fill out the form included on the top of page 4, adults just let me know. We decided to make this "one way" again this year, with adults knowing who the children are, and doing little gifts for them along the following themes, with a \$0-5 limit for the first three weeks and a \$5-10 limit for the final week:

- 1) Food - baked goods or little treats
- 2) Craft or homemade item
- 3) Re-gifted
- 4) Open to any appropriate gift!

At the end of the month we will have an RE breakfast on **Sunday, February 23** at 10:00 am, and in March we'll have an RE Sunday, when

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Continued on next column...

the kids will share with adults what they've been learning about in church this year. We will also have an adults-give-to-adults Church Buddies month in the future, to be announced.

We are hoping to hold a Peace Camp this Summer, our version of "Vacation Bible School." As we plan this going forward, we could use a few other adults for this committee, and of course volunteers to execute it in August. Let me know if you're interested!

In February and after our thoughts also turn to what curriculum we will be using in the next church year, and who will we recruit to help with all the volunteer jobs of the RE program. We will probably have enough children to split into two age groups, K-4 and 5th through 8th grades next year. So that will call for more volunteer teachers. What better way to "be the change you want to see in the world?"

Thanks for your support, and stay warm!

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator

Notes from the Board

Progress is being made toward development of a "natural playground" at our church. Please see Jackie Johnson if you are interested in being involved. We are doing well on scheduling fundraisers, and they are making money! Thanks to all who have been involved. We are looking forward to the next Venison Dinner, which is always very popular (editors' note, that took place on January 31). The board appreciates the outpouring of support, from member to member and from the community at large (including the UUA) following the tragic death of a former member and her son. Full minutes of our meetings are available in the social hall. Our meetings are usually held the first Wednesday of every month, at 6:30, at the church.

Gratia

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Visitor's Orientation

Question & Answer - If you would like to learn more about the church, please join the minister after the service for a short, informal conversation on **Sunday, February 2**. Meet in the foyer after the service. Following the Q. and A. you can have a tour of our buildings if you would like.

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee will meet on **Sunday, January 23rd**, at 12:30 P.M. in the Nursery. If you are aware of any issues or concerns involving any of our church family for which the Caring Committee can lend a helping hand, please contact any member of the Committee. Those serving on the Caring Committee are: Debbie Hartsuff, Debbie and Fred Marshall, Gretchen Marshall, Alyce Oosting, and Jane Volk.

Submitted by: Jane Volk
Chair

"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~~

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 Supplement Page for more 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.

What's in YOUR food?

Thursday, February 20, 6:30 pm

A panel discussion of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) with a representative from No GMO 4 Michigan, Mitzi Koors, Real Food Advocate, Owner of Barefoot Homesteaders, LLC, and Ben Brue, Director of Technical Product Development, Dawn Food Products. This forum is co-sponsored by the Jackson Sierra Club, UUCEL and JDL.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.



Personal Care Ministry

The Jackson Personal Care Ministry provides personal and household products to those in need in Jackson County. An average of 150 guests are served weekly. Our team works at the distribution on the third Thursday of each month, 4:30- 6:30 pm. Financial support and donations of new and gently used products are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Nena Obits (See Supplements Page for more information)

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Church Buddies 2014

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Age/Grade:

My Favorites:

Color:

Food:

Animal:

School Subject:

Toy or book:

I have these pets:

My hobbies and interests are:

If I had one wish it would be:

Please return to Sharon Pedersen asap!

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• Church Website	http://www.libertyuu.org
• The Bellnote Newsletter	http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html
• 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/or 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,

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 MARCH ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16. ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO: UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU -

We want to thank; Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Pedersen, Gratia Karmes, Nena Obits, Jane Volk, 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

February

- 2 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 2 Sunday Visitor's Orientation Q & A ~ After the Service
 5 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
 6 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
 6 Thurs. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm
 9 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: TBA ~ 11:00 am
 11 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
 13 Thurs. Membership Committee ~ 10:00 am
 16 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~11:00 am
 16 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
 18 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
 20 Thurs. JXN Community Forums **"What's in YOUR food?"**
 @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
 20 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ 4:30-6:30 pm @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson
 23 Sunday Church Buddies Breakfast ~ 10:00 am
 23 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 23 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service

Upcoming Events

To Be Announced

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
Feb 2	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Donna H	Gary T Paul J	RE Comm	Sharon P Janette M	Sharon P
Feb 9	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Jackie J	Gary T Paul J	Open	Sharon P Rob G	Elizabeth W
Feb 16	Joan B	Sharon P	Vicki H Becky B	Gary T Paul J	Open	Kerry H Kelley E	Steve B
Feb 23	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H George H	Gary T Paul J	Open	Alyce O Gretchen M	Sharon P

**Feb. 2 - "Mission Series, Part One:
Our Sources"**

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This sermon will examine how our Unitarian Universalist "Sources" form a piece of our mission and of our grounding for our mission at the same time.

Feb. 9 - "Favorite Things"

- Lay Leader: TBA

Bring your favorite thing and share with others why it is your favorite thing. ---- This thing can be a book, a rock, a material thing or something you are unable to bring to church. The sky is the limit on the topic. --- With good judgment of course.

**Feb. 16 - "Mission Series, Part Two:
Loving the Hell Out of the World"**

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This sermon will explore how our Universalist theology forms the foundation for our mission.

**Feb. 23 - "Mission Series, Part Three:
Healing Spiritual Disconnection"**

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

"Healing Spiritual Disconnection" is the mission for the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY, which they sum up as "Listen, Open, Serve." How can these simple words form a framework for mission in our context?

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