

The Bellnote

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

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MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: Her day off
Tuesday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday: Sermon-writing day
Saturday: By appointment
Sunday: 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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Minister's Column

In a New Year, why not try a new thing? If you haven't ever visited UUCEL on a Sunday, January is a great time for new beginnings. We encourage people to explore us on several levels—through worship, through programmed activities (such as our Community Forum or First Friday dinner), and through informal social time, such as our regular social hour after the service.

If you've been coming for a little while, or even a lifetime, January can be a great time to take your membership to new depths by engaging the church on another level. The theme for January is education, with two of our Sunday services and also our Community Forum on education themes. We hope for our church, too, to always be a learning community, where people who come will learn new skills or new ideas. There are lots of ways that this can be done. One is through participation on a committee or in a program. We're always looking for new ideas for our First Friday dinners, Community Forums, worship services, and Adult Religious Education classes. If there's something you want to learn more about, you can ask us to do a program or service on that issue. Or you can consider leading a series yourself on the issue and learn by teaching. If you have ideas or you're interested in pursuing teaching or leading a workshop, see me or our Religious Education Coordinator, Sharon Pedersen. Another way to learn new skills is to join a committee and work with it to learn a new area of the church. You don't have to be an expert at public speaking to join the Worship Committee, and you don't have to be a teacher or a parent to be on the Religious Education Committee. Our standing committees and their chairs are: Religious Education—Anne Seifert, Worship—Lynn Hightower, Caring—Alyce Oosting, Membership—Kathy Haynes, and Outreach/Community Forum—Nancy Smith.

However you approach our church in this new year, we're happy to have you with us on this spiritual journey. Happy New Year!

Namaste,

That which is holy in me greets that which is holy in you,

Cindy

Religious Education Report

December, a hectic month in general, turned out to be fairly peaceful for me at church this year, with only one week of lessons to prepare for, December 6. Thank you to Peter for teaching for me that day, since I was worn out from running back and forth to South Haven after Mindy's aunt died. I managed to do set-up for those classes, then went home and "chilled."

There were many opportunities to enjoy intergenerational services in December, and I sat in one myself (seems like the first service I've been able to sit down for in a long time!) on December 13, enjoying Cindy's sermon on "What the Dickens?" (Charles Dickens, that is.) Thank you to Anne Seifert for coordinating and setting up "Santa's Workshop" after that service, and for Vicki Haynes and Michelle Vanover's assistance with craft stations. It looked like all were having fun, and I'm glad other adults joined in, too! I'm sure the impromptu holiday pageant on December 20 will be just as fun.

Since the first Sunday in January is just after the New Year's holiday, kids will have a special "Craft Day" activity that day.

We plan on switching to a more age-appropriate curriculum for the K-5 class in January, and it will still focus on UUism. The youth class will soon be studying Islam, on the way to their coming of age curriculum with credo development this Spring. Also, watch for an announcement early next year on a fundraiser that the RE program will be undertaking.

The "Harvest the Power" class wrapped up Dec. 8, and we thank Rev. Cindy for leading it. She and I will be exploring other possible adult RE classes in the near future, but it is likely that we

will want to wait until warmer/better weather to run our next one.

Keep warm! Yours TrUUly,

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

Church Buddies (formerly "Secret Friends")

Every February, UUCEL celebrates friendship between the generations by matching adults with children for a month of fun, anonymous note-passing and small gifting. Church Buddies Breakfast will be **February 28**, at which the matches are revealed, and pairs are encouraged to maintain their friendships the whole year through. Around that time the Religious Education program also celebrates what they've learned so far that year by presenting an intergenerational service based on their curriculum.

This year we'll have both halves of the pairs anonymous—in other words, adults won't know exactly who they have been assigned, either! Some folks really enjoyed the two-way gifting that goes on this way. Please limit gifts to \$2.00-\$5.00 at most per week, and \$5.00-\$10.00 for the last week's gift.

A short form helps Sharon make matches and pass on "vitals" about each half of the pairs. The forms will be available at church starting January 3, or call or email Sharon to request one. Turn in Church Buddies (formerly "Secret Friends") **forms by January 24** she'll provide **assignments by the 31st**. If you can't make it one Sunday, you can always have Sharon or another friend make a special delivery for you!

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

Give food for Lent

Can you help support the

Brooklyn Food Pantry

during the Lent season?

Can you bring in canned goods?

The church will be collecting non-perishable food items from **February 14th** (the Sunday before the start of Lent on the Ash Wednesday the 17th) through **March 28th**, the Sunday before Easter.

Can you help out in some way?

Brooklyn Food Pantry is an organization that the church has voted to help support and we help staff the pantry on our assigned workday about 6 times a year.

Yes, you **Can!**

Please help—bring what you **Can!**

Please put the
non-perishable food items
in the
box under the table
by the
nursery door.

~~The Brooklyn Food Pantry is at 171 Wamplers Lake Road, Brooklyn. An organization that we have voted to support under our Social Mission policy. The pantry is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to fill the orders of those in need of food and restock shelves.~~

Thank you.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm

First Friday Dinner Information

"Comfort" Food Potluck

The first Friday dinner will be on **January 8 (the second of the month)**, and it will be hosted by A.U.U.W. Do you have a "**Comfort**" Food – something your mother or grandmother made for you as a child? If so, please make it and bring it to the second Friday dinner on **January 8** starting at 6:30 pm. This will be a potluck style dinner of everyone's favorite comfort food.

Still looking for ideas and host/hostess in the months of March and June.

Golombies

February 5 will be the next dinner hosted by Ann Green and Jann Krupa. Join us for a Golombie Dinner serving at 6:30 pm. Vegetarians will have the option of chili.

Cook-off

April 2 will be hosted by Chris Keith; it will be a cook-off with voting for the best in different food categories.

You can also bring your money; remember all these dinners are a fun fundraiser with 100% going to the church.

What would you like to plan?

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee's next meeting is **January 17** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

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 commUnity forUm is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in conjunction with the Jackson District Library.

Thursday, January 21

Michigan's Diploma: Narrow is the Path?

In 2006, the Michigan legislature enacted the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), rigorous statewide graduation requirements for all high school students. In order to receive a diploma, beginning with the graduating class of 2011, a student must pass four credits (years) of math, including algebra I, geometry, and algebra II. The idea is to better prepare students for the modern workplace. However, many are concerned that there is little consideration for students who struggle with mathematics, are at-risk, or have learning disabilities. Derrick Fries, assistant professor at Eastern Michigan University, did a study that projects Michigan's high school dropout rate will double by June 2011 with MMC in place.

The **January 21** Community Forum will examine this important issue. We will have Derrick Fries of EMU, as well as a state legislator/ sponsor of a bill that aims correct some of the problems of the MMC, and Kevin Oxley, Superintendent of the Jackson Co. Intermediate School District, to discuss Michigan's high school graduation requirements and their potential impact on dropout rates.

For February -- "Community Gardening in Jackson". Find out how people in the county, city, and in neighborhoods are growing their own fresh food, and the many organizations and programs that support this local movement. **February 18**, 2010, 6:30 pm, Carnegie Library.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

--Rev. Cindy Landrum will be on vacation for a week starting **Monday, December 28** and the following week **January 3** starts her study leave for a week.



“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~~

Worship Committee

We have started using a “Worship Associate” on Sunday mornings. This involves a lay person being a part of the service such as opening and closing or joys and sorrows and a reading etc. We need 5 people to take one Sunday a month. If you are interested please call Lynn Hightower or I may be calling you!

Submitted by: Lynn Hightower

R.E. Supplies and Thank You’s

Here is a wish list of items needed for the “We Believe” curriculum that the K-5 class has recently started:

- ~ Watercolor markers
- ~ Transparent/ “Scotch” tape
- ~ Masking tape ~ Glue sticks
- ~ Assorted sizes scissors
- ~ Multi-colored construction paper
- ~ 11 x 17 or larger artists’ paper/poster board
- ~ newsprint/flipchart
- ~ business-size white envelopes ~

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen



Jackson’s “Big Read”

Have you been enjoying Jackson’s “Big Read” for the past few years? If you have (or even if you haven’t), you might be interested in helping to select next church year’s book (March 2011). The survey to cast your vote is available at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=KPEsfAGKTyYKuBkjbXQ5w_3d_3d or on the Jackson District Library webpage. The three finalists are The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain, The Call of the Wild by Jack London, and Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. It’s interesting to note that Mark Twain and Ray Bradbury were both Unitarians. Jack London got married in a Unitarian church, as his wife was Unitarian, but I have not seen anyone say if he ever joined.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

~~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.

Thank you!

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 JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com

Kathy & Vicki Haynes

or in writing handed to Kathy.

We want to thank: George Haynes, Lynn Hightower, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, 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"**

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

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

Jan. 3 - "Living In The Moment"

- Lay Leader - Anita Pepper

A timeless concept, important to Buddhism, Taoism, Native American traditions, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and us. No meditation or yoga required.

Jan. 10 - "This I Believe"

- Lay Leader - Lynn Hightower

This is the fourth of our "This I Believe" series. Four members of our church will tell us what they believe about the 'big questions' of life and how that believes affects their daily lives.

Jan. 17 - "Martin Luther King Day Service:

You Have to Be Carefully Taught"

- Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

The latest research suggests we may be teaching our children wrong when it comes to race. What should parents, and religious communities, be doing?

Jan. 24 - "UU Sources Series:

Prophetic Women and Men"

- Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

One of our UU sources is "Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love." This service will explore why this is a source we draw religious inspiration from and how it enriches our faith.

Jan. 31 - "A Teaching Faith"

-Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Unitarian Universalists, as a group, are a more educated religion than most, and achieve higher SAT scores than most. What is it about our faith that teaches the value of education, or is this just coincidence? If our faith does value education, what does that call us to do in this world to promote the value of education?

http://kernit_21049203.tripod.com/the-bellnote-ucel.html
www.libertyuu.org
Where people care about each other and care about the world.

Return Service Requested

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