

January 2011

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



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Is currently on Sabbatical until 4/11/11

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Minister's Column

Welcome to a new year at UUCEL! This January we hope you'll join us for some interesting services featuring lay members and guest ministers while I'm on sabbatical. We start the month with our "Favorite Things" service, which has been a "favorite thing" of our congregation for years!

As for me, I'm not making New Year's resolutions. Sabbatical is all about a time of change, as I determine what things in the way I've been working have been effective and what patterns I need to break. And being on sabbatical itself is so much of a change from the way I've been working that it functions like a resolution in itself in some ways. But I do have plans, plans which include filling another pulpit in the area for one week as a guest speaker, to see how that church does worship and to help out a sister congregation, and plans which include speaking in Ann Arbor as part of a panel being put together by the Washtenaw Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice on domestic violence and faith perspectives. January will also be busier in our household as I'll be teaching two early-morning English classes at JCC and my husband, Peter Morrison, will also begin teaching two classes at JCC in art and art history.

I'm missing the congregation a lot right now – it's hard to stay away. I hope that those of you who are attending are appreciating what a special place we have to offer! And for those of you just joining us, I look forward to meeting you on my return. East Liberty is a unique place in our community – a welcoming house of diverse faiths that celebrates diversity and encourages free thought.

Peace,
Cindy



Choir Corner

Nancy Cooper would like to express her gratitude for the choir's hard work and dedication throughout the year. The choir will begin rehearsals January 16, 2011 at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. New members are always welcome, just show up and join in.

The choir would like to welcome our newest members... David Brenner and Kemis Belew.

The date and time of the choir Christmas party is yet to be announced. Due to the hectic holidays, it has been postponed until late January.

Submitted by: Lauralynn Browning
Choir Correspondent ~ 1 ~

Religious Education Report

Haven't all the intergenerational services been fun? I'm sorry I missed December 12th's service, pageant practice, and Santa's Workshop due to a car accident on the way to church that slippery day. Thankfully I am ok and only the car is worse for wear. Hopefully I can get a "loaner" while it's being fixed.

We had a great time with the pageant on December 19, despite the heat being out. I think the spontaneous nature of the pageant suited the improvised gathering in the social hall quite well. Hopefully everyone found a little something that resonated for him or her in the service. Thank you to the following actors and speakers for their roles in the pageant: Isabella B.; Gaea G.; Aubrey H.; Isaac, Lexie, Oakley, and Skyler K.; Caty L.; Ben Q.; Andy, Lindsey, Mason, Sarah S. and Tom Pepper. Also all their parents, for getting them to practices and helping with the pageant!

I am very proud of our social action focus this year at church. In September we participated in the first AIDS Walk in the area for HARC, Huron AIDS Resource Center. In October, we contributed \$173 toward the CROP Walk, benefiting the Brooklyn Food Pantry and Church World Service (see summary in next column). November's project was a suitcase/duffel bag drive, and we will be delivering the rest of the duffels within the next week or so. We already received a nice thank you letter (see separate article, page 3). At 11:00 a.m. on December 26, UUCEL Youth and some members/friends will serve lunch at the Interfaith Shelter, something I've long hoped we could do. We could use a few more hands, so please call me at 740-2629 or email sspedersen@sbcglobal.net if you can help.

I am working on our Winter/Spring teaching schedule, and will be in touch to schedule teachers who aren't signed up yet. We also need to do better with signing up nursery volunteers, so you'll see me with that clipboard in my hand often! I will also be getting teachers copies of additional curriculum materials by January 2.

Happy and safe new year! Yours TrUULy,
Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator

CROP Walk – 2010 Summary

Thank you for helping this year's CROP Walk. This year the Heart O' the Lakes area raised \$9904 to help Church World Service and our local Food Pantry.

The Brooklyn Presbyterian Church congregation hosted the Walk around downtown and residential areas of Brooklyn including a visit to the Food Pantry on a beautiful fall day. Thank you to Pastors Frank and Christine and all the volunteers at Brooklyn Presbyterian Church that made it great to be part of an ecumenical effort to serve others locally and worldwide. We added a new element in this year's walk—the CROP Rockers Against Hunger, with at least 10 in rocking chairs. Again this year students of Columbia High School Leadership Class and the Napoleon Leos Club joined us in the Walk. Thanks a bunch.

2220 food items were also directly donated for our Food Pantry. As in past years, Springville United Methodist led the way with 1721 items. Donna Carris of Napoleon United Methodist raised \$1087 and for the third year running raised the most money. A breakdown of the final 2010 CROP Walk results is

(* denotes increase from last year)

Below reads across: **Church/Organization**, then number of **Walkers**, number of **Food Items**, and **Money** collected.

Napoleon United Methodist	12	364	\$1845
Brooklyn Presbyterian	53*	50	\$4608*
Clarklake Community	7	30	\$305
Heart of Lake United Brethren	5	8	\$483*
Springville United Methodist	15*	1721	\$1105*
All Saints Episcopal	2	0	\$350*
Brooklyn Kiwanis	5	48*	\$130
Columbia Central Leadership	19*	0	\$790*
Napoleon Leos	11*	0	\$115
Liberty UU	1*	0	\$173
Total	121+*	2220	\$9904.03*

Please also mark your 2011 calendars for next year's CROP Walk. It will be held on **October 9, 2011.**

Thank you and Take Care
Ward Wilson, Brooklyn Presbyterian Church
CROP Walk Coordinator

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

"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~~

Notes from the Board

The UUCEL Board met on Wed, Dec. 1st. It was a short meeting because a) we know how to get things done, and b) the furnace was out. (Many thanks to Vic Marshall and whomever else was involved in getting it to work the next day) We are very happy to have a building committee to talk to when such things happen. We discussed many ideas for fundraisers, including the used book sale which will be **the weekend of February 17, 18, and 19**. We still need other ideas, and volunteers to make them happen. In fact, there is about a \$2,500 space in our budget called "miscellaneous fundraisers"—We are counting on our members to come up with ideas. The board would like to express our appreciation to Wesley Smith for coming up with the idea of the Matt Walsh concert, and of course to Matt for helping us out in such fine fashion. Minutes of the Board are being kept in a notebook in the social hall. Our next meeting will be the first Wednesday of January (**January 5th**). Please let us know if you have any agenda items which need discussion.

Respectfully Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President

Please see page 7, they are very blank. Please sign up to volunteer on the clipboards in the social hall!

Church web page
www.libertyuu.org

Social Hour/Food Cupboard

If there is a Sunday that no one signed up to host the social hour, there is extra food in cupboards that can be used. Please think about donating items back to the cupboard like crackers or cookies in a sealed bag for the weeks we have no one signed up to host the social hour. Also if you can think about signing up to host 3 or 4 weeks this year that would be helpful; the list is on the cork board for all of 2011 dates.

~ 15 weeks ~

With Rev. Cindy's permission; here is the count-down till she returns from her Sabbatical and back to the pulpit.

P.S. she is counting down also.

Dear Sharon,

Dec. 9, 2010

Thank you so much for your generous donation of many pieces of new and gently used luggage to our agency, for children in foster care. As the economic difficulties facing our community continues to grow, we at Family Service & Children's Aid take a moment to reflect on all the gifts we are thankful for, the most important being our friends and supporters. Thank you for helping FSCA to make a difference in the lives of families and the children on our community. It is the support and thoughtfulness of businesses, volunteers, friends and community members like you that help make it possible for us to provide quality services for those in need. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Judith Jove

P.S. Wow! we are so thrilled that our children in foster care can travel in suitcases, not garbage bags - thank you all for your gracious gifts! Judy

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

Update your Contact Information

The church phone tree of active members has been updated to the best of our knowledge in December and has been passed out to the many different callers. Please let Kathy Haynes know if any of your information has changed: new phone number and any changes in mailing or your e-mail addresses. It will get passed on to our registrar Paul Bowen. Thanks in advance; we would not want you to be missing any of our Bellnote Newsletters due to incorrect information.

Also to the on-line readers send a message to the uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com with any changes, thank you.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes
Membership Chair and Bellnote Editor

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Venison Chili Dinner

You are invited to attend the next 1st Friday Dinner, on **Friday, January 7** hosted by George & Kathy Haynes. The Menu will be chili made with venison, tossed salad, garlic bread, coffee, tea and cookies. There will also be a pot of vegetarian chili made by Nancy Smith. This meal is a free will offering and will be served at 6:00 pm in the social hall.

Submitted by: George Haynes

Mexican Dinner

The next 1st Friday dinner planned will be **Friday, March 4th**. It will be hosted by Fred & Debbie Marshall with a Mexican dinner theme along with a Mexican dance for your entertainment. Watch for more information in the February issue. Submitted by: Jane Volk

Board Game Night

We will be having a fun night on **Friday, January 21** of playing board games. Meet at 6:30 pm in the social hall. This free event features many board games set up and ready to play. We are asking a few people to bring snacks (not a meal). Hosted by Vicki & Donna Haynes. If you have a favorite game, feel free to bring it with you. Contact Vicki or Donna if you have any questions.



Used Books & Fresh Baked Good Sale

The used book sale will be the weekend of **February 17, 18 and 19**. Start looking to see if there are any books at your home that you can donate to the used book sale. Bring in your books to the schoolhouse and put under the long table in the front of the room. They will then be transferred to the social hall closer to the sale time. The chair person for this event is Jon Hart. Please contact him for more information or if you would like to help.

There will also be a fresh baked good sale going on at the same time; bakers, think about what you can offer to this sale.

~4~

Submitted by: Jon Hart

JXN Community Forums The Grand River Expedition 2010, A Virtual Tour Jackson, MI

...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 Forum's are co-sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty (UUCEL) and the Jackson District Library (JDL).

Thursday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Paul Rentschler, aquatic ecologist & planner for the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, will present a virtual tour of "The Grand" as seen through the eyes of the expedition participants, with photos from the Grand Rapids Press as well as local photographers.

GREAT (Grand River Environmental Action Team) board member Jim Seitz will relate his experiences on the river as one of eight from Jackson County who paddled the entire 225-mile distance over 12 days. He joined over 300 participants this past July, paddling the Grand River from the headwaters south of Jackson to Lake Michigan in the Grand River Expedition 2010. The diverse group of participants from across the state experienced the beauty and majesty of this natural treasure in an extraordinary experience. This is the third expedition, following similar quests in 1990 & 2000.

Childcare may be available for a modest donation; call 817-0940 to RSVP for childcare. Call 517-788-4087 for more information, or see the Library's website at www.myjdl.com

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

All Committee Night Meeting

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month through April. Outreach at 5:00, Worship 5:30 and RE 6:30 pm and all other committees are welcome to join in as well. Take part at the downtown library in the auditorium. This is for better communication about all church upcoming events. The next meeting is **Wednesday, January 12th**.

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee's next meeting is **January 16** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Brooklyn Food Pantry Christmas Food Basket

On December 2, a total of 299 small Jiffy Muffin Mix boxes were delivered to the Brooklyn Food Pantry. The number of baskets they are putting together is higher now, than the beginning number of 280 and they were very thankful for the extra 19 boxes collected from our church. Thank you to everyone that donated the Jiffy Mixes. Keep in mind they are always in need, if you buy and take to the pantry it will be used.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

1st Friday Dinners Host

The board members are looking for other committees, groups and or individual would like to host the a 1st 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 by making an announcement on Sunday morning.

Fundraiser ~ Item for Sale ~

Church Wall Calendar with photos are available for sale. They have 12 different photos in the calendar taken around the church of different events, in the last few years. The photos were taken by Nancy James & Tom Pepper. You will see captions under the photos, but no names listed of people in the pictures. The price will be \$11.00 per calendar, great price. Maybe you can buy one to give as a gift also. See Kerry Hart or any board member for more information.

~~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!

Church growth is everyone's responsibility

District & Denominational Meetings and Events

Michigan Standing on Side of Love Conference Draws 86 from 15 UU Congregations

On November 20th, 86 people from 15 UU congregations and several other organizations attended a Standing on the Side of Love for Immigration Reform and LGBT Rights conference held at Northwest UU Church in Southfield, MI. Conference highlights:

-- UUA Moderator, Gini Courter, said, "we have a historic opportunity to make a difference" & challenged the audience to be courageous for social justice; -- Persons from LGBT and immigrant communities told their personal stories of oppression. Speakers from LGBT and immigrant organizations updated UUs on issues and actions; --During the conference, attendees voted to have MUUSJN issue an action alert on the Dream Act that gives immigrant youth a path to citizenship. This action was taken; and -- Congressman John Conyers made a spirited presentation on human rights and requested a meeting with UUs to debrief him on the results of the conference. For more information, contact Randy Block at 248-549-5170 or randyblock@yahoo.com

Michigan UU Justice Network Receives \$12,000 LGBT Advocacy Grant

The Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) was recently awarded a \$12,000 grant by the UU Funding Program to organize a statewide network of activists to campaign for passage of state LGBT rights legislation. This proposal also seeks to share information with UU congregations about how to become more welcoming and reach out to the LGBT community. A UUA Funding Program staff described MUUSJN's project as a model for other justice networks. MUUSJN's invites members of UU congregations to participate in monthly free LGBT Advocacy Task Force conference calls to get training and plan actions. For more information, contact MUUSJN Director Randy Block at 248-549-5170 or randyblock@yahoo.com The Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) is a justice resource for Michigan UU congregations. To Learn more visit our website: www.uujustice.org or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MUUSJN ~ 5 ~

"The best things you can do for yourself in 2011"

Monetta Harr, a columnist from the *Jackson Citizen Patriot* is writing a story for the new year that has as its focus "the best things you can do for yourself in 2011." My response was in large part due to my membership in this UU congregation, my friendships with the people, and the values we share.

- ~ Create something. It will give you energy.
- ~ Try a new recipe, write a memory of your grandparent for your grandchildren, find a solution to a problem.
- ~ Work with your hands. The physical can be spiritual. Knead dough, dig in the dirt, play a piano.
- ~ Be mindful of small details – the way an oak leaf is caught in the snow, how a bird balances on one foot while it grooms the other.
- ~ Stretch your world. Do something you've never done before. Go somewhere you've never been.
- ~ Celebrate. Be grateful for what you have.

Submitted by: Ann Green

What would your answers be of the best things you can do for yourself in 2011?

Meetings and Events not directly affiliated with UUCEL

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD

DRIVE Will be held at JCC **Wednesday, Jan. 26th** in the Fed-erer Rooms of Potter Center from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Michigan continues to be under a blood emergency as blood supplies remain at critically low levels! You can help, and your donation of a pint of blood can save as many as 3 different people! Please take the time to save a life and make a difference. Cookies and refreshments provided to all donors. **The next blood drive dates are: March 23rd, May 25th & July 27th.** The gratification is instant. Remember to drink lots of fluids and eat a good meal before you donate! Facts about Blood Needs ~ Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. ~ More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day. ~ The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 pints. ~ The blood type most often requested by hospitals is Type O. Call Vic Marshall 517-914-1903 for additional info or questions. Submitted by: Vic Marshall

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.



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 FEBRUARY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING

TO KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

We want to thank; Lauralynn Browning, Ann Green, Jon Hart, George Haynes, Kathy Haynes, Gratia Karmes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Vic Marchall, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Outreach Comm. & 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

January

2 Sunday ~~~~ Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - Lauralynn Browning ~ 11:00 am
 5 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
 7 Fri. 1st Friday Dinner ~ Hosted by George & Kathy Haynes
 6 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
 9 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Guest Minister - Rev. Fran Dew ~ 11:00 am
 11 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
 12 Wed. All Committee Night Meeting @ Downtown Library Auditorium - through April
 Outreach 5:00 pm - Worship 5:30 pm - RE 6:30 pm, other comm. welcome
 13 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
 16 Sunday ~~~~ Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - Jon Hart ~ 11:00 am
 16 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
 20 Thurs. JXN Community Forums
 @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
 21 Fri. Regional "Cluster" Meetings of Religious Educators ~ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 21 Fri. Board Game Night ~ 6:30 pm
 23 Sunday ~~~~ Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - Guest Speaker - Sanda Place ~ 11:00 am
 30 Sunday ~~~~ Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - TBA ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

Feb. 17, 18, 19 Used Book Sale and Baked Good Sale
 March 15 & 17 Brooklyn Food Pantry, Our Work Day- Need 1 or 2 Helpers

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Jan. 30
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H	Needed
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed
Ushers	Gary T Needed	Gary T Jon H	Gary T Needed	Gary T Needed	Gary T Needed
Social H. Host	Needed	Lori B	Needed	Needed	Needed
R.E. Pre. R.E. K-5 R.E. Youth					

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

Jan. 2 - "Favorite Things"

UUCEL/Lay Leader - Lauralynn Browning
Bring your "favorite things" to share for our annual favorite things Sunday service. Items like a rock, a book, a favorite toy, quilts, stained glass, and many other similar items are things that have been shared about in the past.

Jan. 9 - "Keeping Sabbath"

Guest Minister - Rev. Fran Dew
Millennia ago, the observation of Sabbath created an oasis of sacred time within a life of unceasing labor. While our labor may not be unceasing our activity level often approaches it. Let's begin this new year considering how to take time off from the treadmill of activity to make a special time of rest, delight, and renewal.

Jan. 16 - "Martin Luther King Jr."

UUCEL/Lay Leader - Jon Hart

Jan. 23 - "Holism and Eldercare"

Guest Speaker - Sanda Place
UUCEL/Lay Leader - TBA

Jan. 30 - "TBA"

TBA
UUCEL/Lay Leader - TBA

Where people care about each other and care about the world.
<http://www.libertyu.org/newsletter.html>
www.libertyu.org

