

The Bellnote

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

June 2009

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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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Kerry Hart

VICE PRESIDENT Jane Volk

SECRETARY Becky Bowen

TREASURER Steve Beison

TRUSTEE Gratia Karmes

TRUSTEE Alyce Oosting

CARING COMMITTEE

Nena Obits

BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Weatherwax

Carol Bowen

Nena Obits



Minister's Column

"First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, then you win." — Mahatma Gandhi

This month marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the moment that defines the beginning of the LGBT movement in the U.S. For 40 years, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people have been fighting for human rights in this country, and we're still not there. As I write this, I have just heard the news that California's Supreme Court upheld Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage in California. At the same time, however, they did uphold the existing same-sex marriages, which occurred before Proposition 8 was voted in.

I believe the world is changing for the better all the time. As Unitarian minister Theodore Parker said: "Look at the facts of the world. You see a continual and progressive triumph of the right. I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice. Things refuse to be mismanaged long." And so it is with this. We had a setback in California, but we've had an explosion of states legalizing same-sex marriage in the past few months.

Michigan has one of the worst of constitutional amendments, as it bans not only same-sex marriage, but "any similar union." But there is still hope, even in Michigan. We've seen, with Iowa, that it is possible for a Midwestern state to legalize same-sex marriage. And the constitutional amendment can be overturned. In May I met with the Faith Action Network's "Inclusive Justice Program Director" in Ann Arbor. The Faith Action Network is a branch of the American Friends Service Committee that is bringing people of faith together in the fall for a conference on LGBT equality. We're excited about possibilities for collaborative work for justice in Michigan. At the same time, UU ministers have been discussing what things we can do to build on the momentum we created at the Human Rights Campaign's 2009 Clergy Call.

I'm looking forward to telling you about some of these opportunities in the worship service on June 14, as well as talking about my recent trip to Washington, D.C. for the Clergy Call. Hope to see you there!

Namaste,

Cindy

~1~

Religious Education Report

May has been an enjoyable month, with the kids' auction starting off our fun. The children also enjoyed a yoga lesson by Molly Marshall on Mother's Day—with several children from four to ten participating. Memorial Day was an intergenerational service.

Preschoolers enjoyed two lessons about Spring and nature in May. The K-5 class had lessons two through five in its new "Toolbox of Faith" curriculum. Youth had a crash course on the history of Christianity since Christ (with a chess set being a great prop for this conversation—thanks, Gretchen!) and they'll finish the month (and the school year) with a lesson on the history of UUism.

In June we have one of our favorite intergenerational services, the flower communion and "wheel of the year," where we mark transitions such as graduations, teachers and board members' service, and children who have participated in religious education.

Thank you to this year's RE teachers:

Meredith Baither	Becky Bowen
Rob Gaeke	Kerry Hart
Kathy Haynes	Lynn Hightower
Jane Hill	Jackie Johnson
Chris Keith	Gretchen Marshall
Peter Morrison	Janette Mraz
Alyce Oosting	Cecily Savick
Anne Seifert	

Vicki Haynes, Nursery Care Provider

Remember, we'll have K-12 RE lessons through the Summer, every other week starting June 14. Thanks for your support of RE.

Religiously yUUr,

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

Notes from the Board

As the fiscal year comes to an end, I'd like to express my many thanks to the outgoing board members for their service to our church. Alyce Oosting and Steve Beison will be missed but will surely stay busy and connected through other committee activities. Alyce has been a thoughtful board member who often volunteered to research issues for the board. Church members often approached her to bring concerns and feedback to the board, as well. Steve has served four years on the board, including terms as the president and treasurer. He has gone above and beyond in both those roles and has voted with reason and conscience. Thank you, Alyce and Steve, for the support you have given me, the board, and the entire congregation.

I also need to remind all church members of the upcoming congregational meeting. We have unfinished business to do, including issues we were not able to address at the annual meeting. Please plan to attend this meeting after church services on **Sunday, June 14th**. We will vote on the following issues: the 2009-2010 budget, proposed bylaw revisions, appointment of the sixth board member for a 3-year term, and the annual meeting minutes from 2008. We have also received a request to revisit the current flag policy and will vote whether to change that policy.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the congregation for its support of the board during this past fiscal year. Your participation in congregational meetings and the feedback you provide the board is vital to its ability to function. Each member directly impacts the overall success and prosperity our church experiences. Without your soulful presence, we would simply be a quaint little church in the woods. Because of you, we are that and so much more.

Kerry Hart

A congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 14**, to present the budget for the 2009-2010 church year. At the time of our annual meeting, our pledge campaign was not yet complete, so the Board decided to postpone the presentation until June. Our present church year ends on June 30. If you made a pledge for the present church year (2008-09) and intend to pay that pledge in full, please do so by June 30. Any payments after that date will go to the new church year's budget, unless you indicate on your check or envelope that the donation should be directed to the previous church year.

You should have received information about your church contributions through April 30. The last update for this church year will be provided in July. If you would like to receive a more recent update, contact me by phone or e-mail me. Thank you for supporting our church.

Submitted by: Steve Beison
Board Treasurer

Definition of Sabbatical

The Handbook on Sabbatical Leaves provides us this definition of ministerial sabbaticals: "Sabbaticals are neither extended vacations nor tightly-structured, highly-focused study leaves. Sabbaticals are designed to foster rest, reflection and renewal, a respite in depth, to provide an opportunity to break away from established routine and the press of heavy responsibilities, a chance to experience different cultures and be stimulated by new learnings, and time and space to reflect on the meaning of it all. Sabbaticals typically include study and/or travel, and provide the opportunity not only for formal learning and cultural enrichment but also time for receptivity and reflection. We are able to be receptive only when we have let go of our normal regimen. Receptivity opens the way to interior healing, fresh insight and perspective, and possibly a new energy that is less driven, more balanced and productive." Submitted by: Ann Green

~~~ Please welcome our newest member who joined our church on May 17th ~~~

### **Michelle Vanover**

And her family, sons Ben and Harris  
husband Chad Quintanilla.

**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.

### **Amazon Bucks for the Church/ Fundraising**

If you are an [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) shopper, you can also help the church earn money by clicking first on our links at [www.libertyuu.org/shop.html](http://www.libertyuu.org/shop.html). The link will take you to Amazon.com where you can shop as normal, but the church will earn rewards for each dollar you spend.

### **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>

### **Minister's 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.

# Meetings and Events

## U.U. Church of East Liberty

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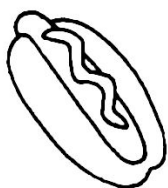
### First Friday Dinner

No first Friday dinner for June. An idea of a first Friday dinner for the month of June was talked about and started to be planned. But we realized that it would be better to move the idea to another month, possibly September. If the plan remains the same it may be homemade pizza and salad. Hosted by the Hart's, Smith/Gaecke and Green. When new information comes in, the editors will pass it along to you. Submitted by: the Editors

### Cooks needed

Looking for volunteers to step-up and take a turn at cooking/hosting the First Friday Dinners for the months of **September** and beyond. Let someone on the membership committee know if you would like to do so.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.



### Hot Doggity!

Enjoy a fun fundraiser at Sharon and Mindy's house—this is their church "auction item!"

On **Saturday, June 6th**, 12:00 -3:00 pm (come when you can, leave when you must). Hot dogs, Turkey dogs, and "Not dogs" (soy) will be served with all the trimmings' and picnic food, like potato salad, baked beans, etc. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Individuals \$10 ~ Families \$25 ~ Kids under 10 eat free. Tickets for sale at church see Sharon or Mindy or RSVP.

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

### Baby Shower for Chris

The RE Committee will be throwing a baby shower for Chris Keith after the service on **June 7th**. She is registered at Target as well as The Little Seedling (355 S. Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor MI, [treecitydiapers.com](http://treecitydiapers.com)). She is expecting a boy!

Submitted by: the RE Committee

## Notice of Congregational Meeting June 14th

Mark your calendars to attend the **June 14th** congregational meeting for discussion and voting on these important issues:

- ~ 2009-2010 fiscal year budget
- ~ Proposed by-law revisions
- ~ Appointment of sixth board member
- ~ Approval of 2008 annual meeting minutes
- ~ Policy for displaying the American flag

Submitted by: the Board

The 2008 - 2009 Annual Report is available. If you receive the paper copy of The Bellnote newsletter; it's at the church. If you get the newsletter on-line your copy is on the church's web page under the "Forms" page <http://www.libertyuu.org/forms.html> click on "2009 Annual Report." Please read through it, there is a lot of good information put together from all of the committees and more.

### Brunch before Church

You are invited to a "Pride Brunch" preceding the service serving at 9:45 am on **Sunday, June 14th**. Our annual celebration coinciding with Rev. Cindy's Pride Month service. Enjoy great food and company!

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

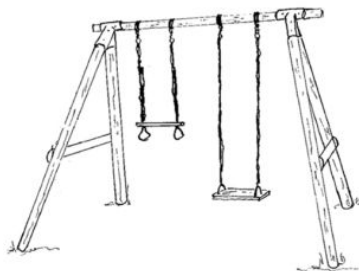
### Father's Day Cookout

Everyone is invited to a Father's Day Cookout on **Saturday, June 20th** starting at noon at the church. Grills and charcoal will be provided; bring your own items to toss on the grill and a passing dish. Donations for new playground equipment will be

accepted; the swing sets we have are in bad shape and need to be replaced.

Submitted by:

Peter Morrison





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

The forums are not held in June, July and August; they will return in September. If you have any ideas or questions please contact Nancy Smith or Lynn Hightower.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

### **Caring Committee**

There will be no Caring Committee Meeting in the month of June. The next one will be in early July.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

### **Garden Support Group**

We meet a couple times a month to share gardening knowledge, successes and failures. Soon we'll be visiting some of our gardens. For more information give me a call.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

### **~~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

### **Grandma's Attic Sale**

The annual church's grandma's attic (rummage / yard) sale will be **Thursday, June 25th; Friday, June 26th; and Saturday June 27th.** This sale had been a large success in the past; and with the economy in the shape it is in, there could be more shoppers that ever. So we are looking for only the best of the best in the items you donate. Please bring your **good items** to the schoolhouse after the R.E. class on the 14th of June. Starting on the 15th workers will be needed to organize the many items we will be getting. Workers of all ages will be needed to sort, mark, work the sale dates and pack up after the sale. A sign-up sheet will be in the church. If you have questions please contact Carole Hartsuff, Joan Bernstein or Dorothy Kerr, they say no shoes please they do not sell.

Submitted by: Dorothy Kerr

"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~~



~~A reminder to those that help with social hour and/or if you or your child is a messy eater: "Please sweep the floor." The broom & dustpan can be found in the small closet on the other side of the kitchen door on the stairs. 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. ~~

#### 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 JULY NEWSLETTER IS:

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

[uucel\\_bellnote@yahoo.com](mailto:uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com)

Kathy & Vicki Haynes

or the Bellnote mailbox.

We want to thank --Rev. Cindy Landrum, Steve Beison, Ann Green, Kerry Hart, Dorothy Kerr, Peter Morrison, Nena Obits, Sharon Pedersen, Outreach Comm., RE 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

# The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

## June

|           |                                                         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 Wed.    | Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm                                 |
| 4 Thurs.  | AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm                                 |
| 5 Fri.    | No 1st Friday Dinner                                    |
| 6 Sat.    | Hot Dog Roast ~ \$10.00 a plate @ Sharon & Mindy's home |
| 7 Sunday  | ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum   |
| 7 Sunday  | Baby Shower for Chris Keith ~ After the Service         |
| 9 Tue.    | Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am             |
| 10 Wed.   | Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm                     |
| 11 Thurs. | Membership Meeting ~ 1:30 pm                            |
| 14 Sunday | Pride Brunch ~ 9:45 am                                  |
| 14 Sunday | ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum   |
| 14 Sunday | Congregational Meeting ~ After the Service              |
| 15 Mon.   | Setting up for the Grandma's Attic Sale                 |
| 17 Wed.   | Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm         |
| 20 Sat.   | Father's Day Cookout ~ 12:00 pm                         |
| 21 Sunday | ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~                               |
| 25 Thurs. | Grandma Attic Sale ~ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm                  |
| 26 Fri.   | Grandma Attic Sale ~ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm                  |
| 27 Sat.   | Grandma Attic Sale ~ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm                 |
| 28 Sunday | ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum   |
|           | No Caring Committee Meeting in June                     |
|           | No commUnity forUm in June                              |

## Upcoming Events

|         |                                                                   |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 21 | Brooklyn Food Pantry; work day Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  |
| July 23 | Brooklyn Food Pantry; work day Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm |

### WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

| Sun.    | Greeters | Ushers            | Social Hour Host         | Nursery Helper | R.E. Teachers        |
|---------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| June 7  | Alyce O. | Gary T. & Paul J. | Carole H. & Rose Mary L. | Open           | Intergenerational    |
| June 14 | Grace M. | Gary T. & Paul J. | Peg & Pat G. & Sharon P. | Elizabeth W.   | Sharon P. & Peter M. |
| June 21 | Joan B.  | Gary T. & Paul J. | Betty G. & Jane V.       | Open           | No RE                |
| June 28 | Betty G. | Gary T. & Paul J. | Wes S. & his daughter    | Open           | Sharon P. & Rob G.   |

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

June 7 - "Flower Communion and  
the Wheel of the Year"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Bring a flower for the annual Flower Communion Sunday where we will also celebrate the transitions that happen in our church year from graduations to church committee chair transitions and more.

June 14 - "Human Rights for All (Pride Sunday)"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Cynthia will share her experiences on her recent trip to Washington , D.C. to lobby for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights, as well as discussing recent developments on same-sex marriage and upcoming legislation in Michigan.

**Special Offering:** for our Quarterly Congregational Social Mission Agency.

June 21 - "To Be Announced"

The editors did not get the information before it went to print for this Father's Day Sunday service.

June 28 - "Torture"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

June is "Torture Awareness Month," and of course torture has been a big topic in the news lately. What is the religious response to the presence of torture in the world? What can we, individually or collectively do in response? This service will address some of these questions.

Where people care about each other and care about the world.  
http://www.geocities.com/kemit\_210/the\_bellnote\_uucel.html  
www.libertyuu.org  
eastlibertyuu@yahoo.com

Return Service Requested

Clarklake, MI 49234  
2231 Jefferson Road

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

