

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

Hello UUCEL Members & Friends,

As I near the end of my sabbatical, I find that there's more and more I'm regretting missing at church. There are so many interesting things going on! I've been hearing nice reports back from my colleagues who have visited, as well. It's definitely time to be returning, and I'm looking forward to being back soon.

This is my tenth year of ministry and my seventh year at UUCEL, and one of the things I've been learning on sabbatical is what it feels like to not be always a minister, and always on call. It's been a refreshing break; I've enjoyed being able to spend more time on family, and being able to give more focus to my teaching. At the same time, it's been a loss of part of identity and community to have this time of separation. But that separation has allowed me time for spiritual reflection to understand what my ministry is about, what is important to me, and what I want for the future.

At a recent function I attended, I ran into a member who told me a little of what was going on at church, and made a remark about what I had wanted to happen in a specific issue at church. I'm finding that my views on some issues have either changed or disappeared altogether. I'm coming back with a more open mind on pianos, windows, worship structure, and a number of other things. At the same time, other desires have become more solid; for example, spending family time has reinforced the importance of strong religious education for me; visiting other churches has reminded me of what is at the core of our faith across our denomination. I look forward to hearing what your thoughts have been while I'm away; I'm open to changes that the future will bring.

Looking forward to
seeing you soon,

Religious Education Report

It's been exciting to have a few warm days interspersed with the "yucky" ones in February. Spring is on its way, I just know it!

It looks like Church Buddies Month is being enjoyed by all participants. Invariably an adult or a child misses a Sunday, but that is made up for in the end, and it all works out. Thank you to the Haynes family and especially George Haynes for preparing our Church Buddies/RE Breakfast on February 27, and for those who bought or brought food for that event.

The RE Committee got a report from me on how expenses are going for the year so far—just under \$100 but there may be a small spike due to the new K-5 curriculum starting up. If there are funds available in the budget I expect they will be adequate to pay for my District Annual Meeting registration. We have also started to review the curricula for next year's RE Program.

I'm very happy that we have been able to recruit some substitute/occasional teachers this year, so when we have openings or need subs, we can usually identify someone without much trouble. I hope next year that we can recruit a few "regular" (once a month or so) teachers to that there are not as many vacancies as the months approach.

Yuurs,

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

CHURCH BUDDIES

Thank you to these participants in
the Church Buddy pair-ups:

Ann G. and Skyler

Carole and Brianna

Donna and Lexi

Kerry and Ben

Jon and McKrae

Lauralynn and Caty

Lori and Isabella

Martha and Gaea

Nancy & Rob and JD

Gratia and Dorothea

Nancy C. and Aubrey

Sharon P. and Harris

"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 Board met on Wednesday, February 2 with the primary goal of finalizing plans for the First Friday / Pledge Dinner, to be hosted by the Board, they was Feb. 4th. We are hoping that those who attend the dinner will complete the pledge process for next year. If you are reading this, and haven't done so yet, dear member, please contact a member of the Board or Steve Beison to let us know your pledge for 2011-12. Even though the fiscal year doesn't end until June 30th, we need to know now as much as we can, to plan for the budget. Other news included the completion of our "archives" (old minutes, newsletters, and memorabilia) which are available for perusal in the social hall. Many thanks to Gretchen Marshall, Anne Green, and anyone else who helped with this project. We also discussed the ongoing need for greater help in the nursery; more volunteers are always needed. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, March 2 in the Social Hall, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President

~ 7 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.

Church web page
www.libertyuu.org

**Profile: Newest Member,
Lauralynn Browning**

When Lauralynn found us on the internet, she knew just what she wanted in a church: a welcoming congregation and a choir to sing with. Here were both and she became our newest member. How she developed her passion for music is an unusual story. In middle school she was bullied on the playground and discovered she could avoid that by getting detentions which would keep her indoors. A music teacher caught onto this scheme and took Lauralynn under her wing letting her help in the music room and giving her lessons.

Lauralynn loves learning. She laughingly tells that a third grade teacher labeled her severely learning disabled and called her "unteachable," which means, Lauralynn says, "I can't fail at anything!" This gives her a derring-do that is admirable. She has taken classes at JCC, completed home study courses in photography and for a Doctor of Divinity, and received certificates from internet study in Natural Health, Parapsychology, and Paralegal.

Besides singing in the choir, Lauralynn has taken the lay leadership class and led the January Favorite Things service. Growing up in a pagan home where her grandmother passed on Norse Wiccan beliefs, Lauralynn had the knowledge and experience to co-facilitate the winter solstice UU service and looks forward to doing more.

Lauralynn and her husband live in Osseo, east of Hillsdale. Her day job is working in an orthodontics lab and helping her husband with the Hillsdale auction on Saturdays. She also raises poultry and angora rabbits whose fur she spins and then uses to knit and crochet. Sing on, Lauralynn!

Submitted by: Ann Green

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

March First Friday Dinner Mexican Dinner

The next First Friday dinner is planned for **Friday, March 4th**. It will be hosted by Fred & Debbie Marshall with a Mexican dinner. There will be Mexican music for your entertainment and possible dancing. This dinner will be starting at 6:00 pm come and enjoy.

Submitted by: Fred & Debbie Marshall

Service Project

Serving Dinner at the Interfaith Shelter on **Sunday, March 6** will be the next service project for the church. The RE children have signed up to help with serving dinner along with a few other volunteers. This will take place at the Interfaith Shelter, at 414 South Blackstone in Jackson, Sunday evening. Age 11 and up can serve, under age 10 will be doing other tasks such as helping with utensils. We need to meet at the Shelter at 4:00 pm sharp and should be done by 5:30. We would like to mention that weekends fill up quickly for volunteering at the shelter. There were summer openings when we signed up for the March 6th date.

We are wondered if anyone would be interested to do this again in the summer if open, or set something up for fall? Let us know please.

Submitted by: Michelle Vanover
and Sharon Pedersen

Board Game - Fun Night

It has been requested that we have another board game night. So mark your calendar for the 3rd Friday. The fun will start at 6:30 pm **March 18**. Bring a game or two and a snack to share. If you are not a game person come anyway, you can read a magazine or play cards. Come and join the fun and company of your church friends. See you there!

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

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

Thursday, February 17th at 6:30 p.m.

JXN Community Forum Presents "Michigan's Budget - What would you Cut?"

As our legislature makes painful decisions about how to allocate and where to cut spending in this recession, make your voice heard to special guests, State Rep. Earl Poleski and State Rep. Mike Shirkey.

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.

Caring Committee

The following is a list of Caring Committee members, please contact them as your needs arise:

- ~ Alyce Oosting - chair person
- ~ Nena Obits
- ~ Gretchen Marshall
- ~ Jane Volk
- ~ Martha Koopman
- ~ Jann Krupa
- ~ Peg Gordon
- ~ Mindy Radseck

Here is a short explanation of what our committee does:

We support and meet the needs of our church community by doing such things as; driving people to appointments - delivering meals - making phone calls - friendly visits - listening - sending out cards

The next Caring Committee's meeting will be **March 20** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

May Flowers

Too soon for May flowers? Maybe, but not too soon to remember the flowers and many other items offered for our Annual Church Auction. This year's fun and fund-raising event will be **Saturday, May 14**.

So mark your calendar and think about spring being just around the corner.

Submitted by: Steve Beison

~ The Brooklyn Food Pantry is an organization that we voted to support under our Social Mission policy~

Brooklyn Food Pantry

It is our church's turn to have one or 2 volunteers to work at the C.C.I.S. Brooklyn Food Pantry; 171 Wampers Lake Road, Brooklyn. The days the pantry is open are every Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There are local churches that take turns to help fill the orders of those in need of food and restock shelves. Our next dates are **March 15 and 17** if you are available to help in this rewarding work please contact Paul Jenkins at church or give him a call. Don't forget to bring canned food or any non-perishable items for donation to the pantry. There is a basket in the foyer under the desk and a box under the table by the nursery door for your contributions. Canned fruit is especially appreciated. Thank you!

Submitted by: Paul Jenkins

All Committee Night Meeting

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month through April. Outreach at 5:30, 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, March 9th.

District & Denominational Meetings and Events

Heartland District Assembly

Please join us in April at the 11th Annual Heartland District Assembly. Come celebrate being a UU in the Heartland. We are honored to have Gini Courter, UUA Moderator, as our featured keynote speaker. In her keynote address titled "2061 The Next Fifty Years", Gini will help us explore the issue of leadership ~ where we've been over the past 50 years of our UUA, and where we are going and need to be for the next 50 years. This will be an inter-active keynote offering times to reflect, respond and renew our understandings of leadership.

District Assembly is the time we come together to learn from each other, join together in worship, and renew our commitment and understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. It is also the time we come together to conduct the business of the District.

Where: Horizon Convention Center
401 South High Street
Muncie, IN 47308

When: **Friday April 1, 2011** 5:00 pm
- **Sunday April 3, 2011** 12:00 pm

Questions? Contact the District Office at:
office@heartlanduu.org

First Friday Dinners

Board members are looking for other committees, groups and/or individuals who would like to host the 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.

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

Meetings and Events not directly

affiliated with UUCEL

The American Red Cross Blood Drive

Will be held at JCC **Wednesday, March 23rd** in the Federer 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. **The next blood drive dates are: 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. ~ The blood used in an emergency is already on the shelves before the event occurs. ~ More than 1 million new people are diagnosed with cancer each year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment. Call Vic Marshall 517-914-1903 for additional info or questions. Submitted by: Vic Marshall

~~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

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 APRIL ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, MARCH 20 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

We want to thank; Ann Green, Gratia Karmes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Fred and Debbie Marshall, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Michelle Vanover, 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

March

- 2 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
 3 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
 4 Fri. 1st Friday Dinner ~ Hosted by: Fred & Debbie Marshall ~ 6:00 pm
 6 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Guest Minister - Rev. Mark Evens ~ 11:00 am
 6 Sunday Service Project at Interfaith Shelter ~ 4:00 pm
 8 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
 9 Wed. All Committee Night Meeting @ Downtown Library Auditorium - through April
 Outreach 5:30 pm - Worship 5:30 pm - RE 6:30 pm, other comm. are welcome
 10 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
 13 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Lay Leaders - Lori Bowden and Lauralynn Browning ~ 11:00 am
 15 Tue. Brooklyn Food Pantry, Our Work Day- Need 1 or 2 Helpers ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 17 Thurs. Brooklyn Food Pantry, Our Work Day- Need 1 or 2 Helpers ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 17 Thurs. JXN Community Forums **"Michigan's Budget - What would you Cut?"**
 @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
 18 Fri. Regional "Cluster" Meetings of Religious Educators ~ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 18 Fri. Board Game Night ~ 6:30 pm
 20 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Guest Minister - Rev. Kathryn Bert ~ 11:00 am
 20 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
 27 Sunday ~~~~ Service - UUCEL/Lay Leader - Lynn Hightower ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

- April 11 Rev. Cindy is back with all of us!
 May 14 Annual Church Goods & Services Auction

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 20	Mar. 27
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Needed	Needed	Needed	Joan
Ushers	Steve B Steve J	Jon H Steve J	Gratia K Needed	Needed Needed
Social H. Host	Lori B		Dee R	
R.E. Pre.	Jane Jackie		Sharon Becky	
R.E. K-5	Anne Sharon	Kerry Dee	Jon Rob	Kerry Nena
R.E. Youth	Gretchen Chris	Sharon Lori	Steve Cecily	Sharon Guest

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

March 6 - "Salvation for Unitarian Universalists"

Guest Minister - Rev. Mark Evens

Our Universalist forebears were united by a belief that God was too loving to send anyone to eternal punishment. In the light of our current theological diversity which includes Humanism, theism, agnosticism, and much more, what is the meaning of universal salvation for modern Unitarian Universalists? Salvation for what? Salvation from what? Salvation how?

Rev. Evens is from the UU Church in Ann Arbor

March 20 - "To Be Announced"

Guest Minister - Rev. Kathryn Bert
from the Lansing UU Church

March 27 - "Still Standing on the Side of Love"

UUCEL/Lay Leader - Lynn Hightower

March 13 - "A Celebration of the Spring Equinox"

UUCEL Lay Leaders - Lori Bowden and
Lauralynn Browning

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

Return Service Requested

2231 Jefferson Road
Clarklake, MI 49234

Unitarian Universalist Church of East Liberty



