

March 2012

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

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

STAFF

MINISTER ~ Rev. Cynthia Landrum
revCyn@ugaalum.uga.edu

R. E. COORDINATOR ~ Sharon Pedersen
sspedersen@sbcglobal.net

INTERIM PIANIST ~ Tom Pepper
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NURSERY & CHILD CARE ~ Vicki Haynes
kermit_210@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT ~ JANE VOLK
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VICE PRESIDENT ~ NANCY SMITH
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SECRETARY ~ ANITA PEPPER
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TRUSTEE ~ CECILY SAVICK
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CARING COMMITTEE

Alyce Oosting
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BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Weatherwax
Carol Bowen
carbob@modempool.com

Nena Obits
nena_obits@hotmail.com



Minister's Column

Greetings UUCEL Members and Friends!

March is here, and that means we celebrate Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day, Lent, Purim, and the First Day of Spring. I'm wearing green and a Susan B. Anthony necklace to get myself in the mood as I write this on "Fat Tuesday." St. Patrick's Day and Women's History Month are the only two of these I usually personally celebrate, and St. Patrick's Day is only a recent addition for me since I married into an Irish Catholic family. Growing up, my family's only St. Patrick's Day tradition was green bagels, believe it or not.

But in recent years, I've found more and more Unitarian Universalists who observe Lent in different ways. Lent is the Christian season leading up to Easter, and in many Christian branches it's a time to reflect, pray, and to give up something through fasting, alms-giving, or denying oneself something. Most often we hear about people observing Lent through denying a pleasure to themselves that they think of as "sinful" or bad — rich foods, smoking, drinking. The Jewish holy day of Purim is also sometimes marked by alms-giving.

March is also the time during which we will get our annual pledge drive underway. And the church needs your increased support. Our pledging is low, and our ability to cover the gap between what we need and what we get in pledges through additional fundraisers is stretched to its limit. This year the fundraisers in our budget have not been happening, as more and more groups that previously have held fundraisers have reached burn-out. Our situation is as difficult as it has ever been.

So this March, as you are greeted by a canvasser, I ask you to really think about your giving as a *religious* act that you are making. It is an act of living your religion, of committing yourself on a deep and personal level to the mission of Unitarian Universalism. In giving to the church, you are participating in our faith on as deep and sacred a level as a Christian sacrificing for Lent. Is there something that you can give up this year or this season to be able to give more to the church? It's a hard thing to ask, but our church is reaching a turning-point, I think, where we can either give more to our mission and vision and really make some changes and grow in spirit and outreach, or we can continue to make cuts deeper and deeper, diminishing our ability to do much beyond hold a Sunday worship service and keep our building running, and making doing even that increasingly difficult.

Continued on next page... ~ 1 ~

Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

There's an ancient story of Nasruddin, a mystical trickster figure in the Sufi religion, in which Nasruddin greets two beggars. One is having a hard time living in poverty—he craves rich foods, fine fabrics. The other is content with simple means and simple food. Who does Nasruddin give more alms to? Surprisingly, he gives more to the first man, saying that his needs are greater. There are a wealth of messages here, but one is that Nasruddin is not putting a value on simplicity and severeness, rewarding the austere man, but rather, giving each man what he needs to be more content. We often put value judgements on money, treating money as bad, dirty, and shameful. It's hard for churches to ask for money in this society, because by asking for it we automatically are seen as less worthy of receiving it. Churches are supposed to have a Zen-like or Quaker-like simplicity, or a Catholic priest-like vow of poverty. Anything more is seen as greedy. But we need money to live our mission, beyond just putting heat in our sanctuary. And we deserve a religious home that can fill those spiritual needs not only for fine music and art, but for living out our social mission, and educating our children and broadcasting our message beyond our four walls.

Thank you for taking this message into your heart and deeply considering it. Our community is graced by the presence and gifts of each person who joins us in our faith journey. You make up this beloved community, and you are the church. Your gifts to us are gifts to yourself, and you deserve it.

Peace,

Cindy



Religious Education Report

RE Report for February, 2012

How quickly February has passed! Church Buddies Month is quickly passing, and on **Sunday, March 4** we will have an RE breakfast (9:45 a.m.) and an intergenerational service that celebrates what the kids have been learning this year. I think you'll enjoy our "show and tell."

In April we plan an Easter service, and then we wind down the year with several intergenerational services.

Preschool and youth attendance has been a little "thin," so the RE Committee will talk about how to plan for these audiences for the rest of the year. We're also going to be planning next year's curricula for all 3 groups.

Thank you for all who have been supportive this year. Maybe you've donated some RE supplies, or items for RE breakfasts, or taught or "subb'ed" for an RE class. I really appreciate your help, and hope you see the worth in teaching our UU kids about UU values, and our Judeo-Christian heritage.

Sincerely yUUrs, in Religious Education,

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator

Notes from the Board

Now that we have our new digital piano in place, we are moving ahead. The Board is very pleased to announce that Tom Pepper has been hired as our interim pianist through the month of June. At that time, the Board and Tom will discuss and determine the next step. The choir will continue to perform once a month, also, through the month of June, at which time a decision regarding the future of the choir will be made. The Worship committee will soon be distributing a survey which will be an opportunity for the congregation to indicate their preferences for our music program. This information will give the Board input in deciding our future music program.

Our very important annual pledge drive will soon be implemented. The majority of our church operation and staffing is funded by our pledges, so it is essential that we all pledge to the best of our ability. We are so fortunate to be members of a liberal congregation that is housed in a beautiful historic facility, and to be part of a loving group that cares deeply about each other, our community, and the world around us. Steve Beison has kindly agreed to once again to be in charge of the pledge drive, and I know he would appreciate volunteers, to assist him, so feel free to contact him.

It hardly seems possible that Spring is almost upon us—especially since our winter has been so mild. In addition to the pledge drive, there are several church events of which we all need to be aware. Our church photo directory is quite dated, so we will be compiling together a new one. The photos of the members will be taken here at the church in April.

We are in the process in making it possible for our members to pay pledges, purchase auction items, bazaar items, etc. with a credit card. More details to follow later. The nominating committee will soon be meeting to select members willing to run for Board of Trustees. We will be needing two new Board members; be prepared to say “yes!” with enthusiasm if you are called.

Continued on next column...

It was necessary to cancel the Board Retreat for April, but it's been rescheduled for April 14. Part of our time will be spent on the long range plan that we adopted in 1994. Some items we accomplished in a timely fashion while others need to be looked at again...

Jane

Submitted by: Jane Volk
Board President



from the Piano Bench

A Few Words from the Interim Pianist...

Greetings from the new piano bench! I am excited and a little nervous to be your interim pianist until the end of June, but I can't think of a nicer group of people to share music with! I've got some pretty big shoes to fill and I appreciate the support and good will that's been sent my way. It may take some time to “grow” into this position!

Our new Clavinova piano is in the early stages of being adjusted to our sanctuary. Please let me know if the music needs adjustment, as you are the best judge of the sound as you participate in the church services. The “sound board wizards” are eager to work on obtaining the optimal sound for you.

During the next few months I hope to have other people participate in special music during the services. If you can sing or play an instrument, solo or in a group, please consider doing this—it would be fun for the musicians and the congregation. It will be easy to accompany people playing various instruments, without special music scores, since our new Clavinova can be transposed to different keys.

Tom

Submitted by: Tom Pepper

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Book Sale Coming Soon



Book sale at the church will be soon, so start sorting out your books for the sale. Please contact Jon Hart who will be chairing this event if you would like to help with the sale or have any book questions. Many bakers will also be needed to bring in the baked good items. Please help in any way you can, thanks. UU Church of East Liberty Winter Book Sale This will be held in the Old School House next to the church **Friday and Saturday March 2-3.**

From 9:00 am -5:00 pm

Book dealers welcome the second day
Come browse our large selection of used books over wide categories: non-fiction (history, philosophy, religion, sports, biography, etc.) fiction (all genres), and coffee table books in paperback, trade paperback, and hard cover. Prices will be; Paperbacks \$.50 -- Trade paperbacks \$1 -- Hardcover \$2 -- Coffee table books \$3 -- Children/youth books \$.25 -- A variety of baked goods and coffee will also be on sale,

For directions or more information about the church, visit: www.uuliberty.org

Submitted by: Jon Hart

It isn't enough

To talk about peace.

One must believe in it.

And it isn't enough

To believe in it.

One must work at it.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

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 Supplements Page for 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...

Thursday, March 16

"Dive"

A movie by Jeremy Seifert; "Dive" illustrates the waste of high-quality, wholesome food by following a group of "dumpster divers," people who mine trash bins for usable products. In the film, the divers are not homeless or even particularly poor; they just don't like to see good food go to waste. In these times of high unemployment, tight budgets, and food insecurity, this is a film that reveals a new kind of inconvenient truth - massive amounts of food are wasted in our country.

Join us for this short film followed by discussion, including comments by local dumpster divers.

6:30 pm, Jackson District Library

Carnegie Branch, Sergeant Auditorium

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

This 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 meeting will be

March 18 after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

New Church Photo Directory

UUCEL has partnered with Olan Mills to create a new photo directory of our membership. Please sign up to have your photo taken **Friday, April 27** or **Saturday, April 28**. Sign-up sheets and a price list are available in the Social Hall. Notice the appointment times are color-coded for different sized groups, so please choose your time accordingly. You may also choose to bring along pets for photos—your photo with your pet is for if you want to purchase photos, and will not be your shot used in the directory. No purchase is necessary, and every family photographed will receive a free photo and a free church directory. You may purchase portrait packages starting at \$80, and individual portraits are available for less. Your participation and purchases will help the church pay for directories and brochures. Please see Kerry Hart or Martha Koopman for any questions. Contact Kerry if an important commitment will require that you need a different picture-taking date.

(See Supplement Page for more contact information).

Submitted by: Kerry Hart

"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~~

The
church
now owns a
Credit Card machine,
donated by Gary Tripp.

This machine will be plugged
into someone's smart phone and
will get its first customer at the book sale.
It can also be used at events like
our annual rummage sale
and auction.
Thanks Gary!



Meetings and Events not directly affiliated with UUCEL

Dear Unitarian Friend,
Need something to read that will inspire
you? Something that will make you laugh
and make you cry? Since you're concerned
about women's and family issues, I wanted
you to know about my second book, *Arms
Wide Open: A Midwife's Journey*.

This one goes back to the rural commune
hippie, home birth, homesteading
days...then fast forwards to now, a midwife's
story of her innocence, survival and hope
dedicated to all who love Mother Earth. It
makes a great read and a great discussion
tool. I think you might like it. You can take a
peek on www.amazon.com and my
website www.patriciaharman.com

Patricia Harman, midwife and author of
Arms Wide Open and *The Blue Cotton Gown*
Morgantown, WV

Contact Information Updates

We are updating our mailing list, telephone calling tree and computer e-mail contact list. There is a clip-board in the social hall with a printed out listing of all names as we have them. Would you please look at your line of information and make all corrections to it and add your cell phone number (if you have one) on the blank end of the sheet. You could also send an e-mail to uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com if your information has changed and you would like the church to have your updated information. Also please indicate if you would like your home or cell phone number on the UUCEL calling tree; just look-ing for the best way to get in touch with you, if we need to. In April we will be having a new Church Directory made from the Olan Mills Company and having this information now will be very helpful. – Thanks!

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

“No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.”

~ Proverb from Guinea

• Church Website	http://www.libertyuu.org
• The Bellnote Newsletter	http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html
• Church e-mail	EastLibertyUU@yahoo.com
• 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, including Kathy Haynes, Joan Bernstein 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 MARCH ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

We want to thank; Jon Hart, Kerry Hart, Kathy Haynes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Tom Pepper, Jane Volk, Caring Comm., 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

- 1 Thurs. AUJW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 1 Thurs. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 Pm
- 2 Fri. Book Sale in the schoolhouse ~ 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- 3 Sat. Book Sale in the schoolhouse ~ 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- 4 Sunday Church Buddies Breakfast ~ 9:45am
- 4 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader Sharon Pederson ~ 11:00 am
- 7 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm at the church
- 8 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 10:00 pm
- 8 Thurs. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting. ~ Downtown Library ~ 5:30 pm
- 11 Sunday Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 11 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 13 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 15 Thurs. JXN Forum "Dive"
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
- 18 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter Submissions Due
- 18 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 18 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
- 20 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ 2:30 pm at the Jackson Coffee Company
- 25 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

April

- 20 Fri/21 Sat Haynes Rental
- 27 Fri Photos taken for the new Directory ~ Sign up
- 28 Sat Photos taken for the new Directory ~ Sign up

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 18	Mar 25
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	-	-	-	Jackie J
Ushers	Gary T Steve J	Gary T Steve J	Gary T Steve J	Gary T -
Social H. Host	Joan B Joyce W	Anita P Nena O	-	-
R.E. Pre.				
R.E. K-5	Intergenerational	To Be Announced		
R.E. Youth	Intergenerational			

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

March 4 - "Religious Education Sunday"

- Lay Leader, Sharon Pedersen, Religious Education Coordinator

Following after our annual Church Buddies breakfast, this intergenerational service will celebrate what the kids have been learning this year. I think you'll enjoy our "show and tell."

March 11 - "Girl Scout Sunday"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

The 100th anniversary of the creation of Girl Scouts USA is this month, and so we'll celebrate the annual "Girl Scout Sunday" with a special service honoring those scouts in our church and community, as well as looking at what Girl Scouts has in common with Unitarian Universalism.

Please Note: Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday!

March 18 "Blessing of the Animals"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Bring your pets or other domesticated animals to church for a special service honoring our furry, feathery, and scaly companions! If your animal doesn't do well around groups of strange people and other animals, please feel free to bring a favorite toy or a picture to be used in the blessing service.

March 25 - "What Gifts Can We Bring?"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This service will examine how creating a culture of generosity helps grow our spirits. Our canvass team has been reading Wayne B. Clark's *Beyond Fundraising: A Complete Guide to Congregational Stewardship*, and this sermon will draw from that work, as well.

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

Return Service Requested

Clarklake, MI 49234
2231 Jefferson Road

Unitarian Universalist Church of East Liberty



