

March 2013

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

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Minister's Column

In trying to come up with a sermon topic for a service this month, I decided to grab a book from the meditation section without looking and open it to a random page and read the title. The answer was "Zen Bowling" in Meg Barnhouse's *Waking Up the Karma Fairy*. It didn't seem like the right title for a sermon for this month, but I thought it would make a good newsletter column instead. The meditation was about trying something you're not good at, in the case of the author, bowling. She shared how letting go of the outcomes and loosening up made her have more fun, and ultimately bowl better. It's a humorous little piece as most of Barnhouse's are, (which I highly recommend), but it carries a deep thought embedded in it, especially for this "Type A" personality who is a "J" on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. (All of which means, I'm a person who likes to make lists and not the sort of person to let go of outcomes. And it means I'm a pretty mean Scrabble player. "Easy going" are not words usually used to describe me.)

Zen bowling is something I haven't tried, but I have been trying a new spiritual practice lately. It's an artistic practice called "Zentangle," which is a practice of meditation combined with repetition drawing of patterns. It could be understood as "Zen doodling." I've been doing it almost daily for a month now, and have been greatly enjoying the opportunity to get regularly out of my left brain and into my right brain. It's a way to take a half an hour every day and leave all stresses behind, and produce something artistic. I'm not the greatest Zentangler yet, and never will be, just as Meg Barnhouse will most likely not be winning any bowling awards soon. But the point of finding your Zen practice isn't to be the best at it, it's to help you find your best self—centered, calm, living in the now, connected to the depth and breadth of existence.

My wish for you this March is that you find some moments in your life where you, too, if needed can put aside expectations for certain outcomes and find the peace of the moment. Happy March.

Peace,

Religious Education

Report

Another fun Church Buddies month has come and gone at UUCEL. We had six pairs of kids and adults participate—what fun! It's a great chance to learn something new about a person in the church that you might not have known before.

We've had another fun set of lessons in February. With the Hopi "Powamu" lesson taking two weeks, we postponed and switched things around a little and had Susan B. Anthony's birthday celebration (and I learned not to try to use cold frosting on a fresh cake!) and then ended the month with a Mardi Gras celebration.

In March the RE Committee will decide on next year's curriculum, I hope, and we'll have a "Bring a Friend Day" for RE and for the adults on March 17. Remember to invite your friends and family members, especially those with children!

Lessons in March will be about St. Patrick's Day, Africa, Noruz (the Persian New Year), and Passover. I'll be away on March 3 and March 24 so Gretchen Marshall will be the RE greeter on March 3, and Dee Reed on March 24. I'll prep the lessons before I go away for those weekends.

We will show a movie for young folks on up from 5-8pm on **March 3**. Probably something animated. We'll serve pizza, salad and pop. Please come and let me know if you are coming!

The RE Committee has decided to offer donuts/treats for sale once per month, date to be announced/coordinated with the social hour schedule. We'll try to keep you posted in the "Bellnote" newsletter and the "Bellringer" order of service each week. Happy Spring! (I know it's coming!)

Yuurs Truly,

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator

Notes from the Board

There is a lot of excitement in the air. This month our kids are enjoying surprises and fun notes from their church buddies. We have Bring a Friend Sunday coming up and the annual Book Sale is right around the corner. I'm personally anxious to hear the sermon "No Guilt, No Dogma, No Creed." in March.

In Board news, we regretfully accepted Hugh Tomlinson's resignation as Treasurer from the Board as his work obligations increase. He worked endless hours sorting out our finances and helping us, the other Board Members, understand and fine tune the budget. Hugh's many hours leave us in a better position as we move forward. He will be missed.

If you are skilled in accounting and are interested in being on the Board talk to Jane Volk, Jackie Johnson or Cindy.

Respectfully,

Jackie Johnson, Vice President

Jackie



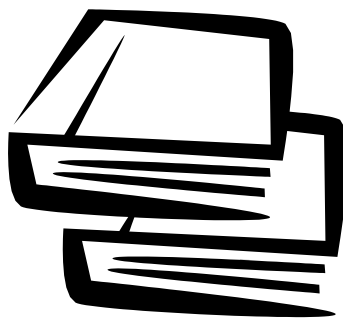
Minister's Schedule

Rev. Cindy will be on vacation for spring break April 1-7.

Book Sale will be **Friday and Saturday March 8 and 9th**: If you have any questions or would like to help please contact Jon Hart (See Supplement Page for more contact information) the chair person for this church fundraiser event. We will accept books up until Sunday March 3 and also looking for some baked goods to sell.

Submitted by: the E ditor

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty Winter Book Sale



Universalist Unitarian Church @ the Old School House

2231 Jefferson Road

March 8-9, 2013

9-5 pm

Sale open to all both days

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

Paperbacks \$.50

Trade paperbacks \$1

Hardcovers \$2

Coffee table books \$3

Children/youth books \$.25

A variety of baked goods and coffee for sale

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

***Cash and Now credit cards accepted as payment!**

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Be the Change You Want to See

If our church is a train, what are the tracks it runs on? What makes the wheels go round and who drives it? The Committee on Ministry presents a mini-workshop in the schoolhouse after church on **March 3rd**. In one brief and exciting hour, complete with a light lunch, you can find out about the tracks (bylaws, minister's letter of agreement), the wheels (committees), and who runs it (what makes good leadership). Ann Green conducts the first part of the journey; Vic Marshall brings it home. Please let Ann Green, Gretchen Marshall or Marge Duane know, if you can, that you are coming. (See Supplement Page for more contact information).

Submitted by the Committee on Ministry

Bring-A-Friend Sunday

We are having a special bring-a-friend **Sunday on March 17th**, with the theme, "No Guilt, No Dogma, No Creed." We'll feature special music on that day as well as an exciting religious education service. We are encouraging all members to come and invite some friends. To help you with inviting a friend, special invitation cards will be available in the foyer, a Facebook event notification has been created, and we'll be featuring some vignettes on how to invite a friend in the worship services leading up to March 17th. Please invite friends to stay for social hour, as well, as we have several people working on it.

Congratulations to Rev. Cindy!

Rev. Cindy has won this year's Heartland UU Ministers Association annual sermon contest! As part of this, Rev. Cindy will be preaching at the District Assembly this year on the Saturday morning. For more information about the District Assembly, see page 5.

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 modes donation: (See Supplement Page for more 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 21 ~ 6:30 pm

Understanding the Charter School Debate

A panel of representatives from the Intermediate School District, JCC, a charter school, and traditional public schools will discuss the differences between charter and traditional schools, and how they affect each other. Join us for this discussion.

We will explore these questions:

- ~ What is a charter school and how is it different from traditional public schools?
- ~ What is the case for charter schools?
- ~ What is the impact locally on traditional schools?
- ~ What has been the response of local public schools?

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Potluck, Music and Film

Please plan on coming to this family friendly fundraiser in the church Social Hall **March 22** at 6:00 pm. We'll eat a potluck dinner while listening to music by the Brues, followed by a viewing of Nathan Brue's short film titled "Moon Attic". Nathan created this film as his final project before his college graduation and it has been shown at three film festivals. He will introduce his film and answer questions after. Please bring a passing dish, drinks will be provided. We will be collecting free-will donations.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Personal Care Ministry

The Jackson Personal Care Ministry has been very successful, serving 120-150 Jackson County households per week. Each week the following items are offered: shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, and tooth brushes, deodorant, bar soap, razors, combs, sanitary napkins, dish and laundry soap, all purpose cleaner, toilet paper and paper towels. Donations of products and monetary gifts are needed. Donation baskets are located in the Social Hall and in the church foyer. Checks can be made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church with Personal Care Ministry written on the memo line. Our church has had good participation and I'm encouraging everyone to volunteer. We work on the **Second Thursday** of each month, 4:30-7:00

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Cookie Booth

Our church Girl Scouts will be holding a cookie booth on **Sunday, March 3** and **Sunday, March 10**. Because of this, you will not be hearing them asking you to sign up for cookie orders as much. However, if you wish to place an advance order, particularly if you are not available the first couple of weeks of March, your church Girl Scouts will be happy to take down your cookie wishes.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum, and Girl Scout Leader of troop 60051

My Promise, My Faith

Girl Scouts wishing to join Rev. Cindy to earn their My Promise, My Faith pin are invited to attend a special workshop on Saturday, March 9 from 10-2. The workshop will include a lunch, so let Rev. Cindy know if you plan to attend, as well as your pizza choice. Since the book sale will be going on, the workshop will probably be held in the parsonage. Pins will be awarded in the service on Sunday, March 10, which is Girl Scout Sunday. Parents should plan to attend the last hour.

Interested in Joining?

We're planning a new member service for this month, so if you're interested in joining, see Rev. Cindy or Kathy Haynes, Membership Committee Chair.

District & Denominational Meetings and Events

District Assembly

This will probably be our last District Assembly as part of the Heartland District, as this year we're voting on becoming part of a larger "Region" rather than retaining a separate district. The District Assembly this year is in Muncie, IN at the Horizon Convention Center from **April 12-13**. The theme is "Claiming the Future in Two Parts" and will feature a keynote address from Stefan Jonasson, Director of Growth Strategies for the UUA, and Tandi Rogers, Growth Specialist for the UUA on "How Unitarian Universalism Can Thrive in a Changing World." Registration is \$125 and more information can be found at <http://www.midamericauua.org/heartland-da/130-heartland-assembly>. Unfortunately, we will not have delegates this year because of a late certification process, but there is still much in the District Assembly that makes attending worthwhile, including a wide range of workshops and a deeper understanding of our association.

"Heart and Soul"

13th Annual UU Woman's Retreat

Nurture Your Heart and Soul ~ Make Connections ~ Take Time Away
Friday, March 15 through Sunday, March 17, 2013 **W. K. Kellogg Biological Station**
3700 East Gull Lake Dr. Hickory Corners, MI from People's Church in Kalamazoo.
If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Measzros measzros@yahoo.com, or Anna Shade anna.shade@gmail.com
Weekend Retreat \$170.00 - Includes program & materials, 2 nights lodging in 2 person suite w/ joined bath with small refrigerator, cable tv and internet connection, breakfast, lunch and dinner, Sat. & Sun breakfast. Check the website for more info http://www.peopleschurch.net/womens_retreat.html

"You are important.
 Without "U" we can't spell CH_RCH, or AD_LT, or YO_TH.
 Without "U" we can't have M_SIC, S_NDAY, or S_CCESS.
 Clearly, our church needs "U".



Easter ~ March 31st

"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 ~ ~

- 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 APRIL ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
 SUNDAY, MARCH 24. ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
 UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU -

We want to thank; Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Pedersen, Jon Hart, Nena Obits, Committee on Ministry, 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

- 3 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 3 Sunday The Committee on Ministry ~ Mini-Workshop ~ After the Service
 3 Sunday Movie Night, Title To Be Announced ~ 5:00 -8:00 pm
 6 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
 7 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
 7 Thurs. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 Pm
 8 Fri. Book Sale ~ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ in the Schoolhouse
 9 Sat. Book Sale ~ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ in the Schoolhouse
 10 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 12 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
 13 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm
 14 Thurs. Membership Committee ~ 10:00 am
 14 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ 4:30-6:30 pm @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson, Help Distribution
 17 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 21 Thurs. JXN Community Forum **"Charter Schools: Understanding the Debate"**
 @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
 22 Fri. Potluck, Music and Film ~ 6:00 pm ~ in the Social Hall
 24 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 24 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
 24 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter Submissions Due
 26 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
 31 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H	Joan B
R.E. Greeter	Gretchen M	Sharon P	Sharon P	Dee R	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Joyce W	George H	Donna H	Steve B	Jackie J
Ushers	Gary T OPEN	Gary T OPEN	Gary T OPEN	Gary T OPEN	Gary T OPEN
Social H. Host	R.E. Comm.	Dee R Harry R	Barb H Carole H Joan B	OPEN	OPEN
R.E. Pre.					
R.E. K-5	Kerry H Laura T	Cecily S Martha K	Sharon P Joyce K	Michelle V Janette M	Intergen
R.E. Youth					

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

Mar. 3 - "Unitarian Universalist Views on Evil"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This year's auction item of a sermon topic was purchased by Jon Hart. Come and hear Rev. Cindy's response!

Mar. 10 - "Raising Freethinkers"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

How do we raise our children, grandchildren, and the children and youth of this congregation to be freethinkers?

-- Special Collection for the AWARE Center to be taken.

Mar. 17 - "No Guilt, No Dogma, No Creed"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Join us for this special service about what makes Unitarian Universalism unique, and necessary, in today's world. Bring a friend!

Mar. 24 - "The Three Questions"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This service will explore Tolstoy's three questions: What is the best time to do each thing? Who are the most important people to work with? What is the most important thing to do at all times?

Mar. 31 - "Easter"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Join us for our traditional Easter service exploring the life and meaning of Jesus of Nazareth as understood by Unitarians and Universalists.

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