

March 2014

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

PIANIST TOM PEPPER

PEPPET49@comcast.net

NURSERY & CHILD CARE Vicki Haynes

kermit_210@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT GRATIA KARMES

glk222@tds.net

VICE PRESIDENT JACKIE JOHNSON

jsj128@comcast.net

TREASURER MARTHA KOOPMAN

koopman9@live.com

SECRETARY Dee Reed

hd1reed@comcast.net

TRUSTEE NENA OBITS

nen_a_obits@hotmail.com

TRUSTEE DONNA HINTON

daisy_lefty@yahoo.com

CARING COMMITTEE

Jane Volk gjvolk@comcast.net

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Vic Marshall vbmarshall@gmail.com

BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMM

Steve Kish ~ stevekish982@yahoo.com

Kerry Hart ~ khart247@sbcglobal.net

Grace Mulnix



Minister's Column

When I interviewed with the search committee before coming to UUCEL, a member of the search committee asked me if I thought I would preach less often from a manuscript as I gained experience. "No," I responded, "I just hope that my texts will get even better." True to my word, I've been a manuscript preacher this whole time. There are a lot of reasons why I like preaching from a manuscript. It allows me to share my words with people again later (and our recording equipment is currently not working). It allows me to carefully craft some of my sentences. I can quote things more easily and more often. And I don't forget my points or where I am. Mostly, it has to do with my love of the written word. I enjoy the process of writing, even when it's laborious, and I like the result of a written manuscript. I think I'm more eloquent and more precise in written form.

This past month, however, I attended a workshop by Rev. Stephen Shick and Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy, called "Preaching By Heart: the art of preaching without a manuscript—in the Universalist style" (www.preachingbyheart.org). Shick and Kennedy made a powerful argument that extemporaneous preaching, preaching from the heart, is what's called for in our current era in Unitarian Universalism where people are hungering for authenticity in an increasingly fake (think: plastic) world.

It's very rare these days that I take a ministry workshop that radically changes how I do things. But this workshop was a really wonderful experience. We preached to each other in small covenant groups, doing short five-minute sermons. These group times were interspersed with worship and lectures. The whole conference had to be cut short because of an approaching snowstorm, but it was still very meaningful.

As a result of this workshop, I've made a commitment to myself to do more of my preaching extemporaneously. It seems only fitting, since I'm requiring my communications students to do extemporaneous speeches, as well! Hopefully, my preaching and my teaching will both strengthen each other.

I hope you will enjoy this new turn in my preaching. It's likely to be less academic and more "by heart."

Namaste,

Cindy

Religious Education

Report

February is always a fun month, what with Church Buddies, RE breakfast and getting ready for an RE Sunday service to let you all know what the kids have been learning. We've been meeting in the social hall so we don't have to deal as much with the cold and snow. But we will transition back to the schoolhouse soon, so we can take the lessons to 12:15 as needed.

This is also the time of year where we start thinking about curriculum and volunteers for next year. We are planning on splitting the RE kids into lower elementary/upper elementary-Jr. high groups. That provides lots of curriculum opportunities and also a few challenges, such as identifying enough volunteers, and how to split up the age groups for kids on the "cusp." Let me know if you have any ideas!

Are you hoping for a deeper connection with people from church, or perhaps a place to discuss your spiritual questions and beliefs on a deeper level? I'm excited to announce that we will be trying an adult RE experience, a mini-"covenant group"—a four-session, small group that will meet on **Sundays, March 9 & 23, and April 13 & 27**, after church or late afternoon/early evening, or Tuesday evenings, **March 11 & 25 and April 8 & 22**, depending on YOUR preference. I will pass around a sign-up clipboard this weekend with space to check preferred dates, and follow up with you to let you know final dates and times. If this works out well there will be opportunities to continue this group, or start one again in the Fall.

As Robert Hill says, "Covenant groups are a transformational practice through which we, with others, can discover our own underlying assumptions about reality and examine our ways of being, some of which have become so habitual that they seem to us just 'the way things are.' The practice of Small Group Ministry asks us to suspend judgment long

enough to hear respectfully the understandings of others, even those vastly different from our own."

I'm looking forward to the coming of Spring!

Spiritually yUUr,

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator



New UUA Logo

The Unitarian Universalist Association has a new logo! This will replace the previous logo on websites and publications. More information from the UUA on their new marketing campaign and how churches can use it will be forthcoming soon.

Notes from the Board



The board met on the second Wednesday of February, due to the bad weather that has been a factor in so many cancellations recently. We are hosting the Hanover Horton Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) in March. They will be watching the movie "Philadelphia." Their faculty advisor is our own Nancy Smith. The Board is hoping to secure commitments for staffing both the Grandma's Attic Sale and the Harvest Bazaar this next fall. It seems early to be thinking of such things, but they are a very important part of our overall budget, and require a great deal of work. George Haynes attended the meeting briefly, and detailed, among other things, some important repairs he made to our furnace pipe. Hats off to George, and the many other volunteers who keep this church running. The Board will meet again the first Wednesday of March (weather permitting) at 6:30, at the church. More detailed minutes are available in the social hall.

Gratia

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President

"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~~



Regional Assembly: Hunger for Justice

Our church is in the newly formed "MidAmerica Region" of the UUA, and we're having our first-ever Regional Assembly of the MidAmerica Region this April. The meeting will be held in four locations on Saturday, April 12. Our closest location to attend is the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan, at 4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-8739. The Regional Assembly will feature a lecture on "Reclaiming Our Liberal Heritage and Embracing Our Hunger for Justice" by Paul Rasor, Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom and Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Virginia Wesleyan College. The Regional Assembly will have a social justice activity and workshops on:

- *Conflict and Intercultural Competency: Lisa Presley, MidAmerica Staff*
- *Conversation with MidAmerica Leaders: MidAmerica Region Board Members (including Rev. Cindy)*
- *Gun Violence Prevention and UU: Linda Brundage*
- *Opportunities for Multigenerational Social Justice: Graham Ross, Randy Block, Rev. Jeff Liebmann and Matt Friedrichs*
- *Preparing for General Assembly CSAI on a Just Peace in Israel-Palestine: Larry Cooper and George Garcia*

To register, go to <http://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly>. Registration is not open yet, but will be soon, so keep checking.

early bird adult (before March 15)	\$ 60
regular adult	\$ 80
on-site adult	\$100
early bird youth/young adults (before March 15)	\$ 50
regular youth/young adults	\$ 70
on-site youth/young adults	\$ 90
children (no childcare or children's programming available)	\$40

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Interested in Joining?

We're planning our next new member service for **Mid-March** the date will be announced soon. So if you're interested in joining, please see Rev. Cindy or Kathy Haynes, Membership Committee Chair.

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

General Assembly

Registration for the UUA's General Assembly opens **March 3** and is available online at <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>. Early bird registration goes through April 30, and is \$335 for a full-time adult registration and \$195 for youth (grades 9-12). Discounts are available for congregation presidents. The General Assembly this year is **June 25-29** in Providence, RI. Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

New Tech Assistant Training Scheduled

If you had signed up to be a tech assistant in the past or are interested in being a tech assistant there are two new days of training for you. **March 16** following the service there will be a brief training on how to help run music for worship using the **CD player and the available music CDs**. On **March 30** following the service there will be a brief training on how to help run music for worship using the **flash drive on the piano**. You only need to attend the training you think you would feel comfortable helping with. If you think you could help with both formats then please plan on attending both. Submitted by: Jon Hart

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 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.

"Natural Death Care: Home Funeral and Green Burial"

by Merilynne Rush, Home Funeral Guide, of After Death Home Care Consulting

March 20 6:30 pm

An Exploration of current funeral practices and alternative approaches, including legal and financial considerations.

- An overview of the history of the funeral industry (or, how we got to where we are)
- Current cultural practices and definitions
- The cost comparison between conventional and home funerals
- Legal information (understanding what is Law and what is Common Practice)
- A photo essay of one family's home funeral, involving children
- An overview of how to care for your own dead at home
- An explanation of green Burial and where it is available, with photos
- Discussion and Q & A

Merilynne Rush is a nurse and midwife with 25 years professional experience who educates and consults about natural death care options, including home funeral and green burial.

www.AfterDeathHomeCare.com

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.



MUUSJN Spring Justice Party and Spring Concert!

The Michigan UU Social Justice Network is having a fundraising dinner and concert in Lansing at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing on **March 15** at 5:00 pm.

There will be speakers on minimum wage, gun violence, and immigration reform. Rev. Cindy will be giving the benediction. Dinner and program is \$50 (\$40 is tax deductible) and the concert following at 7pm is free. To reserve a seat go to <http://www.uujustice.org/conferenceregistration2.html>

or see Rev. Cindy. Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Weather and Church Closings

We've had some severe weather this winter, and it's come to our attention that while we have a good weather closing policy, it's not widely known. When we have a weather closing or other emergency closing, we generally do the following:

- 1) Activate the phone tree.
- 2) Put the information on our webpage at <http://www.libertyuu.org>. There is a button on the first page of the webpage to click for weather information.
- 3) Put the information on the church Facebook page.
- 4) Change our phone's voicemail message.

If you have reason to suspect we may be closed, please check the church webpage, Facebook, or voicemail. As always, we encourage members who are concerned about travel in bad weather to remain home or call a friend for a ride. Because our parking lot is gravel, conditions in the winter will often be icy.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee will meet on **Sunday, March, 30**, at 12:30 P.M. in the Nursery. If you are aware of any issues or concerns involving any of our church family for which the Caring Committee can lend a helping hand, please contact any member of the Committee. Those serving on the Caring Committee are: Debbie Hartsuff, Debbie and Fred Marshall, Gretchen Marshall, Alyce Oosting, and Jane Volk.

Submitted by: Jane Volk
Chair

Personal Care Ministry

The Jackson Personal Care Ministry provides personal and household products to those in need in Jackson County. An average of 150 guests are served weekly. Our team works at the distribution on the third Thursday of each month, 4:30- 6:30 pm. Financial support and donations of new and gently used products are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Nena Obits (See Supplements Page for more information)

Submitted by: Nena Obits

New Church Telephone

Thanks to the generosity of one of our members, we now have a new church telephone. This telephone can be used to reach people when they're at the church and to call out from the church. It is located in the parsonage next to the mailboxes. Its number is (517) 358-1004, and it has unlimited nationwide calling. However, voicemail at this number is not checked. To leave messages, please continue to use our old number (517) 529-4221. Also, if checking about weather closings or for church information, the church voicemail message at (517) 529-4221 will be the one that will be updated.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Don't Forget

Sign up for the mini-covenant group!

Starts 2nd Week in March!

Just four sessions!

See Sharon Pedersen for more information.

"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".

•••••
• **Church Website**

<http://www.libertyuu.org>

• **The Bellnote Newsletter**

<http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html>

• **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.

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 23. ~~~~~ 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, Gratia Karmes, Nena Obits, Jane Volk, Jon Hart, 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 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Sharon Pedersen & Religious Education Program ~ 11:00 am
 5 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
 6 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
 9 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 11 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
 13 Thurs. Membership Committee ~ 10:00 am
 13 Thurs. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm
 15 Sat. MUUSJN Spring Justice Party & Spring Concert ~ U U Church of Greater Lansing ~ 5:00 pm
 16 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 16 Sunday New Tech Assistant Training ~ After the Service
 18 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
 20 Thurs. JXN Community Forums "**Natural Death Care: Home Funeral and Green Burial**"
 @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
 20 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ 4:30-6:30 pm @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson
 23 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 23 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
 23 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
 30 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
 30 Sunday New Tech Assistant Training ~ After the Service

Upcoming Events

- Mid- March Will be the New Member Joining Service
 June 25-29 General Assembly ~ Providence, RI

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
Mar 2	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Nena O	Gary T Paul J	RE Comm	IG	Sharon P
Mar 9	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Kathy H	Gary T Paul J	Open	Nancy S Kerry H	Sharon P
Mar 16	Joan B	Sharon P	Vicki H Donna H	Gary T Paul J	Open	Sharon P Jon H	Sharon P
Mar 23	Open	Sharon P	Vicki H Becky B	Gary T Paul J	Open	Sharon P Rob G	Kathy H
Mar 30	Carole H	Sharon P	Vicki H Joyce W	Gary T Paul J	Open	IG	Steve B

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

March 2 - "RE Sunday"

- Sharon Pedersen & Religious Education Program

March 9 - "International Women's Day Celebration"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - We'll raise awareness on this Sunday of women's issues with a celebration of International Women's Day. Originally suggested by Socialist leaders 100 years ago, it is being adopted by the United Nations, liberal NGOs, and developing nations.

March 16 - "St. Patrick & Ostara"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
On the Sunday leading up to the Equinox and St. Patrick's Day, this sermon will explore the Pagan side of the St. Patrick story.

March 23 - "Auction Sermon"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Every year Rev. Cindy does a sermon on a topic supplied by the highest bidder on the sermon topic item at the church auction. This year's "auction sermon" topic comes from Ann Green

March 30 - "Universalist Profile: P.T. Barnum"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

P.T. Barnum once said, "There's a sucker born every minute" — or did he? We'll take a look at one of the most misunderstood of famous Universalists.

W 49

