

The Bellnote

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

March 2009

Volume 218 Number 3

LOCATED 3/4 MILE WEST OF U.S. 127

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

March is...

Women's History Month – so to kick off the month I'm finishing out the series on transcendentalists that I began with Thoreau and Emerson last month. I'll be preaching on Margaret Fuller, not only a Unitarian and transcendentalist, but also a famous writer, speaker, and advocate for women's equality. Sharon Pedersen will round out the month by preaching on a famous Universalist woman minister and also a suffragist: Olympia Brown. She's a personal hero of both Sharon and mine.

The Big Read Month – The Jackson community is encouraged to read our "Big Read" book every March for the last few years, and this year is *The Grapes of Wrath*. I'm still finishing it. I've been procrastinating all year. How about you? Time to get it read, because there will be lots of great activities around it this month—at our church, at our forum, and in the community. Obviously, this book about the Great Depression holds a lot of meaning for our community right now, and I'll explore those meanings in a couple of sermons.

The Season for Nonviolence – The Season for Nonviolence continues in March. Also in March we honor the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Justice Sunday" campaign. We'll focus on economic justice, one of the several justice areas of the UUSC.

Canvass Month – Our yearly pledge drive starts in March. We know these are hard times, so we're coming up with a couple of new ideas that might help. Look to the Board's article on page 3 for more information. Our themes this year are "Yes, we can!" and "Change." The two are tied together with using cans to collect our change in order to help the church continue its wonderful programs. We're hoping to continue the positive attitude towards church finances that we've begun in the past, and to recognize that change is necessary—pun intended.

We've got a busy and exciting month. There's always room for more volunteers to help make this possible and more participants in our activities. Come join us!

Blessings,

Cindy

Religious Education Report

Many adults and children have had fun with "Church Friends" this past month. We cap it off on the last Sunday in February with a breakfast where Church Friends are revealed, and a church service where we introduce the Church Friends and let the congregation know about what children have been learning so far this school year. It's one of the "funnest" times of the year for me, and one where I often am amazed at the children's spiritual growth, and my own, even as the kids grow in height, week-to-week, it seems!

March promises to be a busy month, with five Sundays available for lessons. Since the last one in the month kicks off school "Spring Break" we may opt to have a "No RE" day, where all K-12 kids have an alternate activity during worship. We'll keep you posted at announcement time. I'm away the first weekend in March, and our adept teachers Rob, Meredith, Gretchen and Alyce will keep things rollin' that day.

We're waiting to hear from St. John's United Church of Christ on hosting the next Interfaith Youth group meeting. I'll let you know when we have a date.

Thank you for your support!

Yuurs Truly,

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

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.

Notes from the Board

During my tenure on the Board, I've seen several wonderful proposals for the use of our building and grounds. Groups and individuals have spent many hours planning the Memorial Garden's design and guidelines for use. The congregation completed a survey regarding window replacements, and Steve Beison researched the various options and prices. In the meantime, there's been an ongoing discussion about the Capital Campaign funds and the importance of using them as they were intended (creating a larger sanctuary).

Each time the board has considered one of these plans, however, we have found it may be in direct competition with building a new space. We have had concerns that the Memorial Garden will restrict our options for adding space to the existing structure. We also have apprehension about replacing windows and possibly using Capital Campaign funds if we intend to use the space less frequently. Lastly, we struggle with the fact that our church has not yet identified a reasonable plan for building a larger sanctuary. As a congregation, we put a lot of effort into planning for a very large addition and canvassing our members for sizeable donations. Since that plan was determined to be beyond our reach, our membership has evolved yet our planning has remained stagnant.

If any of my statements make you angry, hopeful, excited, annoyed, or resentful, then you need to stay after church on Sunday, March 1st. The Board will respectfully solicit the ideas and opinions of our members and friends, and invite you to participate in a discussion about the long-term use and planning of our building and grounds. No votes will be taken that day but we may begin to form a committee for the purpose of long-range planning. Please consider if you'd be interested in making any time commitment to this planning process. Our ancestors in faith made many sacrifices

Continued on next page ...

to build us a glorious space for worship. We need a variety of ideas and expertise to develop a well-rounded, well-considered plan that will fulfill the dreams of our future generations.

Kerry Hart

Ministerial Sabbatical

Sabbaticals have been standard practice in the UU ministry among ministers serving churches full time. A sabbatical is a very old concept that relates to a period of rest or change. Its root is in the word *Sabbath*, the biblical term referring to the day of rest after six days of work. The Rev. Cindy's Letter of Agreement with the UUCEL states that she will have a sabbatical after five but before eight years of service. Her tentative plan is to take a sabbatical for six months after her sixth year. That would be the 2009-2010 church year. She would use this time for study, education, writing, meditation, and other forms of professional and religious growth. To that end the Board of Trustees has begun to sequester funds to cover costs for the sabbatical, and Cindy, with the permission of the Board, has created a Sabbatical Committee. Members are Steve Beison, Ann Green, Carole Hartsuff, and Victor Marshall.

This committee explains the sabbatical concept to the congregation; arranges coverage during the sabbatical time; keeps the profile of the sabbatical in the forefront of the congregation, and eases Cindy's transition back into the congregation. The committee will keep the congregation informed in a variety of ways every month this year. Questions you may have should be directed to committee members. Help us think about how to make this a fruitful experience for both the Rev. Cindy and the congregation.

Submitted by: Ann Green

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.

Annual Church Auction

Mark your calendars now for the **May 2nd** annual church auction. This fundraising event will be a Saturday evening full of fun held at the church with many items to bid on. Start thinking of what you are able to make, bake, create or donate. More information will be the April's issue of the Bellnote. **Please note:** There will be No First Friday Dinner in May due to the auction, which is the first Saturday in May.



Annual Pledge Drive Kick-off March 8: Yes Universalist Unitarians Can!

Can we continue to support our current programming AND pay for higher utility costs during this time of global and local financial crisis?
Yes UU Can!

Can we create a fiscally responsible budget while maintaining a quality salary for our quality minister?
Yes UU Can!

Can we respect our members' financial commitments while asking them to continue their strong support for the church's mission?
Yes UU Can!

Can we come together in the Universal spirit of Love to complete our annual pledge drive so that all our financial commitments may be fulfilled?
Yes UU Can!

Join us on **Sunday, March 8th**, to hear how UUs can accomplish all this and more through our annual pledge drive. Bring your loose change for our UU cans—it's the "change we need".

* This endorsement was brought to you by the Board of Trustees and not paid for by any political party.

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

First Friday Dinner — Fast Food Dinner to Go

This last minute fill-in idea of hostess for the March's first Friday dinner came up at the Membership Committee meeting (a committee that wears many hats, feel free to join us 2nd Thursday of the month.) The scheduled hostess for March was Carole Hartsuff, she stepped up to help Alyce Oosting with the February's first Friday dinner after Jane Volk was unable due to illness. So the plan is "Fast Food Dinner to Go" Yes, our ladies do cook, but many also are full time employed outside of their kitchens and a few said jokingly let's do the women that do not cook / fast food dinner as the men did the "Men who Cook" dinner a few months back. So here it is; on **Friday, March 6th** at 6:30 pm bring a food item from a fast food restaurant that you buy, and others will pay a donation to the church to eat it. Hosted by Lynn Hightower one of the "Women that do not Cook." There is a sign up sheet posted in the Social Hall, please list the food items you are bringing and number planning to attend.

Submitted by: the Membership Committee

Big Read Luncheon

Join us following the service on **Sunday, March 15th** for a special Big Read book discussion and soup luncheon. To sign up to bring soup or other items. See the sign-up list on the bulletin board.

Submitted by Rev. Cindy Landrum

Visitor Orientation

Question & Answer - If you would like to learn more about the church, please join the minister after the service for a short, informal conversation on **Sunday, March 22nd**. Meet in the foyer after the service. Following the Q. and A. will be a tour of our buildings.

Submitted by: the Membership Committee

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. This month's forum is at a special time and location. The commUnity forUm is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in conjunction with the Jackson District Library.

Special Forum:

Wednesday, March 11th from 2:00-4:00 pm

"Stories from the Great Depression"

The Big Read is here again, and this year's book is *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. A very special afternoon "bonus" community forum is scheduled at Vista Grand Villa called "Memories of the Great Depression." We will show the movie "Stand Up and Cheer!," with Shirley Temple, followed by a time to discuss and share memories of Depression times. This will take place at Vista Grande Villa, Wednesday March 11 from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Grand Room. This program will be open to the public.

Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 pm

"The Face of Poverty in Jackson:

A Call to Action"

Our regular (third-Thursday) Community Forum is on March 19th at 6:30 pm, in Carnegie Library Auditorium. Community Action Agency will guest-host this forum as part of the county-wide Big Read. This year's book is *The Grapes of Wrath*, and CAA will present a panel of local experts on poverty. Join us as we look at the face of poverty, *here and now*, 70+ years after the Great Depression.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee



District & Denominational Meetings and Events

Caring Committee

Our next Caring Committee meeting will be on **Sunday, March 22nd** after the service.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Craft Day

Please plan to attend the **Saturday, March 28th** Scrappin' & Craftin' Day (any kind of craft project you are working on, bring it and your supplies to work on it; as others do theirs). Our monthly get-togethers are on the 4th Saturday of each month.

Contact Caroline if you are interested in coming. **Note:** the time has changed now starting at 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. There is no charge for participating, but donations to help cover the church's costs are welcome.

Submitted by: Caroline Landrum

Church Cook-off

April's First Friday dinner is a cook-off! Is your favorite fish dish fabulous? Is your pumpkin pie perfection? Now is your chance to prove it! We will have a number of categories to enter in, or suggest your own. As long as there is competition for a category, the sky is the limit. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the social hall, see Chris Keith or email her to enter. The night of the dinner **Friday, April 3rd**, starting at 6:30 pm, diners will have a chance to vote for their favorite dishes with their pocketbooks. Each dish will have a jar next to it to put donations to indicate that is the preferred dish. The winner of each category will be the one with the most money in its jar and will be announced during the following Sunday's service and in the May Bellnote. The winners will also get a certificate proclaiming they have the best dishes in the church!

Submitted by: Chris Keith

Katrina Relief Service Trip To New Orleans

Saturday July 11-Sunday July 19 Heartland Congregations! Come join a work project in New Orleans this summer. We can make a difference! Our plan is to leave on Saturday, spend the night in Tuscaloosa, visit their service in the morning and continue on to First Church in New Orleans. Once in New Orleans we will sleep on cots in gender separated dorm rooms and share cooking and clean up responsibilities. Work days will be Monday through Friday with plenty of time to view the city and opportunities to explore New Orleans culture, perhaps, at a minimum, a stroll through the French Quarter.

Cost of the trip for UUs is \$20.00 per night per person in New Orleans plus food, travel expenses and discretionary monies. Older youth (15 +) are invited, but small children are not well accommodated. One group is leaving from Evansville. Others may join us there or en route. Another option for those farther away might be to fly and meet us at First Church. Preliminary information can be found on the UUCE website: www.uuevansville.org. More information will be forwarded once our group is intact. Individuals and groups must reserve their space by April 10th so that New Orleans can plan for us. To be included in the count, please forward names and contact information to Rev Deane Oliva, Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville by email, cogenisys@aol.com by April 10.

A Heritage of Peace, Love & Justice Spanning Three Centuries

The Heartland District of the UUA invites you to join other Heartland UU's at our family-friendly Annual Spring Conference. To be held in Muncie, Indiana at the Horizon Convention Center from April 3 through April 5, 2009. Come and join us for workshops, Keynote Speakers; Dr. Sharon D. Welch and Rev. Dr. Elizabeth M. Strong, good food and great fellowship. Information can also be found on our website <http://www.heartlanduu.org> 1(888) 948-4883 (toll free).

Submitted by: Colleen Kelly of the UUA

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 APRIL NEWSLETTER IS:

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com

Kathy & Vicki Haynes

or the Bellnote mailbox.

We want to thank ~ Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Pedersen, Kerry Hart, Caroline Landrum, Nena Obits, Ann Green, Chris Keith, Outreach Comm., and the Membership Comm.,
for their news items this month.

"Go now and live your religion;
It's 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~~

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

March

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

- 1 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
- 1 Sunday Discussion about the Long-Term use of our Building and Grounds ~ After the Service
- 3 Tue. 5th of an 8-week **"Evensong for Families"** Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm
- 4 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 5 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 6 Fri. First Friday Dinner hosted by Lynn Hightower ~ 6:30 pm
- 8 Sunday Daylight Savings Time Begins ~ Spring Ahead!
- 8 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
- 8 Sunday Annual Pledge Drive Kick-Off
- 10 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 10 Tue. 6th of an 8-week **"Evensong for Families"** Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm
- 11 Wed. Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
- 11 Wed. commUnity forUm ~ **"Stories from the Great Depression"**
@ Vista Grande Villa ~ in the Grand Room ~ 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- 12 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:30 pm
- 15 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
- 15 Sunday Big Read Luncheon ~ After the service
- 17 Tue. 7th of an 8-week **"Evensong for Families"** Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm
- 18 Wed. Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm
- 19 Thurs. commUnity forUm ~ **"The Face of Poverty in Jackson: A Call to Action"**
@ Jackson District Library ~ 6:30 pm
- 22 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
- 22 Sunday Visitor's Q. and A. ~ After the service
- 22 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the service
- 24 Tue. 8th of an 8-week **"Evensong for Families"** Adult & Family R. E. Opportunity ~ 6:30 pm
- 28 Sat. Scrapping & Crafting ~10:00 am - 5:00 pm (note new time)
- 29 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Lay Leader - Sharon Pedersen

Upcoming Events

- April 3 First Friday Dinner hosted by Chris Keith
- May 1 NO First Friday Dinner
- May 2 Annual Auction ~ More info next month's issue

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sun.	Greeters	Ushers	Social Hour Host	Nursery Helper	R.E. Teachers
Mar. 1	Alyce	Gary & Jackie	Donna & Kathy	Margaret E.	K-5; Rob & Meredith Teens; Gretchen & Alyce
Mar. 8	Grace	Gary & Paul J.	Anita	Open	Pre; Jackie & Jane H. K-5; Sharon & Peter Teens; Lynn & Becky
Mar. 15	Joan	Gary & Gratia	Big Read Luncheon	Jann	K-5; Chris K. & Anne Teens; Sharon & Cecily
Mar. 22	Carole	Gary & Tom P.	Anne & Rose	Open	Pre; Kerry & Kathy K-5; Sharon & Peter Teens; Cecily & Becky
Mar. 29	Open	Gary & Open	Jane V.	Joan	K-5; Rob & Meredith Teens; Gretchen & Alyce

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

Mar. 1 - Transcendentalist Series:
"Margaret Fuller:
Feminist, Transcendentalist, and Unitarian"
- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -
Come learn about this lesser-known, but
incredibly influential transcendentalist Unitarian
woman during Women's History Month.

Mar. 8 - Canvass Sunday:
"Change Is Possible!"
- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -
Canvass Sunday: "Change Is Possible!" - We
kick off our yearly pledge drive with an upbeat
twist that you won't want to miss!

Mar. 15 - Big Read Sunday:
"Grapes of Wrath: Its Message for Our Time"
- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -
Jackson's Big Read this year focuses on this
book with incredible messages for our
community here and now. This service will be
followed by a book discussion and soup lunch.

Mar. 22 - UUSC Justice Sunday:
"Our Ministry in Troubled Times"
- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -
This Sunday we will look at the Unitarian
Universalist Service Committee's campaign for
economic justice and what we can do to
create change in our community and
elsewhere.

Mar. 29 - "Olympia Brown:
Pioneer Universalist Preacher"
- Lay Leaders - Sharon Pedersen
March is Women's History Month. To celebrate
women's role in our Universalist heritage, you
will hear about Rev. Olympia Brown, the first
ordained female Universalist minister. Olympia
lived from 1835-1926 and spent many of her
formative years growing up near Schoolcraft,
Michigan. Along with completing the uphill
struggle to be admitted and graduate from
divinity school, she became an activist in the
women's suffrage movement as well. Come be
inspired by her life's work!

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

