

May 2011

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

MUSIC DIRECTOR ~ Nancy Cooper
nankjcooper@gmail.com

NURSERY & CHILD CARE ~ Vicki Haynes
kermit_210@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT ~ Gratia Karmes
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Nena Obits
nena_obits@hotmail.com



Minister's Column

It's so good to be back! I'm still learning all the amazing work people did during my absence, and so thankful to all the volunteers. Just as I know the work I do on Sunday morning is the most visible to church members, I know the hard work **Lynn Hightower** and the **Worship Committee** did in organizing Sunday speakers and pulpit hosts for them was the most visible to you, and she did a great job and worked hard. **The Board** put in some heavy lifting, as well, organizing for this year and next without me. **Kathy Haynes** took on a lot of small roles like checking voice mails in addition to the work she and the **Membership Committee** performed, which kept us going and got us growing! I'm so thankful she's going to continue checking that voicemail for me, too, and forwarding it on to appropriate parties. **The Sabbatical Committee** was available to answer questions, and I'm sure there were lots. **The Caring Committee** grew during my absence and handled things so well that we didn't need to spend money for emergency pastoral care, and they planned an upcoming speaker for this month, as well. The **Forum Committee** kept the forums running with a strong slate that I've heard about out in the community! **The Religious Education Committee** and **Sharon Pedersen** kept our children's programs running and managed to expand their repertoire during my absence to include monthly social mission activities! I'm so thankful to all these people and the probably dozens of others who kept and keep this church running!

May looks to be a fun month to hop back into things with (I say "hop" because as I write this I'm also preparing for Easter Sunday)! We've got an auction and silent auction, each with dinners, and forum all cooking. We have a Caring Committee workshop coming up, as well (reserve your spot, if you plan to come). I'm looking forward to a trip to DC I'll be making in May. I'm going to the third HRC Clergy Call (I went to the second one two years ago, too) to advocate for LGBT issues, particularly employee non-discrimination and anti-bullying legislation. I was excited that HRC called me up to ask me to come, and are covering most of my travel expenses as well! Another event I'm excited about is giving the "Charge to the congregation" at my colleague the Rev. Yvonne Schumacher-Strejcek's installation in Brighton. Some of you may remember that the Rev. Richard Venus gave the charge to the congregation at my installation here. At my installation I pledged:

Continued on top of next page... ~ 1 ~

With great rejoicing and a deep sense of responsibility, I take up the ministry to which you have called me. I pledge myself, so far as the power in me lies, to maintain the freedom of the pulpit, to speak the truth in love, to fulfill the offices of a minister in accustom with our tradition, and to cherish and cultivate the ways of freedom, reason, and spiritual growth among you, and with all people.

It's good to be back, and to take up that charge again! Thank you all for your work and for ministering with me in this wonderful living tradition!

Peace,



Ingathering Service

We will have our next ingathering Service on **Sunday, May 15**

of our friends becoming members of the

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty.

If you would like to be a part of the ingathering service

please talk with Rev. Cindy, Joan Bernstein, Kathy Haynes or Carole Hartsuff.

Submitted by: Membership Committee

Minister's Sermon Book Announcement

Rev. Cindy's new book of sermons and other writings, *An Extremist for Love and Justice*, should be available in a matter of weeks! It will be available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and other on-line booksellers, and for a discounted rate through the publisher at <https://www.createpace.com/3593257>. She will also have books available for purchase at church shortly after the publishing date, and these will be at a further discounted rate. Look for these hopefully by the end of the month or early June!



Religious Education Report

April started with the always-enriching experience of attending the District Assembly, the Heartland District's annual meeting and educational gathering. I was glad to attend some sessions with Rev. Cindy, and some specifically for religious educators. Cindy and I each received some training in "Adaptive Leadership" which we hope to put into practice this year at UUCEL. We also received updates on District, which along with many sectors is struggling financially. Perhaps as a result, there will be more collaboration with the two districts to the West, Central-Midwest and Prairie Star, so that while we will need to bring other churches from our area together if we want district personnel to come for a workshop, for instance, we will also have the expert resources of six professional staff rather than just two available to us for possible consultation. Our "Faith Development Director," who previously focused on RE for just this District, is now going to be devoting 3/4 of her time to youth and young adult development across all three districts, which should help us all to grow in that department. So I'm pretty excited about that.

The kids have had some nice lessons in April. The preschoolers had lessons on "Differences are Interesting" and "Both Girls and Boys Can," and the K-5 class had more neat lessons from *Honoring Our Mother Earth: Experiences in Native American Spirituality*. We hope to have a Native American speaker visit the K-5 class in May. The youth class (6th grade on up) are learning about stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination. Also, they completed their social action project, dropping off lots of cat and dog food, toys and litter to the Cascades Humane Society and getting a behind-the-scenes tour on April 16. I got to go on part of that tour with them, and wanted to take lots of "residents awaiting adoption" home with me! Thanks especially to Laura Thurlow and Steve Nason for helping with this project.

Continued on next column...

Choir Corner



The RE Committee and I will be seeking volunteers for next school year, so if you are offered that opportunity, I hope you will take us up on it. Teachers often find they have as much fun as the children involved, and I try to make it easy, with most of the "prep" done for you. Since it takes a village to raise a child, we count on the generosity of many UUCEL "villagers" to help raise our young UUs. We're also considering offering a few days' /early evenings of UU "Summer Camp" program, and special activities for kids during RE time this summer. Watch for informal and formal surveys about these possibilities, coming soon.

Sharon 

Religious Education Coordinator

"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 web page
www.libertyuu.org

Annual Business Meeting

Please plan to attend the annual meeting, after the service on **Sunday, May 22**. We need all members to help us develop the budget and deal with other important issues. This will take place in the sanctuary. Reminder to all committee chairs: please get your reports to our board secretary by **May 7th**, please e-mail to Becky Bowen at rbowen@umich.edu or those wishing to turn in hard copies, please place them in the secretary mailbox at the church or hand deliver them to Becky by May 7th. Thank you in advance.

Submitted by Gracia Karmes
and Becky Bowen

Dear Friends,

It has been a while since I've contributed to the newsletter, so here goes... Your choir has been making very good music and I think we've gotten better every year. We've really had only one colossal goof-up from which we recovered by laughing at ourselves --- a lot. We always have fun in rehearsal while working hard, and despite getting to church an hour early. It is not an easy commitment to make but these good people don't take the responsibility lightly. I clearly love them all.

Do we have problems? Not many, but it would be very nice to buy new music from time to time. We've done several "encore performances" this year. Also, I've not been able to find the ideal way to use the altar space aesthetically or musically.

There are thirteen members in the choir as well as several people who can only sing occasionally. That's excellent for a church our size, although we'd still love more singers — especially men.

I appreciate hearing from you what you'd like to hear or any suggestions. I'd also appreciate you telling the choir singers you are grateful for their efforts.

"But God has a few of us to whom he whispers in the ear; The rest may reason and welcome; 'tis we musicians know". - Robert Browning

Nancy Cooper

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, August 7th will be our Annual Church Picnic and it will be held outside church this year. We are wanting to have fun for all ages with a few carnival type games — Tug of War will be also be played. If you have any great game ideas and or items to use for them please let Kathy Haynes know, Thanks.

Submitted by: The Membership Comm.

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Double Auction

Friday the 13th - Chefs Dinner @ 6:00

with Silent Auction afterwards

Saturday the 14th - Dinner @ 5:00 Auction @ 6:00

Our annual church auction will take place on two nights. The Silent Auction will be completed **Friday, May 13**, after the 6:00 pm dinner is served by the men of the church. The **Saturday, May 14** auction will be preceded by a dinner of sloppy joes, chips, baked beans, fruit cup and cake beginning at 5:00 pm with the auction beginning at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The Saturday auction will include a 50/50 drawing, door prize drawings every 30 minutes, snacks and water.

This event is one of the biggest fund raisers for our church, so invite your friends and relatives. The following items already have been offered for the auction with many more expected over the next three weeks: Baked Goods, garden items, car cleaning kit, coloring kit for kids, pillows, quilt, quilt square ornament, German language lessons, table cloth, figurines, paper weight, jewelry, jewelry box, spoon rest, silk flower wreath, end table, high chair, wicker baskets, silk flowers, CD rack, biscotti and coffee baskets, comic book packs, restaurant gift cards, maple syrup, home-made fudge, Kiwanis travel film series tickets, folding table, wrought iron fire pit with poker, tea and cookie basket, hand-carved shore birds, antique dishes, antique chairs, German dinner, Mickey Mouse doll, Ivory scrimshaw sailing ship, framed print, sermon of your choice, summer fairy party for kids, ceramic chalice pendant, hand decorated garden stones, home-canned salsa, home-canned tomatoes, flowers.

We would like to give a big Thanks in advance to Carole Hartsuff, Dorothy Kerr, Ann Green, Elissa Alden, Donna Haynes, Fred & Debbie Marshall, Steve Beison, Vic Marshall, Ben Brue and all who made calls to members and friends for your donations, to make this fundraiser a big success.

Submitted by: Steve Beison

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 May 19th

The May 19 will be our last Community Forum of this season until September.

The topic is **"To be Determined"**. The Forum Committee are trying to get somebody from U-M to talk about the democratic uprisings in the Middle East, but so far have nobody confirmed. (more information will be announced from the podium).

Childcare may be available for a modest donation; contact Nancy Smith (See Supplements Page for more information) to RSVP for childcare. Call the Library at (517)788-4087 for more information, or see the Library's website at www.myjdl.com

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Caring Committee News

The Caring Committee will be sponsoring a workshop on *"Spiritual Pain; How to Help Others Heal"*.

Mary Heintzkill will be presenting and all are welcome.

This will be on **Wednesday, May 18** at 6:30 pm in the church social hall. We will also be inviting Caring Committee members from other UU congregations, and local community members. There is no charge. Please register with Alyce Oosting by Wednesday, May 11 (See the Supplement Page for more information).

We also will be changing the Caring Committee meeting dates this summer: next is **May 29** - Then on the fourth Sunday of each month thru Sept.

June 26 - July 24 - Aug. 28 - Sept. 25

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Service Project

Volunteers needed for serving dinner at the Interfaith Shelter. Arrangements have been made for our church to serve dinner at the Jackson Interfaith Shelter on **June 5th**. We need approximately 6 volunteers. Volunteers would need to meet at the shelter at 4:00 pm, and we should be done by 5:30 pm.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer please contact me. (See Supplements Page for more information) Thank you!

Submitted by: Michelle Vanover

AUUW News

There are no plans for a Mother's Day Tea this year, instead the AUUW is planning a luncheon on **Thursday, June 2nd** (the regular day and time of the AUUW meeting) this will be a "*Spring almost Summer is Here*" luncheon at 12:00 noon everyone is welcome. More information to come next month along with announcements from the podium.

Submitted by: Joan Bernstein

All Committee Night Meeting

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month through June. 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, May 11th.

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.

Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Sale

Little Caesar's Pizza Kit fundraiser for UUCEL Order Little Caesar's items and a portion goes to UUCEL. Last year we raised about \$465. While the items seem expensive, keep in mind that most are kits of 3—like 3 pizzas for \$18 — that's not so bad, is it? And lots of folks say it's yummy (including me)! Our goal is selling 100 items so that we can get free delivery. There's a long way to go to reach that—but still a few weeks, so order yours now! Orders due: **Sunday May 8** at church or at LATEST, Thursday, May 12 at 711 Elmwood Ave. Jackson; sspedersen@sbcglobal.net

Payment due at time of order.

The person taking orders should pick up orders on Tuesday May 17, 5pm at 1058 Shoreline Dr., Brooklyn (Wampler's Lake home of Fran and Stan Weaver). If you can't pick up at this time/location, let me know and we can make other arrangements. Call me, Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator if you have any questions (See Supplements Page for more information). Thanks for your support of UUCEL!

* Persons who live out of town can support the church by ordering on-line at www.pizzakit.com; choose "Order Online," click on the pizza kits you'd like to order, and when you see the box that says "fundraising code," enter the # 88113.

A prize for the family that sells the most kits! The flyers/order cards are now available to start selling with a pick-up -- a few items on the order card would be -- the personal-sized pizzas kits--the whole wheat crust pizzas -- the Italian bread sticks -- 6 kinds of cookie dough -- soft pretzels -- mini calzones kit -- 2 kinds of pie kits -- gourmet salad fixin's kit.

Kits means you put the frozen items together at the time you are ready to bake them.

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

Cascades Humane Society

The youth group had a food drive for the Cascades Humane Society. A big Thanks to everyone that brought in food, treats and toys for the animals.

Submitted by: Laura Thurlow ~ 5 ~

**Meetings and Events not directly
affiliated with UUCEL**

Inclusive Justice invites you to a "Together In Faith" conference . . .

"Lifting Up the Voice of All-Embracing Love"

In nearly every state where we have been able to move further toward the recognition and support of the full human and civil rights of sexual, gender, and sexual-orientation minorities or defeat legislation that would deny these rights, it has been partly because of the development of a coalition of faith-based communities committed to equality. We need to develop such a coalition here in Michigan.

To help advance this goal, on **Saturday, May 14** from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 125 South Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, many faith based groups, including the Michigan UU LGBT Task Force, are co-sponsoring the "Together in Faith" conference, "Lifting Up the Voice of All-Embracing Love."

The conference will include talks and workshops that will highlight ways people of faith can be effective in working for equality within their faith communities and in the broader community. Most importantly, it will be an opportunity to forge bonds of mutual understanding and friendship among those working within the faith community around these issues. Conference flyer, program information, and registration form can be found at http://inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/together_in_faith.

Submitted by: Randy Block, Michigan UU Social Justice Network, Director

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 JUNE ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:

SUNDAY, MAY 22 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU -

We want to thank; Randy Block, Steve Beison, Joan Bernstein, Nancy Cooper, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Nena Obits, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Laura Thurlow, 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

May

Selling Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Sale

- 1 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 4 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm (maybe a different date this month)
- 5 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 8 Sunday ~~~~ Service - TBA ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Sunday Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Sale ~ Due
- 10 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 11 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
- 12 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
- 13 Fri. 2nd Friday Dinner hosted by ~ Male Chefs ~ 6:00 pm with Silent Auction Bidding
- 14 Sat. Dinner before the Annual Church Goods and Services Auction ~ 5:00 pm
- 14 Sat. Annual Church Goods and Services Auction ~ 6:00 pm
- 15 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 15 Sunday Ingathering Service - Friends becoming Members
- 17 Tue. Pizza Pick-Up at 1058 Shoreline Dr. (Wampler's Lake home of Fran & Stan Weaver) ~ 5:00 pm
- 19 Thurs. JXN Community Forums **"To be Determined"**
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
- 20 Fri. Regional "Cluster" Meetings of Religious Educators ~ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- 22 Sunday ~~~~ Service - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 22 Sunday Annual Meeting ~ After the Service - see page 3
- 29 Sunday ~~~~ Service - TBA ~ 11:00 am
- 29 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
- 31 Tue. Brooklyn Food Pantry - Church Volunteer Needed ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Upcoming Events

- June 2 Spring time AUUW Luncheon ~ 12:00 noon
- Aug. 7 Annual Church Picnic ~ After the Service held at Church this year

Sunday	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Betty G	Carole H
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Jane H				Joan B
Ushers	Steve J Gary T	Steve J Gary T	Steve J Gary T	Martha K Gary T	Gary T
Social H. Host	Gratia K Elissa A	Kathy H	Jane H		
R.E. Pre.		Jane H Jackie J		Barbara H Becky B	
R.E. K-5	Sharon P ?	Kerry H Sharon p	Jon H Rob G	Dee R ?	Intergenerational
R.E. Youth	Gretchen M Alyce O	Pat G Chris K	Lori B Sharon P	Steve N Sharon P	

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

May 1 - "International Workers' Day: Are We United?"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This year the issue of unions has heated up in our country, and in the Midwest in particular. What does our faith have to tell us about this issue? Are there stances on unionization we've taken at the UUA level? Does this fit with the "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign? These are topics of debate in Unitarian Universalist circles, and our minister will share her thoughts.

May 8 - "TBA" Mother's Day -

May 15 - "Unitarian Universalism: The Next 50 Years"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

50 years ago, in May of 1961, the Unitarians and Universalists merged to become the UUA. What will the next 50 years bring for our Association? Our minister takes a look ahead.

Also new member Ingathering Service.

May 22 - "Poet Sunday: Mary Oliver"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Our minister begins a hopefully-annual series of focusing on different poets with a natural poet: Mary Oliver.

May 29 - "Why Garden"

- Lay Leaders - Nena Obits and
Dave Hommerding

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

Return Service Requested

2231 Jefferson Road
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Unitarian Universalist Church of East Liberty



