

May 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

MINISTER REV. CYNTHIA LANDRUM
REV.CYN@UGAALUM.UGA.EDU

R. E. COORDINATOR ~ SHARON PEDERSEN
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kermi_210@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

Last month on March 27, we had our church's insurance company, Church Mutual, review our policy. Our new insurance agent on the account sat down with Martha Koopman, our new treasurer, and me and went over things. In the words of our own internal insurance expert, Lynn Hightower, we were "woefully underinsured." I doubt the policy had been reviewed in the last decade.

Six days later, I learned just exactly how important good insurance is, since my shed burned down, taking part of fence and my garage wall with it, and affecting most of the contents of my garage as well as the roof. We had very good insurance on our home and garage, with a low deductible, and everything that we want to be replaced can be replaced, with the insurance covering all of it except the deductible. I had "replacement value" coverage, whereas the church currently has "actual cash value" coverage, or ACV. ACV means that you get a depreciated value on the building and its furnishings. Thus, if our church were to burn down, we would only get a fraction of what we would need to rebuild and refurnish it. For a church that values its building as much as we do, our board has agreed that this isn't sufficient.

There are some other things, good and bad, we learned about our insurance. For example, our treasurers in our church are supposed to be bonded, according to our own bylaws. This is a regulation that has been overlooked a lot, and leaves us vulnerable. But our insurance policy can include a bonding that would cover all of our treasurers and wouldn't need to be reapplied for whenever the treasurers change. Of course, this comes with a charge, but it's a charge we should've been paying for all along. We also learned that Church Mutual has a lot of sample policies that we can use, for everything from child and youth sexual abuse prevention to playground safety to food safety.

Our budgeting season is upon us, and our congregational meeting will happen this month where we may be forced to deal with some harsh financial realities. This is just one example of an increase in our budget, but one that is important to us. Please keep this in mind this year as you make

Continued on page 3...

**Annual Congregational Meeting will be May 19
following the service. Please attend. Your vote does count!**

Religious Education

Report

This is a fun time of year, when we end the school year with fun lessons and inter-generational services. RE Committee meeting is **Thursday May 2** at the Carnegie library in downtown Jackson, 7-8:30pm in the MacIntyre Room. This is followed close behind by the silent auction, **May 4-5**, and live goods and services auction, **May 10**. Yes, we'll have an auction for kids while the adults have their live auction. Kids will eat first with parents and then we'll adjourn to the nursery for the "auction" and a kids' movie. We'll have an inter-generational "RE Sunday" on **May 5**, when the kids will have a chance to show with me about all they've discussed, learned and had fun with this year. We'll provide donuts for social hour that day, and then have a kids' movie that evening **May 5** at 5:30-8:30pm. We'll have a craft day on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend while the adults have their service.

The RE Committee and I have a couple of big jobs ahead of us—choose curriculum and recruit volunteers for next year. Please be generous with your time if you are asked to volunteer with the children - thank you so much for your support of UU values growth for our future adults.

Yuurs Truly,

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator

Please see the bottom of page 7. The Volunteer Schedule is very blank this month, and your help is needed. Please see what you can do. The sign-up clipboards are on the bulletin board in the social hall awaiting your name. Thanks.

Notes from the Board

Thanks to Ann Green who volunteered to be in charge of our annual Pledge Drive. As of this writing, some of us are behind in paying our pledges which creates a cash flow problem, so we are hoping this deficit will be rectified as soon as possible. We also need to commit to our 2013-2014 Pledge Drive so that we have a budget in place to be voted upon at our Annual Meeting on **May 19**. We will also be voting for two new Board members because both Anita Pepper and I will have fulfilled our terms. We are pleased that Gratia Karmes and Dee Reed have agreed to become candidates for positions on the Board. The Board appointed Martha Koopman to finish out Hugh Tomlinson's term as treasurer.

Keep **May 10** open for our annual Goods and Services Auction. If you've not yet been contacted regarding your donation, please contact Steve Beison or any member of his committee. There will be a dinner featuring pulled pork sandwiches at 5:00 pm with the auction beginning at 6:00 pm. The Silent Auction bidding will cease at 6:00 pm. Our auctioneers are Elissa Alden and Ann Green again this year, and it promises to be a "fun" evening.

Congratulations to Rev. Cindy for winning the sermon contest in the Heartland district, and, also, for being elected to the newly formed regional Board! We are very proud of you, Rev. Cindy!

See you at the Auction—

Jane Volk

Board President

Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

your pledge, if you haven't already done so. This will be a hard year for us, since we have increased expenses but a decreased pledge base, because we will not have the \$5000 matching pledge that we had this year in the budget.

Our board and I felt certain that our church members would want our church to be fully protected, even though it comes with a larger price tag for our insurance. I'm glad we've gone through a thorough analysis of our coverage. It's a lesson I've learned personally, and I hope we'll never have to learn as a congregation, but one we should be prepared for.

In Faith,

Cindy

The church is in need of a good working upright vacuum cleaner. The one that is there now is very old and not working properly. The church board was wondering if someone had a vacuum that they would like to donate, if so contact Jane Volk or Vic Marshall. Thanks.



"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".

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Silent and Standard Auctions May 10th

Open Your Eyes to the Silent Auction

Silent Auction items will be on display in the school house several days before the evening auction on **Friday, May 10**. Steve will open the school house from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm **Saturday, May 4**, so you can view and begin bidding on the silent auction items.

Viewing and bidding will also be available **May 5**, after our church service until 3:00 pm. You can bid as many times for an item as you wish as long as your bid is higher than the previous bids. Bidding for Silent Auction items will continue on **Friday, May 10** 4:00 pm. Bidding will end at 6:00 pm so our evening auction can begin.

If you would like to help in the school house please see Steve Beison (See Supplements Page for contact information).

Submitted by: Steve Beison



Buy The Bag Book Sale

UUCEL will be hosting a Buy The Bag book sale where people can fill a bag with books for \$5 including hardbacks and paperbacks. There are many genres to choose from both in fiction and non-fiction. The sale goes from 9:00am to 5:00pm **Saturday, May 11** at the school house next to the UUCEL Church at 2231 Jefferson Road Clarklake, MI. Light snacks will be for sale and the coffee will be on.

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.

Thursday, May 16 ~ 6:30 pm

"School Libraries in the Future"

With funding shortages, school libraries and librarians are becoming extinct. Heather Albee-Scott and Calvin Battles will share successes and a vision for rebirth in public school libraries. Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

"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~~

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

SAVE THE DATE!

As you know, Donna & Jason Hinton are expecting their first baby this summer. We will celebrate this and shower them with baby goodies after church on **June 2** for Thomas Michael Hinton who will be called Tommy. He is due date is July 8th. Please plan on this opportunity to wish them well and help them stock up with essentials and frills for their baby boy. They are registered at Target (<http://alturl.com/z74y7>) (this goes straight to Baby Hinton listing) & the Toy House and Baby Too! They would also love Meijer gift cards (Meijer unfortunately does not offer a registry any longer – boo!) See you there!!

Submitted by E lissa Alden
and Cindy Landrum

2 Baby Boys Arriving this Summer

Welcome Kemry!

UUCEL has a tradition of doing baby showers for first babies, and we have one scheduled for Donna and Jason Hinton's baby boy (see article above). Many people in the congregation have noticed that we're expecting a second baby boy this summer, as well, and have asked if they can help welcome Elizabeth & Tim Walker's baby boy, Kemry. The answer, of course, is yes! While Elizabeth & Tim have many items left from their other children, this is their first boy, and so there are still many things they could use. We'll have a bin placed in the social hall beginning in May that you can leave items in during May and early June to welcome Kemry. Kemry's due date is June 24th. Elizabeth and Tim are registered at Amazon (<http://alturl.com/kgwip>) and at Target (<http://alturl.com/4omsi>) (this goes straight to Baby Walker listing). Please leave items by Sunday, **June 9th**.

Submitted by Cindy Landrum

Please remove this page or print it off and post it at places you go, to help promote the Book Sale. Thank You --- Jon Hart.

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty
BUY THE BAG BOOK SALE



Universalist Unitarian Church @ the Old School House
2231 Jefferson Road

May 11, 2013

9-5 pm

Fill a bag for only \$5

Come fill one of our bags or your own with:

*Fiction from literature to romance to mystery to sci fi

*Non fiction in science, history, politics, self help, psychology and more
In glorious hard back and portable paperback

Book dealers welcome

Accepting credit cards for large orders

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

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
and 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 **May 26** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

~Visitor Tips for Everyone~~

Here are some ways to make people feel welcome that everyone can follow:

- Introduce yourself and get to know a visitor by name.
- Invite a visitor to social hour.
- Wear a nametag.
- Sit toward the middle of the pew or nearer to the front of the church so visitors can be more anonymous if they choose.
- Watch for people who may be alone during social hour and ask them about the sermon or their faith journey.

Thank you!

• 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 JUNE ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, MAY 19. ~~~~~ 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, Elissa Alden, Steve Beison, Jon Hart, Alyce Oosting, 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

May

- 1 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 2 Thurs. AUJW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 2 Thurs. RE Meeting @ Carnegie Library, MacIntyre Room ~ 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- 4 Sat. View and Begin Bidding on the Silent Auction Items ~ 11am – 3:00 pm
- 5 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Sharon Pedersen, R. E. Coord. & Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 5 Sunday View and Bidding on the Silent Auction Items ~ After Church until 3:00 pm
- 5 Sunday Movie Night ~ 5:30 – 8:30 pm
- 8 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm
- 9 Thurs. Membership Committee ~ 10:00 am
- 9 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ 4:30-6:30 pm @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson, Help Distribution
- 10 Fri. View and Bidding on the Silent Auction Items ~ 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- 10 Fri. Annual Church Auction ~ Dinner at 5:00 pm and Auction Starting at 6:00 pm
- 11 Sat. Buy the Bag Book Sale ~ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ in the Schoolhouse
- 12 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 14 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 16 Thurs. JXN Community Forum **“School Libraries in the Future”**
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
- 19 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 19 Sunday Our Annual Congregational Meeting ~ After the Service
- 19 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 21 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members’ Homes in the Evening
- 26 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader, Worship Committee~ 11:00 am
- 26 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service

Upcoming Events

- June 2 Baby Shower for Donna & Jason Hinton ~ During Socil Hour
- June 9 Elizabeth & Tim Walker’s Baby Boy ~ Please Leave Items in the Bin by Today

Sunday	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Donna H	Steve B	Jackie J	Becky B
Ushers	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Social H. Host	RE Comm.	Donna H Kathy H	OPEN	OPEN
R.E. Pre.				
R.E. K-5	Sharon P	Sharon P Martha K	Cecily S Joyce K	Sharon P Jenette M
R.E. Youth				

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

May 5 - "Religious Education Sunday"

- Lay Leader, Sharon Pedersen,
Religious Education Coordinator
and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

May 12 - "Mama's Day Our Way"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

The "Mama's Day Our Way" is a campaign of Strong Families, an initiative that the UUA has joined. Mama's Day Our Way "lifts up and celebrates the magic and heartbreak of being a mama." It is about justice and critical policy issues, such as reproductive justice issues. This year we'll celebrate Mama's Day our UU way.

May 19 - "Open to the World; Open to the Future"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

In a topic chosen by our member Margaret Johns, our minister will explore themes of change and diversity through a spiritual lens.

May 26 - "Civil War to Civil Rights"

- Lay Leader, Worship Committee

Memorial Day Service Remembering Famous UUs: From Civil War to Civil Rights. We will take a walk through history remembering those famous UUs that served our country fighting for the freedom of all. We will be including a ceremony of remembrance to honor UUCEL's members, friends and relatives who served. Please bring a small rock you do not mind leaving for this portion of the service.

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e d v e s n u e r

M, e x a r k e c

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