

November 2010

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



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Is currently on Sabbatical until 4/11/11

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Minister's Column

Hi UUCEL Members & Friends,

Are you wondering what I'm doing this November, while I'm starting my sabbatical? I'm starting off with a week of vacation that I've sandwiched into the sabbatical time, which will provide me with a break from my regular routine. After that, well, it's back to a routine, of sorts. Every November for the last few years I've been attending a UU ministers' study group, "Ohio River Group." I'll be going down to Dayton for a few days for that again, just as before. Our study topic is the broad topic of "Ministry and Popular Culture" this year, and I'm looking forward to the fact that I get to hear the papers and am *not* delivering one of my own this year (I did a paper last year—our papers are 45 minutes long, followed by 15-minute response papers).

I'm thinking strongly about attending the Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) conference that's this November (details on page 5). When the topic was announced, I was pretty focused on immigration issues as the main pull for me, because our UU General Assembly this past June had focused so heavily on immigration issues, and it was clear that this was going to be the focus of a major social justice effort by the UUA. Now, having experienced all the tragic losses of October in the LGBT community, I'm glad that the MUUSJN conference is also focusing on these issues, as well. I encourage you to attend this important conference, too. These are major issues our movement is tackling, and we could use some good thinking about how to engage them as a congregation.

Also in November is a PFLAG-sponsored vigil for LGBT suicides and victims of violence. We've been asked to sign on as a congregation, and our board will officially affirm this at their next board meeting, but has given their approval for UUCEL to endorse this vigil, as we have congregational votes in favor of supporting PFLAG and for being a Welcoming Congregation. This is the sort of event that it's very hard for me to stay away from, and I'm weighing whether or not to attend. Since I'm also teaching at JCC, and the Gay-Straight Alliance of JCC is also a sponsor, I may attend with that hat on. I won't, however, be able to attend the Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service, which I've been a part of for the last several years, and I'll miss it. I encourage you to attend this service. Last year it was really phenomenal, with prayers offered from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Baha'i, and Native American practitioners (and probably others, too, that I'm forgetting). This year promises to be just as good—a true interfaith worship experience.

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

Between those scheduled events, I hope to start work on some projects, maybe have time to worship at some other locations and experience different worship styles, and have time for contemplation and reflection. I'll be missing you and holding you in my thoughts.

Namaste,



Sabbatical Social Media Policy

Facebook: A lot of people may be wondering what's going to happen on Facebook during my sabbatical. Those members who my Facebook "Friends" are used to seeing me post, and having me comment on some of their posts. (I will happily friend any church member who sends me a friend request. However, I do not friend minors, members of other churches who I don't know from outside connections, and friends who are not yet members may be put on hold before I friend back.) During my sabbatical, the church's Facebook page will be administered by Chris Keith and Michelle Vanover. If you know of something that you think should be advertised there, please give it to one of these volunteers. With my personal account, I'll be "hiding" UUCEL members from my newsfeed, and I'll be locking my posts and other materials so that UUCEL members aren't seeing my information come up during the sabbatical. Some ministry-related contacts in the Jackson community may see that I'm applying the same policy towards them on Facebook, as well. That's because my sabbatical needs to be a break from my ministry work in the community, as well. Just like with e-mail, the messaging will still be available, but I'll be unreliable about answering it, and I ask that it only be used in case of emergency. Also, if we have mutual friends, you may still see me posting

on their status updates. Feel free to treat this the same way you would if you ran into me at the grocery store—it's okay to say hi and ask me how things are going, just avoid telling me about what's going on at church and asking my opinion on church-related matters.

However, my public Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/RevCyn> will still be open and viewable to UUCEL members, and I intend to continue to post things with ministry and UU content there, and UUCEL members should feel free to comment there, as well.

Twitter: If you're following me on Twitter, you may have realized I almost never check my Twitter account. That will continue to be true! However, I'll still be posting things at my RevCyn Facebook page, and those items feed directly into Twitter, so there will still be activity on my Twitter account.

Blog: I'll continue to blog, but less frequently, at my blog at <http://revcyn.blogspot.com>, however blog posts will be less frequent. Those blog posts will continue to feed in to the "RevCyn" and church Facebook pages.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

~ 24 weeks ~

With Rev. Cindy's permission;
here is the count down
till she returns from
her Sabbatical
and back to the pulpit.
P.S. she is counting down also.

"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~~

Religious Education Report

We're coming in to a fun time of the year, with fewer RE classes to staff and more intergenerational services and activities. The RE Committee and I will be choosing a winter pageant soon that will be fun and easy for the children to present in December. I will be asking RE teachers to meet during a social hour to complete the January through June 2011.

As you may have heard, the RE Committee has taken responsibility to research and coordinate service opportunities monthly. In September, we participated with the AIDS Walk, and in October the CROP Walk. The congregation is invited to participate in the Suitcase and Duffle Drive, from Oct 23-December 5. We are seeking a minimum of 50 gently used suitcases and duffle bags for foster children. See more info bottom of next column.

I am excited to report that we will be hosting the regional "cluster" meetings of religious educators from this area for 2010-2011. We met on Oct. 22 and my colleagues from Portage, New Hudson, Flint, Southfield and Gross Pointe attended. On the third Friday of each month, we will meet at UUCEL to discuss our common challenges and triumphs, and brainstorm ideas with each other. Topics to be discussed in the future include: multigenerational experiences, building the RE committee, family recruitment, administering adult RE, and nursery best practices. I already came away with ideas for recruitment. I used to attend these meetings a few years ago and am glad that my job schedule allows me the flexibility to attend again. The meetings are energizing and filled with good ideas.

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

Notes from the Board

At October's board meeting, we discussed the need for additional fund raisers. We have had several unexpected expenditures, and even some "expected" ones, which really don't have a line item budgeted to meet them. We will announce this each Sunday for a few weeks and see if anyone wants to take on something like the book sale, to raise a few more dollars. We are also hoping the "1st Friday Dinners" get rejuvenated, as they have been quite lucrative for the church. I did hear that the November and December's dinners are already being planned. We are hoping for big sales with the Christmas Cards and Church Photo Calendars to help round out the budget. We also talked about reviewing the plans for conducting the Church's business while Cindy is on sabbatical; it looks like everything is in order. Probably, our plan isn't perfect, but we feel good about it so far! Church Board minutes are being kept in a binder in the social hall. If you have items for us to discuss at the next board meeting, please write them down and give them to me or any board member.

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President

Duffle bag/ Suitcase Drive

Most of the children that are in the foster care system do not have luggage of any kind. When they go to a new home they are forced to put their belongings in garbage bags. Wouldn't it be nice, if instead, they had a suitcase or duffle bag to put their things in? Beginning **November 1st** the RE program will be sponsoring a duffle bag/ suitcase drive for Family Service and Children's Aid. Our goal is to collect at least 50 new or gently used suitcases and/or duffle bags. This would be a good time to look in the back of your closets for those pieces that you no longer use, and donate to a wonderful cause. The drive will end on December 5. Thanks everyone! Please bring the bags into the schoolhouse and put under the long table in the front of the room.

Submitted by: Michelle Vanover

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Mark your calendar of the

November's - 1st Friday Dinner

The theme for the next 1st Friday dinner is Glorious Goulash. The menu is goulash, garlic bread, coleslaw, homemade desserts and vegetable lasagna for vegetarians. Time is 6:00 pm. Date is **Friday, November 5th**. Place is UUCEL social hall, there will be also musical entertainment. The AUUW is hosting. We are asking for donations. Submitted by: Ann Green

December's - 1st Friday Dinner

The Caring Committee invites you to the next month's 1st Friday Dinner on **December 3rd** at 6:30 pm in the church social hall. The evening main course will consist of luscious lasagna, scrumptious salads, bountiful breads, and delicious desserts. Please join us!

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

We are looking for other committee's, groups and or individual would like to host the 1st Friday Dinners. Have one every month if possible, the dinners are a part of the fundraising budget. It can be printed here in the newsletter just contact the editors and also announced on Sunday morning.

Submitted by: The Membership Comm.

All Committee Night Meeting

This meeting will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month through April. The start times are staggered with Outreach at 5:00, Worship 5:30 and RE 6:30 pm, with one person each for the board and membership there also. All other committees are welcome to join in. All this takes place at the downtown library in the auditorium while Rev. Cindy is on Sabbatical so each committee can have better communication about all church upcoming events. Thanks; the next meeting is **Wednesday, November 10th**.

Church web page
www.libertyuu.org

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 and the Jackson District Library.

Thursday, November 18,

"Primaries, Pork, and Partisanship"

Do primary elections to choose candidates cause more stridently partisan general elections because of the tendency of Republicans to nominate to the Right and Democrats to nominate to the Left, thereby diminishing the size and influence of the Center?

Is "pork" non-partisan? What is an earmark, anyway? How does the recent election compare with those in the past in terms of extreme positions and nasty advertising?

Robert Davey, retired professor of political science at Jackson Community College will address these questions. 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Carnegie Auditorium.

Please contact Nancy Smith if you will be needing childcare service.

There will be no Community Forum held in December.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee's next meeting is **November 21** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service, will be **Wednesday, November 24th**, Unity Church of Jackson, 3385 Miles Rd, Jackson, MI 49201-8707. Time has not yet been announced, so contact 517-764-6900 for further information. Lynn Hightower chairperson of our worship committee, plans on attending and will be there representing our congregation.

Submitted by: Worship Committee

Brooklyn Food Pantry Christmas Food Basket

Our church was sent a letter asking if we would like to participate in this year's upcoming food basket drive for area families in need. The information was sent to us by the Brooklyn Food Pantry, an organization we have voted on to help support and they are asking for our help now. Their needs are higher now than last year with 280 families that will be getting a Thanksgiving and a Christmas Basket. Each participating church will be collecting only one item that goes into the baskets, and our item is **small boxes of muffin mix**. We need to have 280 boxes of mix by December 5, and taken to the pantry where others will put together each basket and all of the baskets will be same.

So.... we have the Christmas Food Basket and collecting 280 small boxes of Jiffy Muffin Mix it can be any variety, **we have 181** boxes at the time of printing this issue leaving **only 99 to collect**. All in the same small size 7oz - 9oz not the larger boxes . A large box is in the social hall to hold the weekly collection and will be removed from the building weekly fear of 'church mice' and they will not all fit in that box. A sign will let all know the number needed till we have reached our goal of 280 boxes, thanks. Any questions contact Kathy who has volunteered to set this up.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

On **Sunday, November 21st** following the service there will be a potluck dinner. In past years the potluck has been a part of the service, by talking about your food dishes of your heritage. Most recently it become a dinner with church friends, if you were having your Thanksgiving Dinner alone or no family in the area. Come and be a part of ours for the day. Bring a passing dish of any kind and everyone is welcome at our tables.

Submitted by: the Membership Committee

Hanging of the Greens

Please stay after the church service on **November 28th** to help decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas season. All the decorations are there if someone could bring them up from the parsonage basement before hand that would be helpful. This is for everyone of all ages to take apart, from putting up the tree with its ornaments, to the garland and the many candle holders of other religions. Join in, plan to stay and help in decorating our church.

Submitted by: the Membership Committee

Vigil

Vigil in remembrance of all LGBT suicides and victims of violence, sponsored by PFLAG at the GSA of JCC and JHS, **November 19th**, Westminster Presbyterian Church. For further details, including event time, contact Jackson PFLAG by e-mail; pflag_jackson@yahoo.com or call 517-750-3045.

Michigan Social Justice Network Fall Conference on Immigration & LGBT Justice

Join MUUSJN on Saturday, **November 20** from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm for their fall conference focusing on "Standing on the Side of Love for Immigration Reform and LGBT Justice" at the Northwest UU Church, at 23925 Northwestern Hwy , Southfield , MI 48075. Our inspirational keynote speaker will be **Gini Courter, Moderator of the UUA Board of Trustees**. We will hear **immigrants and LGBT people tell how they have been affected** by oppression. **Immigration Reform for America and Equality Michigan** will hold afternoon workshops. Discover what a congregation can do **AFTER becoming a welcoming congregation**. Early registration for \$30 includes meals & childcare, and home hospitality if needed. Registration after Nov. 6: \$30. Mail a check to: MUUSJN, Randy Block, 4220 Arlington Dr. Royal Oak , MI 48073. (Make check out to Heartland District - UUA; write "MUUSJN Conference" in memo line.) or register on-line at <http://www.uujustice.org>

Please welcome our
newest member
David Brenner
who joined our church
on October 17th

Mom2Mom Sale

The mom2mom sale will be postponed until the spring of 2011. Please watch for more information to come. This kind of sale is a fairly new way to sell your children's clothes and other items. The church rents table space to the sellers, customers pay to come in to buy and money from items sold goes to the seller. This event will be co-chaired by Chris Keith and Becky Bowen.

Meetings and Events not
directly affiliated with UUCEL

Blood Drive

The editors were asked to please list these dates in the Bellnote. I know of at least one current member who benefits from blood transfusion products.+++++ **November 17,** January 26, March 23, May 25 & July 27. Please mark your calendars. All drives are on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and are held in the Federer Rooms of Potter Center on the campus of JCC. ++++++ Thanks for your help!

Submitted by: Vic Marshall

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 CHANGED TO AN ON-LINE VERSION THAT IS FREE OF CHARGE.

THE DECEMBER ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING

TO KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU -

We want to thank; Ann Green, Kathy Haynes, Gratia Karmes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Vic Marshall, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Michelle Vanover, Outreach Comm. & the 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

November

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 Mon. | Start to bring in Duffle bags/Suitcases |
| 2 Tue. | Remember to VOTE |
| 3 Wed. | Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm |
| 4 Thurs. | AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm |
| 5 Fri. | 1st Friday Dinner ~ AUUW is Hosting ~ 6:00 pm |
| 7 Sunday | Day Light Saving Time Ends |
| 7 Sunday | ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~UUCEL/Lay Leader - Ann Green |
| 9 Tue. | Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am |
| 10 Wed. | All Committee Night Meeting @ Downtown Library Auditorium - through April
Outreach 5:00 pm - Worship 5:30 pm - RE 6:30 pm, other comm. welcome to join in |
| 11 Thurs. | Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm |
| 14 Sunday | ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Guest Speaker - Stashia Phillips
UUCEL/Lay Leader - Gordon Bernstein |
| 15 Mon. | Minister Group Mock - MFC ~ Rev. Cindy will be using the Social Hall |
| 18 Thurs. | JXN Community Forums ~ 6:30 to 8:30 pm
" Primaries, Pork & Partisanship " in the Carnegie Auditorium |
| 19 Fri. | Regional "Cluster" Meetings of Religious Educators ~ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm |
| 21 Sunday | ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~UUCEL/Lay Leader - Anita Pepper |
| 21 Sunday | Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner ~ After the Service |
| 21 Sunday | Caring Committee ~ After the Service |
| 25 Thurs. | Thanksgiving Day |
| 25 Thurs. | Rental ~ Smith Family Dinner |
| 28 Sunday | ~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ UUCEL/Lay Leader - Peg Beison |
| 28 Sunday | Hanging of the Greens ~ After the Service |

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 3 | 1st Friday Dinner ~ 6:30 pm Caring Committee is Hosting |
| Dec. 5 | Last day to bring in small Jiffy Mix boxes; 280 in total are needed |
| Dec. 5 | Last day to bring in Duffle bags/Suitcases |
| Dec. 12 | Baked Good Sale/Cookie Exchange ~ Durning Social Hour |

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Carole H
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed
Ushers	Gary T Steve J	Gary T Steve J	Gary T Steve J	Gary T Dee R
Social H. Host	Lori B Paul J	Steve B Peg B	Potluck Dinner	Needed
R.E. Pre.	Becky B/Jane H	Jackie J/Anne S		
R.E. K-5	Rob G/ Jon H	Kerry H/Alyce O	Intergenerational	Intergenerational
R.E. Youth	Gretchen M/Chris K	Lori B	Guest at your table	Thanksgiving

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

Nov. 7 - "UUCEL History"

UUCEL/Lay Leader - Ann Green

The history of our UU Church of East Liberty, as told by the members.

Nov. 21 - "Guest at Your Table"

UUCEL/Lay Leader - Anita Pepper

Children's story read by -

- UUCEL/George Haynes

The UU global movement for justice, equity, and compassion.

Nov. 14 - "Fostering Jackson Children"

Guest Speaker - Stashia Phillips

UUCEL/Lay Leader - Gordon Bernstein

Stashia is from the Center for Family S. C. H.

Nov. 28 - "Reflections on Two Native

American Stories"

UUCEL/Lay Leader - Peg Beison

Two pourquoi (how or why) stories from the Native American tradition will help us see how these people taught valuable lessons to their children through stories. The program should be fun for children and adults alike.

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

Return Service Requested

Clarklake, MI 49234
2231 Jefferson Road

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

