

November 2012

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
sppedersen@sbcglobal.net

INTERIM PIANIST ~ Tom Pepper
peppet49@comcast.net

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT ~ JANE VOLK
gjvolk@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT ~ JACKIE JOHNSON
jsj128@comcast.net

TREASURER ~ HUGH TOMLIMSON
ht49203@att.net

SECRETARY ~ ANITA PEPPER
apepper@aiserv.net

TRUSTEE ~ NENA OBITS
nena_obits@hotmail.com

TRUSTEE ~ DONNA HINTON
daisy_lefty@yahoo.com

CARING COMMITTEE

Alyce Oosting oosting115@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

Gratitude is the theme for the month of November in our culture, with Thanksgiving as our major national holiday of the month. And so it's natural to be thinking of what I'm grateful for. I'm personally grateful always for my family's health. This year I'm especially thankful for health. Although, ironically, I'm sick with the flu (and hopefully not laryngitis) while I write this, I've never been more thankful for my family's health and all that contributes to it. A major part of what I'm thankful for and which helps us to be healthy is our health insurance, which is a strong health insurance plan we get through the Unitarian Universalist Association. With my husband's heart condition, good insurance is part of what is keeping him alive. I'm thankful that we have employer-based health care, and I'm thankful that with "Obamacare" that this now pre-existing condition would be covered if we had to switch healthcare for any reason. I'm painfully aware this Thanksgiving of beloved family members who are not in good health, and thankful for the days that we do have with them, and the loving family members who surround them. Beyond health, I'm thankful to have the wonderful family and friends that I do in my life, and to have a job I love and a roof over my head. Wound into all these things is a thankfulness for this church—it affects my home, my health, my family, my work — all these things for which I am thankful.

How is this church connected to those things for which you are thankful? What blessings has this community or this faith brought into your life? Does it help you have a sense of larger meaning, or help you commit to justice? As you all sit around Thanksgiving tables and lift up your thanks this year, I invite you to spend a moment on thoughts as to what you are thankful to your religious community for—it might be for the freedom of belief you experience here, or for the embracing of diversity, the connections and friendships, or for the preservation of family history. I know, for me, I'm grateful to this faith for the sense of meaning it gives my life, as well as many of those other reasons.

In gratitude,

Cindy

Religious Ed. Report

Last year the Religious Education committee tried to arrange at least one social action event per month for the church, and especially kids, to be involved with. This year already we've raised funds for the HARC AIDS Walk and the CROP Walk, with outstanding results. At October's Religious Education Committee I got advice on how to juggle all the upcoming commitments beyond Sunday mornings. We sent Paul as our representative to the CROP Walk, though I stopped in to drop off funds raised. (I always like to connect with folks from my younger years at Brooklyn Presbyterian Church, some of whom still remember my mother, too. It was humbling yet humorous this year when a woman remembered my little sister but not me!)

We decided to complete remaining teacher training through a "PowerPoint" presentation that will be available by computer or in-person handouts by the end of the month. The Planned Parenthood workshop for 12-19 year olds was postponed until we can hopefully get a little bigger crowd. If you know anyone who would benefit from the two Sunday afternoons workshop (12:30-4:30, date tba) let me know and I can contact them when we have prospective dates. Call 740-2629 or email sspedersen@sbcglobal.net for more info.

Our K-6 kids learned about the Huichol Indians of Mexico and the Hindu holiday of Dussehra in early October, and then enjoyed intergenerational services for Unicef/United Nations Day and Halloween. Plans are under way for November and December classes along with intergen-erational services... including a pageant.

We'll show "Little Buddha" at the "Popcorn Faith with Principled Movies" night at church on the evening of October 7, from 5-8pm. Pizza provided, donations encouraged. Thank you for your support of the RE program.

Luvv,

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator



Support UUCEL on Cyber Monday!

Are you planning on doing some of your Christmas Shopping online? If so, you can help UUCEL while you shop, at no additional expense. In fact, you may actually save money! There are two main ways to help UUCEL while shopping online. The first is with Amazon.com. If you are planning to shop at Amazon.com, go to our website at <http://www.libertyuu.org/shop.html> and click on one of the links to Amazon. From there, you can shop around on Amazon's site all you want, and UUCEL will receive a percentage of your total purchase amount, with no additional charge to you. The second way to help is through Goodshop.com. Goodshop is a site with links to all sorts of online retailers, with coupons available for most of them. You go to <http://www.goodshop.com> and enter "Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty" as the agency you support. Once you've done that, go from Goodshop's page to any one of the retailers they link to, and, again, UUCEL will receive a percentage of your purchase total. Goodshop has links to many popular stores in a number of different categories. To name just a few, Amazon, Apple, Barnes and Noble, BestBuy, Ebay, iTunes, Kohl's, Lands End, Macy's, Sears, Staples, Target, Walgreens, and Walmart are all available. If you're making travel arrangements, it also has some of the popular travel sites like Expedia, Hotwire, Priceline, Travelocity, and Orbitz, as well as some of the airlines and rails. If all our members use these methods each time they shop online this year, we can really help out our church budget! Share this information with your friends or relatives who might be willing to help support our church while shopping, as well!

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Notes from the Board

I hope that all of you have had a chance to read Rev. Cindy's excellent article on "The Hunger Games" in the last issue of the "UU World". Congratulations to Rev. Cindy for being published—again!

There needs to be a change in an item that was previously in the Board Notes. Any changes to the interior and exterior of our buildings must FIRST be approved by the Board. This does not apply to any emergencies such as pump problems, furnace problems, etc.

Thanks to the George Haynes family we enjoyed a delicious venison dinner! It was more than just a dinner because there were four entrees to accompany the vegetables, salad, and dessert—meat loaf, meatballs, chili, and venison tips sautéed with mushrooms. The Haynes family very generously donated the free will offering to the Church.

The Caring Committee is sponsoring a Hoedown on **November 16** with a dinner and a square dance. The dinner will be in the Social Hall at 6 P.M., and the square dancing will be around 7 P.M. in the Schoolhouse. The caller and the dancers will first dance a set, and then there will be an opportunity for the rest of us to dance. So, dust off your dancing shoes or if you've never square danced before, now is your chance to learn. The caller and the dancers will be happy to help you. This is a moneymaker for our Church so a good will offering will be taken.

Check out the newly painted trim on the Schoolhouse. Thanks to Carole Hartsuff and Dorothy Kerr for taking care of this for us. Also, please notice the newly installed plaque near the stained glass window donated by the Smith family.

We are in the process of forming a Social Events committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact one of the Board members.

Check out the bookcase by the staircase in the Social Hall. There you will find used books, magazines, movie videos, DVDs, and CDs. These

Continued on next column...

items will sell for no more than \$3.00. Many items will be under the \$3.00 price. If you have any of the above items, feel free to donate them—again a church money maker.

If you have any concerns, ideas, or requests to do with any aspect of our church, please contact any Board member so that we may add to our agenda at our regularly scheduled Board meetings. We usually meet the first Wednesday of every month.

Jane

Submitted by: Jane Volk,
Board President



~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!

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Dinner & Harvest Hoe-Down !

The Caring Committee will be hosting a Lasagna dinner coming up on **Friday, November 16.** This free will offering fundraiser dinner will be in the social hall starting at 6:00 pm and followed by: a square dance fun lessons with a professional caller in the schoolhouse at 7:00 pm and then a square dance for all ages. Come and have fun, or watch others. Alyce Oosting has invited the square dance caller – come and have fun, families and friends are invited.

Questions contact Alyce Oosting.
Submitted By: Alyce Oosting



New Jim Crow Book Discussion

We'll be having a book discussion about "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander following the service on Sunday, **November 18** from 1:00-2:30. Pack a lunch and stay after social hour and join us for conversation about this important book. If there is enough interest, we'll schedule more of these discussions, as well, in 2013. Sign up in the social hall to let us know you're coming!

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 Supplements Page for 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.

Thurs., November 15

"Michigan's Indigent Defense System"

A panel and discussion about Michigan's broken system.

What's wrong, and how will we fix it?

Panelists:

Chad Schmucker,
Michigan State Court Administrator
Shelli Weisberg,
Legislative Director, ACLU-Michigan
Michael Baughman,
Local Defense Attorney
Robert Gaecke,
Local Defense Attorney

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

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

**Submit Meditations For a New
Anthology of Meditations**
for Congregational Leaders

Edited by Kay Montgomery

Skinner House Books, the imprint of the Unitarian Universalist Association, invites members of UU congregations to submit original poems, prayers, or short prose pieces for consideration for a collection of meditations for congregational leaders.

We imagine a collection that fosters the understanding of congregational leadership as an avenue for spiritual growth rather than an administrative chore. The ideal meditations would be both inspirational for and affirming of the work of all kinds of leaders-both professional and volunteer, lay and ordained. They would help support our leaders through a kind of "literary ministry," addressing issues common to many in leadership positions, and acknowledging some of the challenges as well. Over all, this collection will hold up the role of church leader as vital to healthy congregational life and honor those who serve in this capacity.

Pieces may be serious or funny, tender or frank. They should be suitable for both private reflection and public worship. Prose meditations should be between 200 and 650 words. Poems should be no longer than 54 lines.

In your cover letter, please identify your affiliation with Unitarian Universalism. If your work has been published, please give details.

Send your submission to:

Betsy Martin, Skinner House Books
Unitarian Universalist Association
25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108
or submit electronically to: bmartin@uua.org.

If you submit electronically, which is preferred, please include the meditations in a single, attached document.

Please send in your submission no later than **November 15, 2012**, and be sure to include contact information. If you send in your submission by email, please type "meditations for leaders" in the subject line. If your work is accepted, you will be notified after January 7, 2013. Please address any questions to Marshall Hawkins, Editor, Skinner House Books, at mhawkins@uua.org.

**- RE Supplies List -
needed for K-6 RE class**

Contact Sharon
if you can help with any of
the below items:

- (-) Glue sticks
- (-) 4 candles in holders
- (-) cardboard box (approx. 12 x 12 x 18") and additional cardboard pieces
- (-) 12 plastic champagne glasses
- (-) Red and yellow tissue paper - Orange and yellow felt
- (-) Silver, gold, and brown kraft wrapping paper
- (-) Scotch and masking tape
- (-) Construction paper, multiple colors
- (-) Popsicle sticks - 2 1/3 yds 42-45" wide brown cloth
- (-) 2 yards or more cotton rope
- (-) Brown crepe paper
- (-) Old ladders, broom sticks/wood, and/or chicken wire to make small enclosure
- (-) Kroger/Meijer/Polly's gift cards for refreshments and/or supplies



"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~~

Forever on Thanksgiving Day
 The heart will find the pathway home.
 ~Wilbur D. Nesbit

Thanksgiving is the holiday of peace, the celebration of work and the simple life... a true folk-festival that speaks the poetry of the turn of the seasons, the beauty of seedtime and harvest, the ripe product of the year - and the deep, deep connection of all these things with God.
 ~Ray Stannard Baker (David Grayson)

May your stuffing be tasty
 May your turkey plump,
 May your potatoes and gravy
 Have nary a lump.
 May your yams be delicious
 And your pies take the prize,
 And may your Thanksgiving dinner
 Stay off your thighs!
 ~Author Unknown

The funny thing about Thanksgiving, or any huge meal, is that you spend 12 hours shopping for it and then chopping and cooking and braising and blanching. Then it takes 20 minutes to eat it and everybody sort of sits around in a food coma, and then it takes four hours to clean it up. ~Ted Allen

- 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 DECEMBER ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: SUNDAY, NOV 18. ~~~~~ 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, Jane Volk, Elissa Alden, Jon Hart, Nena Obits, Caring Comm., 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

November

- 1 Thurs. Membership Committee 10:00 am
- 1 Thurs. AUJW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 1 Thurs. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 Pm
- 4 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 6 Tue. Election Day - Go Vote -
- 7 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm
- 7 Wed. Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 8 Thurs Personal Care Ministry ~ 4:30-7:00 pm @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson, Help Distribution
- 11 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leaders, Worship Comm. ~ 11:00 am
- 13 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 15 Thurs. JXN Community Forum **"Michigan's Indigent Defense System"**
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
- 18 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 18 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
- 18 Sunday "The New Jim Crow" Book Discussion ~ 1:00 pm-2:30 pm
- 18 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter Submissions Due
- 27 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 25 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader, Elissa Alden ~ 11:00 am
- 25 Sunday Decorations for the Holiday Season ~ After the Service
- 26 Mon. Support UUCEL on Cyber Monday! ~ See Page 2 for More Info

Upcoming Events

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Sevice ~ Monday

Sunday	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Betty G
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Steve B	Jackie J	Becky B	Joan B
Ushers	Gary T Steve B	Gary T OPEN	Gary T Grace M	Gary T OPEN
Social H. Host	Dee R Anita P	Nancy S Rob G	OPEN	OPEN
R.E. Pre.				
R.E. K-5	Kerry H Martha K	Michelle V Joyce K	Intergen.	Craft Day

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

Nov 4 - "The Election Sermon"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

The "Election Sermon" is a tradition in our denomination, although whether it's something preached pre- or post-election has varied. In the last days before the presidential election, Rev. Cindy will share her thoughts about what the issues of faith are in this election.

Nov 11 - "Veteran's Day"

- Lay Leaders: the Worship Committee

A service honoring our veterans, their contributions and our obligations.

Nov 18 - "A Look Around the Table"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Recently I heard about a book or program called something like "Everybody is welcome at the table, but do I have to sit by *him*?" We often struggle with just what it means to be inclusive and tolerant of different beliefs while at the same time maintaining personal or religious convictions. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, the welcome table, and begin the "Guest at Your Table" program, we'll talk about just what it means to create the "welcome table."

Nov 25 - "Spirituality in Aesthetics"

- Lay Leader: Elissa Alden

Elissa will tell about her personal reflection on how she has connected art and spirituality in her everyday life.

W h .

g o u y t e d . w w w .

t h r e t e s w e n g o u y t e d . w w w / : p t h

e d v e s n u e r

M, e x a r k e C

1322



