

Note from The Editor: Due to issues beyond our control we were not able to print off the November's newsletter or were we able to turn it in to a PDF for the on-line readers – there is an internal error in the Adobe Page Maker System that we use; So all of the submitting were copied over to the word page

All the information is included in this version – just not the same layout – so happy reading and hoping with in the month it is figured out.

If any of you are Adobe Page Maker savvy and have some idea how to remove the internal error we would like to talk to you

Thanks for your understanding  
From Kathy and Vicki Haynes  
Bellnote editors

# November 2013

# The Bellnote

## Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

2231 Jefferson Road  
Clarklake, MI 49234  
(517) 529-4221

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

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Grace Mulnix

### NOMINATING COMM

# Minister's Column

The Unitarian transcendentalist and abolitionist minister Theodore Parker once said, *"I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice."* His words were taken and adapted by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and many others since.

These are words that keep coming to me this week, as we marked yet another delay on the road to marriage equality in Michigan. It feels like we keep getting our hopes up in this state, only to encounter another road block. Yet I know that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice. This week we saw New Jersey become the fourteenth state to have marriage equality. The map of the Eastern United States is starting to look like two brackets with Michigan in the middle, along with a couple of other states, bracketed by Minnesota and Iowa on the West and all of New England, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware on the Eastern side. I know that before long this space in the middle we hold will bend toward justice. I have faith that I will see it, and the rest of the country as well, as the U.S. becomes a land with marriage equality.

This month we have a special guest program with the Know Us Project (see page 7). Wherever you are on the spectrum of support for marriage equality and adoption, and the other issues the LGBT community faces discrimination in, I hope you will join us for this informative and educational program. It's an opportunity for our community to refresh ourselves on some facts, and rededicate our-selves to being the welcoming community that we are.

At the recent anniversary celebration of the Civil Rights march on Washington, President Obama said, *"The arc of the moral universe may bend toward justice, but it doesn't bend on its own."* I think he had it exactly right, and Theodore Parker would agree. Join with me this month in bending the arc.

Namaste, **Cindy**

## Minister's Schedule

Rev. Cindy will be away a couple of times this month:

Nov. 11-14 – Rev. Cindy in Ohio for Ohio River Group (Ministers Study Group)

Nov. 15-17 – Rev. Cindy in Illinois for MidAmerica Region Board Meeting

# Religious Education Report

The K-8 kids and their teachers have been enjoying our Fall curriculum, "Love Connects Us". Stories in October included one about a teenager who started the organization Free the Children, working to end child slave labor, and about peace, featuring a story that told about the efforts for peace and civil disobedience featuring Henry David Thoreau, Mohandas Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr. On October 20 we had a fun lesson about religion and science, featuring Joseph Priestly, the scientist/Unitarian minister who discovered oxygen. He was persecuted for his beliefs in England, and emigrated to America for more freedom, founding the first American Unitarian church in Philadelphia. Even though our science experiments didn't go perfectly, they were fun! It was great having four kids visiting that day for the first time, on "Bring A Friend" Sunday.

A nice follow-up will be the 2-Sunday workshop for kids ages 7-11 to be offered in November, "Puberty, Healthy Relationships, and Self-Esteem." The orientation for parents to these

sessions will be November 3, from 12:30 - 3pm, with child care provided; then the kids' workshops will be November 10 & 17. Lunch is provided at each of these workshops. We are getting the word out for members and friends so let me know if you have a friend or family member who would be interested in the workshops for themselves and/or their child/children. I circulated a flyer on the workshops on October 20 and can also send it out to you or people you know by email and/or Facebook—just let me know the email or Facebook address.

Below is a list of items we could use for the Curriculum "Sing to the Power," which we'll be using with our K-8 class from January through May. Keep in mind you can order some of these wish list items from Amazon.com we'll have these items posted on our gift registry there soon), and if you enter the Amazon site through the link on our web page, [www.libertyuu.org](http://www.libertyuu.org), a percentage of your purchase is donated to the church. We can also use gift cards for Meijer, Joann Fabrics, and/or just "VISA gift cards" to buy needed supplies.

- Newsprint/flipchart
- Large scissors (adult sewing scissors)
- Large beads: earth-tone, blue, white, light blue, red, orange, and green colored
- Dot stickers
- Clean, dry terra cotta pots
- Stapler
- 11 x 17" graph paper

Thanks so much for your support, and teachers, thanks for volunteering - we couldn't do it without you!

yUUs, **Sharon** Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator

### **Planned Parenthood Classes**

Dates for the kids classes, total of 4 hours for the workshops are as follows:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Nov 3 - Parent Orientation- 12:30 -1:00 pm | Lunch; 1-3pm for the parent session. |
| Nov 10 - Session I- 12:30-1:00 pm          | Lunch; 1-3pm for content             |
| Nov 17 - Session II-12:30-1:00 pm          | Lunch; 1-3pm for content             |

## **Notes from the Piano Bench**

By now you've heard our new Community Choir, and I hope you enjoyed listening to us. It really is a lot of fun to sing together. It is even more fun when you come and join us! New choir members are welcome at all times, and if you attend practice the day we are going to perform, you are ready to sing for the congregation! Here are our practice times and dates for the next couple of months...

Nov. 3, 10:15 to 10:45

Nov. 17, 10:15 to 10:45 Performance day

Many thanks to Nena Obits for leading our choir at this time. She brings musical experience and fun to our practice! We look forward to singing with you and making new friends!

**Tom** Submitted by: Tom Pepper

# Notes from the Board

The board met on Wednesday, Oct 2. It was noted that the next three months will be incredibly busy, with various fun events; please mark your calendars for the Dinner and Hoe Down (Nov. 8), and the Jesus Seminar (Nov 8 and 9). The Venison Dinner (that was Oct. 18) raised over \$240.00. Also the Harvest Bazaar just took place last weekend Oct. 25 and 26 and we are hoping it was a great fundraiser as well. "Bring a Friend Sunday (that was on Oct 20) had a great turn out. We will be looking for someone new to chair the Attic Sale next year, as Kathy Haynes has asked to "retire" from that duty. I want to say thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who make all these activities possible. Please remember to bring in Jiffy Muffin Mixes for the Brooklyn Food Pantry as we are needing to collect 175 boxes for their Thanksgiving and Christmas family baskets. The board meets the first Wed of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Minutes are available in the social hall.

**Gratia**

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes Board President

## Meetings and Events U.U. Church of East Liberty

### Holiday Basket Silent Auction

We, Nena and Donna from the Board, are asking members to get creative for this fun fundraiser and design a "Gift Theme Basket, Gift Box or Gift Bag". The Gift items will be on display in the Social Hall from **November 17 through December 8**, and slips will be available for making bids. On the 8<sup>th</sup> the items will go to the highest bidder during the social hour. All items in the Gift Basket/Boxes/Bags must be non-perishable, due to the length of time they are available to be bid on. Some possible themes are: Indoor Family Activities, Movie Night w/ DVDs & Treats, Coffee and/or Tea, Chocolate Lovers, Spa Products or Holiday Decorations and many more ideas come to mind. Please contact Nena Obits or Donna Hinton if you have any questions and would like to put together a Gift (See Supplements Page for more information). Thank you!

Submitted by: Nena Obits

### Dinner and Square Dance

The Hoe Down Dinner and Square Dance will be on **Friday, November 8** from 6:00-8:00 pm. This fund raiser is being sponsored by the Caring Committee and the Board of Directors. Dinner will be served in the Social Hall at 6:00, followed by square dancing in the Schoolhouse at 7:00. Come and join in the fun! Our caller will be Marv Reuter, and experienced dancers will help us learn the steps. Donations will go towards church operations.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

### Deck the Halls on December 1

Hanging of the Greens will be a little different this year due to the lay of the calendar year. As you may remember we have done this on the Sunday after Thanksgiving during social hour, before the first Sunday of December. This year the calendar does not work that way with five Sundays in December, so the plan is as follows. The Christmas tree and other items will need to be brought up prior to **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** with the tree in its place, and the children will help decorate the tree as a part of the service with Rev. Cindy. Then after the service the other greens and decorations will be put into place by everyone that would like to help.

## 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](http://www.myjdl.com).

**Thursday, November 14 6:30 pm Adoption Equality in Michigan** JD Library, Carnegie Branch  
With the current court case in Michigan with a Hazel Park couple challenging same sex marriage and adoption laws, and a recent bill that has been put before the Michigan House that would allow adoption agencies to refuse to place a child with a family due to religious objections, the issue of same-sex couples adopting children has never been more timely in our state. Our November forum will focus on this issue pairing research with personal experience. Our panel will consist of Melissa Grey, from the Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy and a local parent, Tom McMillen-Oakley, author of the book *Jesus Has Two Daddies: Two Dads, One Family*.

**Note:** While forums are generally hosted on the third Thursdays, please notice that the November and December forums will be held on the 2nd Thursdays in 2013 due to scheduling conflicts. Mark your calendars!

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

## Jesus Seminar on the Road

The Jesus Seminar returns again to Jackson with our church as a co-sponsor on **November 8 and 9** at First Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson St., Jackson. This year's topic is "Reframing Christian Beginnings and Christian Scriptures" with Dennis Smith of Philips Theological Seminary and Hal Taussig of Union Theological Seminary. Early registration discounts are have passed the date was October 25. For all sessions, the rate is \$75 , or individually they are \$20 for Friday evening and \$30 each for Saturday morning and afternoon. For more information, see

<http://www.westarinstitute.org/events/reframing-christian-beginnings-and-christian-scriptures/>.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

## Beyond the Birds and Bees" Parent Orientation

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 12:30-3:00 pm

Puberty, Healthy Relationships, and Self- Esteem: A Sexuality and Reproductive Health Workshop For Ages 7-11 (Grades 2-6)

Two Parts: Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 12:30-3pm

Puberty can be an exciting and confusing time for children. Thanks to a partnership with Planned Parenthood, UUCEL will be providing a two-session reproductive health program for children ages 7-11 on **November 10th and 17th from 12:30-3pm**.

This activity-driven session will cover friendship, relationships, male and female anatomy, puberty and self-esteem to help prepare young people for the journey ahead of them. Parental permission required.

Parents, for more information on this program, please join us at the "Beyond the Birds and Bees" parent orientation/presentation on November 3. This session will review the sexual and reproductive health workshops that will be offered at UUCEL this Fall, and provide tips that will help parents engage children/youth in life-long conversations about sex and other difficult topics.

Call (517) 740-2629 for more information, to register your child and/or to RSVP for the Beyond the Birds and Bees parent program as well. Lunch and prizes to be provided!

**Jackson Chorale** and the Jackson Chorale Children's Choir present a performance on **Saturday Nov. 2, 2013** at 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, in downtown Jackson. They will perform Favorite Grand Choruses from Beethoven, Handel, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and others. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. UUCEL members Gretchen Marshall, Nancy James and Marge Duane sing in the Jackson Chorale.

## Needing 150 boxes of Jiffy Muffin Mixes

We are collecting Jiffy Muffin Mix for the Brooklyn Food Pantry for their family Holiday Baskets. So we have been asked by them to collect 75 boxes for the Thanksgiving Baskets to be at the box at church in the social hall and also in the foyer upstairs by **Sunday, November 3** and also their Christmas family Basket of another 75 boxes by **Sunday, December 1**. The mixes can be the corn muffin mix or any other kind. Thanks for your help with this project. The Brooklyn Food Pantry is an organization we have voted to support, thanks again.

## CROP Walk Update

The Brooklyn CROP walk on October 13 was a great success! I turned in \$235 and 4 canned goods. The preliminary totals raised by 111 walkers were \$9362 and 2358 canned goods donated. Springville United Methodist Church (Onsted) won the highest number of canned goods turned in again—they do most years—and Napoleon United Methodist had the highest number of walkers, 16, and raised the most funds of any church, \$2815. A good portion of the CROP walk proceeds benefits Brooklyn Food Pantry - I've hear this is their biggest single money-raiser.

## Interested in Joining?

We will be planning our next new member service in December. So if you're interested in joining, see Rev. Cindy or Kathy Haynes, Membership Committee Chair.

## Support Our Church While Shopping Online!

UUCEL has a new Amazon Store where every purchase benefits our church. This is an even easier way to shop on Amazon and support our church. Simply go to <http://astore.amazon.com/libertyuu-20> and search for items like you would on Amazon. All the same items are there at the same prices. When you go to check out, you'll be directed to Amazon's usual secure check-out area. If you bookmark this page in your browser, and use it every time you shop on Amazon, you'll be amazed at how much the church can earn! With only a few people participating, we've already been making enough per year to replace one small fundraiser. Share this link with your friends and family and ask them to participate, too!

## 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, NOVEMBER 17. ~~~~~ 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, Gratia Karmes, Tom Pepper, Nena Obits, Alyce Oosting, 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

# WHAT IS KUP?

## Mark your calendars now!

**DATE:** Sunday, November 24, 2013

**TIME:** 1— 4 p.m. (potluck Lunch for church members at 12:00)

**PLACE:** Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

The KNOW US PROJECT® (or KUP) is an educational program of the Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy ([www.mpipp.org](http://www.mpipp.org)).

This Training is designed for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, their friends and straight allies, and those who want to become active in this important social justice issue. Its Primary focus is to teach effective ways to discuss your personal stories of LGBT Stigma and discrimination with others or to express personal or moral values or your faith in order to help change public opinion - One conversation at a time.

These Conversations can empower you to change public policy by building support for equality at the grassroots level.

## WHY ARE THESE CONVERSATIONS IMPORTANT?

Consider these consequences of anti— LGBT prejudice on young people:

- Bullying Of LGBT Young people has consequences, including depression, anxiety and suicide.
- More than 60% Of LGBT Young people feel unsafe at school and nearly 20% have been assaulted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity/gender expression.
- Supportive families, school environments, and communities significantly lower risks for LGBT Young people.

Social Science research tells us that the more LGBT People talk about their experiences and beliefs, the more likely it is that changes in prejudices will occur.

Research also tells us that LGBT Allies are significant change agents as they discuss their personal reasons for supporting equality with others. This means that everyone is empowered to make a difference in the lives of people throughout our communities.

**For More information on KUP, Go to [www.knowusproject.org](http://www.knowusproject.org)**

# The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

## November

- 3 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 3 Sunday Parent Orin-tion - 12:30-1pm Lunch; 1-3pm for the parent session for Planned Parenthood  
 6 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 7:30 pm  
 7 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm  
 7 Thurs. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm  
 8 Fri. Friday Dinner and Hoe Down ~ Square Dancing Fundraiser ~ 6:00 pm  
 10 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 10 Sunday Session I- 12:30-1pm Lunch ~ 1-3pm for content ~ for Planned Parenthood Classes  
 11-14 Rev. Cindy in Ohio for Ohio River Group (Ministers Study Group)  
 12 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am  
 14 Thurs. JXN Community Forums **"Adoption Equality in Michigan"**  
           @ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm  
 15-17 Rev. Cindy in Illinois for MidAmerica Region Board Meeting  
 17 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Peg Beison ~11:00 am  
 17-Dec 8 Gift baskets on Display in the Social Hall for Bidding Silent Auction  
 17 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due  
 17 Sunday Session II-12:30-1pm Lunch ~ 1-3pm for content ~ for Planned Parenthood Classes  
 19 Thurs. Membership Committee ~ 10:00 am  
 19 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening  
 21 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ 4:30-6:30 pm @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson, To Help  
 23 Sat. Social Hall Rental ~ Nena Obits  
 24 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am  
 24 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service

## Upcoming Events

- Dec 1 Hanging of the Greens ~ During and After the Service  
 Dec 1-8 Gift baskets on Display in the Social Hall for Bidding Silent Auction  
 Dec 8 Bidding of the Silent Auction Baskets Ends

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery Helper	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
<b>Nov 3</b>	Alyce O	Sharon P	Joan B	Paul J	RE Comm.	Sharon P Jon H	Sharon P
<b>Nov 10</b>	Grace M	Sharon P	Becky B	Paul J	OPEN	Kerry H Rob G	Sharon P
<b>Nov 17</b>	Joan B	Sharon P	George H	Paul J	OPEN	Intergenerational	
<b>Nov 24</b>	Betty G	Sharon P	Kathy H	Paul J	Potluck Dinner	Sharon P ?	Steve B

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

### **Nov 3 - "Behind the Kitchen Door" – Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum**

This service will explore the political, moral, and ethical implications of "eating out." If you haven't read the UUA's Common Read book for this year, "Behind the Kitchen Door," pick up a copy and start reading!

### **Nov 10 - "Veteran's Day" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum**

Unitarian Universalists sometimes have conflicting opinions about military service, wanting to support our troops but generally tending towards pacifism. This service for Veteran's Day will explore how we hold these two opinions in creative tension, and how we can honor our veterans at the same time as we work for peace and justice.

### **Nov 17 - "Morality, A Gift from God?" – Lay Leader: Peg Beison**

This presentation will explore the origin of human morality and the implications of some primate behavior showing hints of empathy, sympathy and altruism. Has our evolutionary past influenced our morality? If chimpanzees can be good without religion, can we? Don't we need the moral authority of God to keep our competitive, violent tendencies in check?

### **Nov 24 - "Myths & Traditions of Thanksgiving"– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum with special guest David**

**Trusty** Thanksgiving is a holiday that is very important to family and faith for many people, yet much of what we celebrate is based on myth. This service will explore the history of Thanksgiving and how we can celebrate it at the same time as "living our religion." Join us after the service for a potluck and special presentation from the "Know Us Project." (See page 7 for details.)

**Where people care about each other and care about the world**

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

2231 Jefferson Road

Clarklake, MI 49234

**Return Service Requested**