

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

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Minister's Column

This month, past, present and future are coming together in so many ways for me. The Rev. Larry Hoxey of First Congregational Church and I will be having a pulpit exchange where we talk about our shared religious heritage and our shared future. Do you know one of the early issues that led to the Unitarians splitting off from the Congregationalists was pulpit exchanges? How amazing and wonderful, then, to be doing this pulpit exchange now!

In our East Liberty church, many of our current controversies started fifty years ago with the merger of the Unitarians and the Universalists. This was a Universalist church prior to the merger, and the merger wasn't an easy thing here. Other Universalist churches in the area in Horton and Concord decided not to join the new Unitarian Universalist Association, but our church did. Neither the Concord church nor the Horton church is an existing Universalist congregation today. It's thanks to the leadership of the Rev. Ruth Smith, our minister from 1961-1981 that our church adapted to the merger and survived. Making that decision, however, wasn't an easy decision, and it wasn't without consequences. The Rev. Ruth Smith did some very controversial things in ushering this church into the half century of Unitarian Universalism that has followed – she removed the flag, the picture of Jesus, and the cross from our sanctuary. Some of those actions have left sore spots for many decades. In the last few years the Worship Committee, Board, and I have been working to find ways to bring our past into our future, while at the same time recognizing that we are not the Universalist Church we were fifty years ago. We're a thriving Unitarian Universalist congregation—our homecoming service showed just how many of our members have been here 20, 15, 10 and five years. A congregation needs to honor its history and heritage, but it also needs to respect its current membership and plan for the future at the same time. Our hymnals are titled "Singing the Living Tradition," and this somewhat sums things up – we are a "living tradition" – we stand in a tradition, but we are living and changing, not frozen in time.

One of the ways the Worship Committee, Board, and I have worked on honoring our heritage is by creating a flag policy which moves us from being the church without a flag that the Rev. Ruth Smith created and led, to a church which brings in a flag on particular patriotic holidays and for specific other occasions. It's a way of honoring how important this symbol was and is, particularly to the World War II generation, and how that heritage from before 1961

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is still an important part of our church. To bring it back on all Sundays would be to not recognize, however, that our church has continued to exist, grow, and change, in the years of Rev. Smith and the years that followed, and that all our members don't feel the same way about patriotic symbols in a place of worship. What we reached was a compromise decision that was made out of love and respect for those members who had felt acutely the loss so many years ago when the flag was removed.

Similar, but not the same, is the issue picture of Jesus. The Worship Committee has discussed the picture a lot over the last two years, and has heard opinions of many people. We believe in creating our sanctuary with open space for each individual to project their religious images up in their minds, and we've been, over the last few years, having fewer symbolic pictures in our sanctuary. It was a mixed message to say we couldn't have Jesus there, but could have Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. We've cleared that up by removing the other pictures, as well. It may not be the solution everyone wants, but at the same time, we're working to respect the religious diversity of our congregation. Sometimes a compromise decision makes neither party happy, but sometimes it's the right decision anyway. However, with that said, our Worship Committee and I both believe that there is a home for Jesus in our church. It may not be on the sanctuary walls, because that would, in essence, say that we all share a religious belief about what that picture means. But the picture is part of our history and heritage, and hanging it back up again in that kind of context, where we are clear that we're recognizing it as a historical part of our church, makes sense for who we are now. Again, the movement is from a church where this wasn't up at all, to one that brings a symbol that's been gone for many years back in a context that recognizes that when we became a UU church in 1961 that we didn't lose our Universalist heritage and divorce ourselves from it.

Another issue that has a lot to do with our past and our future is our piano. Our current piano was given to us at the passing of our former pianist, Ron Reese. Ron served this congregation for over thirty years, and it's important that we honor that past and his legacy in

however we move forward with the piano decision. Last month, the Worship Committee had a proposal to the board, which the board tabled until the full board could be present. As I write this, the Worship Committee is taking a second look at their proposal and may adapt it and put something different before the board in October. Whatever happens, though, we plan to move at a pace that will give the congregation ample time for full knowledge of the plan we propose, the decision process, and the pros and cons of all plans. And the congregation will ultimately have the final say.

A fourth way of honoring both our heritage and our present and our future that is in the works is plans for a stained glass window above our front doors, being planned as a gift in memory of Clarissa Smith. The board has approved the concept, with the concept being a window that would include both the symbol of Unitarian Universalism – a flaming chalice – and the symbol for Universalism – a circle with a smaller off center cross in it. An artist is working on incorporating these and other symbols from our sanctuary, such as the tree of life above our altar, and the board will approve the final design. I'm sure that what will emerge will be a lovely testament to our past and our future. Many churches use their stained glass windows as the symbol or logo for their church. Our church has long lacked a logo to identify it by, and this may be the beginnings of such a symbol.

Lastly, the week after our pulpit exchange with First Congregational, we'll be having a special celebration service, where we dedicate our new historical sign and celebrate 50 years as a Unitarian Universalist Association. We'll be joined by the Rev. Richard Venus, a former minister of this church, the Rev. Lisa Presley, our Heartland District executive, and someone from the State Historical Commission. It'll be a fabulous time to celebrate our heritage and our future, as well – and that future includes a beautiful new sign that will be installed in the next couple of weeks in preparation for the ceremony.

Please join me this month in celebrating our heritage, in rejoicing in our diverse present, and envisioning a future full of growth and possibility.

With Faith for the Future and Love for the Past,

Cindy



Religious Education Report

The death of a friend of mine and a visit from one who has lived through several serious medical issues reminds me of how fragile life can be, and how we need to express our love and appreciation for each other while we have a chance. I just saw a good movie about this that children of the 60s would appreciate: "Reign Over Me," starring Adam Sandler in a rather serious role, believe it or not. So I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of me and the RE program. I especially want to thank teachers who got their paperwork in and attended a teacher training. Thank you to Rob Gaecke for agreeing to do a little maintenance project for the church.

Along with offering K-12 religious education classes on the UU Principles, evolution and peace in August, we kicked off the new RE year with classes starting September 11, and had the RE Breakfast on Sept. 18. Youth are getting ready to visit Ann Arbor's Zen Buddhist Temple on October 2, while the K-6 class is studying old and new testament bible stories, starting with, what else, Adam and Eve. The first preschool class was on "it's ok to get angry," and in October they'll have a Halloween-themed class.

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I'm excited to report that I got a new full-time job, managing a senior independent living community affiliated with Chelsea Retirement Community. So between UUCEL and my new position, I'll be working with people at both ends of life's spectrum! I'm also glad to say that I'll have a few days off at the beginning of October to attend a workshop on multi-generational worship with Rev. Cindy at one of my favorite Fall locations, Pokagon State Park. I'm sure we'll put what we learn to use right away, and you'll probably hear about it in my column next month.

A few new features in the RE program this year:

- We are inviting First Congregational Church and perhaps others to participate with our youth and intergenerational/family activities. (Come to think of it, I think it would be good to invite them to participate in social action activities as well.)
- We revised our driving/field trip policy to require two adults per vehicle, caravanning, or parent transport.

The tentative date for our first family/intergenerational activity is **Sunday, October 23**. We'll be visiting Flavor Fruit Farms, on South Jackson near US-12. Activities available there include horse-drawn wagon rides, cider press demonstrations, hotdogs and refreshments available for purchase, petting zoo, etc. There may even be an elephant there! Contact me for time and further information: 740-2629.

At the end of October we'll have a fun intergenerational Halloween service. Children "of any age" (that means adults, too!) are encouraged to wear costumes to the service, October 30.

Happy Fall!

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Golf Scramble



It's that time of year again; please join us on **Sunday, October 2** at 2:00 pm for our annual golf outing. We will be meeting at the Clark Lake Golf Course for a fun scramble of golf. Everyone is welcome. We will have dinner in the clubhouse afterwards (each paying their own way). If you are not a golfer and would like to join us for dinner we should be ready to eat around 4:30.-- The golfing fees are; to walk \$8.00, or \$15.00 to rent 1/2 a cart - that is a per person price; contact Betty Gulliver if you would like to attend or have more questions. (See Supplement Page for more contact information).

Submitted by: Betty Gulliver

Needed: Items for Baked Good Sale

On **Saturday, October 15th** Kathy and Donna Haynes have volunteered to sell baked goods at an outside venue from the church with all sales going to our church. This will be at their Outdoor Club's 'Gun & Trade Show' 3550 Hart Road from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you would be willing to help bake, we will set up a 'Baked Goods Sale' table. Please contact Kathy or Donna if you can supply food items like cookies, brownies, cupcakes, mini breads, and or candies. Items can be dropped off at my home in Jackson or we can pick them up at the church (See Supplement Page for more contact information). Thanks in advance!

Submitted by: Kathy & Donna Haynes



Visitor Q & A Orientation

On **Sunday, October 16** will be our next Visitor Q & A Orientation. Please join us for this informal Question and Answer to meet each other and learn about Uuism. This orientation is intended for anyone, new/comers and or the curious. The session will begin after the church service at about 12:45 pm. Contact Rev. Cindy Landrum for more information.

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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. Forum's 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 & the Jackson District Library (JDL).

Thursday, October 20

-Climate Change: The Evidence is the topic of the next JXN Community Forum. How much scientific evidence is there for global changes in climate in the last century? Are we being alarmist, or is the evidence overwhelming? Is the reaction of the United States similar to reaction and actions taken around the world? Laura Thurlow, Assistant Professor of Biology at Jackson Community College, will present a primer on climate change, often referred to as global warming. Topics will include the causes and evidence for climate change.

Refreshments will be provided. Childcare may be available for a modest fee. Contact Nancy Smith (See Supplement Page for more contact information) if you need childcare. The forums are co-sponsored by the UUCEL and the JDL: this month Jackson Sierra Club is an additional co-sponsor.

For more information, call Debby Sears at the library, 788-4087 ext. 234

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Note of Thanks

Thank You Very Much! The Nursery kids want to thank Fred and Debbie Marshall for the very kind donation of toys, games and books. The children will enjoy playing, learning, and growing with them. It is appreciated very much. Thanks again.

Submitted by: Vicki Haynes Childcare Provider

RE Family-Friendly Events

The RE Program will endeavor to offer at least one family-friendly event per quarter. These events will be for the whole congregation to participate in. The 1st one will be a field trip/ tour of Flavor Fruit Farms on South Jackson Road, in **October**. A tentative date is Sunday the 23rd. Their second quarter event will be hosting a 1st Friday Dinner in 2012: stay tuned to the month they choose.

Submitted by Sharon Pedersen

Harvest Bazaar/Craft Show

Mark your calendar for

Friday, October 28 and

Saturday, October 29

For the annual Harvest Bazaar/Craft Show, which will be held in our schoolhouse from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. We are fortunate to have the talented crafter Ruth Davis (sister of Dorothy, Margaret and Carole) along with a few others to sell their beautiful wreaths and other craft items all decked out for the Halloween, Fall, Christmas/Holiday season. We are also looking for other craft items from any of you to donate to the sale along with home-grow canned goods. This sale is open to the public so invite your friends and family and it's a great way to start your holiday shopping and support the church. Also on hand will be a noon luncheon of soups and desserts in the social hall both days, and a baked goods sale. - Calling all Bakers - please consider helping by baking, shopping, donating items or your gift of time to help selling the items. If you have any questions give Ruth a call. (See Supplement Page for more contact information).

Submitted by Ruth Davis

~ The Brooklyn Food Pantry is an organization that we voted to support under our Social Mission policy~

Brooklyn Food Pantry

It is our church's turn to have one or two volunteers to work at the C.C.I.S. Brooklyn Food Pantry; 171 Wamplers Lake Road, Brooklyn. The days the pantry is open are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There are local churches that take turns to help fill the orders of those in need of food and restock shelves. Our next dates are **November 1 and 3** if you are available to help in this rewarding work please contact Paul Jenkins at church or give him a call. Don't forget to bring canned food or any non-perishable items for donation to the pantry. There is a basket in the foyer under the desk and a box under the table by the nursery door for your contributions. Canned fruit is especially appreciated. Thank you!

Submitted by: Paul Jenkins

First Friday Dinners

Board members are looking for committees, groups and/or individuals who would like to host the first 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 communicated by making an announcement on Sunday morning.

We had an offer from Lauralynn Browning to help set up a musical kind of entertainment with karaoke that was held on September 9th. Lauralynn is thinking about the following ideas to have with a fundraising dinner -- Musician/talent night --- Costume contest --- Open mic (poems-stories-jokes etc.) -- and maybe on Dec. 2 to have Caroling & Cookie exchange after potluck dinner. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP HOST A DINNER PLEASE CONTACT LAURALYNN BROWNING OR KATHY HAYNES. (See Supplement Page for more contact information).

Submitted by: Membership 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 ~ ~

Sermon Discussion Groups:

This month "The Future of Liberalism" will be our sermon for sermon discussion groups. The pre-sermon group will meet on **Tuesday, October 18th** at 10:30 am at "Cuppa," the coffee shop at 634 Mechanic St. The post-sermon discussion group will meet on **Sunday, October 23rd** following the service. And there will be a discussion group posted on the UUCEL Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu>). All groups are open to all who are interested — please join us!

Rev. Cindy's book,
An Extremist for Love & Justice is now available! She'll be bringing copies to purchase, but it is also available online at <https://www.createpace.com/3593257>. Use the coupon code 88R6LTTM for \$3.00 off at CreateSpace. It is also available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



Offertory Policy

The 1st of July, we started a new offertory policy for Sunday services. This was a vote decided at our annual meeting for a one-year trial basis, to be reviewed next spring. All cash received in our offertory is split between the church and social justice agencies that we have voted to support: Planned Parenthood, the Aware Shelter, the Jackson Interfaith Shelter, and the Brooklyn Food Pantry. Checks may also be made directly to these agencies. Checks to the church will be put in the operating budget, unless otherwise designated in the memo line.

- 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>
- JXN's 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 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 NOVEMBER ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
 UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

We want to thank; Ruth Davis, Betty Gulliver, Kathy, Donna & Vicki Haynes, Paul Jenkins, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Sharon Pedersen, 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

October

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

- 2 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Larry Hoxey ~ 11:00 am
- 2 Sunday Golf Scramble ~2:00 pm @ Clark Lake Golf Course
- 5 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 6 Thurs. AUJW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 6 Thurs. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 Pm
- 9 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 11 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 12 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting. ~ Downtown Library ~ 5:30 pm
- 13 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 10:00 pm
- 15 Sat. Baked Good Sale ~ at Outdoor Club, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, get your items to Kathy Haynes
- 16 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 16 Sunday Question and Answer Orientation ~ from/for any visitors ~ 12:45 pm
- 16 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
- 18 Tue. Sermon Discussion Groups ~ @ "Cuppa" the coffee shop at 634 Mechanic St ~ 10:30 am
- 18 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ 2:30 pm at the Jackson Coffee Company
- 20 Thurs. JXN Forums "**Climate Change: The Evidence**"
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
- 23 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 23 Sunday Sermon Discussion Groups ~ Following the Service
- 23 Sunday Tentative date for the family/intergenerational to visiting Flavor Fruit Farms
- 23 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter Submissions Due
- 28 Fri. Harvest Bazaar/Craft Show in schoolhouse ~ 9:00 am to around 4:00 pm
- 29 Sat. Harvest Bazaar/Craft Show in schoolhouse ~ 9:00 am to around 4:00 pm
- 30 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Lay Leader Sharon Pedersen & the R.E. Program ~ 11:00 am
- 31 Monday Happy Halloween

Upcoming Events

- Nov.1 Our work days at the Brooklyn Food Pantry ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Nov.3 Our work days at the Brooklyn Food Pantry ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Nov. 6 Daylight Saving Time Ends

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30
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	-	-	Kathy H	-	-
Ushers	Gary T -	Gary T -	Gary T -	Gary T -	Gary T -
Social H. Host	Lori B	Margaret J	Dee R Harry R	-	-
R.E. Pre.		Sharon P Jane H			
R.E. K-5	Sharon P Martha K	Peter M Rob G	Kerry H Michael V	Peter M Rob G	Intergenerational
R.E. Youth	Lynn H Cecily S	Lori B Steve N	Stay/Service	Alyce O Gretchen M	Stay/Service

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

Oct. 2 - "Our Shared Heritage and Shared Future"

- Rev. Larry Hoxey

Join us for a special Sunday as our minister switches pulpits with the Rev. Larry Hoxey of First Congregational Church, UCC in Jackson. They will be sharing a common theme for the Sunday, talking about our shared liberal religious heritage and a vision for the future.

Oct. 9 - "Association Sunday and Historical Sign Dedication"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Our church has been designated an official state historical site—and just in time for the 50th anniversary of the merger between the Unitarians and Universalists! Join us as we dedicate our new sign and celebrate our Universalist history and Unitarian Universalist history with special guests from the State of Michigan, Heartland District, and our church's history.

Oct. 16 - "Did Jesus Really Die for Our Sins?"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Our minister will report back from what she learned at the Jesus Seminar in September!

Oct. 23 - "The Future of Liberalism"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This is the topic of Rev. Cindy's study group in November, and while she hasn't been preparing a paper this year, she has been thinking about the topic, and will share her thoughts.

Oct. 30 - "Halloween"

- Lay Leader: Sharon Pedersen & Religious Education Program

This intergenerational service celebrates Halloween, one of our "funnest" holidays! Children and adults alike are invited to wear costumes.

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

Return Service Requested

Clarklake, MI 49234
2231 Jefferson Road

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty



