

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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Grace Mulnix



Minister's Column

Our annual meeting is this month, and this is my tenth annual meeting with you. As I write my annual report and reflect on this journey we've had together and on this past year, I'm struck by what occurs over a decade in the life of a congregation. There have been many changes. Our building has received a new ramp, bathroom, kitchen, lift, and stained glass window. Our forum has been going for nine years now. Over the years we've lost several beloved church members, from the most recent church member, Harry Reed, (and Chris Keith and Isaac Miller who weren't current members) to the first church member we lost after my arrival, our minister emerita Ruth Smith, who passed away near the end of my maternity leave in the fall after I arrived. We've had children born in our community, too, from my daughter just after I arrived to Donna and Jason's son who is in his first year still.

While changes have occurred, some things have stayed the same. We continue to hover in the same range of number of members. We continue to have our historic building. We continue to have the same disagreements, too, whether it is about theology or the flag. These are all things that have been going on much longer than 10 years, of course. Our size was always small enough that we would fit in our sanctuary, which has a comfortable capacity of about 68 people ("comfortable capacity" means 30 inches of space per person). Our theology and flag have been a source of disagreement since Ruth Smith brought in Humanism and atheism and took out the flag during her tenure from 1961-1981.

There are so many ways that this job of doing ministry together has changed – social media and web presence is a major example. But there are things that have stayed the same – such as church being about people's need to find connection and community and explore spirituality.

What I hope most of all is that in the past ten years we've all grown in some way. Ideally we would grow in understanding, in openness, in connection, in empathy. I hope we have a greater understanding of the strength of our diversity and a greater sense of mission in our community.

Peace,

Cindy

Please mark your calendar for **May 18** to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation after the church service. Thank You, from the Board.

Religious Education Report

Wow, only six lessons left for this school year. The Easter Egg Hunt was held April 20. The following Sunday we had a nice lesson with the theme of “the power of reaching out.” May’s lessons are on the powers of water, persistence, and the power to make change. The RE Committee is working on selecting next year’s curriculum, recruiting volunteers for next school year, and brainstorming means of recruiting more families with children to attend UUCEL. Please let me know if you have any suggestions.

The “Mini-covenant Group” will meet for food and fellowship on one more Tuesday night, **May 13** from 6:30-8:30 pm.. Then we’ll decide if and how we want to continue this adventure at getting to know each other more this coming Fall. Adults, hope you can join us!

I am still looking for people who would like to give one to two hours sharing their time and talents with kids at “Peace Camp,” **July 7 - August 1**, *especially during that last week*. The camp will run Monday through Friday, 9am - 2pm and we are looking for guests to provide entertainment, lessons, etc. for an hour, usually in the afternoons, such as:

- yoga, dance, martial arts, etc.
- music
- providing craft supplies
- science
- nature walks
- crafts, jewelry-making,
- hand-sewing/knitting
- crocheting instruction, etc.

Also, Friday is “fun outing day” so if you’d like to share a swimming spot, boat rides, weenie roast, etc. that would be great as well. St. John’s has transportation for kids from the city who want to attend the camp—parental permission slip required.

Time and Talent for Peace Camp Reply Form

Name _____

Email _____

Phone #: _____

I would like to share my talent of _____

with children at Peace Camp this Summer.

___ I need these materials provided:

___ I can provide these materials:

I am available these week dates between
July 7-Aug 1:

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator

Minister on Vacation

Rev. Cindy will be on a two-day vacation trip on **May 5-6** as she accompanies a group of grade-schoolers to Mackinac Island. Wish her a peaceful trip.

Notes from the Board

The Board met on Tuesday, April 15th. Everyone was present. We discussed our expenses and the upcoming budget preparation. The good news is pledges are coming in more or less as expected. The bad news is we will be in the "red" about \$1400 at the end of this fiscal year. A subcommittee is meeting soon to go over further budget planning before our next Board meeting, which is set for the first Wednesday in May. The Board welcomes your input, especially regarding fundraising ideas.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

Annual Reports

Dee Reed, the Church Board's Secretary is collecting the reports from all the different committees. So this is a plea to committee chairs, to do so ASAP if you have not already done so. Please see the Supplement Page for my Contact information. **Submitted by: Dee Reed**

Support Our Church While Shopping Online!

UUCEL has multiple ways you can support our church while shopping online. Try one of these easy methods!

1. We have a new Amazon Store where every purchase benefits 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.
2. Another way to shop at Amazon is to go to our shopping page at <http://www.libertyuu.org/shop.html>. If you click on a link there, anything you buy at Amazon will earn us a percentage.
3. When you go to <http://www.goodshop.com>, you can enter our church as your chosen agency. From Goodshop there are links to dozens of online stores. When you go from Goodshop to those stores, you earn a percentage. Goodshop also often has coupons that can save you money.

These links have the potential to earn the church a significant amount of money. 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!*



Our Closing Song

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.

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Personal Care Ministry

The Jackson Personal Care Ministry provides personal and household products to those in need in Jackson County. An average of 150 guests are served weekly. Our team works at the distribution on the third Thursday of each month, **(May 15)** 4:30- 6:30 pm. Financial support and donations of new and gently used products are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Nena Obits. See Supplements Page for more information. **Submitted by: Nena Obits**

Caring Committee

Caring Committee monthly meeting now will be held on the 2nd Sunday after church. The next meeting will be **May 11** at 12:30 in the Nursery. If you are aware of any issues or concerns involving any of our church family for which the Caring Committee can lend a helping hand, please contact any member of the Committee. Those serving on the Caring Committee are: Debbie Hartsuff, Debbie and Fred Marshall, Gretchen Marshall, Alyce Oosting, and Jane Volk.

**Submitted by: Jane Volk
Chair**

JXN Community Forums

...are free and open programs to encourage dialogue about the challenging issues of our day. The series is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty and the Jackson District Library. All forums are held at the JDL, 244 West Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI and they are usually on the third Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 pm. Childcare may be available for a modest donation: (See Supplement Page for more contact information to RSVP for childcare). Call Debby Sears at the library at 517-788-4087 ext. 234 for more information or see the JDL website at www.myjdl.com.

Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 pm

Chicks in the City: Urban Agriculture

There are people who prefer a more pure food source and, to the extent they are able, want to provide that to themselves and their families. To that end some people want to raise their own animals even though they may live in a residential area. Are they protected under the "Right to Farm" law? Some municipalities have said "No". Are they right to do that?

Panelists include: Dan Gough, Building Official, Zoning Administrator, and Ordinance Officer for Blackman Township; Robert Smith, Ordinance Enforcement Officer for Summit Township; and Wendy Lockwood Banka, PhD, President of the Michigan Small Farms Council.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

General Assembly

Registration for the UUA's General Assembly opened on March 3 and is available online at uua.org/ga. Early bird registration goes through April 30, and is \$335 for a full-time adult registration and \$195 for youth (grades 9-12). Discounts are available for congregation presidents. The General Assembly this year is **June 25-29** in Providence, RI.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

SNOW-MORE ?

THE Cold Air and Ice Will Be Replaced by

Food, Fun and our

Annual Auction On Friday, May 2

We will have a Silent Auction in the Schoolhouse
and a

Live Auction in the Sanctuary.

Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm in the social hall followed by the
Live Auction at 6:00 pm

The Silent Auction will end at 6:00 pm

Invite your friends and relatives to join us in the fun.

Child care and a Child Auction will take place in the Nursery.

The two auctions are one of our largest church fundraisers.

**The items listed below are a sample of those offered
for bid during the past few years.**

100 items or more are often available for the auction.

Maple Syrup, Flowers and Potted Plants, Cakes and Pies, Dishes, Lamps, Vases, Candles, Bath products, Home-Grown Canned Vegetables, Lawn Ornaments, Cosmetics, Pizza Party, Framed Pictures and Paintings, Gift Cards, Comic Book Packs, Piano or Guitar Lessons, Minister's Fun Basket and Spiritual Basket, Biscotti and Coffee, Large bags of Cookies, Poems, Golf Clubs, Bicycles, Bench, Live Music for an Event of your Choice; Party, Picnic, Dinner, Etc., Mother's Day Silk Flower Arrangement, Office Chair, Puzzles, DVD Movies, Local Fishing Trips, Hand-made Pillows, Hand-Made Jewelry, Silver Platter, Sewing Alterations, Raft Rides with Dinner, Weeks or Weekends at Vacation Homes, Bird Houses and Feeders, Children's Toys, Rocking Chair, Serving Bowl, Cameras, Clocks, Sermon of your Choice, Home-Made Bread, Blankets, Lawn Mower, Garden Wagon, Dolls, Rugs, Hand-Made Quilts, Michigan State Football and Basketball Tickets, Home-Made Dinners for 6 or 8.

That's Not All Folks!

**If you would like to help prepare for the Auctions, Please see the
Supplement Page for my Contact information:**

**Thank You,
Submitted by: Steve Beison**

Second Saturday Supper Surprise

Instead of a First Friday Dinner this month, we're having a Second Saturday Supper – but it's actually a Second Saturday Surprise Party! Peter Morrison, Rev. Cindy's husband, is turning 50 this May, and Rev. Cindy would like to invite you all to a surprise party at the church on **Saturday, May 10** at 6:00 pm for a pizza party. From the pulpit you'll hear that this is a fundraising pizza dinner, hosted by Jon Hart and Rob Gaecke. We'd still be happy to have a few donations for the church, but the pizza and cake will be furnished by Cindy. Please no gifts, but we encourage silly cards — Peter is known for having a bit of a dark sense of humor, so he'll take those 50th cards with good spirit. Please join us and help surprise Peter!

Editors Note: We were told that Peter never reads "The Bellnote" newsletter, so if that's true, lets all help make this a true Surprise, so mums is the word.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Website • The Bellnote Newsletter • Church's facebook page • Forum facebook page 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.libertyuu.org http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum
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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.

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 MAY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, APRIL 20. ~~~~~ 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, Nena Obits, Jane Volk, Steve Beison, Outreach Comm. and Membership Comm. **for their news items this month.**



OUR 7 PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

WE, THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, COVENANT TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE:

- ∞ The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- ∞ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- ∞ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- ∞ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- ∞ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- ∞ The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- ∞ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted



May

- 1 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 2 Fri. Annual Auction ~ Dinner served at 5:00 pm followed by the Auction at 6:00 pm
- 4 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Deane Oliva ~ 11:00 am
- 7 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 8 Thurs. Membership Committee ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Thurs. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm
- 10 Sat. Fundraising Pizza Dinner ~ Hosted by Jon Hart & Rob Gaecke ~ 6:00 pm
- 11 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 11 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 13 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 13 Tue. Mini-Covenant Group ~ 6:30-8:30 pm
- 15 Thurs. JXN Community Forums **“Chicks in the City: Urban Agriculture”**
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
- 15 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 18 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 18 Sunday Annual Meeting of the Congregation after the Church Service
- 18 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 20 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 25 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader, TBA ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

- Jun. 25-29 General Assembly ~ Providence, RI
- Jul. 7 - Aug. 1 “Peace Camp” Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at St. John Church

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
May 4	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Donna H	Gary T	RE Comm	Janette M Sharon P	Sharon P
May 11	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Becky B	Gary T	Open	Kerry H Kelley E	Sharon P
May 18	Joan B	Sharon P	Vicki H Joyce W	Gary T	Open	Gretchen M Alyce O	Steve B
May 25	Betty G	Sharon P	Vicki H Kathy H	Gary T	Open	Nancy S Kerry H IG Craft Holiday	Sharon P

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

May 4 - “I am Patti Lynn, a Transgender Person’s Story, OR Which Bathroom Should I Use?”

– Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Deane Oliva

This service tracks the first person account of a transgender individual’s struggle from childhood confusion to acceptance and affirmation. Rev. Dr. Deane Oliva, Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, is exchanging pulpits this day with our minister and will be our guest speaker.

May 18 - “The Great Society: Then and Now”

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Fifty years ago this May, President Johnson delivered his “Great Society” speech at the University of Michigan. How has the vision been fulfilled, or has it? How has our vision changed?

May 25 - “TBA”

– Lay Leader: TBA

May 11 - “Ten Things for Mother’s Day”

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

For her tenth Mother’s Day, Rev. Cindy will explore ten things individuals and society can do to thank our mothers.

M U C

