

May 2014

The Bellnote News-in-Brief

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

2231 Jefferson Road, Clarklake, MI 49234

(517) 529-4221 Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

Minister's Column in Brief

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.

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Calendar - 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**"@ JDL, Carnegie ~ 6:30 pm
- 15 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ 4:30-6:30 pm @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~
- 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

Sunday Services at 11:00 am

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 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.

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**

Minister - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum revCyn@ugaalum.uga.edu
R.E. Coordinator - Sharon Pedersen sspedersen@sbcglobal.net
Board President - Gratia Karmes glk222@tds.net

Meetings and Events: at or affiliated with U.U. Church of East Liberty

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

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.

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