

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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Every June we celebrate the Flower Communion. Flower Communion is celebrated by most Unitarian Universalist churches, although they may celebrate on different days – many churches choose Memorial Day weekend or Mother's Day, for example. I tend to hold it on the first Sunday in June, because that's close to the June 4 date of the first flower communion, held by Norbert Ěapek in 1923. This year will be the 91st year of the flower communion. Some object to the term "communion" for the ceremony, since Ěapek didn't use it, and "communion" holds a very specific meaning for some people. I like using the term "communion" because it gets me thinking about just what "communion" means. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary gives the first definition of "communion" as "an act or instance of sharing." Another definition is "intimate fellowship or rapport." Obviously the first definition of an act of sharing is what we mean, but I like to think it also carries a sacredness and an intimate fellowship.

For those new to our community, I'll share a little of the history of Flower Communion. Sometimes I share this on the day of our ceremony, but this year the service looks pretty full, since we'll also be celebrating graduations that day. So here's a brief version.

Norbert Ěapek was a Czech Unitarian minister. He was born in 1870, and was raised Catholic and then became a Baptist missionary when he became 18. He was arrested in 1889 for heresy, but was freed when nobody brought evidence against him. Over time he became more radical and also came to America. When he was here, he and his wife, Maya, discovered Unitarianism and joined in 1921. He then proposed to the American Unitarian Association that they help fund him in bringing Unitarianism back to Czechoslovakia, which they did. Shortly upon his return to Czechoslovakia he created the flower communion. His wife Maya then brought it back to the United States, where it became very popular. Maya was also an ordained minister. Maya came back to the US in 1938, and was unable to return to Czechoslovakia due to World War II, and she and Norbert were separated from that time on.

Norbert Ěapek remained in ministry in Czechoslovakia, and came under suspicion by the Nazis for his radicalism. For his 70th birthday his congregation bought him a short-wave radio. When the Gestapo finally arrested Norbert Ěapek, he was accused of two things: inciting people to treason, and listening to foreign broadcasts. They found him innocent of the first, but guilty of the second. He was jailed, and eventually sent to Dachau, where he died.

If you're interested in learning more about Norbert Ěapek, there's a lot available on the web, and there's a biography of him available through the

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Religious Education Report

One of the highlights of May was the kid's fun auction event. The kids that came to the auction got to "bid" on fun prizes in the nursery, and everyone took a few things home. Then we watched the movie "Frozen," which a few of us had not seen yet. The RE lessons in May were fun too, with creations like a temporary lake/water channel outside, soap carving, and decorated water bottles to highlight water conservation techniques. All of these activities focused the powers of water, like the persistence that created the Grand Canyon. The children created a petition for playground equipment and found their efforts were rewarded, with the 2014-15 budget setting aside a little bit for this purpose. Thank you for investing in the UUs of the future!

June is a fun month, with two intergenerational Sundays followed by a Sunday School lesson on Father's Day. We wrap up the RE school year the following week with a celebration of the winter/spring curriculum. In June we also congratulate our graduates, Gordon Bernstein from high school, Andy Bowen from Eastern Michigan University (bachelors degree), and Mindy Radseck with a Masters of Social Work from Eastern. We will also have teacher recognition in June. Thanks again to those who have given their time and talents for kids' sake this year:

Steve Beison	Joan Bernstein
Becky Bowen	Rob Gaeke
Jon Hart	Kerry Hart
George Haynes	Kathy Haynes
Lynn Hightower	Donna Hinton
Jackie Johnson	Gretchen Marshall
Peter Morrison	Janette Mraz
Alyce Oosting	Nancy Smith
Laura Thurlow	Elizabeth Walker

Joyce Weatherwax

Continued on next column...

As I noted in May, 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" wrapped up in May, and several people expressed the hope that we will meet again in the Fall. Hope you can join us then!

Yuurs,

Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Celebrating Three Graduates'

On Sunday June 1st, we will be celebrating the graduation of Gordon Bernstein from Ionia High School. He has been an active presence in our church. We also have 2 college graduates in our group, Andy Bowen and Mindy Radseck, both from EMU. So be sure to congratulate these people on their important milestones and join us for cake and ice cream to be served downstairs after church on **Sunday. June 1st.**

Submitted by: the Caring Committee
and a few others

Pledge Thanks

Thank you to all of you who made a pledge for next year for your generosity and to support our mission of love and justice.

Submitted by: Ann Green
for the Pledge Campaign

Notes from the Board

The UUCEL Board met on Wednesday, May 7th, with full attendance. Vic Marshall and Marion Shroyer also attended briefly, to apprise us of the budget changes and to help us prepare for the annual meeting. We received welcome good news about increased pledges and other budget issues. The bulk of the meeting was devoted to planning for the annual meeting that was held on May 18th and the annual meeting itself was very successful with the budget being approved, and 4 organizations voted on that we support throughout the year. The other item we also discussed possible was a playground equipment purchase. Watch for more information about a fundraising meal deal at "In Good Company" restaurant coming up in September with a percent of the cost of your meal going to the church's playground equipment. We will meet again on the first Wednesday of June, at 6:30, at the church.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

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.

The JXN Community Forums will be taking a break for the summer months and will return on Thursday, September 18.

Watch for more information to come.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

UUA Bookstore. His story also intersects with the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp. Waitstill was a Unitarian minister and the Sharps were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel.

Peace,

Cindy

Summer Worship Series Seeks Lay Leaders

We have a worship series prepared for this summer on the seven principles, and we are seeking lay leaders to lead services in late June and July. The entire service has already been assembled by Rev. Cindy, and we're looking for able facilitators. If you're willing to help out, contact Cindy or Jon Hart, chair of the worship committee.

Minister's Schedule

Cindy will be departing for General Assembly on June 21st and gone through the rest of the month, returning in early July. In July, she'll be on vacation for two weeks and study leave for three weeks, somehow fitting five weeks into a four week month. We're not sure how she's doing that, but we know she'll be back in the pulpit the first Sunday in August.



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.

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, **June 19** 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 will be generally be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month after church 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

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• Church Website	http://www.libertyuu.org
• The Bellnote Newsletter	http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html
• Church's facebook page	http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu
• Forum facebook page	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 JULY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: SUNDAY, JUNE 22. ~~~~~ 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, Ann Green, Outreach Comm., Caring 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



June

- 1 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 4 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 5 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 8 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 10 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 12 Thurs. Membership Committee ~ 11:00 am
- 12 Thurs. Outreach/Forum Committee ~ Not Meeting this Month
- 15 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: To Be Announced ~11:00 am
- 17 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 19 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 22 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 22 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: To Be Announced ~ 11:00 am
- 25-29 General Assembly ~ Providence, RI
- 29 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: To Be Announced ~11:00 am

Upcoming Events

Jul. 7 - Aug. 1 "Peace Camp" Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at St. John Church

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
June 1	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Joan B	Gary T	RE Comm	IG	Sharon P
June 8	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Joyce W	Gary T	Open	IG	Sharon P
June 15	Joan B	Sharon P	Vicki H Becky B	Gary T	Open	Kerry H Jannette M	Elizabeth W
June 22	Betty G	Sharon P	Vicki H Kathy H	Gary T	Open	Gretchen M Peter M	Steve B
June 29	Carole H	Sharon P	Vicki H Open	Gary T	Open	IG	Sharon P

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

June 1 - "Flower Communion & Graduation Recognition"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Bring a flower to share as we celebrate our annual Flower Communion. We will also be recognizing high school and college graduates on this day.

June 8 - "The Little (and Big!) Things We Do"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

On this day we'll recognize volunteers and staff and thank our members for the work we do. If you would like to participate in thanking people, bring 50 small things to give away to your fellow congregation members – it could be fifty pennies or fifty little notes that say thank you or fifty pencils or fifty candles. We'll pass things around and share in the giving and receiving of thanks.

June 15 - "Summer Principles Series, Part 1: The Inherent Worth & Dignity of Every Person" – Lay Leader: To Be Announced

Our summer series begins! Rev. Cindy has assembled a worship series on our seven principles while she is gone for General Assembly.

June 22 - "Summer Principles Series, Part 2: Justice, Equity, & Compassion in Human Relations"

– Lay Leader: To Be Announced

Our summer series on the principles continues with justice, equity, and compassion.

June 29 - "Summer Principles Series, Part 3: Acceptance of One Another and Encouragement to Spiritual Growth in Our Congregations"

– Lay Leader: To Be Announced

Part three in our summer series on the UU principles focuses on acceptance of one another and spiritual growth. What does that mean to you?

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