



2014 ~ September
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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Promise!

This month we begin our monthly themes. This month's theme is Promise. "Promise" is both a noun and a verb. It's something you can have, it's something you can give. I've joined a group called Soul Matters that discusses these themes and supplies materials related to the themes. Here's some suggestions for how to engage the idea of "Promise" in your lives this month from Soul Matters:

- **Read these two articles:** <http://www.lifehack.org/articles/communication/11-promises-you-should-make-yourself.html> and http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/30/promises-to-yourself_n_5628259.html
- **Identify one of the promises they mention that most resonates with you.** Which promise calls to you the most? Which promise is your heart most hungry for? Which promise have you wanted to keep to yourself, but regularly break?
- **Find a way to keep that promise front and center.** Print it out and tape it to your office desk. Put it in your wallet or your purse. Write it in lipstick on your bathroom mirror.
- **Spend the month keeping it!** Give yourself the gift of finally following through.

We have a lot going on this month at UUCEL. And a lot of it is focused around our children. For us to continue to be a healthy growing congregation, we need to continue to engage our families with young children, and to encourage more to come. We need to turn our entire community's attention to this a bit, & really engage in how we can strengthen and grow our ministry as a church to families and children. To that end, we're having a special Religious Education Summit at the church on **September 21st**. I know it's also the day we have our golf scramble scheduled, but I'm hoping that every single non-golfer will be at the RE Summit. For more details, please see page 5. We have a special guest speaker coming in, and it's a time to brainstorm, to learn, to engage, & to grow.

Another important way we minister to children is to give them happy and healthy ways to engage with each other. And one place our children have done this is on our playground equipment. We no longer have a playground with any equipment, however, and this is something that needs to change. We're having a special fundraiser this month, and I hope you will all participate. The fundraiser is at the restaurant In Good Company, and we get a percentage of the profits for all meals they serve that day. If you can't come, tell someone you know to come. If you can come, bring a friend. Most of all, pass the word! We need In Good Company to be packed that night. For more details, please see page 4.

Even though we have a lot going on in our church, there are still issues in the world that need addressing. One that people have been working on for a long time in Jackson is getting a civil rights ordinance passed that would include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. **Continued on page 3 ...**

Religious Education Report

As the “dog days” of summer wind down, I’m looking forward to the fall!

Just like “back to school” preparations, September at UUCEL’s RE program comes with lots of activities. From the RE breakfast at 10am **September 7th** and teacher commissioning in conjunction with that day’s service, to the special after-church workshop **September 21**, we’ll have a busy month of getting the RE program running full steam ahead. Don’t forget the fundraiser for the playground at In Good Company, **Wednesday September 10**. I’ll be getting the badminton set and other fun equipment very soon too!

I want to issue a personal invitation and request to each of you to attend the workshop after social hour on **September 21**, (see page 5 for more information) geared toward helping us plan on how to engage more families with young children to participate at UUCEL. We’ll have Kathy Silver, Director of Religious Education currently serving New Hope UU in New Hudson, MI, talking about successes she’s experienced at small churches, and encouraging us to brainstorm ideas for recruiting additional young families with children. The workshop is for anyone who cares about the future of our church, and wants to help make it very inviting to families with children.

Rev. Cindy spotted a “pew card” that we adapted to our UU heritage and faith. It welcomes families with children and puts a few pointers there for both them and our church members welcoming them. Plus the back side makes a good doodle surface for kids.

There will also be plenty of fun social action and other activities in conjunction with the RE program as the year progresses. You’ll have an opportunity to walk in the local CROP walk, take in a Halloween party, and later, a service-oriented holiday party.

I hope you will join us in ushering in the “Sunday School” year on **September 7**, and helping us make it a big success!

Sharon

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen
RE Coordinator

~~Upcoming

Fund Raisers~~

Playground Equipment Fundraising ~~
Wednesday, September 10 at ‘In Good Company’ Restaurant ~ between the hours of 4:00 and 9:00 pm.

Holiday Baskets, Silent Auction ~~ Starting on November 16 ending December 14.

Submitted by : The Church Board

Rev. Cindy Out of Town

Rev. Cindy will be at the MidAmerica Board meeting, in Wisconsin, leaving Sept. 4 and returning Sept. 6 late. If you need to reach her for an emergency during this time, call her home phone and her husband Peter will relay a message or help you get in touch with her.

Cindy’s Bathroom Redo Project

Contributions for Rev. Cindy’s 10 year gift from us, the members and friends of the church, is her Bathroom Redo Project at her home in Jackson. If you would like to help with the painting of the Bathroom Redo Project that will be gratefully accepted and please let Elissa know this ASAP. Also if you would like to donate to the Bathroom Redo Project, Elissa Alden is collecting those dollars until **September 14**. Thanks in advance. Please see the supplement page for Elissa’s contact information.

Submitted by: Elissa Alden

Like and Share!

Our church has two main ways that people learn about us – word of mouth, and the internet. Those on Facebook can help us combine the two through two easy things: “like” our church status updates, and “share” the pictures and status updates the church posts. This lets your friends see your activity, and maybe they’ll like what they see! We’ve been hard at work, mostly thanks to the help of Martha Koopman, creating special graphic images for our church Facebook page to share, and we hope you’ll find them interesting enough to pass on. A special thank you to Martha for engaging in this digital outreach ministry! Rev. Cindy went to a workshop on how to increase a church’s effectiveness in web outreach, and this was the #1 thing we can do, but it’s up to you to do the next step: like and share!

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Playground Equipment Fundraising at 'In Good Company' Restaurant

Please mark your calendar for **Wednesday, September 10**. This is the date set for the Church's Playground Equipment Fundraising at the 'In Good Company' Restaurant. Our church will get 15% of all sales of drinks, dinner and desert. Yes, anything ordered between the hours of 4:00 and 9:00 pm. This restaurant is on US 127, just north of Jefferson Road. If you cannot be there on the 10th at that time, please pass the word on to your friends. The more people who eat at 'In Good Company' the more our church gets back to help our new playground get new equipment. Thanks in advance. See you there!

Submitted by: Jackie Johnson

Visitor Orientation Question & Answer

If you would like to learn more about the church, please join the minister after the service for a short, informal Q. and A. conversation on **Sunday, September 14**. Meet in the foyer after the service, following the Q. and A. you can have a tour of our buildings if you would like.

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

UUA Common Read Book

This year's UUA Common Read Book is *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square* by Paul Rasor (Skinner House Books, 2013). Rasor asserts that conservative Christianity is not the only valid religious voice in our national social policy. The 2014-15 Common Read invites Unitarian Universalists to explore and claim our contribution, as religious liberals, to the pressing moral and ethical debates of our contemporary world. Skinner House Books is a UUA press, so the best way to order books is through the UUA Bookstore, but it is available from Amazon and available on Kindle. Rev. Cindy will be posting a sign-up sheet for folks who would like to have a book ordered for them in the next few weeks in the social hall. Books are \$15.00. We get a 10% discount if we order more than five, and a 20% discount if we order more than 10. If you'd like to donate your 10% or 20% to the church, if we order enough, mark it on the form.

Submitted by: Rev. 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, September 18

"Jackson Anchor Initiative"

Jackson is looking to revitalize its downtown with the Anchor Initiative. The former Woolworth Building on Michigan Avenue has been purchased by Consumer's Energy and Allegiance Health they are partners in this endeavor to attract people to live and work downtown. This forum will be an opportunity to learn more about the ideas being generated to make this happen.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Golf Scramble

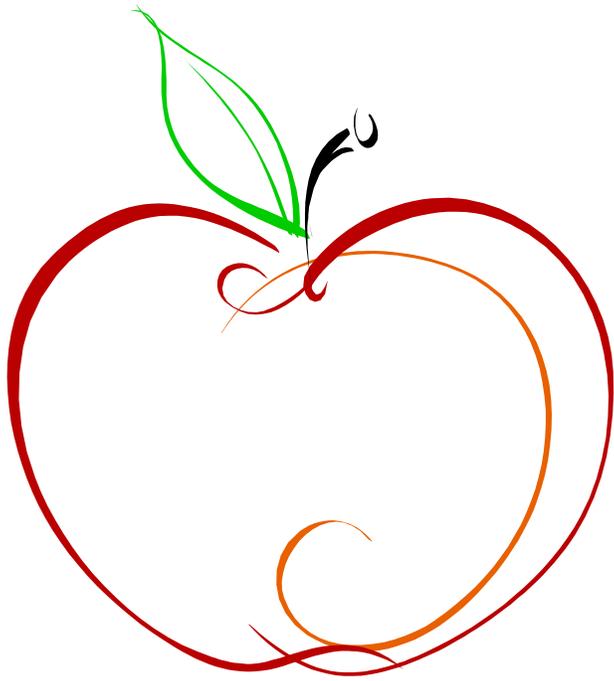
The church Golf Scramble will be on **Sunday, September 21**. Please meet at Hills Heart of the Lake Golf Course in Brooklyn on Cass Road at 1:45 pm and we will starting playing a 2:00 pm. The cost to play is \$10.00 per person to walk course, and \$18.00 per person to rent a cart. All are welcome. The golfers will have lunch afterwards in the clubhouse. Contact Betty Gulliver if you would like to play, as she will be setting up the teams. (See the Supplement page for her contact information). To golf with this scramble you do not have to be a good golfer to play. Your teammates all work together to get the score.

Submitted by: Betty Gulliver

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, **September 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



ALL CHURCH SUMMIT:

Your attendance is important!

The 3 Rs: Recommitment, Recruitment, Revitalization

All-church meeting on
Religious Education
with guest speaker Kathy Silver, DRE, New Hope UU

Sunday September 21, 1-3pm @ UUCEL

Be there or you might be placed in detention!



(Not really, but if you come you'll get a gold star for participation!)

Congratulations!

Congratulations to former UUCEL minister Richard Venus, who celebrated 50 years in the ministry this summer! **Submitted by: Rev. Cindy**

UUCEL is a non-creedal church

Even though we hold many differing beliefs, we love and support one another. And we respect, even cherish, our differences. As we embark on the political season, let us remember that we do not all agree on political matters, as well. In particular when speaking in the sanctuary, let us show the same respect for those differences. Thanks!

Submitted by: Committee on Ministry
Marge Duane, Ann Green, Gretchen Marshall

Caring Committee

~The Caring Committee chair, Jane Volk will be out of town till October 1st. So I'm asking you to contact other members of the caring committee if the need arises. – Thank you in advance ~ Jane

Caring Committee monthly meeting will 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 EDITORS:
"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 OCTOBER ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21. ~~~~~ 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, Betty Gulliver, Jackie Johnson, Elissa Alden, Committee on Ministry, 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



September

- 3 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 4 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 7 Sunday RE Breakfast ~ 10:00 am
- 7 Sunday Choir Practice from 10:15 to 10:45
- 7 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 9 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 10 Wed. Membership Committee ~ 10:30 am (new date)
- 10 Wed. In Good Company ~ Playground Equipment Fundraising, 15% of all sale ~ 4:00 to 9:00 pm
- 10 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:30 pm
- 14 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 14 Sunday Visitor Orientation Question & Answer ~ After the Service
- 14 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 16 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 18 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 18 Thurs. JXN Community Forums "Jackson Anchor Initiative" @ Library Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
- 21 Sunday Choir practice ~ 10:15 am to 10:45 am and Perform for the Congregation
- 21 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~11:00 am
- 21 Sunday Special RE Workshop ~ After the Service
- 21 Sunday Golf Scramble at Hills Heart of the Lake Golf Course ~ 1:45 pm
- 21 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 28 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader, TBA Rev. ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
Sept 7	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Jackie J	Open	RE Comm	Sharon P Dave L	
Sept 14	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Nena O	Open	Open	Sharon P Rob G/Nancy S	
Sept 21	Joan B	Sharon P	Vicki H Joyce W	Open	Open	Gretchen M Alyce O	
Sept 28	Betty G	Sharon P	Vicki H Kathy H	Open	Open	Jon/Kerry H Janette M	

Monthly Theme: Promise

Sept 7 - "Homecoming Sunday"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Join us for our traditional homecoming Sunday as we call the generations and celebrate our history and our promise of the future.

Sept 14 - "The Promise of the Future"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This Sunday will take our monthly theme of "promise" and talk about the promise of the future in relationship to our living tradition and the future of the church.

Sept 21 - "The Promise to and of Our Youth"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This Sunday will take our monthly theme of "promise" and look at the promise of education, of our youth, and what we need to achieve that promise in our society. The organization America's Promise Alliance makes five promises to the youth: Caring Adults, Safe Places, a Healthy Start, Effective Education, and Opportunities to Help Others. How are we doing as a society at fulfilling this promise?

Sept 28 - "To Be Announced"

– Lay Leader to Be Announced

– Guest Music: Dave LaRowe