



### Minister's Column in Brief

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](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, and really engage in how we can strengthen and grow our ministry as a church to families and children. Even though we have a lot going on in our church, there are still issues in the world that need addressing. Continued on other side...

### Calendar - September

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| 3 Wed.    | Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm  |
| 4 Thurs.  | AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm  |
| 7 Sunday  | RE Breakfast ~ 10:00 am and 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 and Special RE Workshop ~ Afterwards |
| 21 Sunday | Golf Scramble at Hills Heart of the Lake Golf Course ~ 1:45 pm                             |
| 28 Sunday | ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader, TBA Rev. ~ 11:00 am   |

### Sunday Services at 11:00 am

#### 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**

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

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. We are also now asking that the city vote to urge our state government to change our state-wide human rights ordinance (the Elliott-Larsen Act) to include discrimination against LGBT people. A coalition of community groups, led by Jackson Together and including the Jackson Area Civil Rights Awareness Association (JACRAA) and Jackson Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG) is presenting this to the Jackson Human Rights Commission (HRC) on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. The president of the HRC is Jon Hart, just in case you want to know who to talk to about this issue! We anticipate that the HRC will support us and join us, and that then we will take the issue to the City Council on September 23, with people speaking from the HRC, Jackson Together, JACRAA, and PFLAG. This is when we need your support. If you're available to come to the City Council on Tuesday, September 23, we would love to see the chamber flooded with supporters, and would love to have some of them sign up to speak during public comments in support of these measures. Please join us!

Lastly, I want to thank Elissa Alden for hosting the wonderful party to celebrate our tenth anniversary of our shared ministry! I was overwhelmed by the occasion. And thank you to the whole congregation for attending, for sharing in this ministry, and for your gifts to me to honor the occasion. My gift to you is a couple of benches for our playground area. They're assembled and sitting in my office right now so that they don't get picked up along with rummage items. Namaste,

**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](http://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.

## 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!

www.jdl.org

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