



2014 ~ November
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

This month's theme is "Grace." "Grace" as a concept has often been perplexing to me. As a Humanist and an agnostic, I haven't felt directly the concept of "God's Grace" that some people have experienced. The definitions of "grace" are "favor or goodwill" and "mercy, clemency, pardon." I believe fervently that people are inherently good and not in need of saving from eternal damnation brought about by inherent depravity. But that doesn't mean we don't need grace in our lives. There are times when we each fall short of the mark and break the threads in the interdependent web. There are times when perhaps we've done something unforgivable, or as Rumi writes, "broken your vows a thousand times." But how do we experience grace in the absence of a forgiving God?

The song "Amazing Grace" was written by a man who was a slave trader. Trading human lives into slavery is a pretty unforgivable act. Yet he found grace and turned his life around. The writer Anne Lamott has said, "I do not at all understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us." The theologian Paul Tillich wrote, "Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness. If that happens to us, we experience grace. After such an experience, we may not be better than before, and we may not believe more than before. But everything is transformed."

For the past two months, I've been teaching at the Cooper Street Correctional Facility. Seeing the vast numbers of people incarcerated in our society, and facing the fact that many of them are there because they've broken the web of life in some horrible ways, has been an experience of sorrow. But teaching there, and seeing the hope and promise, and the belief in some of the men's eyes that they will turn their lives around and make their lives something good going forward has been an experience of grace.

For reasons I can't go into in this newsletter, it looks like I won't be teaching there any longer. That's been a moment of sadness in my own life, and a struggle to find grace. I spent several days in the struggle with this situation until the wave of light broke into my darkness and I experienced grace around the issue. I may not be better than I was before, but for me the situation is transforming. I hope that whatever your struggles are this month, the light of grace breaks through your darkness.

Namaste,

Cindy

Religious Education Report

We've had a beautiful Fall and the kids involved in RE have been enjoying the curriculum about "telling right from wrong." I'm excitedly anticipating the Halloween Carnival this Sunday, October 26th with lots of games, crafts, activities, and of course, candy and food—cider and donuts. Hopefully we'll have a good turnout. Thanks for all the volunteers who helped with prep, activities, and candy/donations.

I'm also very pleased about the CROP walk donations of \$420. With Thanksgiving coming up, we'll have three weeks of lessons in November, then an intergenerational service before Thanksgiving, and a "craft holiday" (with less structured activities) for the fifth Sunday in November.

I look forward to the holiday season every year at UUCEL!

Sincerely UUurs,

Sharon

**Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen
RE Coordinator**

"You are important.

Without "U" we can't spell
CH_RCH, or AD_LT,
or

YO_TH.

Without "U" we can't have
M_SIC, S_NDAY,
or
S_CCESS.

Clearly, our church needs "U".

Minister's Schedule

Rev. Cindy is out of town this month for her Ohio River Group study group in Dayton and a MidAmerica Board meeting at Starved Rock State Park in Illinois. The dates for those two events are back-to-back, so she will be gone from November 10th through November 16th.



Monthly Theme: Grace

This month's theme is "Grace." Here are some exercises to get you thinking about grace:

1. Think About Your Grace Story: Think about a story that taught you something significant about grace. How did this experience make you think about grace differently? How has the experience helped you more easily notice grace and open to it?
2. Take Up "Grace Watching": As a way of reminding yourself of life's giftedness, spend a week documenting the number of times you see grace in action.
3. Give Your Schedule over to Grace: Put your To-Do List down for a day. Ignore your schedule. Commit to giving up all plans or expectations. Simply spend the day letting grace guide your agenda. Treat it as an experiment, testing the hypothesis that grace and giftedness is all around and wants to lure you in.

Share your stories of grace with others in the congregation and in your life!

Notes from the Board

The board met the first week in October and celebrated successes of many fundraisers. Also pledges are coming in as planned so that is all good news. Cindy has been very involved in "Jackson Together" and is doing good work in the community as always. Thinking ahead, we will be seeking a pledge drive chair soon. Next board meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday in November. Minutes are posted in the social hall.

Gratia

Submitted by: **Gratia Karmes**
Board President

Goodshop/Goodsearch and Amazon Associates:

Our church can earn money while you browse or shop online. To help while you surf the web, use <http://www.goodsearch.com> as your search engine after entering our church as your agency of choice to support. To help while you shop, go through the links at <http://www.goodshop.com> (again, after entering our church as your agency), to any number of different online sites. If shopping at Amazon, first click on one of our links on our webpage at <http://www.libertyuu.org/shop.html>. These will take you to Amazon, and then we'll earn a percentage of the total cost of your purchases.

~~ Upcoming Fund Raisers ~~

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

Talent Show ~ March 2015

Annual Auction ~ Saturday, May 16 2015 is the tentative date

Submitted by : The Church Board

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.

~Visitor Tips for Everyone~

Here are some ways to make people feel welcome that everyone can follow:

- Introduce yourself and get to know a visitor by name.
 - Invite a visitor to social hour.
 - Wear a nametag.
 - Sit toward the middle of the pew or nearer to the front of the church so visitors can be more anonymous if they choose.
 - Watch for people who may be alone during social hour and ask them about the sermon or their faith journey.
- Thank you!**

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Personal Care Ministry Fundraiser



Sunday Afternoon Gospel Sing
on November 9, starting at 4:00 pm. This will be at the First Congregational Church, 120 N. Jackson Street, Jackson (downtown). You are cordially invited to this fundraising event. Our UUCEL Choir will be performing along with groups and soloists from other churches. There will also be congregational singing and the organizers are asking for requests. If you have requests, please let me know before **Nov. 1**. A free-will offering will be taken.

Submitted by: Nena Obits



Holiday Gift Basket Silence Auction

November 16th - December 14th

We are asking for some creative people to make up Holiday Gift Baskets (or boxes or bags) for our Silent Auction. Last year we had candles, pet supplies, soups, nuts, candy popcorn, games and home canned goods, to name a few. Non-perishable items work best. Baskets will be displayed in the Social Hall starting on **November 16**, and last bids will be taken on **December 14**, at 11 am. These make nice gifts! For more information please contact Donna Hinton or Nena Obits.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

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. 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, November 13

~ Please note the change for the 3rd Thursday to the 2nd Thursday~

“Meet ALICE in Jackson”

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. More than 40 percent of working Jackson County households are struggling financially, according to a study commissioned by the Michigan Association of United Ways. Ken Toll from United Way of Jackson County and Toby Berry from Community Action Agency will introduce us to ALICE and what it means for Jackson County. Thanks to CMS Energy for a donation of \$25,000 which funded the county by county study.

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The Jackson Area Ministerial Association (JAMA) is pleased to announce, and invite all to attend, the Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7pm Tuesday, **November 25** at 1st Congregational Church — 120 N. Jackson Street, Jackson MI 49201. Note that the traditional day has been changed from Wednesday to Tuesday to facilitate greater participation. **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

Talent Show ~ in March 2015

Attention all talented folks out there AND people who just plain want to have some fun! Just want you to be thinking of a possible performance for our church talent show (not coming up until early **March**). Start talking it up and planning what you might do. We will have all kinds of spots to showcase young and old and everyone in between! It can be serious or humorous and it is open to people outside our church community also. This is actually a fun fundraiser so there will be a minimal entry fee and we will charge admission. If you know of anyone who may want to enter, let them know. More information on this will follow, of course, but wanted to get you mulling this around in your talented brains! Thanks.

Submitted by: Elissa Alden

Annual Auction ~ May 2015

This November, we will celebrate Thanksgiving in our homes. In May next year, we will celebrate another way of giving thanks in support of our church by giving items for our annual auction. Although it's very early, put **Saturday, May 16**, on your calendar as a tentative date for food and fun. That gives us six months to gather great items to donate! **Submitted by Steve Beison**

Caring Committee

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**

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, **November 20** 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



Hanging of the Greens

Please plan to stay after the service on **Sunday, November 30** to help decorate our church building for the upcoming Holiday season. The Christmas tree will be set up along with ribbons, balls, greens and more. This is for all ages, come one come all. Thanks

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

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**

• 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

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 DECEMBER ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23. ~~~~~ 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, 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



November

- 2 Sunday Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 2 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 5 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:15 pm
- 6 Thurs. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 6 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 9 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 9 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 9 Sunday Sunday Afternoon Gospel Sing ~ 4:00 pm @ First Congregational Church
- 11 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 16 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Davi Trusty, Guest Speaker ~11:00 am
- 16 Sunday Start of the Holiday Gift Basket Silence Auction
- 18 Wed. Membership Committee ~ 10:30 am
- 18 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening ~ **Not Meeting this Month**
- 20 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 20 Thurs. JXN Community Forums **"Meet ALICE in Jackson"**
@ Library Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm
- 23 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 23 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 25 Tue. Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service ~ 7pm @ 1st Congregational Church
- 30 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Peg Beison~ 11:00 am
- 30 Sunday Hanging of the Greens ~ After the Service

Upcoming Events

- Dec 14 End of the Holiday Gift Basket Silence Auction

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
Nov 2	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Joyce W	Open	RE Comm	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nov 9	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Nena O	Open	Open	Hart Geake	Sharon P
Nov 16	Joan B	Sharon P	Vicki H Kathy H	Open	Open	Gretchen M Alyce O	Sharon P
Nov 23	Betty G	Sharon P	Vicki H George H	Open	Open	IG	Sharon P
Nov 30	Carole H	Sharon P	Vicki H Joan B	Open	Open	Craft Day Sharon P	Sharon P

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

November Worship Theme: Grace

Nov 2 - "Our Principles in the Streets"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Our principles are often a guiding document for us. How do we take them with us out into the streets and into the voting booth?

Nov 9 - "Grace and the Cosmos"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Our theme for this month is "Grace", and November 9 was Carl Sagan's birthday. How will Rev. Cindy weave these themes together? Come and find out! In addition, this service will feature a Veteran's Day recognition of those in our congregation who have served our country.

Nov 16 - "To Be Announced"

– Davi Trusty, Guest Speaker

Nov 23 - "Thanksgiving Ethnic Bread Service"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

We're reprising our "ethnic bread service" in celebration of Thanksgiving this year. Bring a bread to share in our worship that represents your ethnic heritage – corn bread, soda bread, tortillas, fry bread, naan, challah, pita bread, etc.

Nov 30 - "Dover, A Town Torn Apart"

– Lay Leader - Peg Beison

Presented in a style similar to "Our Town," six members of the congregation will portray six real people from Dover, Pennsylvania, who participated in the 2005 controversy between intelligent design and evolution ending in a federal court case.

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