



2014 ~ December 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

One of the real signs of adulthood, I think, is that Christmas becomes more about the giving than the getting. As you mature, you realize that there is more joy to be found in watching a child unwrap the present they've been hoping for than there is in opening your own presents. One of my colleagues, Joanna Fontaine Crawford, wrote a blog post once about the different levels of Santa, explaining that Level One Santa is the Santa who comes down the chimney. Level Two Santa is when you "become privy to the giant mystery" and realize that Santa is "SO much bigger than you imagined." Level three is when you become Santa for a child or grandchild.

Well, this year, we're moving ourselves to Level Four Santa. Level Four Santa is when you become Santa for someone anonymously. How are we doing this? This December, we're focusing in our church on making the holidays a time of service, of giving, and of strengthening community, by changing two of our usual practices to have a new community service focus. First, we're changing our usual decorating of the tree from decorating with ornaments to becoming a "mitten tree" where we hang mittens, scarves, hats, and other items to donate to the homeless shelter. Pantry items can be placed below the tree, as well. Secondly, instead of our "Santa's Workshop" which usually is a day for the children to make holiday crafts, we're changing this year to having a time for the whole congregation to engage with the children in making items to donate, such as laundry detergent and tied fleece blankets.

Peace,
Cindy



Minister on Vacation

Following Christmas, Rev. Cindy will be taking a week and half of combined vacation and study leave, and will be gone through January 5.

Religious Education Report

At the November RE Committee meeting, we got a chance to review the Halloween Party success, and plan to make it even better next year. We also did some planning for two special events both on **Sunday, December 14th** : an intergenerational pageant, somewhat similar to last year's, and an event that has been re-dubbed" from "Santa's Workshop" to "**Celebrating a Season of Caring**" to reflect a focus on making needed things for the community.

We are looking for ideas! I hope you can help us by:

- * giving us feedback about the Halloween party, if you attended.
- * giving us suggestions for projects we can do to help the community at "Celebrating a Season of Caring," which is like Santa's Workshop used to be during coffee hour, except with the twist of making things for our social mission partners such as Interfaith Shelter and Personal Care Ministry.
- * we need to come up with other ideas for **quarterly social/fun activities** for outreach to families with school-age children.

How do you like those new Pew Cards? The words are reprinted in the next column, as a refresher.

Thank you for your support!

Sharon

**Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen
RE Coordinator**

Thanks to all who contributed to the special offering held in November for the Jackson Personal Care Ministry.

Thanks, Nena Obits

Children are a Blessing, & We Welcome Them! To the Parents of Young Children, May We Suggest:

Relax! The "wobble" in young children is a natural part of their development; don't feel like you have to suppress it in this church. All are welcome! Please sit where you'll be most comfortable. In the front it is easier for little ones to see what's going on. The back is convenient if you think you may need to step out with your child, or for those arriving after the service has begun. Sitting near the aisle is easier for children who will be leaving for religious education/Sunday school.

Quietly explain the parts of the church service and actions of the minister, ushers, choir, piano player, etc. (Let the minister know if any questions!)

Sing the hymns and participate in responsive readings and other parts of the service so that your children learn how things work by example.

If you have to leave the service with your child, please feel free to do so; come back when you can! Remember that the way we welcome children to our church directly affects the way that they respond to the church, to spirituality, religion and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Please let your child use the reverse side of this card to draw and doodle.

On most Sundays, children are "sung out" to the nursery or classes about 15 minutes after announcements are completed. Children who do not wish to attend class/nursery are welcome to stay with you. Breastfeeding is also welcome.

To the Members of our Church, May We Suggest:

The presence of children is a gift to the church, and a reminder that the church is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to parents. Leave seats in the back open for any latecomers and parents with little ones. Remember that the way we welcome children to our church directly affects the way that they respond to the church, to spirituality, religion and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Kids: Please feel free to draw or write on the back!

Notes from the Board

The Board met on Thursday, Nov 6. We approved a suggestion by the worship committee to move the large screen TV into the sanctuary. Jon Hart presented an excellent video explanation of how this could be accomplished without compromising aesthetics. Another TV is being donated for our social hall. A photo display of transgendered persons will be on display sometime soon in the social hall. We approved purchase and contracting for installation of new shingles for the roof, and are still looking for someone to install the acoustic tiles in the social hall. We also took a look at the new updated visitor's packets. The idea of the new look was created by Rev. Cindy and the membership committee put them together, they can be found on the desk in the foyer. The board will meet again the first Thursday of December.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**



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.

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 ~ in March

In Good Company Fundraiser ~ for the new playground fund ~ Wednesday, April 15

Annual Auction ~ Saturday, May 16 is the tentative date

Submitted by : The Church Board



Remembering Chris and Isaac

This December 5 we also mark the one-year anniversary of the tragic deaths of Chris Keith and Isaac Miller, members of the UU Church of Greater Lansing and former members of this congregation. This occasion of sorrow for lives that ended too soon reminds us to work to end domestic violence and gun violence and bring peace this holiday season. And remember, anniversaries of deaths can bring up sorrow and stress. If you find yourself having a difficult holiday season, reach out to myself and the Caring Committee. We may have resources that can help.

Joys & Sorrows New Book, Info

Please Note: All Joys and Sorrows are written down by someone. Please help with this task by picking up the NEW spiral notebook located on the desk in the foyer. There is a change in how this works for those who have done it before. The new book is a 2 page carbon copy. The person writing them for the day is to please remove the white copy ~ (Please check first for its readability before removing the top page) ~ and give the info to Rev. Cindy and the yellow bottom copy stays in the book for the Bellnote editors. This change is the idea for both the Committee on Ministry and the Caring Committee. Thanks and Please pick-up the book.

**Submitted by: the Committee on
Ministry and the Caring Committee**

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

JAMA's

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The Jackson Area Ministerial Association (JAMA) is pleased to announce, and invite all to attend, the Community Thanksgiving Service; 7:00 pm **Tuesday, November 25** at Queen of the Miraculous Medal Parish, 1111 Carlton Blvd, Jackson, – Please note this is a changed location for what was printed last month. Also note that the tradition day has been changed from Wednesday to Tuesday to facilitate greater participation. **Submitted by: Rev. Cindy**



Holiday Gift Basket Silent Auction

The Holiday Gift Basket Silent Auction is now in the social hall and will be displayed there waiting for your bids. The last bids will be taken on **December 14**, at 11:00 am. We have some very creative people who have make up a few Holiday Gift Baskets/Boxes/Bags for this year's Silent Auction. There is BBQ Sauce, Feed the Bird, Spa Kit, Bath Basket, Christmas Fun, Entertainment Basket, Christmas Box, Bag of Books & Books, Large Bag of Chocolate Candy to name a few. Remember these Baskets make nice gifts! For more information please contact Donna Hinton or Nena Obits. **Submitted by: Nena Obits**

Golf Update

The Church Golf Scramble that was scheduled of September 21 got changed due to the wet weather. So on September 28 a smaller group of church golfers got together and had a great time. This photo of the team winners was submitted by Alyce Oosting. Congratulations to Ted Gulliver and Lynn McLean. **Submitted by: the Editors**



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, December 11** ~ Please note the date change for the 3rd Thursday to the 2nd Thursday~

Hunger in America 2014

The 2014 study of hunger in America reports that 50 million Americans will go hungry tonight. More than 22,000 of them are in Jackson County. Almost 8,000 of them are children. Join us to learn more with the viewing of "Hunger in America". The showing of this movie is co-sponsored by Jackson area food pantries. The documentary runs 52 minutes and will be followed by discussion. Light refreshments will be provided. **Submitted by: Outreach Comm.**

Annual Auction will be in May

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**

THANKS to the choir and others who participated in the Sunday Afternoon Gospel Sing on Nov. 9th. Choirs from First Baptist, the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty, and First Congregational sang, ending the program together with a three part round to *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Other performers were Ed Peterson, Billy and Johnny Kincaid, Chris Gorton, Rev. Kerry Snyder, and Brad Jayne. Janet Gage, music director at First Congregational, provided organization (in addition to keyboard accompaniments), assisted by Christine Peterson and Barb Palmer! This event raised \$800 for Jackson's Personal Care Ministry. Thanks to all who contributed! **Submitted by: Nena Obits**

Talent Show is coming in March

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

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, **December 18** 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 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**

December Theme: Wonder

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

-Albert Einstein

Our theme for December is “**Wonder.**” Here are some exercises you can do to engage in the theme this month:

Share An Ordinary Wonder! What seemingly simple thing sustains your sense of reverence right now? What ordinary object or relationship reminds you of life’s preciousness? What is currently helping you not take things for granted? Or even, what keeps you curious and engaged? Hopefully, this is an easy question for you. If not, figure out why and use this month to reconnect with the source of ordinary wonder that is surely right under your nose. Spend some time writing about why this object or story testifies to your everyday life as a source of wonder.

Who’s Been Wonderful Lately? We say it with a huge smile: “I love it when people surprise me!” The jerk at the office who, out of nowhere, is the one most kind. The nervous and cautious child of yours who unexpectedly turns brave. The self-sacrificing friend who finally stands up for herself. All of them leave us in wonder at what people are capable of—of what we are capable of. This assignment challenges you to find at least 2 “wonder folk” this month—two people who surprise you, two people who remind you why it’s important to never write people off. Write your reflections about not only the story of your two wonderful folk, but also why you needed this wonderful reminder.

Do You Prefer Child-like Wonder or Adult-like Wonder? Of course there’s no need to pick.

Truth is we prefer one type or the other depending on what we need most right now. So, this month, engage the question with that awareness front and center. What type of wonder are you most in need of right now? Figure out one small way to meet that need, and take steps toward achieving it. Check out this blog to help you: http://www.gretchenrubin.com/happiness_project/2014/06/do-you-prefer-childlike-wonder-or-adultlike-wonder/

New Social Hour Hosting Idea

Cindy has an idea she saw at another church, of how to make the task of Social Hour Host easier on everyone.

- ~ The plan would be to have 12 teams that have been chosen as the team leaders with 2 to 3 others church members/friends on each team.
- ~ Each team would be in charge of Hosting Coffee Hour about 4 times a year.
- ~ The Team Leaders will be given a list of names we assigned for each team – so someone might be coming up to you ask asking you to be on their team, and yes we are sure some name changes will take place.
- ~ In the newsletter for an example it would be printed – Jan. 4 = Team 1 ~ Jan.11 = Team 2 ~ Jan. 18 = Team 3 and so on, on the 13th week of Sunday's the list would be repeated.
- ~ An example might be Jan 4. Team1 would be team leader with a few other names that have been assigned, to host social hour for the day - 1 person can do it all, or all the team people can do it together - that's up to you and your group/team of people.
- ~ More information will be explained after the 12 Team Leaders agree to the task with this starting up in January.

Submitted by: the Membership Committee

• 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 JANUARY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 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, Elissa Alden, Steve Beison, 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

- 27 Thurs. Smith Family Dinner ~ Rental
- 30 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Peg Beison ~ 11:00 am
- 30 Sunday Hanging of the Greens ~ after the Service

December

- 3 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:15 pm
- 4 Thurs. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 4 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 7 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 9 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 11 Thurs. JXN Community Forums “ **Hunger in America 2014**” @ Library Carnegie Bra. ~ 6:30 pm
- 14 Sunday End of the Holiday Gift Basket Silence Auction at 11:00 am
- 14 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ R.E. Committee and Intergenerational Pageant ~ 11:00 am
- 14 Sunday Celebrating a Season of Caring (Instead of the Santa’s Workshop) ~During Social Hour
- 14 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 16 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members’ Homes in the Evening
- 16 Tue. Membership Committee ~ 10:30 am ~ Not Meeting this Month
- 18 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 21 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~11:00 am
- 21 Sunday Choir Practice ~ 10:15 to 10:45 and Perform for the Congregation
- 21 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 24 Wed. ~~~~ Christmas Eve Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 7:00 pm
- 28 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Jon Hart ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

Please see page 3 for some of the Upcoming Events

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
Dec 7	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Donna H	Gary T		Cecily S	Sharon P
Dec 14	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Jackie J	Gary T		Pageant	Sharon P
Dec 21	Carole H	Sharon P	Vicki H Joyce W	Gary T		Rob G Nancy S	Sharon P
Dec 24		Sharon P		Gary T		Crying Room	Sharon P
Dec 28	Open	Sharon P	Vicki H Kathy H	Gary T		Craft Day Sharon P	Sharon P

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

December Worship Theme: Wonder

Dec 7 - "Winter Wonder"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy explores our month's theme of "Wonder" in this service through images from holiday films such as *Polar Express* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Dec 14 - "Religious Education Holiday Program"

– The R.E. Committee and the children

Dec 21 - "Hanukkah & Yule: New Beginnings"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy brings our theme of "wonder" to the holidays of Hanukkah and Yule. This service may include a child dedication service.

Dec 24 - "Candlelight Christmas Eve Service"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm

Join us for our traditional family-friendly Christmas Eve service of singing, lighting candles, and telling the age-old story of the birth of Jesus. Bring a plate of holiday treats or snacks for the social time following. This service will feature a special collection for one of our supported agencies in the community.

Dec 28 - "To Be Announced"

– Lay Leader - Jon Hart

M 4 e