



2014 ~ December The Bellnote Mini-News

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty
2231 Jefferson Road, Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 529-4221 Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

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

Continued on other side...

Sunday Services at 11:00 am

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

Calendar - 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

Minister - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum revCyn@ugaalum.uga.edu
R.E. Coordinator - Sharon Pedersen sspedersen@sbcglobal.net
Board President - Gratia Karmes glk222@tds.net

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

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

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, Dec. 11 - Please note 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.

www.jdl.org

I thir et s wen g o uuyr ebl. www://: pt h

W h e

