



2015 ~ March

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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Minister's Column

It's been a couple of years since I last did a sermon series. This month I'll be doing a three-part sermon series on the voting rights march in Selma, and its legacy and impact. Why does this subject deserve so much attention? There's so much to say on the issue that it simply can't all be said in one sermon. To begin with, I'll talk about how the civil rights struggle of fifty years ago is still relevant and important today. How does the issue of voting rights still matter? How does the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson connect to some of the deaths last summer in places like Staten Island, Ferguson, and Cleveland? Next, I'll share some of why Selma matters so much to Unitarian Universalism, because of the hundreds of Unitarian Universalists who went and marched in Selma, and those who were killed, and how the death of UU minister James Reeb changed the nation. Lastly, I'll turn to our Michigan civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo, and talk about who she was and what her legacy is. See page 4 for more information on the exhibit that will be on display at our church this month about Viola Liuzzo, courtesy of her sister, Rose Mary Lemming. I've also included a book list on page 3 if you're interested in reading more. I highly recommend Mark Morrison-Reed's book on Selma, which I have been re-reading lately myself. And I have an extra copy of the book on Viola Liuzzo that can be shared.

While we're on the subject of people whose very lives are in danger in America... I took a break to think of how to transition subjects in this article, and opened Facebook, and there in my feed was the story of the death of yet another transgender person – the sixth who has been killed *this year*. 22-year-old Bri Golec was stabbed to death recently, allegedly by her father, in Akron Ohio. Our church has been a leader in LGBT rights in our community, and so it's with great excitement that I announce we're going to be hosting a special transgender photo display in our social hall, tentatively scheduled for April. The board has approved the display, and I've been working with the organization that owns the travelling display, which was at the UU church in Southfield earlier this year and is currently on display at the UU church in Flint. See page 6 for more description of the display.

Between March and April, our church will have made some real stands for justice in our community!

Namaste,

Cindy

Religious Education Report

February was fun, and March may be even “funnier”!

After being snowed out on Feb 1, Church Buddies month started off Feb 8, and with 16 adults and 5 children participating, I think folks are having a blast! I know it’s been fun for me as an outsider, observing and sneaking in valentines and candy from the RE program as well.

About 20 UUCEL affiliates went to the new “Sea Life Aquarium” at Great Lakes Crossing on Feb. 14: the Walkers, Johnsons, Landrum Larkin Morrison household, and my niece Amber and much of her family. It was a blustery day again, and though the Johnson household got up early to get there by 10am, the rest of us was debating whether to take off or not. Most of us crossed our fingers and headed out, and all got there and back, safe-and-sound. My parking skills were called into question by people who saw my car sticking out into the middle of the parking lot aisle AFTER the truck that was hogging the back of my space pulled away. But my car was not touched other than a “rude” message painted by finger into the salt on the driver’s side. It was fun driving and singing traveling songs with Nena. Now that we’ve done this field trip I’m hungry for others in the name of science—maybe Gerald Eddy Geology Center, Belle Isle Zoo/Aquarium, Hidden Lake Gardens...? We’re also planning a mini-Renaissance Fair on the grounds of the church, and perhaps a science “camp” afternoon program during the children’s school spring break...

Our Church Buddies month “reveal party” will be Sunday night, **March 1**. We’ll host a pizza competition and movie night with The Lego Movie! Let me know if you can bring a home-made pizza or something to go along with it.

The RE Committee will continue to look at ways of engaging member families, attracting new families with children to our program, and offering high quality religious education programs. As always, we appreciate church members’ and friends’ support of the program.

See you soon - keep warm!

Sharon

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen
RE Coordinator

Notes from the Board

The Board met at Elissa’s house this month, and enjoyed a delicious dinner along with our meeting. We discussed many upcoming events, including the Talent Show March 6th. As of this writing, we still need more acts! Please contact Elissa Alden to sign up. The Annual Meeting has been moved to May 31st. We are searching for a pledge drive chairperson; this important role must be filled soon. The board will meet as usual on the first Wednesday of March, at the church, 6:30 p.m. We are hoping to have a pre-meeting walk through of the proposed new playground. Board members, (and other interested parties) please try to be there by 6:00.

Gratia

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President

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!**

Please welcome our
newest members
Rose Mary Lemming
and
Gordon L. Bernstein
who joined our church
on **February 15th**

Selma Book Suggestions

Interested in reading more about how Selma impacted Unitarian Universalism? The following are some book suggestions.

The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism by Mark Morrison-Reed (available at the UUA Bookstore and on Amazon)

This book is the definitive book for understanding our movement and how Selma impacted it. Morrison-Reed begins with the decades leading up to Selma to explain where our movement was on the issue of Civil Rights and racism leading up to Selma, and then describes in detail the response. Also recommended are Morrison-Reed's books *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* and *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*.

From Selma to Sorrow: The Life and Death of Viola Liuzzo by May Stanton (available on Amazon).

There are only a couple of books about Viola Liuzzo, and this book is the best of them, recommended by family members.

No Greater Love: The James Reeb Story (available on Amazon) the best biography of James Reeb. This book is written by a friend and colleague of James Reeb's and helps the reader to know just how remarkable this young minister who was killed in Selma was.

Call to Selma: Eighteen Days of Witness by Richard S. Leonard (available at the UUA Bookstore and on Amazon)

Richard S. Leonard is the only Unitarian Universalist minister who marched the entire route from Selma to Montgomery, since the numbers were limited by court order on a narrower piece of highway. His first-hand account of the march brings the event to life.

Southern Witness: Unitarians and Universalists in the Civil Rights Era by Gordon Gibson (available at the UUA Bookstore and on Kindle at Amazon) The newest book on the market, this book was just published in February. Gordon Gibson has been an organizer of the "Living Legacy" trips. He was one of the ministers who went down to Selma fifty years ago, and has been a key figure in collecting stories and bringing understanding to what happened.



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.

~~ Upcoming Fund Raisers ~~

Talent Show ~ Friday, March 6

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

Annual Auction ~ Saturday, May 16 is the tentative date (Editor's note, we heard that there will be a new date set soon)

Submitted by : The Church Board

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Talent Show ~ March 6th

Attention all talented and/or fun loving folks! Our Talent Show (fundraiser) is approaching and we need to know your intentions for performance. The show will be on **Friday, March 6** at 7:00 pm. It will be held in the sanctuary with concessions sold down stairs during intermission. Admission to watch the show is \$5. with children accompanied by adults free. The entry fee for each participant is \$10. (it is a fund raiser after ALL) ! :) And have a winter blast! We will have local "celebrity" judges who will award nominal prizes to different category winners (children under 10, songs, duets, creative acts, etc). Should be a hoot. —oh yes, and this is open to anyone, not just our congregation. - See Ann Green, Lynn Hightower or Elissa Alden for details or to sign up! **Submitted by: Elissa Alden**

Viola Liuzzo Memorial Display

Our church will have a display on **Sundays March 15, 22, and 29th** in the social hall of pictures and items relating to Viola Liuzzo, who was a Unitarian Universalist woman killed in the Civil Rights struggle in Selma, fifty years ago. The display is created by Viola's sister, our member Rose Mary Lemming. Please stop by the table to view it during the weeks it is available, and stop and chat with our newest member Rose Mary!

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Annual Auction will be in May

In May we will celebrate many ways of giving thanks in support of our church by giving items for our annual auction. It's not really that far away. Please put **Saturday, May 16**, on your calendar as a tentative date for food and fun. (Editor's note, we heard that there will be a new date set soon) That gives us three months to gather great items to donate!

Submitted by: Steve Beison

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, March 12 ~ 6:30 pm

Our JXN Community Forum will be on the **SECOND** Thursday this month, March 12, at 6:30pm at the Carnegie Branch of the Jackson District Library. This month's topic: **Voting Rights from Selma to Today**. Our guest sponsors for the forum this month include the Jackson Area Civil Rights Awareness Association and the Jackson Branch of the NAACP. The forum will feature Dr. Jerome Reide, Region III Field Director, NAACP, who will be addressing the audience regarding recent attempt to curtail voting rights in the U.S.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

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, **March 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

New Playground News

Here is a reminder of the next fundraiser at the In Good Company Restaurant on US 127 (a mile or so north of the church) to raise more funds for the playground project. This will be on **Wednesday, April 15th** from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm with a percentage of your meal going back to the church's playground project. As you saw in the Board Note's by Gratia, the board is hoping to have a pre-meeting walk through of the proposed new playground. Board members, (and other interested parties) please try to be there by 6:00 pm this would be on March 4th.

Submitted by: Jackie Johnson

Spiritual Exercises on Resilience

Our theme for March is “Resilience.” Here are some spiritual exercises to explore this theme:

Option A: List ‘Em — Carve out some time this month to make a list of your TOP FIVE resiliency practices and habits. For instance, sleep, knitting, exercise, meditation, time with animals, prayer. After you list your top 5, organize them according to these questions:

- Which resiliency practice/habit is “saving” you right now?
- Which one have you let slide and need to start doing more of again?
- Which one was given to you by someone else? Which was a gift?
- Which one did you discover on your own?
- Which do you need to pass on to someone in your life? Who could benefit from sharing in this strategy? Might you invite them to do it with you?

Option B: Tap Into Your Resilient Past —

Therapists and spiritual directors tell us that one of the best ways to bring resiliency back into our lives is to revisit a time in our life when we were successfully resilient. This month take some time to revisit and honor a time when your powers of resiliency were at their peak. There are many ways to honor this period of your life: write the story down, ask a close friend to be a witness and listen to you retell the story, wear clothes or even the hairstyle from that period, play a song connected with the event over and over this month or be bold and get a tattoo to permanently keep that time in your life close.

Option C: Play That Resilient Tune — We all know it works: That perfect song played at the perfect time gives us the strength to hold on, keep going and struggle back toward joy. This month, find that perfect song and play it until it bounces you back.

Option D: Test Your Resilience — Use one of these tests for resilience at <http://www.resiliencescale.com/your-resilience/test-your-resilience/> and find out your score. What did the questions unearth for you? What are some answers you’d like to see change?

District & Denominational Meetings and Events

The New Era of Unitarian Universalism

Regional Assembly 2015

April 17-19

KEYNOTES:

Rev. Marlin Lavanhar and Rev.
Rosemary Bray McNatt
One location: Marriott Hotel in
Naperville, IL (near Chicago)

An entire weekend full of events
for everyone!

“The ‘New’ in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism.”

In addition to the two outstanding keynote speakers, there will be workshops addressing our theme, worship services, entertainment, and the Annual Business Meeting.

Limited number of partial scholarships available.
#UUNewEra2015

Register online at <http://www.midamericauua.org/RA>

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**“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”.



## Coming in April — Pioneering Voices: Portraits of Transgender People

Our church is arranging for a special photo display to be housed in our Social Hall in April, featuring photos of transgender individuals and families. The display is titled “**Pioneering Voices: Portraits of Transgender People**” and is a project of the organization Family Diversity Projects. **Pioneering Voices** is a museum-quality traveling exhibit including 15 photographs and accompanying text panels of interviews with people of all ages who are transgender and some of their partners and children. Through first-person accounts and positive images, this exhibit seeks to challenge damaging myths and stereotypes about transgender people and to educate people about this marginalized and often invisible group of people. **Pioneering Voices** celebrates a range of views, opinions, and experiences that are unique and empowering to transgender people everywhere. At the most basic level, **Pioneering Voices** combats transphobia by breaking silence and making the invisible visible. By encouraging people of all ages to affirm and appreciate diversity, this traveling exhibit contributes to the process of dismantling the destructive power of prejudice and intolerance.

- 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 APRIL ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 22.** ~~~~~ 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, Elissa Alden, Steve Beison, Jackie Johnson, 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



## March

- 1 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Sharon Pedersen ~ 11:00 am
- 1 Sunday The Church Buddies "Reveal Party" Pizza & Movie Night ~ 5:00 pm
- 1 Sunday Choir Rehearsal ~ 10:15 am -10:45 am
- 4 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:15 pm
- 4 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 5 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm ~ Not Meeting this Month
- 6 Friday Talent Show ~ 7:00 pm
- 8 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 10 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 12 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
- 12 Thurs. JXN Comm. Forum "Voting Rights from Selma to Today" @ Library Carnegie ~ 6:30 pm
- 15 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~11:00 am
- 17 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 19 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 22 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 22 Sunday Choir Performing during the Service
- 22 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 29 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Jon Hart ~ 11:00 am

## Upcoming Events

April 17-19 UU Regional Assembly ~ Marriott Hotel in Naperville, IL

### WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

| Sunday | Greeter  | R.E.<br>Greeter | Nursery             | Ushers | Social<br>Host            | R.E.<br>K-5<br>IG      | R.E.<br>Monitor |
|--------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|--------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Mar 1  | Alyce O  | Sharon P        | Vicki H<br>Joan B   | Gary T | Jane V &<br>Blue Team     | IG                     | Sharon P        |
| Mar 8  | Grace M  | Sharon P        | Vicki H<br>Donna H  | Gary T | Sue R &<br>Purple Team    | Gretchen M<br>Sharon P | Sharon P        |
| Mar 15 | Carole H | Sharon P        | Vicki H<br>Jackie J | Gary T | Ann G &<br>Red Team       | Kerry/Jon<br>Peter M   | Sharon P        |
| Mar 22 | Open     | Sharon P        | Vicki H<br>Joyce W  | Gary T | Nancy S &<br>Orange Team  | Gretchen M<br>Alyce O  | Sharon P        |
| Mar 29 | Open     | Sharon P        | Vicki H<br>Nena O   | Gary T | Gretchen M &<br>Lime Team | Sharon P<br>Rob/Nancy  | Sharon P        |

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

## March Worship Theme: Resilience

### Mar 1 - "RE Sunday"

– Lay Leader: Sharon Pedersen

Mar 8 - "Selma Sunday I: From Selma and Jimmie Lee Jackson to today"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

The death of Jimmie Lee Jackson at the hands of law enforcement was a pivotal point in the history of Civil Rights. Today, with the deaths of black men at the hands of law enforcement, are we on the cusp of a new Civil Rights movement? How has the context changed? What is the response of liberal religious groups like ours? Come and examine the questions with us.

### Mar 15 - "Selma Sunday II: James Reeb and Why Selma Matters"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Why does Selma matter? Selma had a profound impact on our Unitarian Universalist movement

from the ministers who went there to the UUA board itself. Come hear about the impact of Selma on Unitarian Universalism.

### Mar 22 - "Selma Sunday III: Viola Liuzzo and Her Legacy"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Viola Liuzzo was a Michigan woman who was killed in Selma fifty years ago. This service will focus on her seldom-told story and her legacy.

### Mar 29 - "Radical Hope"

– Lay Leader: Jon Hart

Radical Hope and the Civil Rights Movement what did it take for people in the civil rights movement to carry on? Join lay leader Jon Hart to explore the concept of radical hope, how it influenced the movement, and can inform our present social justice struggles.

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