



2015 ~ May

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

I'm realizing, as our year winds up, that anti-racism work and Black Lives Matters has been an important theme of our year. But just because the year is winding up doesn't mean the work is winding up. I just came back from the marvelous MidAmerica Region Annual Meeting, and it was a wonderful event. The title was "The New in the New Era," but anti-racism and Black Lives Matters were the overarching theme for the week. In the business meeting, our board had a special moment of recognition for the hard work the St. Louis-area churches have been doing since the shooting in Ferguson. In the keynotes at the Regional Assembly, there were many examples given by Rev. Marlin Lavanhar of things they've done at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa and by Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt of the work being done at Starr King School for the Ministry.

One example I found inspiring from All Souls was that they had a float in their city's annual Martin Luther King Day parade. The float was a model of their church, and played music as they went down the street. When the parade paused, they would stop the music, pull their hoods of their jackets over their heads, and raise their hands in a "don't shoot" position in silence.

They did this same thing on Sunday coming down the aisle of the church. (As an aside, Rev. Lavanhar said that in another parade, he had performed a mock same-sex wedding as the float rolled down the street. Imagine doing that in Jackson's Rose Parade in June, the same month that is both gay pride month and the month we're likely to get a decision on the Supreme Court case on same-sex marriage!) Other examples of anti-racism work done by All Souls include an innovative partnership with a black church and its minister, who became part of their church and their staff, and inclusion of more music and poetry from African Americans on Sundays. Keeping in mind that All Souls is the largest church in our association, and of course the efforts of a 1957-member church can't be simply replicated by a 94-member church. But many of the things they've done may inspire our church to do things in our own way on our own scale.

One of the most pointed remarks by the keynote speakers, I believe by Rev. Lavanhar, was when one of them pointed out that African Americans don't come to our churches because they want to make more white friends.

This is something important to remember as our own church grows in diversity and acceptance – not everyone's goals are the same, and while desire for connection and friendship are well-meaning, it can be over-

Continued on bottom of page 2 . . .

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Right After the Service on **Sunday, May 31**. Please plan on attending this short meeting. Your Vote Matters. Submitted by: the Church Board ~ 1 ~

Religious Education Report

We had a very successful Spring Break Science Camp, followed by a fun Easter egg hunt the first Sunday in April. After another great lesson on 4/12 we decided to make the 4/19 service “Intergenerational.” We’ll see if that’s the decision this weekend too, for jazz service #2. We look forward to the church auction May 8, and to accompany that, the children’s activities — we open the nursery for kids to “bid” on small gift items to take home, and to watch one or more fun movies, usually animated. We’ll have a “Craft Day” on Memorial Day weekend, and wrap up our lessons for the school year at the end of May.

As we wind down the year we turn our thoughts to preparing for next school year. With a changeover in RE staffing, it will be more important than ever that the RE Committee recruit a full cadre of volunteers to help with religious education next school year. The RE program would like to offer at least two grade groups of lessons again: likely “Coming of Age” for the 6th graders on up, and another set of lessons for the K-5th graders.

Thank you for your generosity as you consider your involvement in Religious Education.

Sharon

Submitted by: **Sharon Pedersen**
RE Coordinator

Rev. Cindy’s Column Continued...

whelming when a number of people from the church all reach out enthusiastically to the newcomer.

During the minister’s meeting preceding the Regional Assembly, one of our worship services was led by Rev. Barbara Gadon, who is the minister of one of the churches in the St. Louis area. Rev. Gadon talked about the work of her church and others to address racism and Black Lives Matters. Part of the point of her sermon was how hard this work is, and how we may be scared as we do it – scared for our physical safety, or scared that we might uncover disagreement within our community.

Yes, this work is scary, and it’s often not clear exactly what we can do and accomplish, what will be most meaningful and effective, and sometimes we will make missteps. But this is work that is important for our liberal religion, our progressive faith, right now. Across the country, I hear stories of churches engaging in this work, and we can learn from them and work with them as we move forward.

In faith,

Cindy

Minister’s Schedule

Rev. Cindy will be out of town from **May 14-17** for her last meeting as a MidAmerica Board member. The Board will be meeting in Louisville. In cases of emergency, please call her home number, and Peter will relay messages to her, or you can also call her cell phone.

Submitted by: **Rev. Cindy**

THE NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER FOR PEACE

O Great Spirit of our Ancestors, I raise my pipe to you.
To your messengers, the four winds, and to Mother Earth who provides for your children.
Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect and to be kind to each other so that they may grow with peace in mind.
Let us learn to share all the good things that you provide for us on this Earth.

By: Rosemarie Herbert

Notes from the Board

The board met on Wednesday, April 7th. We are continuing our search for new board members as four people are leaving the Board in July. We are most interested in finding someone to be our new treasurer; this important position remains unfilled for the coming year. We reflected on all that this church has accomplished recently. As Cindy said, we have done quite a few “New Big Things”, such as the Talent Show, the Selma Sunday series, the Spring Break Peace Camp, and the upcoming Transgendered Families Photo Exhibit. Of course the Community Forum is not new but it tackles new subjects every month. We have had many lay-led worship services that were innovative and a lot of fun. The list could go on and on. We are happy to be taking on new tasks and seeing them be successful, not just financially but also in terms of truly being a church that offers many things to our members and to the community. We feel excited about all these things. Hope to see everyone at our Annual Meeting (May 31)—please come and offer your ideas about how we can further improve our church family.

Gratia

Submitted by: **Gratia Karmes**
Board President



's from the Piano Bench

Spring is springing and the choir is singing! For the month of May we will be practicing on the 3rd. and practicing and performing on the 10th. Our rehearsal times are from 10:15 to 10:45. I hear a lot of great voices out there when we sing hymns, so ya'll come and join us, everyone is welcome!

Tom

Submitted by: **Tom Pepper**

May “Tradition” Spiritual Exercises:

Option A: Mess with Tradition

Sometimes honoring a tradition requires that we approach it anew, even “mess with it.” And this is the perfect month to make “old” traditions come alive. Mother’s Day and Memorial Day can be a time of going through the motions. What might you do this year to make them matter? Come up with a plan of how to engage them in a way you’ve never done before.

Option B: Take a Second Look at Somebody Else’s Tradition

There is a reason others hold on to tradition even if it we don’t understand why. Use this month to explore a religious tradition that seems foreign to you but essential and precious to those maintaining it. Learn more about why the Amish still refuse to drive. Why do some young, modern Muslim women still wear the traditional headscarf? Do you really understand Lent? Or why pilgrimages transform people so deeply?

Option C: Prove that Kitchen Traditions are Spiritual

Food produces more traditions than almost any other element of our lives. From the outside these traditions of cooking and eating can seem sweet and sentimental. But we know they are much more than that. We know that there is a deeper reason we fiercely defend homemade birthday cakes or eating the same food every year at Christmas or Thanksgiving. Why is it that you cook Great-Grandma Elaine’s chicken soup every time you’re sick? Why won’t you throw away that old skillet your mom left you? There is a deeper meaning – a life-giving meaning – to traditions of the kitchen and dinner table. Share your kitchen tradition at a meal with someone else.

Option D: A Hope Chest of Tradition

Whether it is an elegant wooden hope chest handed down from family or just a cardboard box in the attic, many of us have a “hope chest” that carries and contains our memories and traditions. Use this month to re-visit what’s in yours or to create a new box of traditions and memories.

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

~ ANNUAL ~ AUCTION ~ MAY 8 ~

It's Auction Time: on Friday, May 8 with dinner at 5:30 pm and the auction will be starting at 6:30 pm. It is right around the corner – our biggest fundraiser of the year! So gather your donations and let Carole Hartsuff, Deb Hartsuff, Elissa Alden, or Ann Green know what you'll be contributing. One-of-a-kind items, home-made and hand-made items, baked goods, events and experiences, gift cards, jewelry, art work, plantings, offers to help with housework or yard work – all are desirable and welcomed. We will give updates at church and many of you probably already got a call from a committee member. There will be a silent auction and the youth will participate in their own mini auction. Put your thinking cap on for your contribution ideas and mark your calendar for what is always a fun event on **Friday, May 8th**.

Submitted by: the Auction Committee

"I have good news and bad news. The good news is that we have the money to accomplish our goals. The bad news is that it's still in your pockets" — *Anonymous*

Please see

Lynn Hightower, the Chair
of this year's (2015-2016)
Pledge Drive and
her team of helpers.



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.

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, May 21 ~ 6:30 pm

Bike - Friendly

Join us for the final forum of the season: Making Jackson Bike - Friendly. Members of the Jackson Walkable Communities Coalition will discuss biking and walking in Jackson. They'll talk about barriers to alternative transportation, as well as efforts to make the city more bicycle friendly. The next forum will be in September.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

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

~~ Upcoming Fund Raisers ~~

Annual Auction ~ Friday, May 8

Submitted by : The Church Board

“You are important.

Without “U” we can’t spell
CH_RCH, or AD_LT,
or

YO_TH.

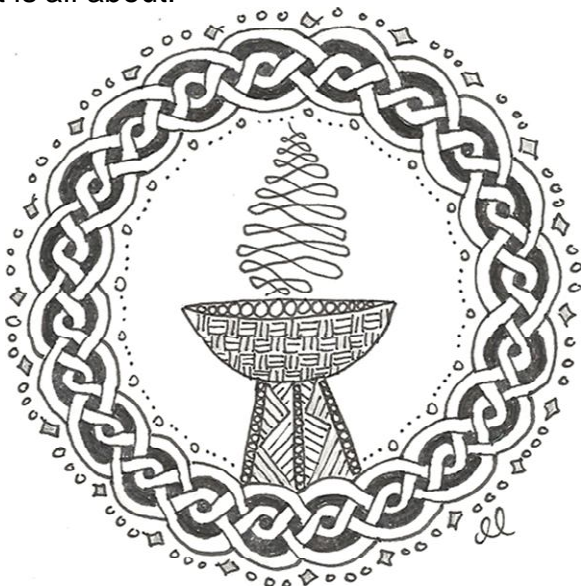
Without “U” we can’t have
M_SIC, S_NDAY,

or
S_CCESS.

Clearly, our church needs “U”.

Zentangles and Spiritual Practice

On May 3rd Rev. Cindy will be talking about Zentangles the picture below is an example of a her work. This it is a Zentangle, come and see what it is all about.



New Playground News

We are ready to move ahead with an old fashioned “playground” raising. Take a look at the plans in the social hall. Use your skills to adopt a project. We have plans for a cement tunnel, outdoor chalk board, music station, weaving station, “Toad” stool (made out of the older wooden salad bowls and more. Talk to Jackie Johnson (See the Supplement Page contact information). Let’s make this a church family project **Submitted by: Jackie Johnson**

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**

Social Hour Teams

There is a page of Social Hour Team Leaders and Dates posted on the corkboard in the Kitchen as a reminder of when your next turn will be. Please note your upcoming dates. And great big thanks to Rev. Cindy for seeing this idea from another church and it seems to be working for us.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

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, **May 21**, 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**

If, recognizing the interdependence of all life, we strive to build community,
the strength we gather will be our salvation.
If you are black and I am white, It will not matter.
If you are female and I am male, It will not matter.
If you are older and I am younger, It will not matter.
If you are progressive and I am conservative, It will not matter.
If you are straight and I am gay, It will not matter.
If you are Christian and I am Jewish, It will not matter.
If we join spirits as brothers and sisters, the pain of our aloneness will be lessened,
And that does matter.

~ Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley

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• 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
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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 JUNE ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, MAY 24. ~~~~~ 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, 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



May

- 3 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 3 Sunday Choir Rehearsal ~ 10:15 am -10:45 am
- 6 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:15 pm
- 6 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 7 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 8 Fri. Dinner ~ 5:30 pm and Annual Auction ~ 6:30 pm
- 10 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 10 Sunday Choir Performing during the Service
- 10 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 12 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 12 Tue. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
- 17 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Peg Beison ~11:00 am
- 19 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 21 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 21 Thurs. JXN Comm. Forum "Jackson Bike - Friendly" @ Library Carnegie ~ 6:30 pm
- 24 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 24 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 31 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 31 Sunday Annual Meeting ~ Right After the Service

Upcoming Events

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
May 3	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Jackie J	Gary T	Nena O & Green Team	Sharon P Peter M	Sharon P
May 10	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Joyce W	Gary T	Jane V & Blue Team	Cecily S Sharon P	Sharon P
May 17	Joan B	Sharon P	Vicki H Nena O	Gary T	Sue R & Purple Team	Kerry/Jon Rob/Nancy	Sharon P
May 24	Betty G	Sharon P	Vicki H Kathy H	Gary T	Ann G & RedTeam	Craft Sunday	Sharon P
May 31	Carole H	Sharon P	Vicki H George H	Gary T	Nancy S & Orange Team	Peter M	Sharon P

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

May Worship Theme: Tradition

May 3 - "Zentangles and Spiritual Practice"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

No other blog post or magazine article I've written has gotten as much response as my article for the UU World about Zentangles. In fact, I had several conversations this week where people brought it up. What is this spiritual practice, and why is it something people are connecting so much to? I'll explore why I find it helpful and how it's done in this service.

May 10 - "Your Children Are Not Your Children"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

(Mother's Day) The poet Kahlil Gibran wrote, "Your children are not your children. / They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself." May is "National Foster Care Month," and never have Gibran's words felt truer than since becoming a foster parent. I'll examine the Gibran poem and how parenting is a series of letting go on this Mother's Day.

May 17 - "Conscious Awareness"

– Lay Leader: Peg Beison

We will explore how processes in our brains may predispose us to hold particular political views—without our conscious awareness! Are we conservative or liberal because our heads won't let us be otherwise? What does it mean to be conservative or liberal? Can a "home for liberal religion" be open to those who call themselves conservative?

May 24 - "The Fault Line and the Front Line"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

(Memorial Day) Unitarian Universalists are deeply divided over issues of militarism and war. How do we honor the service of those among us, and honor the different perspectives on war and peace at the same time? This service will explore the lines that divide us.

May 31 - "The Open Road to Honalee"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

May 31 is the birthday of both Unitarian poet Walt Whitman and Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul, and Mary. Rev. Cindy will weave American poetry and folk music together in this service.

M U