



# 2015 ~ May

## 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

I'm realizing as our year winds up, that anti-racism work and Black Lives Matters has been an important them 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

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### Sun. Services at 11:00 am ~ 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?

**May 10 - "Your Children Are Not Your Children" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister** - 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—with-out our conscious awareness! Are we conservative or liberal because our heads won't let us be otherwise?

**May 24 - "The Fault Line and the Front Line" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister** - 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.

### Calendar - 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 "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

**Minister - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum** [revCyn@ugaalum.uga.edu](mailto:revCyn@ugaalum.uga.edu)  
**R.E. Coordinator - Sharon Pedersen** [sspedersen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sspedersen@sbcglobal.net)  
**Board President - Gratia Karmes** [glk222@tds.net](mailto:glk222@tds.net)

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

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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 overwhelming 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**

## **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](http://www.myjdl.com).

### **Thursday, May 21----- 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.

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