



2015 ~ June

# 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

## STAFF

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## Minister's Column

As we come to the close of another church year (our fiscal calendar is July through June), I am amazed at all we did this year, and looking forward to planning for the next year. I elaborated on our year in my annual report, but for those who did not see the annual report, here are some of the new things we did:

- Started using worship "themes"
- Used hymn sharing across Sundays to maximize live music Sundays.
- Created new visitor packets
- Instituted new Social Hour teams
- Celebrated the Selma anniversary with a movie outing, forum, special displays, worship, and a tribute from the state
- Created regular social media graphics for themes and events
- Held a fun and successful talent show
- Held the most financially successful auction ever
- Created quarterly Religious Education outreach events, including a Halloween Carnival, and STEM Spring Break Camp
- Reframed our "Santa's Workshop" as a "Season of Caring" workshop to focus on social mission
- Hosted a special photo display in our social hall
- Engaged with social justice on the Black Lives Matters issue

There are many years when we haven't had any major new initiatives but have just followed the pattern of previous years, much less had a dozen new initiatives!

I'm looking forward to my study leave time that begins in July as a time to process all of this and think about what was successful and what could be adjusted to be even better. And, too, I'll be focusing on all the transitions we have ahead of us, hoping to make those flow as smoothly as possible. We have a major board transition with four new incoming board members (out of six), and we also will be hiring a new pianist with Tom leaving the role. But the biggest transition ahead of us is in how we'll be adjusting our Religious Education program after Sharon leaves the role, after a dozen years of running our program. Our budget doesn't allow us to hire someone with Sharon's experience, nor for as many hours as Sharon worked, so we'll be doing creative thinking about how to keep our program running and keep it engaging with a new structure in place. Much of my study leave this year will be devoted to that project.

If you have ideas about things you'd like to see our church engaged in over the next year, whether at church or out in the community, please share them with me and the board!

Namaste,

**Cindy**

# Religious Education Report

It's amazing how cleaning up can help a person reflect on milestones and fond memories, as old writing, photos and artwork are stored, passed on to others, or even recycled. So it's very appropriate that I've spent several Sunday afternoons tucked away above the nursery and/or at the schoolhouse, inventorying supplies for my successor and trying to make order of the chaos of RE supplies and files. The good news is, thanks to all of you who have donated supplies over the years, we're in pretty good shape for next year, from my view anyway - may only need fresh markers and glue sticks, and maybe paint if that is called for in the future. Of course, there's always some odd thing that is needed for an RE lesson, and I'll miss those runs to Kroger's for pipe cleaners, and JoAnn Fabrics and Michaels for things like seashell beads, fake fur, etc.

We have a lot to be proud of at UUCEL, for the way we've cherished and taught our young ones. From teaching them values and how to deliberate right from wrong, to introducing them to Bible stories, religions around the world, and UU history, the RE program provides a lot of things to think about for young ones, while they're having fun, too! Reminds me of that song line, "even to question is an answer." It's quite interesting to review the breadth and depth of curricula that has been available to our UU youth over the years.

While I am very happy with all the events that took place for children and families this year (see annual report), I am also very happy to reflect back on some memorable events THROUGHOUT the years of my tenure as UUCEL's Religious Education Coordinator:

- holding classes for pre-K kids through high school youth, and including children in church decision-making processes like voting at the annual meeting;
- Membership in Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA), and continuing education efforts including attending a conference in Illinois, Michigan RE cluster

groups (which we hosted one school year), and several regional annual meetings to get ideas and learn about best practices;

- Having District executives like the Lifespan RE Consultant visit and train our teachers/committee members;
- Studying UU history and identity, as well as RE administration, through what's called "Renaissance Modules" that are taught over an intensive weekend;
- Attending training to potentially lead teens in Our Whole Lives relationships and sexuality education (still hope we can do that someday, as a church);
- Encouraging youth to attend CONvocations, including one I helped chaperone in Ann Arbor;
- Holding peace camps, including with Jackson Interfaith Peacekeepers and St. John's UCC;
- Being active in other social action efforts in conjunction with the RE Committee, like Heifer Project, Ten Thousand Villages, CROP and AIDS walks, serving meals at Interfaith Shelter, and this year's "Celebrating a Season of Caring" workshop.

I am departing this position not because I'm tired of the hard work it takes to coordinate teacher schedules, supplies, and curriculum along with recruiting families with children to the church; but because 1) I need to devote even more of my FULL time to my career position in Ann Arbor, and 2) I believe that others with fresh ideas and energy are needed to add vitality to the religious education program for all ages. It is my hope that UUCEL will be able to have enough volunteers to staff the nursery safely each week, along with teaching two to three age groups again this fall - K-5, middle school, and maybe a high school group as well. If we can all communicate about the "saving"

message of UUism: maybe we can capture the attention, imaginations and hearts of many of those “nones” out there - the religiously nonaffiliated - even a young adult group affiliated with JCC students and more adult RE classes/discussions are not out of the question!

I continue to wholeheartedly support the RE program, and I hope you will too. Thanks so much to those of you who have supported this work over the years, from supplies donations to budget discussions to playground construction, and beyond.

**Sharon Pedersen**  
**Outgoing RE Coordinator**  
5/26/2015



### **Recognition and Thanks for**

#### **Sharon and Tom**

We have two members leaving their staff roles this year. While this is not “goodbye” as they will stay around as members, this is a time for celebration of their work and thanking them for their service to our church.

Tom Pepper is leaving his role as pianist after several years behind the bench. We’ll be honoring him in the **June 7<sup>th</sup>** service, where he will be playing and the choir will be performing.

Sharon Pedersen has served as our religious education director for about a dozen years. To honor her transition from this role, we will be honoring her in the **June 21<sup>st</sup>** service with a celebration to follow in the social hall.



## **from the Piano Bench**

Our next Community Choir rehearsal and performance will be on June 7, 2015. This will be our last performance before the Summer break, so we hope you will join us!

Our Community Choir format has been a friendly and welcoming way for people to join us as we sing special music for our Church. I would like to thank Nena Obits for being our volunteer choir director, and for creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere during our rehearsals. She has spent a lot of time behind the scenes finding music to match our monthly sermon themes, and has been a joy to work with. We thank you, Nena, for your contributions to our choir!

On my final note, I will step down from the piano bench at the end of June. It has been a real privilege to contribute music for our Church services and to hear the heart and enthusiasm of our congregation as we sing together. Thank you all for creating such a warm and supportive musical experience in our Church. I look forward to our next musician and the music they will bring to our religious community.

**Tom**  
**Submitted by: Tom Pepper**

# Meetings and Events

## U.U. Church of East Liberty

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### 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 and table for the toddlers and more. Talk to Jackie Johnson (See the Supplement Page contact information). Let’s make this a church family project

**Submitted by: Jackie Johnson**

### Minister’s Schedule

Cindy will be departing for General Assembly in Portland June 22, and will be there through June 28. She’ll be on a combination of five weeks comprised of up to three weeks of study leave and up to three weeks of vacation from the end of General Assembly through August 2. She’ll be out of town for part of that – the week following General Assembly she’ll be in Washington state, returning July 4, and she’ll be gone for the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) from July 18 through July 26.

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

The next forum will be in September.

**Submitted by: Outreach Committee**

## Notes from the Board

The board met with the specific goal of planning the annual meeting. We also discussed a number of budget issues and reviewed the progress of our committees. Four members are leaving the Board and will be missed. We hope to see everyone at the annual meeting, May 31, right after the service. Complete minutes of this meeting are available in the social hall.

### Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes  
Board President**

**“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”.

**~~ Upcoming Fund Raisers ~~**

To Be Announced

**Submitted by : The Church Board**

## 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. If your name is not listed and you would like to be added to a group please see Kathy Haynes. 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.**

## 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.

## 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!**

## 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**

## 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, **June 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**

## 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.





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	<a href="http://www.libertyuu.org">http://www.libertyuu.org</a>
• The Bellnote Newsletter	<a href="http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html">http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html</a>
• Church's facebook page	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu">http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu</a>
• Forum facebook page	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum">http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum</a>
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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 JULY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 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, 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



## June

3 Wed.	Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
4 Thurs.	AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
7 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
7 Sunday	Choir Performing during the Service
7 Sunday	Honoring our Pianist, Tom Pepper
9 Tue.	Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
9 Tue.	Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:00 pm
11 Tue.	Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
14 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
14 Sunday	Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
16 Tue.	Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
21 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Peter Morrison, Minister ~11:00 am
21 Sunday	Honoring our Religious Education Director, Sharon Pedersen
21 Thurs.	Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
21 Sunday	The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
22-28	Rev. Cindy at General Assembly in Portland
28 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Jon Hart ~ 11:00 am
28-4 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Cindy will be in the state of Washington

## Upcoming Events

June 28 through August 2.

Rev. Cindy's study leave and up to three weeks of vacation

July 18 through July 26

Rev. Cindy will be at the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI)

## WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	R.E. Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Monitor
June 7	Alyce O	Sharon P	Vicki H Joan B	Gary T	Gretchen M & Lime Team	IG	Sharon P
June 14	Grace M	Sharon P	Vicki H Donna H	Gary T	Peg B & Teal Team	IG	Sharon P
June 21	Joan B			Gary T	Donna H & Magenta Team	IG	
June 28	Betty G			Gary T	Kerry H & Coral Team	IG	

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

### June 7 - “ Flower Communion”

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Bring a flower to share as we celebrate our annual Flower Communion.

### June 14 - “Wheel of the Year”

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Last year’s volunteer recognition ritual was a big hit, so we’ll try it again this year! On this day we’ll recognize volunteers and staff and thank our members for the work we do. If you would like to participate in thanking people, bring 60 small things to give away to your fellow congregation members – it could be pennies or little thank-you notes or pencils or stickers or candles – your limit is your imagination. We’ll pass things around and share in the giving and receiving of thanks.

~This Sunday we will hold our fourth social mission collection for the church year.

### June 21 - “ Father’s Day”

– Peter Morrison, Minister

Moving from the experience of growing up without a father to the experience of fathering, Peter Morrison will share his understanding of the meaning of fatherhood through his own life’s experiences.

### June 28 - “Summer Six Sources Series, Part 1”

– Lay Leader: Jon Hart

This summer we will be exploring the six “sources” in Unitarian Universalism, a document found in the UUA bylaws that speaks to the living tradition we share. The first source is: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

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