



**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

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**CALENDAR - JUNE**

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|--------------------|--|
| 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 Wed.             | Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:15 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                                |

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT 11:00 AM**

**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.

**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.

# MEETINGS AND EVENTS: AT OR AFFILIATED WITH U.U. CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

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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**

## 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).

The next forum will be in September.

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