



2015 ~ August

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

MINISTER REV. DR. CYNTHIA LANDRUM
CYNLANDRUM@GMAIL.COM
NURSERY & CHILD CARE Vicki Haynes
kermit_210@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TRUSTEE GRATIA KARMES
glk222@tds.net
TRUSTEE ELISSA ALDEN
elissa.alden@comcast.net
TRUSTEE ANN GREEN
GreenAnnM@jccmi.edu
TRUSTEE Alyce Oosting
oosting115@comcast.net
TRUSTEE KERRY HART
khart247@sbcglobal.net
TRUSTEE DEB HARTSUFF
debhartsuff@gmail.com

CARING COMMITTEE Jane Volk
gjvolk@comcast.net

BUILDING & GROUNDS Vic Marshall
vbmarshall@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
Ann Green greenannm@jccmi.edu
Gretchen Marshall amarshallg@yahoo.com
Jackie Jackson jsj128@comcast.net

BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMM
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Grace Mulnix



Minister's Column

This summer we celebrated a major victory with the legalization of same-sex marriage. Our faith has been working for this for decades. Our first resolution on LGBT issues was passed at the General Assembly the year I was born! It was followed with dozens of resolutions on LGBT issues over the decades, specifically endorsing same-sex unions in 1984 and the right to marry in 1996, the year I started seminary. For me, the emphasis on equality and protections for LGBT people has always been a part of the faith I've known – but fighting for this equal right has always been a part of my ministry, too. It's thrilling to celebrate at long last the right to marry across the entire United States. It marks the end of an era, and the end of a long struggle for justice.

The work of LGBT equality isn't entirely finished, however, with the right to marry. We are still one of a number of states where other forms of discrimination are completely legal, including workplace discrimination and discrimination in housing and public accommodations – things we've been pushing for in our Jackson Together group advocating for a non-discrimination ordinance in Jackson. I expect that this group may get revived this fall, unless protections are implemented at a state or national level.

The news about the Supreme Court's decision came while I was at General Assembly this year, and while we celebrated, at the same time our denominational leaders lifted up the fact that while the arc of the universe bends toward justice, there is still a lot of work to be done in other areas.

Specifically, this year we saw the growth of the Black Lives Matters movement. One of the Actions of Immediate Witness passed at this year's General Assembly was a support for the Black Lives Matters movement. While it passed overwhelmingly, there was a lot of tension around the vote, because it called for us to do some homework in our understanding of the issues of the movement and what it means to be good allies. I'll be addressing the BLM movement this month in one of our Sunday services.

When the Supreme Court decision was announced, I said, "This is what it feels like to know we can change the world." Our faith was a big part of this change, and we are a part of this faith. Knowing it's possible to make history, to create justice, and to bend the arc of the universe, we need to keep doing that. We don't do it alone, of course – we do it with partners and allies. Together we can make a difference in the other areas of justice, just as we have with marriage.

Namaste,

Cindy

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

This Month in Religious Education

Our Religious Education classes will start up in September. August will be intergenerational with K-5 included in the service.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the newlyweds in our congregation! Sharon Pedersen and Mindy Radseck got married on July 11, and Barbara Hill and Julie Wadding will be married on August 22! We also extend our congratulations to Rev. Kerry Snyder of First Congregational Church who will be marrying Marquis Taylor in August with Rev. Cindy officiating

Grandma's Attic Sale -- New Dates

The attic sale will be on **Friday, October 2** and **Saturday, October 3** from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Donations, dates and times information will be in next month's issue

If you have any questions please contact Gratia Karmes or Debbie Hartsuff. Please (see the Supplements Page for their contact information).

Submitted by: Debbie Hartsuff

Help Wanted!

Our congregation is in search of a new Pianist and a new Religious Education Teacher/Assistant. If you or anyone you know is interested, please see Rev. Cindy or a member of the board for details.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Notes from the Board

The Church Board did not meet in July, so no new information to report at the time the newsletter went to press. The next board meeting will be Wednesday, August 5th and new officers will be elected at that time.

Gratia

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes



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 ~~

Grandma's Attic Sale

Friday, October 2 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday, October 3 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Submitted by : The Church Board

White Privilege

White Responsibility

Whites have many privileges in our society, most of them we don't typically notice. With privilege comes responsibility. This is an important concept in the work to end racism.

This summer in partnership with the Jackson District Library, JACRAA (Jackson Area Civil Rights Awareness Association) is offering three programs in a series, "White Privilege/White Responsibility." The purpose is to explore the concept of white privilege and how it covertly supports racism and discrimination. Since whites created and installed racism for economic and social advantage, and since whites support and benefit from racism (albeit unconsciously), the responsibility falls on whites to uncover what they don't see and work toward ending racism. July 28 was the beginning of the series with portions of the video "Color of Fear." On **August 3**, Rev. Dr. Melvin Hitchens, pastor at Community AME Church, will deconstruct the frustration of black males that is presented in the "Color of Fear." On **August 25**, discussion on the comments of white activist Tim Wise will end the series. All programs are at the Carnegie Library Auditorium from 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. Please consider joining us.

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, August 20, 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.

Jackson Personal Care Ministry

A big thanks to all the UUers who came to Ed Peterson's 70th Birthday Party/Fundraiser. In Ed's words, "We raised a lot of fun plus \$1,010.00 for the Jackson Personal Care Ministry and \$553.00 for the work of JACRAA, (the Jackson Civil Rights Group)." Three items that we offer at the Personal Care Ministry have been hard to find at bargain rates in bulk, so we are asking church members to donate disposable razors, lip balm, and combs. Much thanks.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

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

The next forum will be in **September**.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted



August

- 1- 2 Rev. Cindy's study leave
- 2 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: TBA ~ 11:00 am
- 3 Mon. Portions of the video "Color of Fear" Carnegie Auditorium ~ 6:30 – 8:45 pm
- 5 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 6 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 9 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 9 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 11 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 11 Tue. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 5:00 pm
- 13 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 1:00 pm
- 16 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 18 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 20 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 23 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 23 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: TBA ~ 11:00 am
- 25 Tue. Portions of the video "Color of Fear" Carnegie Auditorium ~ 6:30 – 8:45 pm
- 30 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

- Oct 2 Grandma's Attic Sale ~ 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Oct 3 Grandma's Attic Sale ~ 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5
Aug 2	Alyce O	Vicki H	Gary T	Ann G & Red Team	IG
Aug 9	Grace M	Vicki H	Gary T	Nancy S & Orange Team	IG
Aug 16	Joan B	Vicki H	Gary T	Gretchen M & Lime Team	IG
Aug 23	Carole H	Vicki H	Gary T	Peg B & Teal Team	IG
Aug 30	Betty G	Vicki H	Gary T	Donna H & Magenta Team	IG

**August 2 - "Summer Sources Series, Part 6:
Spiritual Teachings of Earth -
Centered Traditions"**

- Lay Leader: To Be Announced

Our summer series on the Sources of our Living Tradition concludes with a service about earth-based traditions.

Aug 9 - "Water Communion"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Bring water from your summer travels or your tap as we gather the living waters of the world.

Aug 16 - "Five Smooth Stones"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – Theologian James Luther Adams talked about the "five smooth stones" of liberal religion. We'll revisit those smooth stones and talk about how they were meant to be used to bring down the Goliaths of our age.

Aug 23 - "Artists' Sunday"

- Lay Leader: To Be Announced

Bring your art and tell about your artistry.

Aug 30 - "A Year After Ferguson"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

It's been over a year since Michael Brown's death. In that time, many deaths have followed and the Black Lives Matter movement has swept our nation. What is our religious response?

W h e

