



# 2015 ~ August

## 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

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 nondiscrimination ordinance in Jackson. I expect that this group may get revived this fall, unless protections are implemented at a state or national level.

Continued on other side...

### Sunday Services at 11:00 am

**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?

### Calendar

- 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

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

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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**

## Grandma's Attic Sale

Our annual sale of gently used items will be from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday, **October 2** and Saturday, **October 3** in the Schoolhouse next to the church and Social Hall of the Church. Come shop for great finds.

## 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 theJDL website at [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com).

The next forum will be in September.

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