



2015 ~ September
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

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Minister's Column

This month's theme is "Vision," and my vision of the church year ahead is really starting to take shape. The vision of our new playground has come into being. We're revamping our religious education program to include separate classes for K-5 and 6-12. I had a wonderful meeting last month with our youth about what their interests are and what they would like the program to look like. I also met recently with a young adult friend of our congregation to talk about programming ideas for young adults, which we will also hopefully start up in October. Additionally, I've got an interesting new idea for adult religious education programming – see page 2 for details. I've had a good and creative summer doing a lot of my Zentangle drawings, and will be releasing a coloring book for UUs this fall. What are your visions for our year ahead? Do you have a creative new idea you'd like to try out? Do you have a sermon you'd like to share, or an adult education class you'd like to try out, or an adventure you'd like to lead us on? Come talk with me, and we'll see if we can bring your vision to reality together. Our hymn "*Wake Now My Senses*" talks about vision saying, "Wake now my vision of ministry clear. Brighten my pathway with radiance here. Mingle my calling with all who will share. Work toward a planet transformed by our care." We have a shared ministry in this church, one where it takes all our visions to build our beloved community. Come share your vision this month!

Namaste
Cindy

Religious Education Report

News

Our Religious Education year begins in September with a teacher ingathering September 13 and our first classes on September 20th, and we have a lot of exciting new changes for the year to tell you about! The largest changes are that we have a new Religious Education Coordinator, and we're separating the classes into two levels for the year. New Religious Education Coordinator: First, we're delighted to announce that Jackie Johnson has accepted the role of Religious Education Coordinator. The board was able to reallocate some funds to slightly increase the hours of the position, as well, and move it back from Religious Education Assistant to Religious Education Coordinator for a six-month trial period, after which we hope both that Jackie will be interested in continuing and that we will find funding for the rest of the year. Remember that Jackie is new in the role with fewer hours than Sharon had, so she won't be doing everything Sharon did. We'll be formally welcoming Jackie at our ingathering on September 13th.

K-5 Class:

Our K-5 class will be using two curricula this year for three Sundays per month. The first is a theme-based curriculum that will go along with the themes you'll see in the newsletter each month. The K-5 kids will have one lesson each month that's a theme exploration. These are graciously provided to our church at no cost by the UU Church of Greater Lansing and their Director of Religious Education who did tremendous work shaping and creating portions of it, Teresa Putnam. (We had put money in the budget to pay for this program and some RE consulting, and were able to reallocate it to the Religious Education Coordinator role, thanks to the generosity of the Lansing church.) The other lessons each month will come from the UUA curriculum "World of Wonder." World of Wonder is a nature-based curriculum that we think will go

wonderfully with our rural church and our ecological and scientific mindset (and our new "natural playground")! The curriculum description for World of Wonder states: "This program delves deep into our Unitarian Universalist Seventh Principle. It instills respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and appreciation of its beauty, excitement, and mystery. It is founded on the premise that direct experience in nature is essential to children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development."

Youth (6-12) Class:

New this year is our youth class! Our youth will be meeting twice per month on Sunday mornings. One Sunday each month they will be exploring a "Coming of Age" curriculum. "Coming of Age" is a rite of passage in Unitarian Universalism, usually for middle-school-aged children, but since we haven't had one in a while, we're including our high-school children. The curriculum description states, "Participants explore theology, spirituality, history and other topics through discussion, drama, music, writing and art." On a second Sunday per month, the youth class will be participating in a theme-based program where they use their interests in such popular culture things as music, videos, games, sports, and social justice to explore themes, some of which are the same themes as the adults and K-5 explore, but some of which are different.

What's Happening on Those Other Sundays?

You may have noticed that the descriptions say the children and youth meet three and two times per month. Once a month the youth will have a Sunday where they do not have lessons. If we have two adults who are willing, they may have a social time Sunday. Otherwise, they will be in the service. They'll have Coming of Age journals they can work in during the service, as well, so you may see them writing. As for the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, once a month we have intergenerational services which will include all the children and youth. And on months with a fifth Sunday (and some holiday Sundays), we'll have a "craft day" where the children and youth are invited to join in crafts supervised and led by a team of adults.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

September Theme: Vision

September's theme is "Vision." Here are some exercises you can do to explore this theme.

~ Tikkun Olam: The Jewish faith has an expression "tikkun olam" which means "repairing the world." What is your vision for how the world could be repaired? Journal about your ideas for world healing.

~ Spiritual Visions: Have you ever had an experience you would describe as a "vision"? What did it mean to you? How did you interpret it? Did it change your beliefs or your actions? Share your vision through journaling or discussion with a trusted friend or love one.

~ Childhood visions: What were you taught as a child or young adult about "visions"? The word "vision" most likely wasn't the one used. But surely, some adult in your life talked about "keeping your eyes open," "wisdom" or "epiphanies." What sources of vision and wisdom were trusted? Which ones were you told were deceptive or might "lead you astray"? When you felt "lost," did the adults in your life encourage you to "go to the woods"? "Talk to a friend"? "Read the Good Book"? Does any of your childhood learning about "visions" still apply to your life?

Some further questions to explore:

~ Has your vision ever lead you astray? Into danger? Vision can sometimes have a dark side. Is your vision helping you out of or into trouble?

~ Do you mourn the loss of vision? Especially the imaginative play you relished as a child? How might you bring some of that back into your life? What is your "adult version" of "imaginative play"? Or did you read this sentence more literally? How is loss of vision impacting your life? Are there hidden rewards? Other heightened senses?

~ Does the imagination need to come to your rescue? Are you listening to all the reasons why "it" can't be done? The famous inventor Thomas Edison used to say his deafness was his greatest blessing. A blessing because it saved him from having to listen to reasons why things couldn't be done. Do you need to do a little less listening to the "cannots" in your life?

~ Do you use your vision to enhance reality or to flee from it?

~ Do you consider yourself to be an "artist with your life"? Do you want to? What might that mean? When you look out at life, do you see unyielding circumstances or imagine a playground of possibilities?

~ Do you vision where you are going in life or react to what is?

~ Do you like your vision of the future? If not, do you know why? And are you finally ready to do the work to change that?

~ How did your parents (or other mentors) help you envision who you would become? **Submitted by Rev. Cindy**

District & Denominational Meetings and Events

Northwest UU in Southfield is hosting a three day trauma training

These courses will prepare participants to understand a wide range of crisis intervention services. Fundamentals of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) will be outlined and participants will leave with the knowledge and tools to provide several group crisis interventions, specifically defusings, Crisis Management Briefings, and the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD). Appropriate follow-up services and referrals will be discussed.

Crisis is a reality in the workplace, schools, hospitals and congregations. Are you ready to respond to help those seeking assistance? This interactive training gives participants practical skills to provide crisis intervention to individuals and groups. Clergy and laity are invited. Special pricing for students. We are hoping for an interfaith multicultural attendance.

Submitted by: Rev. Kimi Riegel, Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, Southfield MI. Office phone 248-354-4488 Cell 248-730-5464 (text and messages).

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Notes from the Board

The board met Sunday directly after church to finalize proceedings from our previous meeting. The following officers were elected unanimously: Gratia Karmes, President; Elissa Alden, Vice President; Kerry Hart, Treasurer, and Alyce Oosting, Secretary, Trustees Ann Green and Deb Hartsuff. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd.

Gratia

Submitted by: **Gratia Karmes**
Board President

Playground Dedication

If you haven't been out there lately, take a look at our playground! A special thank-you to Jackie Johnson for all her hard work and for coordinating and visioning this effort! This idea of a "Natural Playground" has really started to take shape. While there may still be some finishing of details going on, we're going to have a special dedication of our playground on **September 13th** either during or after the service.

Death Potluck

Yes, you read that correctly! The idea is that we'll have a potluck dinner and talk about death. What do you think happens when we die? What do you want your funeral to be like? Your burial? What are your fears about death? What's on your "bucket list"? Sign up for our first Death Dinner, which will be **Tuesday, September 22** at 6pm. If there's enough interest, we'll schedule more for October!
Submitted by: Rev. 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. 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 forum this month is at a different location than the Library and on the **4th Thursday**. Please join us at the Michigan Theater for an information forum between the two men running for the Mayor of Jackson.

City of JACKSON MAYORAL
CANDIDATE FORUM

* MARTIN GRIFFIN and * BILL JORS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:30 PM at the MICHIGAN THEATER

PRESENTED BY

JXN Community Forum, Sponsored by Jackson District Library, Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty and the League of Women Voters, Jackson Unit.

Potluck Dinner and Fall Clean-up the Inside Clutter

Please join us after the service on **September 27th** for a 'fall clean-up the inside clutter' day with a potluck dinner with the blue team helping with that. Please bring a passing dish, enjoy the meal with friends, and stay for a while to help clean up some cluttered spots around the buildings. If you are unable to stay to clean that day and would like to help on another day and time, please let Joan, Carole or Kathy know and we can give you some areas to do on your own. Thanks, and many helpers makes the task done faster.

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

Grandma's Attic Sale

The attic sale will be on **Friday, October 2** and **Saturday, October 3** from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Donations are being accepted now through the end of the month. If you would please put your items in the schoolhouse that would be helpful. If you are able to help before, during or after the sale please let Gratia and Deb know, thanks in advance. If you have any other questions please contact Gratia Karmes or Debbie Hartsuff. Please (see the Supplements Page for their contact information).

Submitted by: Debbie Hartsuff

Pianist Wanted

Our church is still searching for a Sunday morning pianist. We're offering \$100 per Sunday, with some flexibility as to schedule. If you know someone who might be interested, please share this information with them and let Rev. Cindy or Elissa Alden know. Thank you!

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, **Sept. 17** 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

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**

A reminder to all who helps with social hour ~~ Please put items away after you use them. If you got it out you know where it goes to put it away. Thanks from those that tidy up in between the Sundays.

~~ 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

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.



COMMUNITY POW WOWS

Go to a Ward Meeting! We need your input to become a better community. No one knows your community better than you! Come and Share what you feel are the needs of our community. Come and Share your hopes and dreams for the Jackson area. Pick the location nearest you or time that works best for you.

- 3 opportunities to share (pick 1) Each meeting begins @ 7pm
- August 27 @ Calvary UMC (925 Backus Street)
- Sept. 10 @ Lily Baptist Church (1117 W G Wade Drive)
- Sept. 15 @ Trinity UMC (1508 Greenwood Avenue)

SPONSORED BY: THE CITY OF JACKSON IN COOPERATION W/THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AND THE MOVING JACKSON FORWARD ORGANIZATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Website • The Bellnote Newsletter • Church's facebook page • Forum facebook page 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.libertyuu.org http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum
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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 OCTOBER ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20. ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO: UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –
We want to thank; Rev. Cindy Landrum, Gratia Karmes, Nena Obits, Debbie Hartsuff, 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



September

- 2 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 3 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 6 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: TBA ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 10 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
- 10 Thurs RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 4:30 pm
- 10 Thurs Community Pow Wow at Lily Baptist ~ 7:00 pm
- 13 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 13 Sunday Playground Dedication
- 13 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 14 Mon. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 2:00 pm
- 15 Tue. Worship Comm ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 15 Tue Community Pow Wow at Trinity UMC ~ 7:00 pm
- 17 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 20 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 20 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 22 Tue. Death Dinner ~ 6:00 pm
- 24 Thurs. JXN Forum~Mayoral Candidates Forum @Michigan Theater ~ 6:30-8:30
- 27 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister~ 11:00 am
- 27 Sunday Potluck Dinner and Inside Clean-up the Clutter ~ After the Service
- 27 Sunday Installation of Rev. Alex Riegel at Grosse Pointe UU ~ 4:00 pm

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
- Oct 5-7 Minister away at Heartland UU Minister's Association meeting in Angola, Indiana
- Oct 9-11 Mystic Lake UU Middle School Conference

Sunday	Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Youth
Sept 6	Alyce O	Vicki H &___	Gary T &___	Kerry H & Coral Team	IG	IG
Sept 13	Grace M	Vicki H &___	Gary T &___	Carole H & Yellow Team	IG	IG
Sept 20	Joan B	Vicki H &___	Gary T &___	Nena O & Green Team	Jackie J &___ Exploration: Vision	Gretchen M Alyce O Coming of Age
Sept 27	Betty G	Vicki H &___	Gary T &___	Potluck Dinner Blue Team	Jackie J &___ World of Wonder#1	Youth in Service

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

September Theme: Vision

Sept 6 - "Celebrating Our Labor"

– Lay Leader: Jon Hart

Sept 13 - "Homecoming, Ingathering & Blessing the Backpacks"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Join us as we start our year "rank by rank" by "calling the generations" and dedicate our religious education teachers and new religious education coordinator for the year ahead. Also in this service, all school-goers are invited to bring backpacks for a new "blessing of the backpacks."

Sept 20 - "Wake Now My Vision"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – Rev. Cindy explores this month's theme of "vision." What is your vision for the future?

Sept 27 - "Question Box Sunday"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

September 28th is National "Ask a Stupid Question" day. Well, on September 27th, there are no stupid questions. Bring your questions about theology, church history, social justice, governance, or anything else you've ever wanted to ask Rev. Cindy. She'll answer as many as she can.

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