



2015 ~ October

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

Our theme of "Letting Go" this month is sure to challenge this Type-A minister. "Letting Go" is not something that comes naturally to me – it has to be worked at. But at least working at something is something that I'm used to doing. Spiritual practices have always been like that for me – I have to make a concerted effort to relax, to meditate, to go with the flow or get in the zone. And "Letting Go" is, indeed, a spiritual practice, whether it's letting go of attachment, in the Buddhist sense, letting go of grievances, or letting go in other ways. Zen proverb says, "Let go or be dragged." To truly let go may require faith, or it may require discipline, or it may require courage. A reflection on "Letting Go" by the Soul Matters Sharing Circle says this:

We cling. You name it, we've wrapped our grasping fingers and anxious hearts around it: success, safety, society's standards of beauty, personal desires to be accepted, perfectionism, duty, fear, grudges, hurts, hopes, stuff, shame and privilege. Whether the object of our grasping is good or bad is not, as we learn, truly the issue. It's the grasping itself. That's the real problem. Holding on too long and too tightly is never good for the soul. So our faith pleads with us, "Let it go!"

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Calendar

1 Thurs.	AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
2-3	Grandma's Attic Sale ~ 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
4 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Peg Beison ~ 11:00 am
4 Sunday	Golfing at Clark Lake Golf Course ~ 2:00 pm
4-7	Minister away at Heartland UU Minister's Association meeting in Angola, Indiana
7 Wed.	The Jackson Personal Care Ministry; Fundraiser @ "In Good Company" ~ 4:00-9:00 pm
7 Wed.	Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
8 Thurs.	Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
8 Thurs.	RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 4:30 pm
9-11	Mystic Lake UU Middle School Conference
10 Sat	Bridges to Justice (JACRAA) 1 st forums in series on prison ~ 9am-3pm @ St. John's UC Church
11 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
11 Sunday	Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
12 Mon.	Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 2:00 pm (subject to change)
13 Tue.	Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
15 Thurs.	Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
15 Thurs.	JXN Forum ~ Legalizing Marijuana in Michigan @ JDL, 244 West Michigan Ave. ~ 6:30-8:30
17 Sat	Outing to Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park ~ Leaving at 9:00 am ~ 24th in the rain date
18 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
18 Sunday	The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
18 Sunday	Outing to Meckley's Flavor Fruit Farm ~ Young Adult ~ After the Service
20 Tue.	Worship Comm ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
23 Fri	Movie Night: Suffragette ~ Location to be Announced
25 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am

Sunday Services at 11:00 am

October Theme: Letting Go

Oct 4 - "Adam and Eve, Historical Figures or Biblical Myth" – Lay Leader: Peg Beison - We will explore the genetic evidence for Adam and Eve, and the implications of that evidence for Christianity.

Oct 11 - "Writing on Sand and Stone" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Rev. Cindy explores this month's theme of "Letting Go."

Oct 18 - "One Hundred Years Hence" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – We'll celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage March in New York City. Frances Dana Barker Gage wrote a song "One Hundred Years Hence" during the suffrage movement – have we lived up to her vision?

Oct 25 - "Circles of Harm, Circles of Support" – Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum - October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, and LGBTQ History Month. Rev. Cindy will look at these three issues and how they intersect.

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Rev. Cindy’s Column
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“Letting go” can also be about dealing with death. In September, we held a well-attended “Death Potluck” where ten of us gathered to share food together and talk about coming to terms with death, among other things. As we turn to the time of year when the veil between the living and the dead is thought to be thinned, we’ll also look at death in other ways this month through our exploration of the Day of the Dead, and we may also schedule a second Death Potluck.

Despite the focus on “Letting Go,” I go into this month with a lot of excitement. We have programs and events this month that I’ve been greatly looking forward to. I hope you take time to read this newsletter thoroughly, because it’s full of ways to engage with your religious community. I look forward to seeing you at East Liberty.

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

October’s Forum is on Legalizing Marijuana. There are bills currently moving in our state legislature to make this happen. A panel of speakers from different perspectives is planned. This will be at the JDL, on Thursday, October 15 at 6:30-8:30 pm.

Bridges to Justice

The Jackson Area Civil Rights Awareness Assoc. (JACRAA) will be kicking off a series of forums on prison reform in the US. First event is **Saturday, October 10**, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at St. John’s UCC, 810 S. Mechanic, Jackson. Lunch will be provided for this free event, but please register at 517-788-4087, Ext. 1339. Check out JACRAA’s website for more information.

Young Adult & Young Families Sunday & Outing Sunday October 18th will be a special Sunday for them to connect at our church, with a group outing afterward to Meckley’s Flavor Fruit Farm. What does “Young Adult” mean? In this case, we mean it as roughly 18-35 and also parents with young children. If you are in this demographic, please mark your calendars, and if you know someone to invite, please bring them along! Pack a picnic lunch and a picnic basket, and we’ll picnic at the church or at the farm.

