



2015 ~ November

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

Do you remember when we became a Welcoming Congregation? I don't – it was right before I came to this church. Well, now the UUA has a Welcoming Congregation renewal program. A lot of things have changed in our culture since we became a Welcoming Congregation, a big piece of which is that we have a much larger awareness of transgender identity. The renewal program is less prescribed than the initial Welcoming Congregation program, but it calls on us to do work again in educating ourselves, assessing our programs and publicity, and doing advocacy work, and then taking a confirmation vote. We've been engaging in some of this work, and I think may be ready to vote on this by spring. And so with this in mind, I'm particularly excited that this month we're once again welcoming the Rev. Julie Nemecek to our pulpit. The Rev. Nemecek has been an important advocate for transgender awareness and civil rights in our community, and November 20 marks the Transgender Day of Remembrance, a time to remember those who have died as a result of transphobia.

Once we've gone through the Welcoming Congregation renewal process, or maybe when we've committed to it, we're eligible to use the UUA's new Welcoming Congregation logo on our website. The new Welcoming Congregation logo is designed to integrate with the UUA's new logo and branding materials, which is handy because the UUA is launching a new template for UU congregational webpages. Not too long ago we did an overhaul of our webpage and converted it to using Wordpress.

Continued on other side...

Calendar

- 1 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 4 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 3/17 Tue Pub Theology @Grand River Marketplace ~ 7:00 pm
- 5 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 8 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 8 Sunday Gospel Sing Fundraiser ~ @ First Congregational Church ~ 120 N. Jackson Street
- 9 Mon. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 2:00 pm (subject to change)
- 10 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 12 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
- 12 Thurs. RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 4:30 pm
- 13 Fri Showing Up for Racial Justice! First Cong. Church of Battle Creek ~ 10:30am to 1:30pm
- 15 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Julie Nemecek, Guest Preacher ~ 11:00 am
- 17 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 18 Wed Death and Desserts ~ 7:00pm
- 19 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 19 Thurs. JXN Forum ~ "Michigan Ave. Construction is Done" @ JDL, 244 West Michigan Ave. ~ 6:30-8:30
- 22 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 22-12/13 Holiday Gift Baskets Silent Auction
- 22 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 24 Tue Art, Spirit, Practice! ~ 7:00pm
- 29 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Jon Hart ~ 11:00 am

Sunday Services at 11:00 am

November Theme: Ancestry & Faith

Nov 1 - "All My Relations" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 --"The very air surrounding us and moving the flame is the air our Ancestors were breathing. There is no other." says Mi-Shell Jessen. At this time of year of All Saints' Day and All Souls's Day, how do we embrace, struggle with, and engage our ancestors?

Nov 8 - "Faith and Stardust" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 -- Carl Sagan used to say, "We are all star stuff!" How do the latest scientific discoveries, such as water on Mars, change how we understand our place in the universe?

Nov 15 - "To Be Announced"

- Rev. Julie Nemecek, Guest Preacher

Nov 22 - "Guest at Your Table: Refugees" – Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum
 -- One of the UU Service Committee's major focuses is serving the people who are most overlooked or discriminated against in the midst of humanitarian crises such as forced migration, large-scale conflicts, genocide, and natural disasters. This year the Guest at Your Table program is highlighting the empowerment of refugees. As UUSC celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, we'll look back to their origin: Martha and Rev. Waitstill Sharp helping European refugees escape persecution during World War II.

Nov 29 - "To Be Announced"

-Lay Leader: Jon Hart

MINISTER - REV. DR. CYNTHIA L. LANDRUM
 BOARD PRESIDENT - GRATIA KARMES
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Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

Wordpress has a lot of lovely templates and applications we can use, and has the advantage of being a system where our leaders can be given individual IDs to access and adapt portions of our web. This has made it easier for our newsletter editor, for example, to get things onto our webpage in a timely fashion without going through getting it posted by a second volunteer. The UUA's new template is a Wordpress template, so changing over our look and our theme to their template will be fairly easy, although we'll need to probably add content and pictures. But there's good reason to make the switch, since this template is specifically designed for UU churches, and so incorporates all the elements that we'll need. So keep an eye on our webpage this month, because you'll be seeing this change soon. If you'd like to see the UUA's demo site for the new template, it's available at <http://demo.uuatheme.org/>.

This year I've joined the Michigan UU Social Justice Network board. As I look at the work MUUSJN is doing, and as I look at the template for the new Wordpress site, it makes me think about what our congregation is doing for justice. We have monthly participation in the Jackson Personal Care Ministry (the personal care items pantry), and we vote to take special collections for agencies, but we have no current social justice committee so there's more we could do but don't do due to lack of leadership in this area. I preach on issues, but seldom do we see initiatives that take the issues from the theoretical to the concrete. I know you're involved in justice issues individually, but there's more we can do collectively, if we work on it. If you're interested in taking leadership in this area, speak with me about your passions, your interests, the need you see in the world. Together we can make things happen.

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. Call Debby Sears at the library at 517-788-4087 ext. 234 for more information or see the JDL website at www.myjdl.com

Michigan Ave. Construction is Done Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 pm

Now that the construction is done, where do we go from here? A conversation with Patrick Burch, the Jackson City Manager.

Holiday Gift Baskets

November 22 - December 13

Note the change of dates, one week later than last issue's info: Once again we will be asking for donations of gift baskets for our Holiday Silent Auction. Some creative ideas from the past are holiday gift wrap, pet supplies, candles, books, games and puzzles, personal care items and various treats, to name a few. Bidding will start on Sunday, November 22 and end at 11am on Sunday December 13.

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