

This Month in Religious Education

The Holidays are coming and our kids have big plans. We are rehearsing for a Charlie Brown Christmas Pageant scheduled to take place on **Sunday Dec 13**. Come see our kids perform.

After Social Hour that same day we will have a **Santa's Workshop** where kids and adults can make simple gifts to give or keep. In keeping with this year's theme and the 7th UU principle (recognizing that we are part of the interdependent web of life). We are using what we have in our craft stores for the crafts this year.

If you can help at the pinecone birdfeeder, decorate an ornament, recycle Christmas Cards, or be at holiday shaped crayon tables please let Jackie know. A table for decorating cookies will also add to the fun. (If you have ideas on how to use our abundance of ice cream wooden spoons for a simple craft project we can add another table.)

We will have a mitten tree again this year. Bring mittens, hats and scarfs to decorate the tree and we will donate the items collected to a favorite local charity.

Jackie

Submitted by: Jackie Johnson

Minister's Schedule

Cindy will be on vacation from December 28 through January 3.

~~ Upcoming Fund Raisers ~~

Holiday Gift Baskets ~ Dec 1 - Dec. 13

Submitted by : The Church Board

Notes from the Board

The board met on Wednesday November 4th with everyone present. We also had a strategic planning session that was very useful led by our own Lynn Hightower. Many good ideas came out of both meetings including new ways to seek revenue for the church. We would like to remind everyone that when the winter weather is upon us it is important to use caution and discretion when deciding about coming to church. Most Sundays we will have service but in case of really terrible weather or other unforeseen events, please check the Facebook page and the UUCEL website as it will be updated that Sunday morning to indicate any closure. Many thanks to all those who work so hard to keep things running and the steps clear so that we can have our wonderful Sunday morning services.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

2015 Common

Read Book:

Just Mercy

For the last several years, the Unitarian Universalist Association has announced "Common Read" books. This year's book is an important one for us here in Jackson, so we'll try to hold discussion groups later in the year. Pick up a book from your favorite bookseller and start reading now. [Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption](#) by Bryan Stevenson is this year's selection. Stevenson has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings. It follows on recent Common Reads, such as *The New Jim Crow* and *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness*, and responds to recent statements passed by the delegates to the UUA General Assembly.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

December “Expectation” Spiritual Exercises:

Option A: Your Perhaps Poem

These “Perhaps Poems” challenge us to turn our deepest assumptions and expectations on their head. Doubt even the most basic and beloved things, and do it with joy! Consider joining this playful upsetting of apple carts this month by writing your own “perhaps poem.” There are plenty of them on this website -- <http://www.beyond-the-pale.uk/perhaps.htm> — to inspire you!

Option B: Remember the Water!

We allow our expectations to control us rather than us controlling them. We have the power to choose and yet we regularly forget it when it comes to the most mundane moments of our lives.

This is the challenge that author, David Foster Wallace, lifted up in his remarkable 2005 Commencement speech. This month challenge yourself with the same message:

~ Make time to repeatedly watch and meditate on his speech: “This is Water”

<https://dotsub.com/view/6b8cc93f-3b53-486b-a1ce-025ffe6c9c52>

~ Pay extra attention to the way Wallace links our forgetting with the most mundane moments in our lives.

~ Figure out where the call or challenge is for you.

~ Exercise your power to choose! Find opportunities to “remember the water” and practice choosing.

Option C: A Ritual of Expectation

Solstice fire rituals. Christmas advent wreaths and calendars. Hanukkah candles. This is the season of ritual — rituals of preparation and expectation to be exact. Expecting and trusting the light to return is no easy task. It’s one thing to intellectually believe that the dark always gives way to the light; it’s quite another to feel it in your bones. All religions say this task is much easier with ritual, and with rituals done together.

So this month, recruit your family or circle of friends and engage one of the winter rituals of expectation. Here are a few links to help you decide which might be right for you:

~ Hanukkah: <http://tinyurl.com/prkve8s>

Continued on next column...

~ Advent: <http://adventforatheists.weebly.com/>

~ Solstice: <http://tinyurl.com/pdty2tm>

~ Kwanzaa: <http://>

www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/celebrating.shtml

~ UU Family Christmas rituals: <http://tinyurl.com/ob2ld8a>

Meetings and Events U.U. Church of East Liberty

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

Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 pm

EMBRIDGE LINE 5

Beneath the Straits of Mackinac

David Holtz, Michigan Sierra Club, will talk about the issues surrounding Enbridge Line 5, which carries oil from the Upper to Lower Peninsula under the water in the Straits of Mackinac

Thursday, December 10th the 2nd Thursday of the month and not the regular 3rd week. 6:30 pm at the Carnegie Library 244 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson this is co-sponsored by the JDL, UUCEL and Sierra Club. For info call 517-788-4087 • MyJDL.com

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

Holiday Gift Baskets Through - December 13

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 started on Sunday, November 22 and ends at 11am on **Sunday December 13**. If you have any questions, please see Donna Hinton or Nena Obits

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Building & Grounds Committee Report

A great big “Thank You” to Jason and Donna Haynes-Hinton for the fantastic job of clearing all the leaves from the church property!

As I was organizing a work group to clean up the leaves, they went over and completed the task.

Thanks also to Dorothy Kerr for her work on the raking and fall clean-up.

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you!

Submitted by: Vic Marshall
Building & Grounds Comm.

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, **Dec. 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 Supplement Page for more information.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

•••••	•••••
• Church Website	http://www.libertyuu.org
• The Bellnote Newsletter	http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html
• Church’s facebook page	http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu
• Forum facebook page	http://www.facebook.com/JXNCommunityForum
•••••	•••••

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 JANUARY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20. ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO
KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU –

We want to thank; Rev. Cindy Landrum, Jackie Johnson, Gratia Karmes, Nena Obits, Vic Marshall, 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



December

- 2 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 3 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 5 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 9 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 2:00 pm
- 10 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
- 10 Thurs. RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 4:30 pm
- 10 Thurs. JXN Forum ~ "EMBRIDGE LINE 5" @ JDL, 244 West Michigan Ave. ~ 6:30-8:30
- 13 Sunday Holiday Gift Baskets Silent Auction ~ end at 11:00 am
- 13 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 13 Sunday Holiday Pageant and Santa's Workshop
- 13 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 15 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 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. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 24 Thurs. ~~~~ Christmas Eve Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 7:00 pm
- 25 Fri. Christmas Day
- 27 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: TBA ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

Weekly Volunteer Schedue

Sunday	Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Youth
Dec 6	Alyce O	Vicki H & KathyH	Gary T & ___	Jane V & BlueTeam	Pageant Practice with Jackie during service and with Cindy after social hour in the sanctuary.	
Dec 13	Grace M	Vicki H & ___	Gary T & ___	Sue R & Purple Team	Holiday Pageant Kids in Service	
Dec 20	Joan B	Vicki H & JoanB	Gary T & ___	Ann G & Red Team	RobG/NancyS and PeterM	GretchenM/AlyceO
Dec 24 Thursday		Vicki H & ___	Gary T & ___	Nancy S & Orange Team	IG	IG
Dec 27	Carole H	Vicki H & ___	Gary T & ___	Vic M & LimeTeam	Craft Day for All ~~ JackieJ/DonnaH	

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

December Theme: Expectation

Dec 6 - "A Season of Expectation"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy explores this month's theme of Expectation. Do you remember the excitement you felt as a child as the season built and you awaited the arrival of Christmas? This service will explore the joy of anticipation.

Dec 13 - "A Charlie Brown Christmas

— and Hanukkah!"

– RE Program and Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Our holiday pageant this year is a new take on a very special Christmas program that turns 50 this year.

Dec 20 - "Dark of Winter"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

As we near the Solstice and Christmas, this service will celebrate the stillness, darkness, and expectation.

24 - "Candlelight Christmas Eve Service"

– Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 7:00 pm

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service of singing, lighting candles, and telling the age-old story of the birth of Jesus. Bring a plate of holiday treats or snacks for the social time following.

Dec 27 - "TBA"

– Lay Leader: TBA

M h e