



# 2016 ~ January

## The Bellnote Mini-News

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY  
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### Minister's Column

Dear Members & Friends,

The monthly themes and exercises I've been using for the last year and a half come from a group for UU ministers called "Soul Matters." Each month they send a packet with theme questions, suggested readings and quotes, and also a column. This month's column was particularly good, and so I share it with you in lieu of my own column this month. I hope you enjoy it!

Happy New Year, Rev. Cindy

### What Does It Mean to Be a People of Resistance?

...it starts when you care to act, it starts when you do it again after they said no, it starts when you say We and know who you mean, and each day you mean one more.

—Marge Piercy, *from The Low Road*

~Yes, this month's theme is among the most complex of them all. But it also may be the most simple. ~The complexity is clear. ~Sometimes being a people of resistance involves struggle and requires us to disobey; other times it asks us to just be ourselves and not hide who we really are. ~Some times it involves defeating the enemy; other times it is a matter of noticing that treating them as the enemy defeats us all. ~Sometimes being a person of resistance is about fighting all the way to the top; other times it's about picking yourself up off the floor and taking one tiny step. Sometimes it depends on the will to never let them win; other times it hinges on the wisdom to follow the path of least resistance.

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### Calendar

Cindy will be on vacation through January 3

- 1 Fri. New Year's Day
- 3 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Jon Hart ~ 11:00 am
- 4 Mon. JACRAA forum 'Challenges on the Inside' ~ 6:30 - 9:00 pm @St. John's UCC
- 7 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 10 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 10 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 12 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 13 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 2:00 pm
- 13 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 14 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
- 14 Thurs. RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 4:30 pm
- 17 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 18 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 21 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 21 Thurs. JXN Forum ~ "A Living Wage" @ JDL, 244 West Michigan Ave. ~ 6:30-8:30
- 24 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 24 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 31 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Anita Pepper ~ 11:00 am

### Sunday Services at 11:00 am ~~ Theme: Resistance

#### Jan 3 - "The Realidad-How the Zapatistas Transformed Reality through Imagination & Resistance"

– Lay Leader: Jon Hart - Jon Hart will examine the transformational actions and ideas of the Zapatistas through their rebellion and beyond.

#### Jan 10 - "Using the Force" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy takes another look at the theology of Star Wars through the lens of process theology.

#### Jan 17 - "Another Look at Black Lives Matter" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum-

For Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, Rev. Cindy will update us on what's been happening in the Black Lives Matters movement within Unitarian Universalism and in the larger society. How can we engage with the "Action of Immediate Witness" passed by the General Assembly? What are other churches doing?

#### Jan 24 - "Mysticism and Resistance" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum-

Dorothy Sölle said, "God has no hands except from our hands." Drawing on the work of Dorothy Sölle, Rev. Cindy will explore how spiritual grounding prepares us for the work of justice.

#### Jan 31 - "The Tao of Pooh" - Lay Leader: Anita Pepper -

Are you a Pooh or an Eeyore or a Tigger? How does this connect to your spirituality?

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Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

~It certainly takes the form of speaking our truth. But more often than not, it's about the harder task of speaking the truth in love. ~We all know being a people of resistance involves refusing to comply and demanding change, which requires great courage. But sometimes the most courageous thing is to stop resisting and accepting that things just aren't going to work out the way we hoped. ~Bottom line: being a people of resistance is tricky business and takes multiple forms. ~But beyond this complexity lies the simplicity of Marge Piercy's words. In all cases, she reminds us, being a people of resistance starts when we say *we*. ~January puts this in stark relief. Think about all those New Year's resolutions that try to overcome our personal inertia! Who of us ever accomplishes that without help? Without someone holding us accountable or cheering us on? ~Martin Luther King Jr Day makes it just as clear. Although we celebrate him as a great leader, he himself preached that change requires a movement. Simply put, none of us resist alone. ~Or maybe it's better to say that none of us *have* to resist alone. We all know what it is like to *want* to resist. Think of all those voices we hear in our heads and feel in our hearts: I'm not going to take it any more. I will not go along. I will not submit. I refuse to conform. I will no longer be numb. I will not give up. I will not forget. I will not go to sleep. I will ignore it no longer. I will not turn a blind eye. And yet, we also know that those voices are hard to hear and hold on to by ourselves. The blessing, of course, is that we don't have to hold on alone. ~It is one thing to be told, "Resist!" It is quite another to be told, "Resist together!" But often what we need most is simply to be reminded that we don't have to resist alone. ~May this be the gift we give each other this month. Let's help each other remember to start by saying *we*! It may be as simple as that.

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](http://www.myjdl.com)

Thursday, January 21

A Living Wage. What does this mean to you?

This January JXN Forum will present a forum on "A Living Wage. What does this mean to you?" The participants will be 2 local ministers, the president of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce and an economics instructor from JC. Join us on January 21, at 6:30 at the downtown library in the basement auditorium.

A Program for All Ages:  
Draw and Color!

Join Rev. Cindy for an evening of drawing and coloring on Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Bring your own supplies. Rev. Cindy will bring instruction sheets on the basics of spiritual doodling and will provide instruction.

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