



2016 ~ February

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

February's theme is Love, and part of what that theme is about is also our Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) social justice campaign within Unitarian Universalism. SSL has been most focused on immigration, LGBTQ rights, and lately Black Lives Matter. It's been over ten years since our church became a Welcoming Congregation, and I think it's time we look at the renewal process for the Welcoming Congregation certification. If you're interested in working with me on this endeavor, please let me know. I'd like to pull together a group of interested people this month to talk about the process. To renew our status, we would need to:

1. Complete the UUA's Assessment Process.
2. Offer new opportunities for our congregation to make measurable achievements around LGBTQ issues through education, congregational life, and community outreach.
3. Do specific work around transgender identity and welcome, and bisexual and queer identity and welcome.
4. Take steps to deepen and broaden our congregation's welcome and inclusion of all. Consider additional programming around how sexuality and gender intersect with race, class, age, and/or ability.
5. Have a congregational vote in favor of renewing our Welcoming Congregation status!

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Sunday Services at 11:00 am ~ Theme: LOVE

Feb 7 - "Talking About Evolution" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Charles Darwin's birthday is this week, so it's a *natural* time to *select* evolution as a topic. With an increasing percentage of Americans not believing in scientific research, and science often dismissed by politicians, how do we have civil and complex discussions about evolution?

Feb 14 - "What's Love Got to Do With It?" – Lay Leader: Ann Green - More than a Feeling - A multi-media exploration of the origins of Valentine's Day and its meaning.

Feb 21 - "Standing on the Side of Love" – Lay Leader: Gratia Karmes - The Standing on the Side of Love's "30 Days of Love" wraps up this month. Gratia Karmes UUCEL president will lead us in a service dedicated to the UUA'S Love campaign. A celebration of our values and of the power of Love.

Feb 28 - "Love, Faith, Liberation, and the Future" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 Rev. Cindy ties this month's theme of Love to next month's theme of Liberation in this sermon that will take a look at the big picture of who we are as a movement and where we're going.

Calendar

- 3 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 4 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 6 Sat Venison Dinner ~ @ 6:00 pm
- 7 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister: ~ 11:00 am
- 9 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 10 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 2:00 pm
- 11 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
- 11 Thurs. RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 4:30 pm
- 14 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Ann Green ~ 11:00 am
- 14 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 15 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 15-22 Rev. Cindy will be on Mid-Winter Break
- 18 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 18 Thurs. JXN Forum ~ "Impact of Land Treaties with Native Americans" @ JDL, ~ 6:30-8:30
- 21 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Gratia Karmes ~ 11:00 am
- 21 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 26 Fri. Potluck Dinner and Game Night Fundraiser @ 6:00 pm
- 28 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

March will be Secret Friends Month this year

MINISTER - REV. DR. CYNTHIA L. LANDRUM
 BOARD PRESIDENT - GRATIA KARMES
 R.E. - JACKIE JOHNSON

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Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

You may have noticed that in the past year we've been making some progress towards these steps already. Last spring we hosted a special photo exhibit about transgender people, and this fall invited the Rev. Dr. Julie Nemecek to our pulpit. You may notice that I've recently added the UUA's new LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation logo to our weekly Bellringer, as well. Again, if you're interested in working on this with me and a core group of leaders, please let me know.

This month's exercise is about reconnecting with something or someone you love, and bringing it back into your life in some way. One thing I've been reconnecting with in the last several months is a love of playing board games. It may seem frivolous, but it's something I greatly enjoyed when I was growing up, but hadn't done as much of in previous years. This past summer at the UU camp our family has been attending, we were lucky to share a suite with a family with a love of board games, and we fell into a group of people who played board games every night. And it was a time when I not only rediscovered my love of game playing, but got to learn about some new games. This year for Christmas, I got several of those games as gifts from family members, and have been playing them with family and friends. We spent Christmas Eve with a group of friends at a "Game Lounge" in Plymouth, where they have hundreds of board games for people to come and play. A new favorite that I have a copy of and that we played there is "Dixit," which has player sharing stories about beautiful artwork.

So this month I'd like to invite you to join me in doing something I love. On Friday, February 26 at 6pm we'll have a potluck and game night fundraiser at the church. Bring a dish, your favorite game, and a free-will donation for the church!

See you in February!

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

Thursday, February 18

"Impact of Land Treaties with Native Americans"

Students from Michigan State University College of Law will talk about how treaties made by the US government with Native Americans more than a century ago still affect Michigan tribes and their people.

Game Night

Come join us for a night of fun at in the social hall for a potluck dinner and game night fundraiser – **Friday, February 26**, 6:00 pm.

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