



2016 ~ March

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

Dear UUCEL Members & Friends,

Michigan is a troubled place lately, between the water crisis in Flint, the shootings in Kalamazoo, the Detroit Schools crisis, and anti-Muslim violence on the rise across the state. I'm sure you are as concerned as I am about all these issues in our state that we love. So there are a few things I'd like to share with you, beginning with the Flint water crisis. Last month I shared information from the Flint UU congregation. This month I share information from Leslie Mac, a member of the Grand Rapids UU congregation, and their minister Rev. Colleen Squires. Leslie Mac is the founder of the Ferguson Response Network. Rev. Colleen and Leslie recently went to Flint to find out how the response was going, and the answer was disturbing. Rev. Colleen writes, "This was a very eye-opening exercise. The Red Cross has a large stock pile of bottled water and with the help of the National Guard is distributing water from four or five area fire stations. They are rationing the water to one case per household and they are requiring an ID for folks who need a water filter. People without documentation would not find this a safe environment to access water." Leslie has created a crowdfunding campaign to help Flint that they ask I share with you. It supports a coalition of local leaders in Flint called "Flint Rising." It is at <https://www.crowdrise.com/flintwatercrisisfergusonresponse/fundraiser/lesliemac>.

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Sunday Services at 11:00 am ~ Theme: Liberation

Mar 6 - "Women's History Profile: Judith Sargent Stevens Murray" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

- For women's history month, Rev. Cindy will share information about Judith Sargent Stevens Murray, wife of the first Universalist minister in America and a noted writer and editor in her time. Judith wrote one of the earliest published statements on women's rights.

Mar 13 - "Hymn Sing Sunday" – Lay Leader: Nena Obits

- You've told us what your favorite hymns are. Come join us for a Sunday of singing!

Mar 20 - "Liberation Theology" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

- Rev. Cindy explores this month's theme of "liberation" through an exploration of liberation theology.

Mar 27 - "Liberating Easter" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

- Join us for Easter Sunday as we wrestle with what Easter means in our own lives.

Calendar

March is Secret Friends Month

- 3 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 6 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister: ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 9 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 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 ~ 7:00 pm
- 13 Sunday Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 13 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Nena Obits ~ 11:00 am
- 13 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 17 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 17 Thurs. JXN Forum ~ "Everything You Wanted to Know about Refugees" @ JDL, ~ 6:30-8:30
- 20 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 20 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 21 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 27 Sunday ~~~~ Easter Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am

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Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

Responding to anti-Muslim rhetoric and violence has been a part of my ministry from the first days after I started ministry in the summer of 2001. I was pleased to write a letter that was shared in the Citizen Patriot a couple of months ago about the anti-Muslim rhetoric we've been hearing from our politicians, but this is not enough. In January a handful of UU ministers across the state met with a Detroit-area Imam to discuss what more we could do. One thing that came out of that meeting was a resolution that we're asking the MidAmerica Region to adopt, and our church board was the first of eight church boards to endorse the resolution for the Regional Assembly's action. We're working on further actions that our churches can take to support local Muslims, as well.

We cannot solve all these big problems of violence, poverty, and more in our state, but our faith works to make a difference wherever we can. I've been seeing the Kalamazoo UU church's new minister, Rachel Lonberg responding in her community with vigils and press statements and strong ministry in the face of a grieving community. In Flint the minister is working with the local community on the water crisis. My sister who teaches in Detroit Public Schools tells me of a UU church in a neighboring state that's helping with supplies for her classroom and her classroom's kids. And across the state and region we're responding to anti-Muslim violence together. It's important for us in East Liberty to remember that we're part of a larger movement, connected to UU churches across the state and country, working together for peace and for justice. We may feel small, remote, and isolated at times, but our efforts and our assistance can make a difference.

Namaste,

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, March 17

The March JXN Community Forum will be entitled "**Everything You Wanted to Know about Refugees**". Our speaker will be Bruce Winters from the Refugee Development Center of Michigan. This will be held at the downtown branch of the library on March 17th at 6:30 pm

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