



2016 ~ April

The Bellnote

LOCATED 3/4 MILE WEST OF U.S. 127

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: Minister's day off
Tuesday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday: Sermon-writing day,
no office hours
Saturday: By appointment
Sunday: By appointment

STAFF

MINISTER REV. DR. CYNTHIA LANDRUM
CYNLANDRUM@GMAIL.COM
PIANIST ANITA FOBES
AFOBES@JUILLIARDALUMNI.NET
R.E. JACKIE JOHNSON
JSJ128@COMCAST.NET
NURSERY & CHILD CARE VICKI HAYNES
KERMIT_210@YAHOO.COM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT GRATIA KARMES
GLK222@TDS.NET
VICE PRESIDENT ELISSA ALDEN
ELISSA.ALDEN@COMCAST.NET
SECRETARY ALYCE OOSTING
OOSTING115@COMCAST.NET
TREASURER KERRY HART
KHART247@SBCGLOBAL.NET
TRUSTEE ANN GREEN
GREENANNM@JCCMI.EDU
TRUSTEE DEB HARTSUFF
DEBHARTSUFF@GMAIL.COM

CARING COMMITTEE JANE VOLK
GJVOLK@COMCAST.NET

BUILDING & GROUNDS VIC MARSHALL
VBMARSHALL@GMAIL.COM

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
GRETCHEN MARSHALL
AMARSHALLG@YAHOO.COM

BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMM
STEVE KISH STEVEKISH982@YAHOO.COM
GRACE MULNIX



Minister's Column

Ever since I started using the theme-based worship materials and joined the theme group "Soul Matters," there have been some themes I've been unsure about and others that I really looked forward to. This month's theme, "Creation," falls in the latter category. There's so much about "Creation" to talk about, using the meaning of creation of creating something, like art, and the definition of Creation as in "God's creation" — meaning the earth. This month's worship subjects play with both meanings of the theme.

In the last few months, I've let my own attention to my spiritual practice of creativity slide. Two or three times this year I've tried to hold art and spirituality classes at our church only to get cancelled for lack of sign-up, weather, or illness. Accordingly, I'm not scheduling one this month, but dedicating myself to renewing my own spiritual practice. I invite you to do likewise! In fact, I'll be preaching on it, and I invite you to bring art or craft projects to do in the sanctuary during the service. Please avoid clay and messy paints and glue, but draw or color, knit or crochet or sew, or do other quiet art or craft projects while you worship this month. You may find your spirit connecting to the worship in a new way as you open yourself up to creativity! And while I specifically invite you to explore worship in this way this month, any time you find that quiet crafts or arts enhance your worship experience, feel free to engage in them!

Meanwhile, we have some wonderful new workshops on Sundays after church this month, organized by our member Steve Kish. Read on in this newsletter (page 4) for more information.

In the Spirit,

Rev. Cindy



This Month in Religious Education

March wrapped up a successful and fun secret friends month. I love seeing the kids connect with a special adult in our congregation. They get so excited. The k5 kids continue to learn about the interconnected Web of Life. Our teen will be participating in a mini retreat that promises fun and comradeships. We will be looking for help from our many talented church members. Stay tuned!

Jackie

Submitted by: Jackie Johnson

Notes from the Board

The board met on March 9, at Elissa Alden's home, with everyone present. We heard an excellent presentation by Anthony Giddings and Don Tassie, on a program they are starting for the youth of Jackson County. Marion Shroyer was also in attendance, and shared some very exciting ideas for the pledge drive; we are very pleased that he has graciously accepted the responsibility of being the new pledge drive chair. We are continuing the process of preparing for Cindy's sabbatical. The board plans to meet again on Wed, March 30th, at the church. Note the date change, due to Spring Break.

Gratia

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President

Minister's Schedule

Cindy will be on Spring Break vacation the week of April 4th -10th.

~~ Upcoming Fund Raisers ~~

Dinner @ In Good Company Fundraiser with 15% coming back to the church ~
Wednesday, April 6, 4:00-9:00

Annual Church Auction ~ Friday, May 6,
time and more info to be announced

Submitted by : The Church Board

"The April rain, the April rain,
Comes slanting down in fitful showers,
Then from the furrow shoots the grain,
And banks are fledged with nestling
flowers;
And in grey shawl and woodland
bowers
The cuckoo through the April rain
Calls once again."

- Mathilde Blind, *April Rain*

This month's spiritual exercises:

Option A: Create Something and Give it Away

This exercise invites you to explore the relationship between creativity and generosity. Often the creative impulse is about expressing yourself, but it is also about using yourself for the sake of others. Another way to put this is to say: we create in order to heal and help. Indeed, from a spiritual perspective, creativity is not just about bringing something new and original into the world; it's also about bringing in beauty, kindness and joy. So, how does the world and the people around you need beauty, kindness, and joy? And which of your many creations can usher that in?

Option B: Your Resume of Failures

This exercise invites you to explore the relationship between creation and failure. Yup, failure. Nothing gets created without it. The well-known examples of this come from the scientific world; think penicillin, Velcro or Teflon. But some of the most interesting creative failures today are occurring in the world of business and entrepreneurial endeavors. Numerous business schools actively preach one simple message: Fail faster and fail better! In fact, a Stanford Business School professor recently reported a new trend: young entrepreneurial job seekers are listing their failures on their resumes! Instead of boasting about their successes and awards, they proudly promote their marketing missteps and start-up disasters, and what they learned from them. By sharing what they learned and how they used that learning, they display their ability to look at their failures with creative eyes, not as dead ends and bungled attempts but as lessons and brave test runs. So why not try it? Here's your assignment: Sit down with a piece of paper and spend a day or two listing all your life failures. Then take another day or two and consider them in a new light. Jot down a few bullet points under each "failure" explaining how those dead ends actually became a new road, how what seemed a moment of coming up empty really turned out to be a time of discovering something new, something you would have never looked for otherwise.

Continued on next column...

Option C: Capture Creation

This exercise invites you to explore the relationship between creation and attention. So much of creativity is about seeing connections, noticing the new, and looking at things in a new light, appreciating what is trying to be born. Indeed, maybe appreciation and gratitude has more to do with creativity than we think. So this month, ramp up your appreciation and refine your attention by taking a picture of one "act of creation" each day. You decide what counts as "an act of creation." What it is, matters less than you finding it. Many of us have a cell phone to make it easier on us, but if you don't have, carry a camera. Do this daily for at least a week. Each night, share your discovery/photo with a loved one or a friend. Tell them why it symbolized creation for you, and more importantly, why that particular act of creation garners your gratitude. At the end of your week or two, line all the photos up and figure out what lesson they want to offer. Where are unexpected patterns? What did you not notice when you first took the picture? How are they calling you to be more than grateful but also a caretaker?

Option D: Create Something Together

This exercise invites you to explore the relationship between creativity and community. Rarely do new ideas arise from our own isolated heads. Never is art without previous inspiration. Hardly ever is there a creator without a companion. To honor this, find a partner and create something together. Grab your kid and build a model car or a tree house! Plop a puzzle on a card table in your living room and have the whole family piece it together over a week's time. Convince your artist or writer friends to do a joint project. Invite your neighbor over to help plant and share a garden. Join the creative justice makers in your neighborhood as they try to build a better and more beautiful world.

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

In Good Company Community Night April 6, 2016

Please bring yourself, your family, and friends to In Good Company on Wednesday, April 6 between 4 and 9 pm. In Good Company will donate 15% of all proceeds during that time to UUCEL. Specifically, the donation will help UUCEL fund improvements to its audio-visual capabilities (including the purchase of a flat screen television and necessary peripherals and equipment).

How can YOU help? Come to dinner between 4 and 9 pm on **April 6**. Make a reservation.

Tell everyone you know. Share the event as it's posted on social media. Consider donating an item for silent auction. Sign up to welcome customers at a table in the lobby. Convince a business owner to match the proceeds, or a portion of them (yes, we'll mention the business in our PR material).

If you're interested in helping, please contact Kerry Hart. See Supplement Page for more contact information.

Submitted by: Kerry Hart

Annual Church Auction

Please save the date of **Friday, May 6th** for the annual church auction ~~ Stay tuned for more information announced from the pulpit on Sunday mornings.

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year."

- Mark Twain

Adult RE Presentations on Health

This month we are pleased to offer the first presentations in a series which will occur over the next several months on health. These presentations are being coordinated by Steve Kish and will include presentations by both members and guests. Each session will be held after our church service starting approximately at 12:30 -12:45 pm, and lasting about a half hour.

April 10 – "Meditation- Does it Work? Yes!" with Dee Reed ~ A discussion of the methods, the advantages, and the possible results of meditation. Dee Reed has practiced meditation daily since the early 1970's.

April 17 – "Relationships" with Dee Reed ~ The meaning of emotional health in terms of relationships with others. Dee Reed was a licensed psychologist with many years of practice.

Submitted by: Steve Kish

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 W. 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, April 21

"Water, Water, Everywhere"

Todd Knepper, Director of the City of Jackson Department of Public Works will talk about our local water system. Randy Block, Director of the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network, will talk about several laws currently proposed in our Michigan legislature regarding water. This will be held at the downtown branch of the library on April 21, at 6:30 pm

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

General Assembly

Registration for General Assembly is now open. The General Assembly is closer than ever this year, in our neighboring state of Ohio! General Assembly is from June 22 through June 26 in Columbus. If you've never been, this is a great opportunity to attend for even a day or weekend. The theme this year is "Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect" and is all about interfaith cooperation. This year's Ware Lecture (the keynote address) speaker is Krista Tippett, journalist, author, and host of the public radio show "On Being." The choir at this year's GA is being led by the fabulous Glen Thomas Rideout of the Ann Arbor church. For more information and to registration, go to www.uua.org/ga. **Submitted by: Rev. Cindy**

Aid for Refugees

At our recent JXN Community Forum we learned about refugees in Michigan. Now it turns out that Jackson will host a new group home for refugee minors — teenage boys. Lutheran Social Services is looking for donations of furniture, household items, clothing, personal care items, and school supplies. The Jackson Lutheran churches are coordinating together to provide many of these items, but more will still be needed. For more information and where to take items, contact Lutheran Social Services at 517-321-7663 or lansinginfo@lssm.org. **Submitted by: Rev. Cindy**

"Let the rain kiss you.

Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.

Let the rain sing you a lullaby.

The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk.

The rain makes running pools in the gutter.

The rain plays a little sellp-song on our roof at night—

And I love the rain."

- Langston Hughes, 1902-1967, *April Rain Song*

Sabbatical Notice

The Board has approved a plan for Rev. Cindy to take a three-month sabbatical beginning after Christmas 2016 or starting in January 2017, which will be taken along with two or three additional weeks of vacation and study leave. While she is eligible for one month per year of service up to six months, this is a sabbatical planned to be shorter than her previous sabbatical of five months in 2010-2011, with the thought that trying shorter but more-frequent sabbaticals may prove to be a better model for our church. Vic Marshall and Joan Bernstein have agreed to serve on a sabbatical committee and Kathy Haynes has also been asked and is thinking about it. They will plan for how to best handle Cindy's absence.

"Sweet April showers

Do spring May flowers."

- Thomas Tusser, *A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry*, 1557



Our Closing Song

Go now and live your religion.

Its truth reflect in all you do.

Go, may love's presence ever guide you.
Live the good life the whole day through.

Caring Committee

Caring Committee monthly meeting will generally be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month after church at 12:30 in the Nursery. If you are aware of any issues or concerns involving any of our church family for which the Caring Committee can lend a helping hand, please contact any member of the Committee. Those serving on the Caring Committee are: Debbie Hartsuff, Debbie and Fred Marshall, Gretchen Marshall, Alyce Oosting, and Jane Volk as chair.

Submitted by: Jane Volk

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, **April 21** from 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 contact 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 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 MAY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: SUNDAY,

APRIL 17. ~~~~~ 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, JANE VOLK, KERRY HART, STEVE KISH, 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



April

- 3/30 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 3 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister: ~ 11:00 am
- 6 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 1:30 pm
- 6 Wed. Have Dinner @ In Good Company, UUCEL Gets 15% of the Totals ~ 4:00 - 9:00 pm
- 7 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 10 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Jon Hart ~ 11:00 am
- 10 Sunday Adult RE Presentations on Health "Meditation - Does it Work? Yes!" 12:30 -1:00 pm
- 10 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 12 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 14 Thurs. RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 7:00 pm
- 17 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 17 Sunday Adult RE Presentations on Health "Relationships" 12:30 -1:00 pm
- 17 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 19 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 21 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
- 21 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 21 Thurs. JXN Forum ~ "Water, Water, Everywhere" @ JDL, ~ 6:30-8:30
- 24 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

- Annual Church Auction ~ will be Friday evening of May 6th
- General Assembly ~ June 22 through June 26 in Columbus Ohio

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

| Sunday | Greeter | Nursery | Ushers | Social Host | R.E. K-5 | R.E. Youth |
|--------|----------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Apr 3 | Alyce O | Vicki H & Kathy H | Gary T & ___ | Jane V & Blue Team | Jackie & Kerry -WOW 14 | Teens Journaling the service |
| Apr 10 | Grace M | Vicki H & Gratia K | Gary T & ___ | Sue R & Pruple Team | Jackie & Nancy/Rob -WOW 15 | Gretchen M & Alice O COA-6 |
| Apr 17 | Joan B | Vicki H & Joan B | Gary T & ___ | Joan B & Red Team | IG | IG |
| Apr 24 | Carole H | Vicki H & Nena O | Gary T & ___ | Nancy S & Orange Team | Jackie & Peter -WOW 16 | Lynn & Elizabeth music and creation |

April Theme: Creation

April 3 - "Art, Creation, and the Spirit"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

New studies are showing that artistic practices are good for the psyche and the spirit. This service will explore the wonder of art.

April 10 - "Spring into Jazz"

– Lay Leader: Jon Hart

An exploration of spring through the jazz of the Ramsey Lewis Trio, Buddhist poetry, and imagery led by lay leader Jon Hart.

April 17 - "Earth Day: Climate Justice"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This service will explore how climate change is related to other justice issues, such as race and class.

April 24 - "Creation"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

An exploration of this month's theme of creation.

W h e

