



# 2016 ~ June

## 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

Our theme for the month is "Simplicity." One of the popular songs in our hymnal is known as "Simple Gifts," which says, "'Tis a gift to be simple; 'tis a gift to be free."

How is it a gift to be simple? Life is not always simple, and the complexity, while sometimes joyous, sometimes is related to hard-ship. Sometimes it is a blessing for life to be simple.

Simplicity is often a privilege, too. I read magazines and books on voluntary simplicity sometimes, and some of the suggestions they give are anything but easy and affordable. One article on making the most of small spaces led me to a chair store where chairs ranged up to five thousand dollars per chair, and that was in the "shabby chic" section! Another article on "Real Simple" tells me that there are seven manicure mistakes I might be missing. I assume all seven must be that I'm not getting manicures!

When you think about people juggling families and work, as many of us do, lives are far from simple. But there are always those for whom life is even more complicated. For example, the issue of gendered

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

#### June 5 - "Flower Communion"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum- oin us for our annual flower communion service! Bring a flower to represent the diversity of humanity, and leave with another flower in your care.

#### June 12 - "Wheel of the Year & Simple Gifts"

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -- Join us as we recognize transitions and honor volunteers. Bring about sixty of something simple to pay thanks to all those who help make our congregation strong. Your item of thanks can be a penny, a matchbook, a stone, a swatch of cloth, a clothespin... or go a little more elaborate and fold cranes or write notes or make book-marks. The options are limitless!

#### June 19 - "TBA"

– Lay Leader: TBA

#### June 26 - "TBA"

– Lay Leader: TBA

### Calendar

- 1 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 2 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 5 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 5 Sunday Adult RE Presentations on Health "Social Security & Financial Health" 12:30 -1:00 pm
- 8 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 1:00 pm
- 9 Thurs. RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 7:00 pm
- 12 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 12 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 13 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 16 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm --Not meeting this Month
- 16 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 19 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader ~ 11:00 am
- 19 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 21 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 22-26 General Assembly ~ in Columbus, Ohio
- 26 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader ~ 11:00 am

MINISTER - REV. DR. CYNTHIA L. LANDRUM  
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**Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...**

bathrooms has been in the news a lot lately. Imagine, if you are not someone for whom this is true, how complicated life is if you have to plan your trips so that you never use a public restroom, or if you do use a public restroom, you have to think each time about which one to use, and where you might face the least real danger. This is one area where our "simple" building, at least, makes things simpler for people – all of our bathrooms are single-stall and for all genders.

June is also Pride month in the LGBT community. We've come a long way with last year's decision for marriage equality, but the escalating violence around bathrooms shows there's a long way to go. For example, I read a recent Facebook post from a woman who once visited our church who said she was harassed in the line for the women's room recently at the beach in South Haven. As long as people believe that it's okay to police the gender expression of others, we're going to keep seeing incidents like this one.

So as we celebrate pride, the end of the year, and simplicity this month, keep working for justice for those for whom our society makes things all too complex.

Peace,

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

JXN Community Forum is taking the summer off. In September we will be cosponsoring two local/state Candidate's Forums with the Jackson League of Women Voters. Watch for information in August..

**Gramma's Attic Sale**

The Annual Gramma's Attic Sale will be held on Friday, **September 16** and Saturday the **17<sup>th</sup>** – more information will be in next month's Bellnote newsletter. Gratia Karmes will be the chair of this large fundraiser. The Gramma's Attic Sale is our name for a large yard sale held inside and outside the schoolhouse next to the church.

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W T U B A E R A C D N A R E H T O H C A E T U O B A E R A C E L P O E P M H

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