



2016 ~ November

The Bellnote

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

MINISTER REV. DR. CYNTHIA LANDRUM
CYNLANDRUM@GMAIL.COM

STAFF

PIANIST ANITA FOBES
AFOBES@JUILLIARDALUMNI.NET
CLERICAL ASSISTANT FOR RE & CHILDCARE
VICKI HAYNES KERMIT_210@YAHOO.COM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT GRATIA KARMES
GLK222@TDS.NET
VICE PRESIDENT ELISSA ALDEN
ELISSA.ALDEN@COMCAST.NET
SECRETARY DEB HARTSUFF
DEBHARTSUFF@GMAIL.COM
TREASURER KERRY HART
KHART247@SBCGLOBAL.NET
TRUSTEE TOM PEPPER
PEPPET49@COMCAST.NET
TRUSTEE ALYCE OOSTING
OOSTING115@COMCAST.NET

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

It's been a long election season leading up to this month, and I'm thankful it's coming to a close. This has been an election where I've struggled more than ever before about the line ministers draw between what we're allowed to say and what would jeopardize our non-profit status. I've seen colleagues struggling with it as well, asking, well, where is that line exactly, and trying to parse out distinctions like, "If I denounce a candidate, but don't endorse a candidate, is that okay?"

People often mistakenly think that for a church or a minister to endorse a candidate is "illegal" and/or against separation of church and state. Neither, in fact is true. Separation of church and state is about keeping the government from endorsing a religion (and not vice-versa). The sole thing that keeps us from endorsing, as far as the government is concerned, is that it would violate our tax-exempt status. So we can endorse a candidate, legally, but if we did so we'd need to start paying taxes.

The reason for all this is that this election, so many of our values feel on the line as never before. And ministers are in the business of paying attention to our values. It feels to me like an artificial line to say I can talk about our values, but not endorse a candidate. Don't our values relate to the platforms of the candidates? Yes, of course they do.

Nevertheless, there is a strong taboo against ministers speaking about politics, particularly in liberal religion. I've been asking this question around of people, not just our members, about how they would feel if their minister got political in the pulpit. And the vast majority want religion kept out of their pulpits. Again, it's something I wrestle with greatly — my religious values have political implications, in my opinion. Yet, I know that for me to endorse a candidate would alienate more people than it would persuade. Ultimately, it is that reason that keeps me from doing it. I may not understand why others draw this line between the political and religious, but there is no doubt that the line is there.

Ultimately, I will *not* endorse a candidate from the pulpit, just as I haven't in prior elections. Ministers are free to endorse candidates out of the pulpit, however, as long as we don't say that we're doing so on behalf of the church. So I will confine my endorsements to my lawn, my bumper, and my Facebook page.

Meanwhile I encourage you to think about this line between politics and religion. Do you feel your religious beliefs have implications for what circle you fill in on your ballot? Does your belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person or your respect for the interdependent web of all existence match up with one candidate or another for you? I'll be talking more about our values at stake in this election in an upcoming Sunday service.

Notes from the Board

Cindy's column continued ...

One of our values is in democracy itself. Living our values fully might lead different people to different candidates, but one thing is clear is that it leads us to vote. So mark your calendar and get to the polls — it's a civic duty and a religious value!

Peace

Rev. Cindy

The Board met at Elissa's new home. We are very excited to be nearing completion on a number of important projects, including paving the parking lot, new school house steps, and repair of our beautiful front steps. The generosity of our congregation has made all this possible, and we thank you. ALSO we are grateful for the amazing hard work of Vic Marshall, Lynn McLean and others who have done the nearly impossible to get and keep us on schedule. The board will meet on the first THURSDAY in November, at the church, 6:30 pm

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

Minister's Schedule:

Rev. Cindy will be out of town for her study group from Monday, Nov. 14 through Thursday, Nov. 17.

Please Welcome
our Newest Members
Mary Bernstein & Melissa Potter
Peg Beison
Kristina McKinney
who joined our church on
October 23rd
and also Welcome
Izzibella McKinney and
Savannah McKinney
who were dedicated on the same
day: they are granddaughters of
Kristina McKinney.

Parking Lot

The church's parking lot is all completed with the paving project. So the next time you see Vic Marshall, Marion Shroyer and a few others, along with the few members that gave very large donations to make this happen. Please give them a GREAT BIG THANK YOU for all the time and energy to make this large project a reality. ~~ The editors thought about adding a photo here but, decided not to, so you need to come see for yourselves.

Sabbatical Update

Can you believe that it has been almost six years since Rev. Cindy's last sabbatical? The Board, Worship and Sabbatical Committees are now in the final weeks of preparation for her next sabbatical. The Board and Rev. Cindy have agreed that this sabbatical will not be as long as the last sabbatical. We will have less work for us to cover during her time away; Rev. Cindy's sabbaticals will be shorter and more frequent than called for in her initial agreement. Remember that sabbaticals are a time away from the stress of the job so that one can recharge their spirits and develop new skills and insights. Sabbaticals are very common in the academic world so that teachers can keep up with new ideas and developments.

Rev. Cindy's last official service will be the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Be sure to wish her well on her quest! She will then use a week of her vacation time off, and her Sabbatical will officially begin on January 1st, 2017 through March 31st, 2017. She will use another week of vacation as she transitions back into ministerial duties, with her official return to the pulpit scheduled for April 9th, 2017. The service will be about what we (congregation and Rev. Cindy) have learned during the time away. Following that service, we are planning a potluck dinner during social time.

Please, if you see Rev. Cindy and/or her family while she is off, don't pretend that she is invisible and ignore her! Socialize the way you regularly would do. Just **do not** involve her with church events or issues. The Board, Worship and Sabbatical Committees will be handling all of those situations so that she can have a break! The Board will decide if she needs to be consulted or informed on church business.

If you have any questions about the sabbatical, please don't hesitate to ask Rev. Cindy, a Board Member or a member of the Sabbatical Committee, Vic Marshall, Joan Bernstein & Kathy Haynes

Submitted by: Vic Marshall

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Adult RE

Presentations on Health

Completing the Adult RE Programs on the theme of health are John Lark and Nancee Scott. Nancee Scott will speak on the **13th of November**: the topic is nutritional health. She is a Lifestyle and Weight Management Consultant. John Lark will talk about the association of dental health and sleep apnea on the **20th of November**. John is a dentist and had a practice in Adrian.

This is the last in a series 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.

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...

“Issues with Historic Districts in Jackson and Michigan”

On the 2nd **Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016** Representatives from the Jackson Historic Commission and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network will discuss recent pending legislation in Michigan to change the rules regarding Historic Districts, and how districts would be affected should it pass.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

Holiday Gift Basket Silent Auction

November 20 - December 11

Please get creative and donate a basket, box, or bag of special items to our annual Holiday Basket Silent Auction. Some ideas from the past were coloring books and art supplies, children’s books and games, movies, candy and popcorn, pet supplies, bird feeding supplies, fashion accessories, holiday supplies and goodies. Food items should be either commercially packaged or home canned. Bidding begins on Sunday, November 20, and ends on Sunday, December 11, after the service. See Nena for more information

Submitted by Nena Obits



Potluck Dinner and Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, **November 27** we will be planning a potluck dinner following the service. Then after that we will be decorating the church for the upcoming Christmas Holiday. – So please bring a passing dish and plan to stay for a little while to put up the “Greens”. Thanks.

Submitted by: the Membership Committee



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.

**Fundraisers for the
Jackson Personal Care Ministry
The Big Bling**

Fine and Costume Jewelry,
Hats, Scarves, Accessories
HUNDREDS OF ITEMS!

Nov. 18, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Night of the Christmas Parade) **Nov 19**, 9:00 am – noon at the First Baptist Church 201 S. Jackson St. Proceeds benefit the Jackson Personal Care Ministry. **Submitted by: Nena Obits**

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, **October 20** 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 her contact information.

~~ Here is how you can help, by writing a Check made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church, with the words "For Personal Care" written on the memo line. This can be mailed to Westminster Presbyterian Church 2301 Ridgeway Road, Jackson, MI 49203, or handed to Nena Obits. Please note that there are a few other churches involved in the Personal Care Ministry and this church handles the money part.

Submitted by: Nena

Congratulations

Arbor Grove Congregational!

Arbor Grove Congregational Church will install their new minister, Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown on Sunday, November 6, at 4pm. Visitors are welcome to attend.

~Visitor Tips for Everyone~~

Here are some ways to make people feel welcome that everyone can follow:

- Introduce yourself and get to know a visitor by name.
- Invite a visitor to social hour.
- Wear a nametag.
- Sit toward the middle of the pew or nearer to the front of the church so visitors can be more anonymous if they choose.
- Watch for people who may be alone during social hour and ask them about the sermon or their faith journey.

Thank you!

Church Website

The Bellnote Newsletter

Church's facebook page

Forum facebook page

<http://www.libertyuu.org>

<http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html>

<http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu>

<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 DECEMBER ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20. ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO KATHY OR VICKI, THANK YOU –

WE WANT TO THANK; REV. CINDY LANDRUM, VIC MARSHALL, NENA OBITS, JANE VOLK, GRATIA KARMES 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



November

- 3 Thurs. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 3 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 3 Thurs JXN Forum committee ~ 2:30 Carnegie Branch Library
- 6 Sunday Daylight Saving Time Ends ~ Set Clocks back 1 Hour
- 6 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Tue. Election Day ~ Go Vote
- 8 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 9 Wed. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
- 10 Thurs. JXN Community Forum ~Issues with Historic Districts in Jackson ~ 6:30 pm @ JDL
- 13 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader, Anita Pepper ~ 11:00 am
- 13 Sunday Adult RE Programs, Nancee Scott ~ 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
- 13 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 14-17 Rev. Cindy will be out of town for her study group
- 15 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 17 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 8 Fri. The Big Bling 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm ~ Frist Baptist Church
- 19 Sat. The Big Bling 9:00 am – noon ~ Frist Baptist Church
- 20 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 20 Sunday Holiday Gift Basket Silent Auction ~ Begins
- 20 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 20 Sunday Adult RE Programs, John Lark ~ 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
- 24 Thurs. Rental Carole Hartsuff
- 27 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~Lay Leader, Nena Obits ~ 11:00 am
- 27 Sunday Potluck Dinner and Hanging of the Greens

Upcoming Events

- Dec 11 Holiday Gift Basket Silent Auction Ends

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday	Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Youth
Nov 6	Alyce o	Vicki H & Kathy H	Gary & ___	Vic M & team #9	Janette & Peter Divali (10/30)	Elizabeth & Lynn Poetry & Music
Nov 13	Grace M	Vicki H & Jackie J	Gary & ___	Donna H & team #1	Jon/Kerry & Kristina Huichol Indian Day	Gretchen & Alyce The Call for Understanding
Nov 20	Joan B	Vicki H & Joan B	Gary & ___	Kerry H & team #2	Intergenerational	
Nov 27	Carole H	Vicki H & Nena O	Gary & ___	Carole H & team #3	Intergenerational	

November's Theme: Story

Nov 6 - "Values and Democracy"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

As we approach Election Day, Rev. Cindy will talk about our religious values and how they inform our vote and our understanding of democracy.

Nov 13 - "Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky!"

- Lay Leader: Anita Pepper

On the occasion of Carl Sagan's birthday this month, we will explore our relationship to the stars, scientific and mystical.

Nov 20 - "Thanksgiving Stories: Defying Hate"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy looks at Thanksgiving through this month's theme of "Story." We will share information about the UUSC "Guest at Your Table" program. This year the GAYT program focuses on the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp who rescued people from the Holocaust during World War II. You can learn more about the Sharps at the December forum!

Nov 27 - "Life is the Greatest Gift of All"

- Lay Leader: Nena Obits

At this time of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we honor people with disabilities who overcome barriers and become full participants in our community.

Where people care about each other and care about the world.

