



# 2016 ~ December

## 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 this month is "Presence." To me, the theme speaks first about our presence in the community. UUCEL makes a lot of difference in the community around us – we're involved in the Jackson Personal Care Ministry, and our JXN Community Forums have been a regular presence for over a decade. Our presence is felt in various social justice initiatives and interfaith events. In the weeks since the presidential election, we've seen a bump in our attendance at East Liberty. I believe that's in part because of our presence in the community as a home for diversity of beliefs and for respecting the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Our presence in this community matters more than ever.

Another thing "presence" says to me is that we are present at East Liberty as individuals. This month we'll be celebrating all the things that your presence gifts us with, through our volunteer recognition where we note the important difference your presence and participation make.

One more thing that the theme evokes for me is something we talk about a lot in the training for the ministry: "ministerial presence." "Ministerial presence" is about growing into the understanding of oneself as a minister, about living into the role and embodying it. Some would argue it's about finding and maintaining a connection to the holy. Continued on other side...

### Sunday Services at 11:00 am

#### December's Theme: Presence

**Dec 4 - "Recognition Sunday" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum** - Our Volunteer Recognition Sunday is coming early this church year because we have so much to celebrate! Come join us as we dedicate our new parking lot, recognize volunteers, and more!

**Dec 11 - "Christmas Presence" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum** - On this Sunday, Rev. Cindy will explore this month's theme of Presence and what it can mean to us in the holiday season.

**Dec 18 - "How Scrooge Changed and the Grinch Stole Christmas" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum** UU Religious Education Program and Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum – Our children's program this holiday season celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TV Special of the How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Following the service will be our "Santa's Workshop"

**Dec 24 - Saturday 7:00 pm "Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum** Join us for our Christmas Eve service where we celebrate the old and new as we share the age-old story, tell new stories of Christmas spirit, sing carols, and light candles.

**Dec 25 -** There will be **no service on Christmas Day** to allow our staff and volunteers to celebrate Christmas with family. See you on New Year's Day!

### Calendar

1 Thurs.	AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
4 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
7 Thurs.	Board Meeting ~ 6:00 pm at Dorothy's
8 Thurs.	JXN Community Forum ~ <b>Defying the Nazis: The Sharp's War</b> ~ 6:30 pm @ JDL
11 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, ~ 11:00 am
11 Sunday	Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
11 Sunday	Holiday Gift Basket Silent Auction ~ Ends at 11:00 am
13 Tue.	Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
14 Wed.	Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
14 Wed.	Sabbatical Committee ~ 3:00 pm
15 Thurs.	Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
18 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
18 Sunday	Santa's Workshop ~ After the Service
18 Sunday	The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
24 Saturday	Christmas Eve Service ~ 7:00 pm
25 Sunday	~~~~ No Service Today ~ Merry Christmas

## Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

It feels appropriate to me, in this last month before my sabbatical, to be thinking on presence, since after this I will be physically absent for a while. In my absence, you may find yourself thinking about what ministerial presence means to you in a different way, and you may find yourself to have ministerial presence in certain ways, as well.

In this last month before my absence, though, we're going to have a lot going on. In these pages you'll find information about our Recognition Sunday and luncheon, about the Children's program and Santa's Workshop, about our monthly forum, the holiday baskets fundraiser, the Christmas Eve service, and more. I hope you'll be present at East Liberty this month for our festivities.

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

### "Defying the Nazis: The Sharp's War"

On the 2nd Thursday, December 8

This is the Ken Burns documentary about Unitarian minister Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha, who left their children behind and spent two dangerous years saving scores of imperiled dissidents and refugees fleeing the Nazis in Europe.

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

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