



2017 ~ January

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@JULLIARDALUMNI.NET
CHILDCARE VICKI HAYNES
AND CLERICAL ASSISTANT FOR RE
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

As I leave the active life of our congregation for a time of sabbatical, I leave with mixed feelings. There's a lot going on at East Liberty that I'll be missing, and I enjoy our church life, our events, and seeing all of you. And just this past week, my youngest child said the word "church" for the first time, excited upon our arrival at the familiar building that he knows equals fun and friends

One of the things I'm reluctant to be missing is the wonderful line-up of Sunday services you have coming. "Favorite Things" on January 1st is a favorite of our congregation for a reason! The first visiting minister is Rev. Kathryn Bert. Kathryn and I have known each other since seminary, and I can honestly say that she is not only a strong worship leader, she is overall one of the strongest colleagues I know. I've relied on her wisdom and insight many times. The Lansing congregation went through a recent building move to a new location, and in the weeks between locations they worshiped in the building of a Muslim congregation — something that made national news. On Jan. 15 I'm delighted to be doing a pulpit exchange with Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown of Arbor Grove Congregational. Arbor Grove I think of as something of a sister church to us, because we are so alike in mission, and share a common polity (church governance — we are congregational in governance, like the Congregationalists). While Dan is new to Arbor Grove, I've known him for years, and in particular he has been a strong advocate for interfaith work in the community. On January 22nd, the Rev. Colleen Squires is coming all the way from Grand Rapids to be with you. Colleen has been doing really great work in the area of anti-racism there in Grand Rapids. One of the members of that congregation is a national leader in the movement for Black lives. Colleen is also a Good Officer, which means she and I work closely together (since I am the other GO) to help ministers going through difficult situations. Lastly our month is rounded out by another lay speaker, Monica Day, who has been a frequent visitor to our congregation this fall and winter. Monica will speak on water justice, an issue of great import in Michigan where we have several continuing crises, but which has also been in the news lately for its connection to the Dakota Pipeline issue.

So I leave knowing you have a remarkable month in front of you. Meanwhile I don't know much about what's in front of me. I've tried to leave my schedule as open and unstructured as possible (aside from some guest preaching at Arbor Grove and in Brighton, whose minister you'll hear next month). That's actually kind of scary to me to have such a blank calendar. I may flounder for a bit, not knowing how to handle time with this kind of situation. But that's good for me. I need to take time to find my center, figure out who I am again aside from being your minister, and take time to reconnect with my growing and very busy family. I'm grateful that I have this time to do all that.

Continued on page 2 . . ~ 1 ~

Cindy's column continued ...

That being said, you may see me around a little bit. I'll probably come to church occasionally for events that involve children, in particular. Our January forum is a forum about foster care, where the presenters are from the agency we've fostered through, and so I may show up for the forum, for example. When you see me, it's fine to greet me and talk with me. This is also true on social media. I may not respond to posts there of yours, but if you see one of mine, that means you're as free to comment there as you would be to greet me in a store or restaurant. In fact, I'll be happy to see you, whether in person or online, because I'll be missing you!

Rev. Cindy

Notes from the Board

The Board met for a lovely dinner at Dorothy Kerr's home. We spent a considerable amount of time reviewing plans for Cindy's sabbatical. She provided us a detailed plan for guest speakers, a contact list and a summary of other duties, and a plan for when and how to contact her during the sabbatical. We also approved the building committee request to replace siding, a door, and other finishing touches to the many improvements to our buildings. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 4th, 6:30, at the church. A complete copy of these minutes will be posted in the social hall.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

The
mittens and hats
that was brought to
our Christmas Tree over
the last few weeks, totaled
21 mittens/gloves, 14 hats and
2 scarfs. All of them were given to
the Frist Congregational Church UCC,
in Jackson. There is a board that is close
to their church that the homeless is aware of
and all of our goodies will have new homes soon.

Thank
You to
all that
donated
them.

Submitted by: The Editors

Our Spiritual Exercises

Option A: Pick a Prophet

"The Prophetic role is such tough one...It's annoying and unsettling. It points out hypocrisy and the intentional self-deception we engage in. Who wants that? Enter the comedian..."

- Pete Santucci

So it turns out they want us to do more than laugh! Who knew that their main goal is to wake us up?! To unsettle our self-deception?! To honor that, this exercise invites you to open yourself to some edgy prophetic comedians and discover where you need a little unsettling. Your instructions:

1. Listen for the one that gets under your skin.
2. Beware of the ones that you agree with too easily or cheer too loudly; That's a sign of the way you want to unsettle others, not the way you need to be unsettled.
3. Write down the sentence or two from your chosen clip that captures where your work seems to lay - that speaks to the self-deception that you most often slip into.
4. Find a way to put that sentence in front of yourself frequently this month.
5. Come to your group ready to tell the story of how this made a difference in your daily living and woke you up.

Option B: Prop Up a Prophet

We can always be sure of one thing—that the messengers of discomfort and sacrifice will be stoned and pelted by those who wish to preserve at all costs their own contentment. This is not a lesson that is confined to the Testaments.

~ Christopher Hitchens

We owe prophets much. They inspire us, guide us and keep us on track. In short, they prop us up. So, this month, in gratitude, why not return the favor and prop them up? We need to remember that they regularly feel cast into the desert and fear being pelted, sometimes literally. We need to remind them that they are appreciated and not alone. This is especially true of the everyday prophets. The ones protesting when the rest of us stop showing up with our signs. The ones who challenge those who intimidate women walking into Planned Parenthood clinics. The ones who devote their lives to keeping homeless shelters going and challenging the rest of us to not forget the forgotten. The vegetarians and vegans who remind us that

Continued on page 3 ...

eating is a spiritual practice. The neighbors who forgo dinners or vacations so they can put solar panels on their house or afford the electric car, reminding us that it is possible to live in a new world now.

There are so many ways to prop these prophets up: Donate in their name. Send a letter of appreciation. Follow their lead and tell them you wouldn't have done it if not for them. Volunteer alongside them for a weekend. Pick up your sign once again and stand by their side. Put on a pants suit and tell them you did it because of them.

We all need everyday prophets in our lives. This month, let's remember that they need us too. Find your own unique way of appreciating and propping them up!

Option C: Pick a Day and Make it Prophetic

This month is full of prophetic holidays. But too often our culture turns them into parties or excuses for another day off, or worse yet, ignores them all together. In one way or another, we allow these holidays to become small. This exercise invites us to not let that happen. Your assignment: Pick at least one of the major holidays of January and find your personal way of keeping it "large"-keeping it's radical and prophetic potential alive.

New Year's Day: Resolving to lose a few pounds is important, but one wonders if that alone is worthy of New Year's potential. This quote by L. Ron Hubbard suggests it's not: "The best way to [predict] any future is to cause one... The future isn't a pattern laid out to abuse and bully you. The future is a beautiful playground." So this year, ask yourself: Are your New Year's resolutions too small? Are they really big enough to bring down your "bully"? Are they radical enough to make life feel like a playground again?

MLK Day: Parker Palmer writes, "Avoid the bad habit of domesticating the prophet of your choice, turning him/her into a cheerleader for your way of thinking and way of life." These words tragically describe what so often happens each January to Martin Luther King Jr. His call for equality and justice is regularly reduced to an invitation to embrace diversity and ignores his demand to turn the economic social order on its head. Treating him as a "saint" ends up hiding how radical he was. So this year, what can you do to honor "the radical MLK"? Here is some inspiration:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-dreier/martin-luther-king-was-a-1-b-6498740.html>

• <http://www.beacon.org/The-Radical-King-P1049.aspx>.

• <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/08/22/bryan-stevenson-and-the-legacy-of-lynching>

• https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice

Inauguration Day: Regardless of whether you voted for Mr. Trump or not, his election taught all of us that we live in bubbles that distort the reality around us. It's not just the pollsters that didn't listen well; none of us seem to be good at listening to and understanding each other. So consider making this Inauguration Day about prophetic listening. For some of us, that means listening better to the unemployed Detroit factory worker. For others of us, it means making sure our fears as immigrants and minorities are heard. All of us, though, need to wrestle with how this election calls us to listen better and change our ways. So treat this Inauguration Day like it was one of those prophets of old; figure out how it is "judging us," "warning us of danger" or "calling us to become something new." Make at least one major commitment that represents what you figure out.

Roe v Wade Anniversary: UU theologian and minister, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker, writes, "It is a mistake to see [the prophet] as an isolated, heroic individual. It is better to see him/her as the crest of a wave. "No justice effort represents this more than the achievement of Roe v. Wade. The fight for women's reproductive rights was – and is - definitely a driven by a prophetic wave rather than one single celebrated prophet. To honor that, consider stepping up you participation in the wave of reproductive rights.

One final note: Regardless of which holiday you focus on, pay attention this month to the thread that ties all of them together. Each in their own way asserts that we are prophets of our futures. Each declares that our destinies are not determined. All of them remind us that we are not puppets that life pushes around.



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.

Continued on next column ...

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Youth Mixer!

On **Sunday, January 15th**, Rev. Cindy is doing a pulpit exchange with Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown of Arbor Grove Congregational. This provides the perfect opportunity for us to get our youth groups together! We're planning an afternoon event of fun and games and food so that our middle and high school youth can meet. Stay tuned for final details forthcoming from the RE committee of where and when.

Submitted by: RE Committee

Lights Camera Action

During our last membership meeting Cindy was saying that the computer world has changed a lot in the last few years and Let's Make Our Own U.U. Photo Directory Books In-House/Church. At this time we are thinking they will be in black and white for a suggested donation of only \$6.00 or a color copy for around \$10.00 in printed form and/or a file you can download. The pictures of everyone that would like to be a part of this new project will be taken in February, March and early April by our very own Rob Gaecke. In April when Cindy returns she will make this all happen. We are hoping that it will be done before the Annual Meeting. Stay tuned for more information in next month Bellnote.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

Talent Show

Attention talented and/or fun-loving UU's ... Just a heads up: for another wonderful Talent Show that is coming up on **Friday, March 24**. The talent show will be like the one of last time a few years ago, with a \$10.00 entry fee per person. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners as well as for Peoples' choice award. The judges will be non-members of the church, along with great refreshments for purchase. Start thinking!!

Submitted by Elissa Alden

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...

"Strengths and Challenges of Teens in the Foster Care System"

January 19th, the 3rd Thursday

Stasia Milligan, Child Welfare Director at Family Service and Children's Aid, and a panel of foster parents, youth in foster care and case managers, will discuss the reality of what teens in foster care face, and what the community could do to make things better.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

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, **January 19** 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 Obits

~Upcoming Fund Raisers~

~ Talent Show ~ Friday, March 23

from the Board

Pastoral Care Coverage and Caring Comm.

If you need pastoral care during the sabbatical, you are encouraged to call our Caring Committee (chair: Jane Volk). If a minister is required, the Caring Committee chair and the Board president (Gratia Karmes) are authorized to contact the on call minister on your behalf.

The Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown of Arbor Grove Congregational Church has agreed to provide on-call pastoral care for our congregation during Rev. Cindy's sabbatical.

Lastly, it's important to know that while we're asking you to not contact Rev. Cindy for pastoral care during her sabbatical, she's let the leadership of the Board and Caring Committee know that there are some circumstances under which she very much wants to be contacted. She's doing an at-home sabbatical for the most part, and will be accessible in cases where we need to call her back for extreme emergencies.

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: Rev. Cindy and Jane Volk**

Contest

We will be having a handwriting contest to finding the next person to add names to the memory block on the quilt on the back wall. For those interested we are asking you to write in cursive the name of Greg Mitchell on an index card (they can be found in the pews box holders) along with your own name. Greg's name was the last name on the block and the person who matches the name the best will be awarded a fabric maker to add the 7 missing names to get it up to date. Please turn in your sample handwriting index cards to Joan Bernstein or Kathy Haynes by February 19. We want to Thank you in advance and hoping to have many to choose from. This is open to anyone of any age and the winner will be announced in the March's Bellnote newsletter.

Submitted by: the Membership Committee

Smile for the Camera

In the next 3 months while Rev. Cindy is on her sabbatical, a few people will be taking pictures of upcoming events and also during some of the services. These pictures will be turned into a slide show and shown on April 9 for Rev. Cindy's return.

Submitted by the Sabbatical Comm.

Guest Minister Schedule

Rev. Cindy has been working hard to provide a strong line-up of guest ministers for you during her sabbatical. Most of these ministers are donating their services as part of an agreement between ministers to help out during times of sabbatical — Cindy has preached at some of these churches in the past for their sabbaticals. Another Sunday is being provided by a pulpit exchange between Rev. Cindy and a local minister. Please come and hear these exciting speakers, and take a moment to thank them for their willingness to help Rev. Cindy's sabbatical time to be a rewarding and engaging time for our congregation!

Jan. 8: Rev. Kathryn Bert, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing

Jan. 15: Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown, Arbor Grove Congregational Church, Jackson
(pulpit ex-change with Rev. Cindy)

Jan. 22: Rev. Colleen Squires, Minister, All Souls Community Church of West Michigan, Grand Rapids

Feb. 5: Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi, Minister, Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington

Feb. 12: Rev. Sean Dennison, Unitarian Universalist Minister

Feb. 19: Julie Brock, Minister, Community Unitarian Universalists in Brighton

Mar. 19: Rev. Kimi Riegel, Minister, Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, Southfield

Mar. 26: Rev. Rachel Lonberg, Minister, People's Church of Kalamazoo

Submitted by the Sabbatical Committee ~ 5 ~

Weather Policy

January can be a snowy month, and occasionally we've had to cancel services. How will you know? Well, we try to provide the information in a number of ways. Our board president, building chair, and Sunday speaker or worship associate confer and make the decision. If they decide to close the church, the board president starts the phone tree and updates the Facebook page, the newsletter editor updates the webpage, and another volunteer updates the church voicemail. By the time you would leave for church, you should have gotten a call, but if you haven't and the weather is suspect, check the voicemail or the webpage, because phone trees often break down. Whenever there is a government alert to stay off the roads, we encourage you to do so. And if you feel like driving conditions are not safe for you, please exercise caution and stay home, even if you have a volunteer role to fill. Let someone know you're not coming if you're able.

Submitted by: The Board

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 FEBRUARY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22. ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI, THANK YOU -

WE WANT TO THANK; REV. CINDY, SABBATICAL COMM., WORSHIP COMM., 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



January

- 1 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Elissa Alden ~ 11:00 am
- 4 Thurs. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 5 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm -
- 8 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Kathryn Bert ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 10 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 10 Tue. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- Membership Meeting ~ Will met as Needed on Sunday's
- 11 Wed. Outreach committee ~ Jackson District Library 1:00 pm
- 15 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown ~ 11:00 am
- 19 Thurs. JXN Community Forum ~ "Strengths and Challenges of Teens
in the Foster Care System" ~ 6:30 pm @ JDL
- 19 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 22 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Colleen Squires ~ 11:00 am
- 22 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 29 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Monica Day ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

- Jan 15 Our UU Youth and Arbor Grove Congregational Youth meeting together ~ Time, TBA
- Feb 19 Handwriting Contest – Names due
- Mar 24 Talent Show

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday	Greeter	Nursery	Ushers	Social Host	R.E. K-5	R.E. Youth
Jan 1	Alyce o	Vicki H & Kathy H	Gary & ___	Nancy S & team #8	Intergenerational	
Jan 8	Grace M	Vicki H & Jackie J	Gary & ___	Vic M & team #9	Kerry/Jon & Janette Our New Year (1-1)	Teens In the service
Jan 15	Joan B	Vicki H & Joan B	Gary & ___	Donna H & team #1	Intergenerational	Jon/Kerry helping with MLK service
Jan 22	Carole H	Vicki H & Nena O	Gary & ___	Kerry H & team #2	Nancy/Rob & Donna Chinese New Year (1-28)	Elizabeth & Lynn Poetry & Music on Love
Jan 29	Open	Vicki H & Helper Needed	Gary & ___	Carole H & team #3	Peter & Kristina Powamu	Gretchen & Alyce The Call for Courage

All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am ~~ Celebrating Over 150 Years of Liberal Religion

January's Theme: Prophet

Jan 1 - "Favorite Things"

– Lay Leader: Elissa Alden

Our annual service where we share favorite things we have made or that we cherish. You are invited to bring in and talk about "Your Favorite Things". Could be a book, a picture, a doll, a rock, a fishing pole, a sewing project etc...

Jan 8 - "Change and Difference"

– Rev. Kathryn Bert

& Worship Associate: Gratia Karmes

Rev. Bert is the Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing, This meditation/sermon explores the Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity and how we might understand difference in this deeply polarized moment of American history.

Jan 15 - "Was MLK a Unitarian?"

– Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown

& Worship Associate: Nena Obits

Rev. Kidder-McQuown is the Minister at the Arbor Grove Congregational Church in Jackson.

Jan 22 - "Tell Me Where it Hurts"

– Rev. Colleen Squires

& Worship Associate: Anita Pepper

Rev. Squires, is the Minister at the All Souls Community Church of West Michigan in Grand Rapids. Inspired by Krista Tippett's Ware lectures and Ruby Sale's question, "Tell me where it hurts?" Now more than ever we must ask one another this question.

Jan 29 - "Water Justice"

Monica Day

& Worship Associate: Ann Green

Monica is a friend of the church and will be speaking on how Toledo and Flint have raised awareness of our reliance on clean, safe, abundant freshwater. This program will seed one possibility for our church: connecting across the state with other UU congregations with water concerns.

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