



2017 ~ January

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

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

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Sunday Services at 11:00 am

December'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, and abundant freshwater. This program will seed one possibility for our church: connecting across the state with other UU congregations with water concerns.

Calendar

- 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 ~ Lay Leader: Monica Day ~ 11:00 am

Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

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.

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!

Peace,

Rev. Cindy

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

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WHERE PEOPLE CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER AND CARE ABOUT THE WORLD.

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

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

On the 3rd **Thursday, January 19th** 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.

