



UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

2231 Jefferson Road

Clarklake, MI 49234

(517) 529-4221 voicemail only

LOCATED 3/4 MILES WEST OF U.S. 127

2017 ~ February

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
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

Hi UUCEL Members and Friends,

I've been excited to tell you about the three great guest ministers preaching this month. The first is the Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi, who is the part-time consulting minister in Farmington. I've known Leonetta for over a decade, and she's been a wonderful colleague with a deep spirituality. The Rev. Sean Dennison is preaching on February 12th. I don't know what Sean will be preaching on, but I'm excited for you, as I know Sean to be amazing. Sean delivered a phenomenal Berry Street Address at General Assembly (viewable here: <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/uuaga15-berry-street-sean-dennison>), and was the creator of an innovative project called "Cabaret Church." Sean is also an old friend of Peter's and mine, having gone to seminary with Peter. Peter is teaching RE that day, so he'll get to see his friend, and don't be surprised if I decide to pop in, too. Lastly, you'll be hearing from Julie Brock. Julie is not yet ordained, having not yet seen the MFC, but she's serving as the consulting minister in Brighton this year, and I've been her informal mentor. I wish I could come see her preach, but I'll be preaching in Lansing that week. I know Julie is dynamic, lively, and engaging, and she preaches without a text, so I think you'll really enjoy hearing her.

As for me, so far on sabbatical I've been not doing much – I spent two of the three weeks of it sick, sadly. And I've been preaching almost as much as I would have, since I did a pulpit exchange with Dan McQuown to bring him out to our congregation, and then I preached in Brighton as a pulpit exchange with Julie Brock, who will be completing her part of the exchange for you this month. Another thing that's kept me from being fully in sabbatical mode is that this past month things have been moving and changing with the Non-Discrimination Ordinance in Jackson. I've worked too hard on that issue for the last decade not to be involved now that the City Council is finally going to vote! By the time you read this, our City Council will presumably have voted, and hopefully we'll finally have protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Jackson!

I have, however, gotten enough rest and relaxation and distance to help some with the burn-out level I had been facing. After less than a month, I can say I'm really missing you, and excited about some new ideas I'll be returning with. Thank you all for this time of rest.

Peace,

Rev. Cindy

Notes from the Board

The board met on January 4th with everyone present. Committee updates were received. We are grateful for the hard work of all the committees, which makes everything possible in this church. For example, the Worship committee has lined up guest speakers for almost the whole of Cindy's absence. The board also approved to hire Duane (Dewey) Shipley to replace siding, soffit and a few small windows around the accessible entrance to the social hall. He will also replace the accessible door to the school house. A full report of this meeting is available in the social hall. We will meet again on February 1, at the church.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

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.



This Month in Religious Education

Church Buddies

Church Buddies will be returning again this year, but in April not February. As of now April 9th through the 30th are the dates planned! The RE committee decided to move back the buddies for a few months so that Rev. Cindy's three children can take part in it. For anyone not knowing what this is—it is a month long child/adult friendship, matched up, with the child receiving very low cost gifts or hand made items and not knowing who they are from until the last week at a light breakfast served before the service on April 30. More information will be in next month's issue.

**Submitted by: The Editor
with info from RE Comm.**

Our Spiritual Exercises: "Identity"

Option A:

A Reunion with Your Former Self

A bored sociology student decided he could learn more out in the real world than by sitting in a classroom. So he picked up his camera and took pictures of interesting looking people around town, capturing not only their images but also their stories. Thirty years later he hunted them down to show them those old pictures and give them a reunion with their younger self. Check out pictures of these "reunions" here":

<http://twistedifter.com/2016/11/reunions-by-chris-porsz/>

<http://www.upworthy.com/there-are-over-30-years-between-these-amazing-before-and-after-photos?c=upw1&u=41a6f0057fdd850d917bc669dea216c544e>

This exercise invites you to have a similar reunion with your own former self. Dig through your old photos and find 2 pictures of your "younger self" that best represent your core identity at that time. Then spend some time thinking about what you would say to and ask that younger self if given the chance:

What story would you want to rehash and revisit the most? ~~ How would you thank him or her? How would you apologize? ~~ What compliments would you give? ~~ What secrets would you tell them to keep? Or not keep? ~~ What warnings would you offer? What encouragement would you give?

Bring your two photos to the group and come ready to share which 1-2 of the questions above best helped you re-connect with your younger self.

Here are two videos to inspire you and get you into the mind frame of reunion:

To the Girl I Was: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9ERUJQpdeU>

The psychology of your future self: https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_gilbert_you_are_always_changing

Option B:

The Artist Who Helped You Find You

"Artists are always in the vanguard of social change... The music proclaimed our identity; it made every statement we truly wanted to make."

~Dizzy Gillespie

Art and artists help us find our way. They provide mirrors and containers for our identity. Seeing their work, we see ourselves. Hearing and reading their work, we remember who we are. So hunt down and bring into your group one of the books, songs, paintings, photos or movies that has helped you find (and hold onto) yourself. Come ready to share the story of your first encounter with that piece of art.

Option C:

Your T-Shirt

Yes, some of us may wear our heart on our sleeves, but virtually all of us wear our identities on our chests. Our t-shirts don't just inform the world of our allegiances and accomplishments (alma mater, favorite band or sports team), they also tell the world what we want it to be (<https://libertymaniacs.com>). T-shirts announce our clan (<http://101tees.com/50-funny-state-t-shirts>) as well as our class (think about whether that polo logo on your shirt mattered as a teen).

And here's the most important thing about t-shirts: we keep them around forever. You know the t-shirt that embodies your identity because it's the one that has holes in it! The wording has faded and the sleeve is torn, but you don't care! It's a piece of you. No way is anyone going to throw that away!

So this month, slip your identify over your head and wear it on your chest when you come to your group. Come ready to tell your group why, although the image has faded, you're still holding on. (New found identities and t-shirts are, of course, welcome as well.)

One last note: Show your minister your t-shirt. Help him or her imagine what an awesome Sunday it would be if everyone (adults and kids) came to church wearing their identity on their chest. Maybe it's time for your church to start an annual "T-Shirt Sunday"!

Option D:

Bring Your Identity to Dinner

Identities love to come to dinner! Great grandma's German pot roast. Aunt Audrey's pie crust recipe. Norwegian family Christmas and that awful lutefisk. The requirement that great-grandpa's knife with the ivory handle be used to cut the turkey. And with these dinner table traditions, the old stories come out and we are able to tell ourselves into being once again.

So this month, you are invited to concoct an "Identity Dinner." Do it with your wider family and make it a way to pass on your traditions to the kids. Pull together your neighbors or even your Soul Matters group. Simply, ask everyone to bring a dish, an heirloom and a story that celebrates a piece of your heritage and informs who you are to this day.

Here's some inspiration to help you get started:

- **Keep family history alive through food:** <http://www.austin360.com/lifestyles/food—cooking/keep-family-history-alive-through-food/iNiOL7jYlifDtjZsu1E24L/>
- **Heritage Comes Alive At My Family's Dinner Table:** http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/abigail-esteireiro/cultural-food-traditions_b_12558520.html

One important note: For many of us, our heritage and identity now feels under threat. Gathering around a table as a Hispanic or Muslim doesn't feel as safe or celebratory as it should. This is part of the exercise as well. Find a way for the dinner to honor the way our identities are under threat; make sure the dinner involves a commitment to help others feel safe as they embody theirs.

Contest

We are having a handwriting contest to find the next person to add names to the memory block on the quilt on the back wall of those who have passed away. 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 is the last name added to 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 hope to have many to choose from. This is open to anyone of any age and the winner will be announced in the March Bellnote newsletter.

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

Continued on next column...

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Photo Directory Book

Get ready for Lights, Camera, and Action. . . . During our December membership meeting Cindy was saying that since the computer world has changed a lot in the last few years, let's make our own U.U. Photo Directory Books. So, we will be making our own booklets of photos, names and address for members and friends of the church that would like to be a part of this new project. Rob Gaecke will begin taking the portraits in **February** on the **Sundays** of the **5th, 12th** and **26th** in the Schoolhouse next to the church during social hour time. Later dates in March will be announced as this project progresses. Rev. Cindy and family will have their photos taken in April. And then, with Cindy's knowledge, she will make this all come together. Extra hands might be needed to assemble the directories together; I will keep you posted if you would like to help. We are hoping that this project will be done before the annual meeting. At this time we are thinking they will be in black and white for suggested donation of around \$6.00, or a color copy for about \$10.00 in printed form and/or a file you can download.

**Submitted by: Kathy Haynes
and Rob Gaecke**

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**. All interested in being in the show or helping with it in other ways, please see Elissa Alden, Gordon Bernstein or Ann Green soon. We need helpers! 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

What Does It Mean To Be A Community of Identity?

Afraid that our inner light will be extinguished or our inner darkness exposed, we hide our true identities from each other. In the process, we become separated from our own souls. We end up living divided lives, so far removed from the truth we hold within that we cannot know the "integrity that comes from being what you are."

~ Parker Palmer

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...

"Restorative Justice/Restorative Community"

February 16th, the 3rd Thursday

Restoring a sense of well-being is a challenge after crime. In addition to victims, the community is harmed when citizens feel less safe. Following a brief review of the evolution of our justice systems, panelists with experience with crime will describe restorative processes. Also sponsored by the Jackson Area Civil Rights Awareness Association and the League of Women Voters, Jackson Unit.

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, **February 16** 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

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: Jane Volk

Worship

The Rev. Kathryn Bert has made the sermon she gave on January 8th entitled "Change & Difference" available to anyone who would like to read it. Send your request to greenannm@jcccmi.edu for a copy. Also, we are looking for people with technology expertise to help with videotaping sermons and posting them to our website. Please contact Ann Green if you are able to help.

Submitted by: The Worship Committee

Thank You

Our Holiday Gift Basket Auction was a big success. We made \$492.00. Thanks to all who donated the great baskets, who purchased baskets, and who made monetary donations to the cause. And we held our Quarterly Special Offering at the Christmas Eve Service, and were able to send a check to the Jackson Personal Care Ministry for \$315.00. Thanks to all!

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Guest Minister Schedule

Rev. Cindy has 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. 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!

~ 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

~Upcoming Fund Raisers ~

~ Talent Show ~ Friday, March 24

From: The Board

Smile for the Camera

In the next 2 months while Rev. Cindy is on her sabbatical, Tom Pepper and Kathy Haynes will be taking pictures of you, and also upcoming events during some of the services. The 2 stick signs will be a part of many of the photos so have some fun with this project. These pictures will be turned over to Ann Green as she will turn them into a slideshow and show them on April 9 for Rev. Cindy's return. So we are asking you to Smile for the Camera.

Submitted by: The Sabbatical Comm.

The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted



February

- 1 Thurs. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 2 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 5 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi ~ 11:00 am
- 5 Sunday Portrait being Taken for the New Directory ~ Schoolhouse during Social Hour
- 9 Thurs. Outreach committee ~ Jackson District Library 3:00 pm
- 12 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Sean Dennison ~ 11:00 am
- 12 Sunday Portrait being Taken for the New Directory ~ Schoolhouse during Social Hour
- 12 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 14 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 14 Tue. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- Membership Meeting ~ Will met as Needed on Sunday's
- 16 Thurs. JXN Community Forum ~ "Restorative Justice/Restorative..." ~ 6:30 pm @ JDL
- 16 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 19 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Julie Brock ~ 11:00 am
- 19 Sunday Handwriting Contest – Names due
- 19 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 26 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Ann Green ~ 11:00 am
- 26 Sunday Portrait being Taken for the New Directory ~ Schoolhouse during Social Hour

Upcoming Events

Mar 24 Talent Show

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

| Sunday | Greeter | Nursery | Ushers | Social Host | R.E. K-5 | R.E. Youth |
|---------------|----------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|---|---|
| Feb 5 | Alyce O | Vicki H & Kathy H | Gary T & ____ | Nena O Team #4 | JonKerry H Kristina M U.U. Pilgrimage | K-5 (Youth join K-5 or service) |
| Feb 12 | Grace M | Vicki H & Jackie J | Gary T & ____ | Jane V Team #5 | NancyRob SG Peter M Susan B. Anthony Day (2/15) | Elizabeth & ____ Poetry & Music on Difficult Times & Death |
| Feb 19 | Joan B | Vicki H & Joan B | Gary T & ____ | Sue R Team #6 | Intergenerational | |
| Feb 26 | Carole H | Vicki H & Nena O | Gary T & ____ | Joan B Team #7 | Janette M Donna H Mardi Gras (2/28) | Gretchen M, Alyce O Heeding the Call: the Call for Cooperation |

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

February's Theme: Identity

Feb 5 - "Dancing with Dementia"

– Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi,

& Worship Associate Tom Pepper

Rev. Bugleisi has served UU congregations in Mankato, MN; St. Louis, MO; Chicago, IL; Rochester, MI; Brighton, MI and most recently has been called to be the 3/4 minister at Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, MI.

Statistics show dementia on the rise at incredible rates. The Rev. Leonetta shares some practical tips on how to survive the changing stages and steps needed while we "dance with dementia" of our loved ones. This dance/journey tends to test us spiritually, financially & psychologically. After today your challenges & dance steps will be a little lighter with input from Rev. Leonetta's message.

Feb 12 - "The Integrity of the In-Between"

– Rev. Sean Dennison,

& Worship Associate: Kerry Hart

Rev. Dennison has served congregations in Stockton, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; San Luis Obispo, CA; and McHenry, IL. He considers his active social media presence a part of his ministry, including posting daily prayers on Twitter and Facebook since 2011.

Rev. Dennison reflects on identity by telling us his story as an openly transgender UU Minister. He will also explore the liberatory potential of recognizing and honoring interstitial spaces in our lives and in the world.

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

Feb 19 - "Pondering the Prophetic"

– Julie Brock,

& Worship Associate: Anita Pepper

Ms. Brock has been the consulting minister of the UU Church of Brighton. She was raised in the First UU Church of Detroit and has completed her internship at the First Unitarian Society of Madison. Her advisor is the Rev. Cindy Landrum.

Unitarian Universalists make free use of the word *prophetic*, however, our usage of the word seems to disassociate it from its original meaning. A prophet is someone who receives a message or makes a prediction. Often those messages came from a divine source. In our tendency to do away with defining the divine, we've also gotten away from thinking about how we know what we know is true. How have the messages of the prophets changed as our religion has? Does UUism have modern day prophets? How do we understand their messages to be true? Let's ponder & worship together.

Feb 26 - "Poetry Sunday"

Lay Leader: Ann Green

This annual service celebrates poetry by asking parishioners to share a poem they have written or one they have loved or enjoyed, that is relevant to our times or for all ages. This service features Deb Davies reading her own work. She has taught creative writing for many years, at Jackson College & other venues, & has published 3 books of poetry.