



2017 ~ February

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

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.

Continued on other side...

Calendar

- 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

Sunday Services at 11:00 am

February's Theme: Identity

Feb 5 - "Dancing with Dementia" – Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi, & Worship Associate Tom Pepper - 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 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.

Feb 19 - "Pondering the Prophetic" – Julie Brock, & Worship Associate: Anita Pepper - 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.

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

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

www.libertyuu.org

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

“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.

