



2017 ~ March 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

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GRACE MULNIX



Hello UUCEL Members and Friends!

I'm writing you from my sabbatical. Of course, the one thing I couldn't really take a sabbatical from was the work we've been doing in the community for a Non-Discrimination Ordinance for LGBTQ people. I've been personally working on this issue for several years, and your ministers have been working on it since the beginning and Susan Smith was involved. Little did I know that after ten years of tabling and ignoring the issue, the Jackson City Council would finally take a vote during my sabbatical! So of course, I couldn't ignore the work that needed to be done, and got involved again.

Sadly, the work is not done, despite the fact that the Jackson City Council passed the Ordinance. We know that folks are passing around petitions to put the NDO on the ballot in an attempt to repeal it. If we thought passing the NDO was work, well, fighting a repeal vote will be an even bigger effort over the next few months. Voter turn-out is not on our side, and we'll need to increase the voter turn-out in order to win this once and for all. The bad news is that we'll need someone more experienced than me at the helm. The good news is that I can take a step back and let professionals run the show more.

This is the last month of my sabbatical, and I've got a lot I want to accomplish. At the same time, I've got some transitions happening in my family that means my family will be smaller, probably, when I return from sabbatical or shortly thereafter. More than that I cannot say in a public statement, because of the rules of privacy that protect little ones. This will mean a lot of our focus as a family will be on family transitions over the next month.

Meanwhile, you've got two greater guest preachers coming to visit you this month. I've heard good things from members about how the previous weeks have gone, and good things about my colleagues about what a lovely time they've had with you. This month you'll be visited by my long-time friend, the Rev. Kimi Riegel. Kimi is the minister of the church my mother attends, actually. My mother started attending that church because I told her that Kimi's church would be one she would really like, because she would really like Kimi. So I hope you enjoy her as much as we do. And last, but not least, we'll have the Rev. Rachel Lonberg from Kalamazoo preach. Rachel is a newer minister, comparatively, so I know less about her than some of the others, but I recently got to go to a worship service that she held for colleagues, and it was not only lovely and thoughtful and caring, it gave me new resources. Rachel's church is doing phenomenal things about immigration and refugees — ask her about it!

Lastly, do I understand we have a talent show coming up? I'm looking forward to attending. I think I've gotten my Vice Mayor to be a judge! We've been working together so much on the NDO, that we have each other on speed dial, if there still is such a thing.

Peace,
Rev. Cindy

Minister's Column

Notes from the Board

The Board met February 1st with a full quorum. We discussed many future events: Our Annual Auction Fund Raiser is scheduled for **May 5** and our Annual Meeting is right after our church service on **May 7**. The much-anticipated talent show will be held on **March 24**; please see Elissa Alden to book your performance ASAP! We also voted unanimously to support the booking of the Michigan Theater, which is where the City Council is meeting recently, due to extreme interest in the Non Discrimination Ordinance. As of this writing, the ordinance has passed...and our church helped make it so. The board meets the first Wednesday of every month but in March we will meet on **Thursday, March 2nd**. Minutes of our meetings are available in the social hall.

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.



Notes from Religious Education

February has been a busy month for RE. Our grade schoolers learned about Susan B. Anthony and Mardi Gras. Our teens enjoyed poetry, music and cooperative activities. Church Buddies is coming up April 9th – April 30th. a light breakfast starting at 9:30 before the service. Let Vicki Haynes know if you would like to friend a church youth for a few weeks of guessing games, decodable messages, and small inexpensive gifts. Have your child fill out or help them fill out a simple “About Me” form if they would like to participate. The R.E. Committee would like to let you know we have a WISH LIST for Gordon Food Service gift card(s), Meijers gift card(s), Michael’s and or Jo-Ann Fabric’s gift card(s). Meeting is March 7 6:30 at Carnegie Library.

Submitted by: The RE Comm.

Our Spiritual Exercises: Risk Option A: Risk Letting Your Counter-Cultural Self Loose

Each of us have counter-cultural commitments that we don’t lean into as fully as we wish. Often this has to do with a lack of courage. It’s risky to be labeled “a radical.” And so we downplay our pacifism. We don’t make a big deal out of our veganism. In order not to be seen as the “weird parents,” we’ve given up on those “silly” efforts to limit TV, put phones away at dinner, or just not buy cable at all. Our closest friends don’t really understand what UUism is because we don’t want people to think we’re “evangelical.” We deeply believe in racial reparations but we rarely mention it because the backlash leaves us not only angry but with an even more devastating sense of mourning and isolation.

It’s not simple. And it’s never easy. But not letting our counter-cultural self loose comes at a cost. So this month take the risk of letting it all hang out, or hang out to the degree that feels right to you. Maybe it’s wearing your Pride Parade t-shirt to the gym. Maybe it’s inviting your friends over for a vegan dinner, or even a vegan dinner with UU prayers at which you discuss the merits of drastically reducing the military budget (ok, that’s a bit overboard, but you get the point.) Or how about asking a friend to come to church—not to recruit them, but just so they get a better sense of this piece of your life that is so important to who you are. Or maybe it’s even time for you to let your friends at church know you voted Republican and why.

Come to your group ready to talk about the cost of “letting loose,” but our hope is that you also can come with a story of how the gift so outweighed the price.

Option B: Figure Out Your Edge

[The Edge Is Where I Want To Be](#), by Lisa

Martinovic, pulls no punches. It’s audacious, urgent, impatient, even pushy. Simply put, Martinovic wants us out of the middle, or “the uncooked vanilla pudding of life,” as she puts it. It’s dangerous to stay there she says. So, she wants to shake us awake and get us to run as soon as possible to “the edge,” where true living lies.

But what’s *your* edge? That also is what the poem is all about. Don’t just run to the edge; Figure out which edge is yours. If you’re ready for *that* challenge, then here are your instructions:

1. **Read** Martinovic's poem: <http://slaminatrix.com/the-edge-is-where-i-want-to-be>

2. Ask yourself, "What's the message in there for me?" (And write down your thoughts)

3. Watch Martinovic's poem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSjhfJVXyYA>

4. Ask yourself, "What's the message in there for me?" (And write down your thoughts)

5. Have a friend read you Martinovic's poem.

6. Ask yourself, "What's the message in there for me?" (And write down your thoughts)

After three different "hearings," some of the fog should be lifted. That edge of yours should be a bit more clear. Figure out a few steps to get yourself closer.

Option C: Resist Standing Up and Risk

Sitting Down -- *"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."* - Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill's words are indeed a celebration of the "quieter" acts of courage. Yes, the more assertive risks get most of the attention: speaking up, defending, pushing back, demanding your voice be heard. And yet, sometimes that instinct to "let them have it" isn't the brave thing to do; it's just the easiest. Sometimes speaking up is simply a way to avoid courageously listening to the other side. Sometimes putting yourself on the line to "change them" is just a sneaky way to avoid them changing us. Or a tragic missed opportunity to grow. Yes, we should urge each other to "bravely keep going" and "courageously take control." Yet, there are also times when what's most needed is the risk of letting go of control and just sitting with unknowing.

And so, maybe a bit more space it needed. Maybe it would do us some good to make some room for a "spiritual time out" before we leap into the louder acts of bravery. Maybe it's good to risk "letting a little more in" before we "let them have it."

And so, here's what this spiritual assignment invites us to do:

Find three opportunities to "sit down and listen" when your first instinct is to "stand up and speak."

Yes, that's *NOT* going to be easy. But it will be worth the risk!

Come to your group ready to share not only what it was like to try to listen better, but also (and better monitor (and understand) your instinct to stand up and speak.

Continued on next column...

Option D: The Resource with Your

Name on It -- Sometimes none of the exercises speak to us. Or maybe this is an extra busy month and you need an exercise that is less extensive. If so, consider this more reflective option. Simply, take the time to read through the "Recommended Resources" section of this packet and pick the one or two of them that "have your name on it." Similar to how we work with the question section. Treat the resources as spiritual companions trying to help you hear the holy in your daily living. Come to your group and share which of the Recommended Resources lit up in neon lights as you read, watched or listened to it. And share what you think it was trying to get you to see or hear.

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

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Photo Directory Book

Lights, Camera, and Action. . . . We are making our own U.U.C.E.L. Photo Directory Books. Full of your photos, names and address of members and church friends that would like to be a part of this new project. **So far we have 29** photos have been taken by Rob Gaecke. He is doing a wonderful job with his camera, please thank him. In March we would like to get everyone else to step into the school-house for a few minutes after the services on the following **Sundays in March 12, 19 and 26** during social hour time. 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, will keep you posted. We are hoping that this project will be done before the annual meeting (May 7). At this time we are thinking they will be in black and white for suggested donation of around \$6.00 per book, or a color copy for about \$10.00 in printed book 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 will be on **Friday, March 24 at 7:00 pm sharp**. 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

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...

Legislative Update for Senior Citizens

March 16th, the 3rd Thursday

How current state and federal actions may affect utilities affordability, Social Security, Medicare, Obamacare, Medicaid funding and more.

Speaker: Lisa Dedden Cooper,
Manager of Advocacy, AARP.

Also sponsored by AARP and LWV, 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, **March 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

Worship News

Three guest ministers have provided their sermons if you would like to see/hear/read them again: The Rev. Kathryn Bert, "Change and Difference" – email or paper copy available. The Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown, "Was MLK a Unitarian?" – paper copy available. The Rev. Colleen Squires, "Tell Me Where It Hurts" – video available at www.allsoulscommunity.org/ then click on "sermon" and select 08 28 16.

Members of the Worship Committee are in the process of moving photographs from the sanctuary and foyer to the social hall for a more complete and coherent display of our history.

Submitted by: The Worship Committee

Free Caregiving class and Volunteer Opportunity

I am writing to make you aware of a class and a social justice opportunity that might be of interest to adults in your congregation.

The class is for people who are caring for a relative with dementia. It is called Creating Confident Caregivers and is being offered free of charge at Region 2 Area Agency on Aging. Respite care is available upon request in order to make it possible for caregivers to attend the class.

We are also looking for volunteers who might be willing to host an older adult in their home who has experienced abuse or neglect. There is an opportunity for weekly stipend and training will be provided. If you have questions or would like more information or additional printed fliers please contact Ryan Porter, or Tim Niyonsenga, LMSW at 517-592-1912 or via e-mail at tim.niyonsenga@r2aaa.net

Thank you, Ryan Porter
Information & Referral/Intake Specialist,
Region 2 Area Agency on Aging

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!

~ 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

~Visitor Tips for Everyone~~

Here are some ways to make people feel welcome that everyone can follow:

- Introduce yourself and get to know a visitor by name.
- Invite a visitor to social hour.
- Wear a nametag.
- Sit toward the middle of the pew or nearer to the front of the church so visitors can be more anonymous if they choose.
- Watch for people who may be alone during social hour and ask them about the sermon or their faith journey.

Thank you!

Quilt Writer Contest

We had 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. **Debbie Marshall** is the winner and will be awarded the use of a fabric marker to add the 7 missing names to get it up to date. We want to thank everyone that filled out cards. Take a look, it will be updated/completed soon. Thanks Debbie!

Submitted by: Membership Comm.

Smile for the Camera/Sabbatical Update

Only 5 weeks to go while Rev. Cindy is on her sabbatical, and as you know Kathy Haynes has been taking pictures of you, (this is different than the photos taken for the new directories by Rob). Thank you, and they will be turned into a slide show and all will see them on April 9 for Rev. Cindy's return. Upon her return there will be a potluck dinner after the service. The board has asked that this potluck be a planned dinner, meaning that a sign-up sheet will be posted for you to write down what you plan to bring so we do not have only beans and salads, for example, and a special cake in Cindy's honor will be ordered for this meal.

Submitted by: The Sabbatical Comm.

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 April ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:

SUNDAY, March 19. ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO: UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO KATHY OR VICKI, THANK YOU —

WE WANT TO THANK; REV. CINDY, SABBATICAL COMM., Religious Education Comm., WORSHIP COMM., NENA OBITS, EISSAALDEN, 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

March's UUCEL Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted



- 2 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
2 Thurs. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
5 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Heather Albee-Scott ~ 11:00 am
7 Tue. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 pm @ Carnegie Library
9 Thurs. Outreach Committee ~ Jackson District Library 3:00 pm
12 Sunday Daylight Saving Time Begins
12 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Victor Marshall ~ 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
Membership Meeting ~ Will meet as needed on Sunday's
16 Thurs. JXN Community Forum ~ "Legislative Update for Senior Citizens" ~ 6:30 pm @ JDL
16 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
19 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Kimi Riegel ~ 11:00 am
19 Sunday Portrait being Taken for the New Directory ~ Schoolhouse during Social Hour
19 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
24 Fri. Talent Show ~ 7:00 pm
6 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Rachel Lonberg ~ 11:00 am
26 Sunday Portrait being Taken for the New Directory ~ Schoolhouse during Social Hour

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, April 9 Rev. Cindy Returns with a Potluck Dinner after the Service
Friday, May 5 Annual Auction
Sunday, May 7 Annual Meeting ~ after the Services

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Week # ~ ~ Sundays ~ ~ Greeter ~ ~ Nursery Helper ~ ~ Usher ~ ~ Social Hour Host ~ ~ R.E. K-12 ~ ~ R.E. Youth

1st Week ~ ~ **Mar 5** ~ ~ Alyce O ~ ~ Kathy H ~ ~ Gary T ~ ~ Nancy S & Team# 8 ~ ~ Jon/Kerry H, Donna H,
Henry Bergh Day ~ ~ Youth stay in the Service

2nd Week ~ ~ **Mar 12** ~ ~ Grace M ~ ~ Jackie J ~ ~ Gary T ~ ~ Vic M & Team #9 ~ ~ Rob G/Nancy S, Kristina M,
St Patrick's Day ~ ~ Elizabeth W, Austin B, Poetry & Music on Humor & the Lighter Side

3rd Week ~ ~ **Mar 19** ~ ~ Joan B ~ ~ Joan B ~ ~ Gary T ~ ~ Donna H & Team #1 ~ ~ Peter M, Janette M,
No Ruz (3-20) ~ ~ Gretchen M, Alyce O, Heeding the Call, the Call for Peace

4th Week ~ ~ **Mar 26** ~ ~ Carole H ~ ~ Nena O ~ ~ Gary T ~ ~ Kerry H & Team #2 ~ ~ Intergenerational

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

March's Theme: Risk

Mar 5 - "Reading: Pleasure and Punishment"

– Heather Albee-Scott

& Worship Associate: Gratia Karmes

Reading is something so many of us do without even thinking about its value. A few of us even read for pleasure! What if reading were a struggle for you? How would that impact your life? A bill recently signed in Michigan will not allow third graders to move on to fourth grade if their proficiency in reading is too low. Is this a good thing? Bio: Heather has been a resident of Jackson, Michigan since 2010. She currently works for Jackson Public School District as the parent liaison for the elementary schools and she is an adjunct instructor for Jackson College. Heather is pursuing her master's in education with a focus on literacy. She currently serves on the Jackson District Library Board of Trustees. Heather is married to Steven Albee-Scott and they have one daughter, Sophie, a junior at Jackson High School.

Mar 12 - "Global Warming and the Nature of Science"

– Victor Marshall

& Worship Associate: Tom Pepper

Science is all about observing events, collecting data and making predictions about what will occur in the future. It is not about beliefs or politics. It's just about data, which he will be sharing. Bio: Victor Marshall taught science for 40 years, starting at Ball State University and retiring from Jackson College. His family has lived in the area for 48 years and they have been members of UUCEL for 37 years. He has been an avid environmentalist since 1970, and has seen a great improvement in the public's attitude toward our life-support systems since then.

Mar 19 - "Guest Sermon"

– The Rev. Kimi Riegel

& Worship Associate: Ann Green

This sermon is one of several presented by fellow ministers and speakers while the Rev. Cindy Landrum is on sabbatical. Bio: The Rev. Kimi Riegel serves the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield. She was born and raised in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Kimi, as she prefers to be called, considers the community life to be the most important part of her calling. She loves committee work and church potlucks. From high school protests through grad school organizing, she has been passionate about anti-oppression work her whole life. Kimi's preaching style is warm and informed, with a foundation in story and the world religions.

Mar 26 - "Why Me?"

– The Rev. Rachel Lonberg

& Worship Associate: Elissa Alden

Why do bad things happen to good people, particularly us? Why is the universe so profoundly unfair sometimes? How might we make sense of this? Rev. Rachel Lonberg will delve into how the world's wisdom traditions answer these questions, offer her best answers, and explore how we might support one another in our questioning. Bio: At age 4, Rev. Rachel Lonberg asked her parents, "why did Jesus get to come back to life and grandma doesn't?" This led her parents to join a Unitarian Universalist congregation and set Rachel on her path toward ministry. A graduate of Tufts University and Union Theological Seminary, Rachel serves as minister of People's Church of Kalamazoo.

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

