



# 2017 ~ March

## 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

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.

Continued on other side...

### Calendar

- 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
- 26 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

**Sunday Services at 11:00 am ~~~ 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?

**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.

**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.

**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.

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**

## **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](http://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

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

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