



2017 ~ December The Bellnote

2231 Jefferson Road
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 529-4221 voicemail only
LOCATED 3/4 MILES WEST OF U.S. 127

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



Minister's Column

"Hope is the thing with feathers" writes the poet Emily Dickinson, "That perches in the soul." Poet Lisel Mueller says, "It is the singular gift we cannot destroy in ourselves, the argument that refutes death, the genius that invents the future, all we know of God." Hope is one of the four themes of advent, the others being peace, joy, and love, but often Hope gets the least attention. This year we'll give it more, making it our theme for the whole month.

My favorite Christmas Carol speaks of hope in the face of despair:
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep.
The wrong shall fail; the right prevails,
With peace on earth, good will to all."

What this hymn says to me every year when we sing it (and I try to include it every year), is the same thing I hear when I hear Martin Luther King, Jr.'s immortal words (based on a sentiment from Theodore Parker) about the arc of the universe bending towards justice. What it says is that even though "hate is strong," that good ultimately triumphs.

That's an important message this year, this holiday, when so many of our values are under attack. One example is our current U.S. administration's restrictions on immigration. This affects us at a local level in many ways. You may be aware refugee policies vary by state, and that Michigan is one of the friendliest states for refugees. A Washington post article, "Where Refugees Go in America" said that between October 2014 and August 2015, California took 128 Syrian refugees and Michigan took 139!

While most refugees go to the cities where there are programs for them, like Lansing and the Detroit area, there is a house for refugee children in Jackson. There are 12 youth from Guatemala, Central America, Togo, and Rwanda, with an additional 6 in foster care homes. I recently learned that the children in that house, as they turn 18, are likely not to be given legal status immediately, and will still be pursuing legal status. Five of the youth will be turning 18 early in the New Year. They are at risk for deportation at any time. The organizations that helped them until they are 18 are often barred from offering services after they age out, so they can become homeless, with no prospects of school or work.

The good news is that Samaritas, the organization that runs the house and programs for these youth, wants to work with churches to find solutions for these youth, and that homes willing to take the boys in have been found. They will reside with area residents while they work with immigration lawyers to obtain legal status. There's no funding assistance for these youth over 18, and they have no work permits, so individuals and churches will be need to be the primary support for them. So far, the leadership in this community is coming from First Presbyterian and the Lutheran churches (Samaritas was

Notes from the Board

We met with a full quorum. The board unanimously agreed to place a sign with various beliefs next to the Peace Pole. We discussed how happy we are to see so many children attending our church lately. We are working our way through the Strategic Plan and its various components. We are also discussing options for best use of the money recently gifted to us. Full minutes of this meeting will be available in the social hall.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

Notes from Religious Education

Lesson Theme: "Hope"

We met Sunday Nov. 19th to review our programs. Our Halloween Party of October 29th was reported to be a smashing success with 21 kids in attendance. Our K-5 children are enjoying the theme-based activities with stories and crafts. December's theme will be "Hope" and the lead teacher is Kris McKinney. The youth have continued working on busy bags and have completed several already. Youth lead teacher for December is Elizabeth Walker. Our main focus now is our Holiday Children's Pageant which will take place during the Sunday service of **December 10th**. Children of all ages will participate in a unique telling of the Christmas story. Please let us know if your child/youth is willing to participate. We need narrators and actors. Rehearsal will be at 10:00 am on Dec. 10th in the sanctuary. Finally, plan to attend that day and be treated to Santa's Workshop after the service with stations in the social hall where people of all ages can make ornaments and decorate cookies. As in the past, we will make up plates to be delivered to church members who are ill or house-bound.

**Submitted by: Nancy A. Smith,
Co-chair of RE committee**

Cindy's column continued ...

formerly Lutheran Social Services). But there is an opportunity for others, such as ourselves, to step forward and be a faith partner.

Perhaps this is what Lisel Mueller meant in calling hope "the genius that invents the future." I do have hope that Jackson can find the genius to support these youth.

Peace,

Rev. Cindy

Minister's Schedule

Rev. Cindy will be on vacation from December 26 through January 2nd. On January 7th she will be preaching in Grand Rapids to help fill their pulpit during their minister's sabbatical.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Spiritual Exercise on "Hope":

A Month of

Hopeful Words

December is a busy month, so we're making the spiritual exercise for the month simple. Choose a poem or reading that brings you hope each week of December (some suggestions are below).

Reading through the poem 2-4 times during the week, choosing a different focus question for each reading. When reading through it the first time, simply ask yourself, "What line or phrase pops out for me?" On your second reading, ask yourself, "Who or what am I in the poem?" If you read though it more times, the focus questions might be: "What is the poem asking me to do today?" or "Who is the poem asking me to engage in a new way?"

Here's some poems we recommend, or feel free to choose your own:

~~ "Hope" by Lisel Mueller, German-American poet
<https://writersalmanac.org/episodes/20170404/>

~~ "The Winter of Listening" by David Whyte,
English poet

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Annual Justice Theme:

Water Justice Efforts reach out beyond our church community—by Monica Day

We kicked off our water justice efforts by reading about water justice on a global scale and considering how local issues fit that framework. Water Justice is a broad and deep topic and local issues fit into Marlow's framework. Current events in our community that fit the conversation include the Leoni regional wastewater treatment system, drinking water quality uncertainties in the city and rural areas, water bottling tax rates, agricultural production and local communities, and political divisions inhibiting communication. That effort provided the basis for two additional programs for external audiences that shared similar messages.

1) On November 13, Sierra Club of Jackson devoted their program to Blue Future and Jackson County water resources. 17 people attended that program. Organizers reported that it was the most interactive of their programs so far. They plan to increase community knowledge of local unique ecosystems of prairie fens through a mapping effort. You can learn more by contacting SierraClubJackson@gmail.com.

2) Impacts on Michigan's professional water resources network: Thanks to the support of UUCEL, our exploration of water justice is energizing and informing work on the topic beyond Jackson County. The "Adventures in Collective Water Management" online meeting on November 17 spread the knowledge to 35 participants. These included engineers, zoning administrators, a policy analyst from the Michigan League for Public Policy, planning commission planners, and inland lake concerned citizens. They joined the conference call from Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Lake Cheboygan, Village of Mullett Lake, Traverse City, White Cloud, Oscoda, Frankfort, Arlington, VA, Fremont, Charlotte, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Rockford, Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Manchester, Detroit, Benton Harbor, Onkama, Kalamazoo, Niles, Greenville, Wayne, Saline and Essexville. They wrestled with new ideas, shared concerns, and expressed apprecia-

Continued on next column...

tion for the information, especially communicating with a wider range of moral values. Videos and resources from the meeting are available at <https://glccn.org/groups/adventures-in-collective-water-management/documents/>.

Here are two activities you can do now:

- 1) Learn more about the quality of our drinking water by participating in our water testing program. We will test faucets in the City of Jackson and in rural areas including our Church's water. You are invited to test your water throughout December and January. If you can, offer to assist a friend or neighbor in testing theirs. We will compare and interpret our results during coffee hour throughout February. (How to articulate next steps??)
- 2) Support residents in Parma facing new agricultural developments that they fear may impact their drinking water supplies. They have asked us for: fundraising for a \$2,500 hydrogen-sulfide meter; sponsor a resident dinner outside of Parma; help with sampling and hearing from people in our church who care. (help articulating who to contact?? Maybe someone from our caring committee could work with me or them??)

Spiritual Exercise on "Hope"

<https://www.facebook.com/PoetDavidWhyte/photos/a.213444315348246.68208.213407562018588/844107495615255/?type=3&theater>

~~ "Hope, an Owner's Manual" by Barbara Kingsolver, American novelist and poet
<https://lifeacousticandamplified.wordpress.com/2014/03/19/hope-an-owners-manual-by-barbara-kingsolver/>

~~ "Still the Moon Increases" by Nancy Shaffer, UU Minister and poet
<https://simplyblessed.heartsdeesire.com/2013/11/15/still-the-moon-increases/>

~~ "What is Hope?" by Rubem A. Alves, Brazilian liberation theologian and poet
<http://mpleroy-eng.blogspot.com/2004/10/rubem-alves-full-poem.html>

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Holiday Gift Baskets Auction

~ Began on **Sunday Nov 19**

~ Ends **Sunday Dec 10**

Start bidding on our special items for our annual Holiday Gifts Basket Auction now through December 10th. See Nena Obits for more information.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Santa's Workshop

Children and everyone else are invited to join us in the social hall after the service on **December 10th** for "Santa's Workshop," a time to make holiday crafts, including some to give away to members of the congregation.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

~Upcoming Fund Raisers ~

Holiday Gift Baskets Auction

Sunday Nov 19 ~~~~Sunday Dec 10

Submitted by: The Church Board

Google Calendar

Do you use Google Calendar? You can have the events from our webpage (basically all the events from the newsletter) automatically added to your calendar. Go to your calendar to the section labeled "Other calendars" and click on the small triangle and choose "Add by URL." The URL to add is: <http://libertyuu.org/events.ics> There is a similar process for iCal and other calendar programs using the same link. Note: this does not currently add the worship services, which is a separate feature from "events" on our website.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Holiday Help

There are several families in our church or connected to our church that need a little extra help providing Christmas for their children this year. We will be asking people to donate to this cause on the first and second Sundays in December. If you are a family in need of some extra holiday funds, please contact Rev. Cindy to get your family added to the list.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Fred Lynch

Former UUCEL member Fred Lynch died on Friday, November 10. Fred Lynch was a member of UUCEL until he moved to Ann Arbor and became a member there after retirement 20 years ago. His daughter is the Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Minister of the Universalist Unitarian Church West in Brookfield, WI. His service will be December 10th at 3pm at the UU Congregation of Ann Arbor. His obituary can be found at <http://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/annarbor/obituary.aspx?n=frederick-dan-lynch&pid=187244445>

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!**



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.

Meetings and Events not directly affiliated with UUCEL

JXN Community Forums

...are free and open programs to encourage dialogue about the challenging issues of our day. The series is sponsored by the League of Woman Voters, Jackson Area, and the Jackson District Library, formerly co-sponsored by UUCEL. 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. Call Calvin Battles at the library at 517-788-4087 for more information or see the JDL website at www.myjdl.com...

Thursday, December 14th ~ 6:30 pm

Glen Campbell "I'll Be Me"

The documentary of Glen's last tour and his battle with Alzheimer's. A short presentation on JDL's Project Bridge program follows the film.

Submitted by: Marge Duane

JEWEL HEART CLASSES OFFERED AT UUCEL

— **White Tara Healing Meditations** — Tara is the mother goddess of Tibetan Buddhism, known for her quick and compassionate activity. She is particularly associated with healing and long life. This course uses visualization techniques relying on the feminine energy of White Tara to overcome physical, mental and emotional suffering. **Wednesday December 13 -- Time: 7:00 – 8:00pm — \$5 per session, Drop Ins Fine**

To register: Phone 734 239 5985 or email:

jackson@jewelheart.org and look us up on our

website: [https://www.jewelheart.org/chapters/](https://www.jewelheart.org/chapters/jackson)

[jackson](https://www.jewelheart.org/chapters/jackson) and facebook: *Jewelheart Jackson*

For information about Jewel Heart membership,

visit: <http://www.jewelheart.org/donate-support/>

Jewel Heart courses are open to all, regardless of ability to pay. If you are unable to afford a fee, please speak with registration about the possibility of a partial or full scholarship.

This program is not sponsored by and may not reflect the views of the UU Church of East Liberty.



Social Hour Hosting

Below is the schedule for the month of January 2018, with no changes of any people on these teams at this time. If you are not on a social hour team and would like to be, please speak to Kathy Haynes and she will add you to one of the teams. Also if you are on a team and feel you would no longer like to take part, please let Kathy know that as well.

Before Feb 4 there will be a full rest of the year listing posted in the kitchen with maybe some changes.

~~Stay Tuned~~

<u>Team</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Date</u>
	2	Carole Hartsuff	1/7
	3	Nena Obits	1/14
	4	Jane Volk	1/21

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, **December 21** 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**

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**

Church Website	http://www.libertyuu.org
The Bellnote Newsletter	http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html
Church's facebook page	http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu
Forum facebook page	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 **January** ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: **SUNDAY, December 26.** ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO: UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO KATHY OR VICKI, THANK YOU -

WE WANT TO THANK; REV. CINDY LANDRUM, ELISSA ALDEN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMM., WORSHIP COMM., NENA OBITTS, JANE VOLK, MARGE DUANE, 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

December's UUCEL Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted



- 3 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
6 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
7 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:00 pm
10 Sunday Holiday Gift Baskets Auction ~Ends
10 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ UUCEL Children ~ 11:00 am
10 Sunday Santa's Workshop After the Service
10 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
14 Thurs JXN Community Forum ~"I'll Be Me" Documentary ~ 6:30 pm @ JDL
17 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
21 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
24 Sunday ~~~~11:00 am Christmas Eve Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
24 Sunday ~~~~7:00 pm Christmas EveService ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
26 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
31 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lynn Hightower: Lay Leader ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

January 7 The Service will be "Favorite Things" with Elissa Alden as Lay Leader

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Dec 3 ~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Nursery Helper, Kathy H ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Jane V & Team # 4 ~~ R.E. K-5, Kristina Mc & Janette M
~~ R.E. Youth, Elizabeth W & Gretchen M

Sunday, Dec 10 ~~ Greeter, ____ ~~ Nursery Helper, Donna H ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Sue R & Team # 5 ~~ R.E. K-5, Intergenerational ~~ R.E. Youth, Intergenerational

Sunday, Dec 17 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Nursery Helper, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Joan B & Team # 6 ~~ R.E. K-5, Kristina Mc ~~ R.E. Youth, Elizabeth W ~~ R.E. K-12
Floater Monica D

Sunday, Dec 24 am ~~ Greeter, ____ ~~ Usher, ____ ~~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team # 7
~~ R.E. K-5, Intergenerational~~ R.E. Youth, Intergenerational~~

Sunday, Dec 24 pm ~~ Greeter, ____ ~~~ Usher, ____ ~~ Social Hour Host, Vic M & Team # 8
~~ R.E. K-5, Intergenerational~~ R.E. Youth, Intergenerational~~

Sunday, Dec 31 ~~~ Greeter, Carole H ~~ Nursery Helper, Open ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Donna H & Team # 1 ~~ R.E. K-5, Intergenerational ~~ R.E. Youth, Intergenerational

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

December's Theme is: "Hope"

Dec 3 - "Hope Part 1: Sources of Hope"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Where does our hope come from? How do we cultivate hope? From what sources do we draw hope? This service will explore some answers.

Dec 10 - "The Last Straw" – UUCEL Children

— Our children will read and act out the story of "The Last Straw" by Fredrick H. Thury and Vlasta van Kampen, about a camel's journey to Bethlehem with gifts for the newborn Jesus. Children and youth participating in the service should arrive for a run-through at 10:00. This service will have a special collection for the Jackson Personal Care Ministry.

Dec 17 - "Hope Part 2: Inspirations for Hope"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

At times our hope dwindles, and stories of hope can inspire our flickering flame of hope to grow again. This service will share stories that grow hope. Bring your own story of something that gave you hope in the darkness.

Dec 24 - "11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

11:00 a.m. – "Christmas Eve in the Morning!" — Join us for Christmas Eve in the morning! This service will be our traditional intergenerational Christmas Eve service with gospel readings and hymns, and will include children's stories and small gifts bags for the children and a piñata after the service. Despite the daylight, we'll still light candles and sing "Silent Night" at the end.

7:00 p.m. – "Candlelight Christmas Eve" — If a more solemn Christmas Eve service is your ideal, join us in the evening for our candlelight service. This service will again tell the gospel story and sing traditional hymns, but without some of the child-centered elements of stories, and instead will include more quiet and solemn readings and music.

Dec 31 - "Endings/Beginnings"

— Lay Leader: Lynn Hightower.

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

