

April 2012

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty

2231 Jefferson Road

Clarklake, MI 49234

(517) 529-4221

The Bellnote

LOCATED 3/4 MILE 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

STAFF

MINISTER ~ Rev. Cynthia Landrum
revCyn@ugaalum.uga.edu

R. E. COORDINATOR ~ Sharon Pedersen
sspedersen@sbcglobal.net

INTERIM PIANIST ~ Tom Pepper
peppet49@comcast.net

NURSERY & CHILD CARE ~ Vicki Haynes
kermit_210@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT ~ JANE VOLK
gjvolk@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT ~ NANCY SMITH
ncyed@modempool.com

SECRETARY ~ ANITA PEPPER
apepper@aiserv.net

TREASURER ~ HUGH TOMLIMSON
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TRUSTEE ~ CECILY SAVICK
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TRUSTEE ~ JACKIE JOHNSON
jsj128@comcast.net

CARING COMMITTEE

Alyce Oosting
oosting115@comcast.net

BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Steve Kish~stevekish2@comcast.net
Kerry Hart~ khart247@sbcglobal.net
Grace Mulnix



Minister's Column

Dear UUCEL Members & Friends,

We're in the middle of our pledge drive as I write this, and still will be as you read this, and what has been occurring to me, and to others in our church leadership, is that our increased need to focus on fundraising has driven the limited energy of our church's volunteers, while other areas, like spiritual growth and social justice, have had less involvement. To that end, we're certainly hoping we can raise more of our money this year in direct pledging and have less need for fundraising. However, we are also starting dialogues with other churches in our area about working together in new ways. First Congregational in Jackson, in particular, has been reaching out to us, and our board has voted to start a committee with them of people interested in building collaboration between our two churches, particularly in religious education, where we have some strengths to lend them, and in social justice, where we have many common goals. Jackie Johnson will be the board liaison to this effort. Another collaboration in the works comes from the Michigan UU Social Justice Network which has been working with Jim and Donna Benedict at St John's UCC Church to create a special Health-care forum in Jackson, probably in May. Since it's a joint UU/UCC effort, they're asking us to come on board as co-sponsors and to help publicize the event. This is something our board may address in April, and something we might ask First Congregational to join us in. If you're interested in being part of either of these efforts, let me know. These dialogues with our local UCC congregations comes at a timely moment. UCC churches share a historical bond with us, as the Unitarians broke off from the Congregationalists (or we might say the two each broke from the other), and our UUA president sat down for a dialogue with the UCC president just this past February. The UU World wrote about this dialogue and our common ground with the UCC saying, "The two associations often overlap in their social justice work, advocating for similar causes, such as marriage equality, and signing on to the same public statements. Last week, for example, both the UUA and the UCC came out in support of the Jan. 20 announcement by the United States Department of Health and Human Services that contraceptive services must be covered by most insurance policies without deductibles or co-pays, and that only purely sectarian organizations should be exempt." Our UUCEL board spent a good deal of time at our last board meeting particularly discussing the sexuality religious

Continued on bottom of page 3... ~ 1 ~

Religious Education Report

Spring brings with it a time of change and renewal. It feels like the "Church Buddies" breakfast and RE Sunday became a turning point within which change is constant, like a turning wheel. My miniature daffodils and forsythia have bloomed, and my other spring flowers are budding, bringing the hope of lovely outdoor times ahead.

We got good feedback from the RE Sunday service. The K-6 class is learning about New Testament stories for the rest of the school year. The youth will be visiting St. Rita's Church on April 1, and debriefing in the weeks after that. Then we'll decide what other churches should be visited.

Spring brought a tornado to Dexter, and I was at my other job within a mile or so of "ground zero" when it struck. We hunkered down in windowless rooms and were lucky to have no damage at The Cedars other than a few wood chips out of place from the heavy rain and hail. United Methodist Retirement Communities (which is separate from the United Methodist Church, by the way, and nondenominational regarding staff and residents) is housing at least seven families who were rendered homeless by tornado damage—most who are families with children in Dexter schools. You can see how my Presbyterian upbringing comes into play for me when I remembered the Bible verse, "When God's children are in need, you be the one to help them out." Of course, I think "God's children" means all children, regardless of creed. I guess it's also like Gandhi's saying, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." This is the kind of lesson that we can teach our UU children, too—that when there is a need, or a person suffering, we should ask ourselves, "what can I do to help?"

The experience of helping to get procedures in place for housing these families, and helping to get their temporary homes equipped fast with furniture, appliances and household items, has been immensely rewarding as well as emotionally draining; I assume this is especially true for our organization's CEO, who survived Hurricane Katrina in Gulfport, Mississippi but lost his home and his livelihood there in the process. I guess this contributed to my getting emotional while I read Beatrice's Goat, about Heifer International's help for a Ugandan village.

Thank you to those who are helping with nursery/K-6 (combined) coverage for April 1, including Martha Koopman, and to Lynn Hightower and Gordon Bernstein, who are taking the youth to St. Rita's that day.

We are putting together a plan for offering "Peace Camp" in August, and will be recruiting teachers both for that effort, and for Fall. I would appreciate your asking yourself, "what can I do to help?" Thanks as always for your support.

yUUrs trUUly, in Religious Education,
Sharon

Sharon Pedersen, RE Coordinator



Visitor Orientation

Question & Answer - If you would like to learn more about the church, please join the minister after the service for a short, informal conversation on **Sunday, April 29**. Meet in the foyer after the service. Following the Q. and A. you can have a tour of our buildings if you would like to.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

Continued on next column...

Notes from the Board

It's that time of the year once again—the annual pledge drive is upon us. Those who are willing to be canvassers will attend one of two training sessions and soon will be contacting you to schedule a convenient time to meet with you. Our budget is based on the amount generated by pledges; therefore each and every pledge is important to our being financially sound. In recent years, we have eliminated some of our expenses by dropping various items from the budget, but there are some expenses we cannot. Our utility costs, over which we have little control, must be paid, and these usually increase yearly. This year it has cost us \$2.86 per person (based on an average attendance of 45 people) to meet for the hour on Sunday mornings.

We, also, need to pay \$79.00 per MEMBER to the UUA and Heartland district. It is the Board's fervent hope that your heartfelt pledge will be generous. The pledge drive is to be completed by April 8th.

If you haven't already scheduled your time for your church directory photograph, please contact Kerry Hart. The sittings will take place in April. There is no charge for the directory photographs, but there will be a cost should you wish to order extra photographs.

The monthly Board meeting will be the second Wednesday in April because of Spring Break being the first week, at which time several of the members, will be out of town. The Board retreat is scheduled for April 14.

Spring is often thought of as a time for awakening and renewal and is welcomed by us all.

Happy Spring!

Jane

Submitted by: Jane Volk
Board President



's from the Piano Bench

Tom was out of town at the time this issue was printed. Stay tuned next month for a message from our interim pianist.

Tom

Submitted by: The Editors

Caring Committee

The following is a list of Caring Committee members, please contact them as your needs arise: ~ Alyce Oosting, chair-person, Nena Obits, Gretchen Marshall, Jane Volk, Martha Koopman, Jann Krupa, Peg Gordon, Mindy Radseck. This is a short explanation of what our committee does: We support and meet the needs of our church community by doing such things as; - driving people to appointments - delivering meals - making phone calls - friendly visits - listening - sending out cards. The next Caring Committee meeting will be **April 15** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

education curriculum that was co-produced by the UUA and UCC, as well.

It's good to partner with our liberal religious cousins like the UCC and Congregationalist churches, such as Arbor Grove Congregational Church (which has been a leader in coordinating the Jesus Seminar which we will co-sponsor again in the fall). I look forward to these collaborations and more in the future. Let me know how you'd like to be involved!

Peace,

Cindy

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

New Church Photo Directory

UUCEL has partnered with Olan Mills to create a new photo directory of our membership. Please sign up to have your photo taken

Friday, April 27 or Saturday, April 28.

Sign-up sheets and a price list are available in the Social Hall. Notice the appointment times are color-coded for different sized groups, so please choose your time accordingly. You may also choose to bring along pets for photos—your photo with your pet is for if you want to purchase photos, and will not be your shot used in the directory. No purchase is necessary, and every family photographed will receive a free photo and a free church directory. You may purchase portrait packages starting at \$80, and individual portraits are available for less. Your participation and purchases will help the church pay for directories and brochures. Please see Kerry Hart or Martha Koopman for any questions. Contact Kerry if an important commitment will require that you need a different picture-taking date.

(See Supplement Page for more contact information).

Submitted by: Kerry Hart



"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."
-- Our Closing Song--

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: (See Supplements Page for contact information) to RSVP for childcare. Call Debby Sears at the library at 517-788-4087 ext. 234 for more information or see theJDL website at www.myjdl.com...

Thursday, April 19

"The Status of Recycling in Jackson"

The Jackson District Library, the Universalist Unitarian Church and the Jackson Sierra Club announce the forum "The Status of Recycling in Jackson" to be presented Thursday, April 19th, 2012, 6:30 pm at the Jackson District Library - Carnegie Branch, 244 W. Michigan Ave. Panelists will discuss a variety of issues affecting local recycling; issues ranging from how to properly prepare materials to the governmental and business structures that are unique to Jackson's solid waste management. Speakers for this program include Steve Noble, president of the board of Recycling Jackson, Jill Butterfield, Green School Facilitator, Travis Fojtasek, community recycling advocate, and Bill Thomas, vice president, Northwest Refuse Inc. The JXN Community Forum series, now in its seventh year, consists of free and open programs to facilitate dialogue about challenging issues of our time.

6:30 pm, Jackson District Library

Carnegie Branch, Sergeant Auditorium

Submitted by: Outreach Comm.

.....Please see the bottom of page 7. The Volunteer Schedule is very blank this month, and your help is needed. Please see what you can do. The sign-up clipboards are on the bulletin board in the social hall awaiting your name.

Thanks

Music Survey

The Worship Committee, at the behest of the board, would like your help in taking a brief survey about our music program. You can take this survey on paper below and return copies to Lynn Hightower or the Worship Committee mailbox, or take it online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YC596H9>.

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty Music Survey

Thank you for taking this survey.

- 1.) Answer from 1-5: When not otherwise specified, please answer using a scale of 1 through 5 with 1 = no importance, 2 = low importance, 3 = medium importance, 4 = high importance, and 5 = utmost importance

How important is music to your worship experience?

In general, how would you rate the music program in our church (1 = poor, 5 = excellent)

Are your church musical needs being met? (1 = not at all, 5 = always)

Do you enjoy hearing the choir? (1 = not at all, 5 = always)

Do you usually like what the choir sings? (1 = not at all, 5 = always)

How important is the choir to your worship experience?

Would you support other church music activities such as a concert series or coffee house?

(1 never, 5 as often as possible) Would you be willing to help coordinate? _____

1	2	3	4	5

2.) How often would you like to hear the choir? _____

3.) Do you have a suggestion for someone who might direct the choir? _____

4.) Do you have suggestions for choral music? _____

5.) Answer the following with a yes or no

Do you think a song leader amplified by a microphone during hymns would help congregational singing? _____

Would you like to learn more new hymns? _____

Would you enjoy a time before the service for learning new hymns? _____

Do you like congregational rounds? _____

Do you feel it is essential to have one designated choir director? _____

If the hired pianist is not a choir director, do you feel it is essential that the church hire an additional choir director? _____

Do you think a choir director could be a volunteer position? _____

One option is to have volunteer (unpaid) music only in the summer. Do you think this should be considered by the board? _____

Are you in the choir or interested in being in the choir? _____

Would you like more opportunities to sing outside of worship? What kind of other music opportunities do you envision? Would you be willing to help coordinate? _____

6.) What are your top 5 favorite hymns? _____

- 7.) What mix of piano and organ or other instrument music would you prefer? More piano, fewer instruments? More instruments, less piano? An even mix?
- 8.) What musical styles would you like to see in the worship service?
 Classical, jazz, Broadway, world music, folk, rock, pop, country, rap, other?
 Circle any/all that apply and make other suggestions if necessary.
- 9.) Would you be willing to help coordinate guest musicians? yes/no
- 10.) Do you have suggestions for guest musicians? If so, please list: _____

Other comments? And please tell us your name, if you're willing, so that the worship committee will know who responded. _____

• Church Website	http://www.libertyuu.org
• The Bellnote Newsletter	http://www.libertyuu.org/newsletter.html
• Church e-mail	EastLibertyUU@yahoo.com
• 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, including Kathy Haynes, Joan Bernstein and Carole Hartsuff.

FROM THE EDITOR:

"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 TO 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 MAY ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:
 SUNDAY, APRIL 22 ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
 UUCEL_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO

KATHY OR VICKI. THANK YOU -

We want to thank; Kerry Hart, Kathy Haynes, Lynn Hightower, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Tom Pepper, Jane Volk, Caring Comm., Outreach 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:

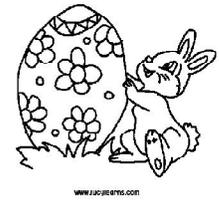
- ~ THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON
- ~ JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS
- ~ ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS
- ~ A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING
- ~ THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC 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

The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

April

- 1 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader Jon Hart ~ 11:00 am
- 5 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 5 Thurs. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 Pm
- 8 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader Sharon Pederson ~ 11:00 am
- 10 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 11 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm at the church
- 12 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 10:00 pm
- 12 Thurs. Outreach/Forum Committee Meeting. ~ Downtown Library ~ 5:30 pm
- 15 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 15 Sunday Caring Committee ~ After the Service
- 17 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ 2:30 pm at the Jackson Coffee Company
- 19 Thurs. JXN Forum "The Status of Recycling in Jackson"
@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~6:30 pm
- 20 Fri/21 Sat Haynes Rental
- 22 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter Submissions Due
- 27 Fri Photos taken for the new Directory ~ Sign up
- 28 Sat Photos taken for the new Directory ~ Sign up
- 22 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 29 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 29 Sunday Visitor Orientation Q & A ~ Afer the Service



Upcoming Events

Aug 5 Annual Church Picnic at Harry & Dee Reed Home

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sunday	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Greeters	Alyce O	Grace M	Joan B	Betty G	Carole H
R.E. Greeter	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P	Sharon P
Nursery Helper	Martha K	-	-	-	Laura T
Ushers	Gary T Steve J	Gary T -	Gary T -	Gary T -	Gary T -
Social H. Host	-	-	-	-	-
R.E. Pre.					
R.E. K-5	To Be Announced				
R.E. Youth					

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

April 1 - "Jazz and the Spirituality of Malcolm X or Tricksters and the Origin of April Fool's Day"

- Lay Leader, Jon Hart

Jon will explore the jazz spirituality of Malcolm X or the origins of April Fool's Day or Trickster stories or John Coltrane Buddhist experience pt. 2 or ... you get the idea.

April 8 - "Celebrate Easter"

- Lay Leader, Sharon Pedersen

This service will celebrate Easter with story and ceremony, led by Sharon Pedersen with several youth and adults participating. While focusing on Jesus, the stories are very "accessible" for Christians, agnostics and skeptics alike.

April 15 "To Be Announced"

- Rev. Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek

Rev. Schumacher Strejcek from the Community UUs in Brighton will lead our service this day as the Southeast Michigan UU ministers participate

in a round robin pulpit exchange (Rev. Cindy will be heading to Southfield). Rev. Yvonne is a lifelong UU who grew up in suburban Detroit and held many leadership positions before entering the ministry. She came to CUUB in 2010 after serving at Arlington Street Church in Boston.

April 22 - "I Speak for the Trees"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Join us for an Earth Day service featuring the words of Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax" and more!

April 29 - "Auction Sermon"

- Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This year's auction sermon topic was purchased by Margaret Johns. The exact title is yet to be announced, but it will have something to do with kindness and having a positive outlook, you can be sure!

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