



2017 ~ May

# 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

MINISTER REV. DR. CYNTHIA LANDRUM  
CYNLANDRUM@GMAIL.COM

## STAFF

PIANIST ANITA FOBES  
AFOBES@JUILLIARDALUMNI.NET  
CHILDCARE VICKI HAYNES  
AND CLERICAL ASSISTANT FOR RE  
KERMIT\_210@YAHOO.COM

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GRACE MULNIX



Dear UUCEL Members and Friends,

I'm foregoing my usual column this month, because I wanted to make space for some extra information about the White Supremacy Teach-In. This is a pivotal moment in the Unitarian Universalist Association's history, and the teach-in has the potential to be a powerful tool to unite our movement in this work. So please see bottom of page 1 and page 2 for more information. I hope you will make it a point to attend on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Peace,

**Rev. Cindy**

## Minister's Column

### White Supremacy Teach-In FAQ

The organization Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (known as BLUU) is an organizing collective defines itself saying, "BLUU Organizing Collective works to provide support, information & resources for Black Unitarian Universalists. We also work to expand the role & visibility of Black UUs within our faith." BLUU has asked UU churches to shift from business as usual and participate in a teach-in on racism and white supremacy. There are several questions people might have about this teach-in, and I'll answer some of them below, giving BLUU's answer and my own answer.

#### What is white supremacy?

**BLUU's answer:** Why "white supremacy" as the term here? It conjures up images of hoods and mobs. Here, we mean: "White supremacy as a set of institutional assumptions and practices, often operating unconsciously, that tend to benefit white people and exclude people of color." In 2017, actual "white supremacists" are not required in order to uphold white supremacist culture. Building a faith full of people who understand that key distinction is essential as we work toward a more just society in difficult political times.

**Rev. Cindy's answer:** "White supremacy" is a term that can make us uncomfortable when we talk about ourselves as an institution that includes white supremacist culture. I understand this. When I first heard the term, it made me uncomfortable as well, and I'm still not entirely comfortable when I hear it applied to us. But what I'm asking is that we sit with that discomfort, and acknowledge it, and try to move through it. I'm not asking you to be comfortable with the term; I'm asking you to engage with your discomfort.

#### What is the UU White Supremacy Teach-In and how did it originate?

**BLUU's answer:** For more information on what spurred this call to action, read: Christina Rivera "[On being a 'good fit' for the UUA](http://tinyurl.com/lyjwg6w)" (<http://tinyurl.com/lyjwg6w>), Aisha Hauser "[Letter to UUA Board of Trustees](#)"

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(<http://tinyurl.com/kxj26wg>) and “[On self-righteous hysteria](http://tinyurl.com/lrzp4lb)” (<http://tinyurl.com/lrzp4lb>) and the UU World article “[Critics decry ‘white supremacy’ in hiring practices](http://tinyurl.com/n4nh9mt)” (<http://tinyurl.com/n4nh9mt>). It has become clear that, in order for us to be more effective at tackling the white supremacy beyond our walls, we must also identify ways in which systems of supremacy and inequality live within our faith and our lives.

**Rev. Cindy’s answer:** The precipitating event for the White-Supremacy Teach-In was a new hire into senior leadership in the UUA that brought awareness to ways in which inequality is present in our hiring practices and the highest levels of leadership, in particular, in our association. But that is not all that the White Supremacy Teach-In is about, and not the only thing that led to this.

### **Why is our congregation participating?**

**BLUU’s answer:** Large shifts require work and can challenge our comfort levels. That’s precisely why we feel it’s important. We believe that hundreds of UU churches signaling to their own members and to the larger community that “our faith takes racism seriously, especially within our own walls” will push our faith toward the beloved community we all seek.”

**Rev. Cindy’s answer:** When I find that I’m uncomfortable with a position that our faith is taking, I’ve found again and again that the thing to do is to lean into that challenge, and by doing so I can grow in awareness and sensitivity. I agree with BLUU that our doing this can add to the message that we take racism seriously in our faith, and we seek to become the beloved community we envision, even if that means hard work.

### **How does white supremacy culture show up in our congregation?**

**BLUU’s answer:** The UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries shared an example (<http://tinyurl.com/k4dglmf>) of courageous reflection and inventorying of where white supremacy lives in their organizational culture and practices. You might use this as a model to be emulate in your own congregation, whether done as a group and/or addressed in worship. Additionally, this resource (<http://tinyurl.com/pxzpwtx>) outlines some of the invisible rules and assumptions of white supremacy culture.

**Rev. Cindy’s answer:** The answer to this is part of what we will explore together. One question to consider: Have we simply taken it for granted that most people of color wouldn’t be interested in our church?

### **Shouldn’t this teach-in be led by a person of color?**

**BLUU’s answer:** If your regular worship leaders, lay and ordained, are white, that’s okay—just make public note of it. Showing awareness goes a long way. We don’t see this teach-in as about proclaiming a false “diversity.” We want churches to say, “This is who we are (whoever that is), and we commit to combating white supremacy culture ‘out there’ and ‘in here.’”

**Rev. Cindy’s answer:** This teach-in is primarily directed towards white people – it is teaching us about how white supremacy culture works and how we unconsciously perpetuate it. Therefore, it’s appropriate that while we make space for voice of people of color, we don’t try to hide who we are and put forward a false impression that we’re more diverse than we are, that we have more people of color in leadership than we do, or that we have everything figured out. This is an opportunity to learn and to grow.

### **How do we take care of the people of color in our congregation?**

**BLUU’s answer:** Ask them.

**Rev. Cindy’s answer:** It can be uncomfortable for people of color, particularly when they are our children and youth, to feel like we’re looking to them for the answers to our problems. I’ll be reaching out to some of the people of color and the parents of people of color in our congregation and asking how we can take care of them while we have this conversation. But if I miss you, please reach out and let me know how we can best support you.

# Notes from the Board

The Board met with a full quorum, plus three guests. We discussed many positive new developments including the upcoming installation of a camcorder in our Sanctuary which will be able to film our sermons. This fulfills a long series of requests we have had to make sermons available to those who can't get to church and we are very happy that it's finally happening. We discussed the upcoming auction scheduled for **Saturday, May 6** a reminder that it starts a little earlier this year, dinner is at 4:00pm and the auction starts at 5:00pm. An important change in our schedule is that our annual meeting is being moved to **Sunday, May 21st** due to a number of scheduling conflicts we all had. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

**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

Our attendance is holding steady as our younger kids continue to learn about more Holidays & Traditions and our teens have been Heeding the Call of Responsible Leadership. If you have been thinking about teaching this upcoming Fall 2017, feel free to talk to one of our R.E. Committee members and we will fill you in – lead teachers and/or assistant/helpers. In May our k-5 kids will be learning about Japanese Children's Day, Mother's Peace Day, African Day, and Ramadan/Chinese Dragon Celebration. Meanwhile, our teens will be Heeding the Call for Responsible Leadership and Poetry & Music on Transformation.

**Submitted by: The RE Committee**

## Our Spiritual Exercises: Joy OPTION A "Five Photos in Five Days"

The poet Mary Oliver writes,  
"Every day, I see or hear something  
that more or less kills me with delight,  
that leaves me like a needle  
in the haystack of light.  
It was what I was born for –  
to look, to listen,  
to lose myself inside this soft world –  
to instruct myself over and over in joy and  
acclamation."

Anne Sexton also lifts up this pervasive and simply joy in her poem "[Welcome Morning](#)": "There is joy in all: in the hair I brush each morning, in the Cannon towel, newly washed, that I rub my body with each morning, in the chapel of eggs I cook each morning, in the outcry from the kettle that heats my coffee each morning, in the spoon and the chair that cry "hello there, Anne" each morning, in the godhead of the table that I set my silver, plate, cup upon each morning. All this is God right here in my pea green house each morning..."

That last line invites us to look around at our own simple and divine surroundings. It asks us to pay attention to and let in the holy joy right in front of us.

With that in mind, here's your exercise:

**Capture five images of everyday joy five days in a row!** Keep that camera on your phone ready – or if you don't have a camera at hand simply keep a notebook near you and write it down. Just wake up and walk around with a bit more awareness of the thing that is trying to "kill you with delight."

Come to your group ready to share your images, and how they "instruct you over and over in joy and acclamation."

Here are some sites to inspire you:

<http://weheartit.com/1ndieFr3ak/collections/91232763-simple-joy-pictures> ~~~ <http://www.oprah.com/oprahs-lifeclass/pictures-to-make-you-happy-images-that-inspire-joy> ~~~ <http://www.viralnova.com/happiest-photos/>

## OPTION B "Let Them Eat Joy!"

Joy shared is joy doubled. And one of the best ways to pass on joy is through food. When we are sad, we make and share our favorite pasta. When a friend is going through a tough time, we bring over our grandmother's carrot cake or the best casserole we can muster. Every parent knows which meal will make their kid dance with joy. When we are stressed and need to smile, who of us doesn't pull out the Doritos?!

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# Meetings and Events

## U.U. Church of East Liberty

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### Auction

The Annual Fundraising Auction will be **Saturday May 6**. (Note: the time changes from what was printed last month). There will be a Pulled Pork dinner at 4:00 pm with last minute bidding on silent auction items (displayed in Social Hall). Actual auction bidding begins in sanctuary at 5:00 pm on Saturday, May 6!

**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](http://www.myjdl.com)...

**May 18th, at 6:30 pm**

**"DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT REPORT"**  
Patrick Burtch, Jackson City Manager, will give us an update on downtown Development, including new buildings and other changes. He will also talk about streamlining city government, how the city is helping business, Jackson's housing stock and current challenges.

**Submitted by: Outreach Committee**

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
will take place  
after the service on  
Sunday, May 21**

not on 7th as printed last month

**Please plan to attend.**

**Your voice and vote matter,  
Thank you.**

### 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, **May 18** 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**

### Interested in Joining?

We will be planning our next new member service soon. So if you're interested in joining, see Rev. Cindy or Kathy Haynes, Membership Committee Chair.

## Tibetan Meditation Classes

will be offered by

Jewel Heart Jackson,

(will be renting the UUCEL's Schoolhouse)

**Saturday May 13, 2017**, 1:00-3:00 pm, "Tibetan Buddhism for our Time" Jewel Heart instructor Hartmut Sagolla will introduce the practice of Tibetan Meditation and explain its importance in our modern, fast paced world.

This talk is free.

**Mondays, May 15- June 26**, 7:00- 8:30 pm, "Art of Living" In these classes Hartmut Sagolla will explore pragmatic methods for bringing depth, meaning and joy to our lives through the practice of meditation. Cost is \$70 for all 7 classes.

**Wednesdays, May 29, June 21, and July 19**, "White Tara Healing Meditations" This course uses visualization techniques relying on the feminine energy of White Tara to overcome physical, mental and emotional suffering. \$5 per person, drop ins are fine. For more information and to register, phone 734-239-5985, or email: jackson@jewelheart.org.

Our website is <https://www.jewelheart.org/chapters/jackson>. Our Facebook Page is Jewelheart Jackson. (If you are unable to afford a fee, please speak with registration about partial or full scholarships.)

**Submitted by: Nena Obits**

Nena is their contact person from the church. There will be flyers at church that give more information if you want to see more about it.



## Photo Directory Book

Lights, Camera, and Action. . . Our Photo Directory Books, full of your photos, names and addresses. We have 84 photos so far.

If any of your information has changed and is not already given to Kathy please do so ASAP. Also if you would like to be in the directory and have not had your photo taken by Rob. It is not too late you can send a photo to the editors at [uucel\\_bellnote@yahoo.com](mailto:uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com) of your self, head & shoulders shot only, or you can US mail a picture you have to the church. The address is on page 1. This needs to be to us by **May 14th**

We are hoping that this project will be done before the annual meeting May 21. At this time we are unsure of the pricing but it will be reasonable for everyone. They will be a in black and white book and/or a color copy in printed book form and/or a file you can download.

**Submitted by: Kathy Haynes**

## Caring Comm

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**

**~Upcoming Fund Raisers ~**

**Annual Auction ~ May 6**

**Dinner at 4:00 pm bidding at 5:00 pm**

## Our Spiritual Exercises: Joy, Continued...

And it's not just about the delicious food; it's about the way that food becomes a blessing and a bit of grace. We take a bite and healing begins. It's not just delicious; it's a communion of sorts. Our bodies and spirits are filled once again. So what holy food heals you and brings you joy? In addition to bringing in the recipe and a story about it, consider bringing in a sample and treating your group members to a taste!

**OPTION C "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.

**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 June ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY:

SUNDAY, May 21. ~~~~~ SEND SUBMISSIONS

TO: UUCEL\_BELLNOTE@YAHOO.COM OR IN WRITING TO KATHY OR VICKI, THANK YOU -

**WE WANT TO THANK;** REV. CINDY LANDRUM, GRATIA KARMES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMM., WORSHIP COMM., NENA OBITS, EISSAALDEN, JANE VOLK, OUTREACH COMM., CARING COMM. AND MEMBERSHIP COMM. FOR THEIR NEWS



### 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

# May's UUCEL Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted



- 2 Tue. RE Meeting ~ 6:30 pm @ Carnegie Library
- 3 Wed. Membership Meeting ~ 10:00 an @ Cindy's home
- 3 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 4 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 6 Sat. Annual Fundraising Auction ~ 4:00 pm Dinner & 5:00 pm Bidding
- 7 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 9 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 11 Thurs. Outreach Committee ~ Jackson District Library 3:00 pm
- 14 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 14 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 18 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 18 Thurs. JXN Comm. Forum ~ "DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT REPORT" ~ 6:30 pm @ JDL
- 21 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 21 Sunday Annual Congregational Meeting ~ After the Services
- 21 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 28 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Ann Green ~ 11:00 am

## Upcoming Events

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## Weekly Volunteer Schedule

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**Sunday, May 7** ~~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~~ Nursery Helper, Kathy H ~~~ Usher, Gary T ~~~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team # 8 ~~~ R.E. K-5, Peter M, Nancy S/Rob G Japanese Children's Day (5/5) ~~~ R.E. Youth, Youth stay in the Service

**Sunday, May 14** ~~~ Greeter, Grace M ~~~ Nursery Helper, Jackie J ~~~ Usher, Gary T ~~~ Social Hour Host, Vic M & Team # 9 ~~~ R.E. K-5, Intergenerational ~~~ R.E. Youth, Intergenerational

**Sunday, May 21** ~~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~~ Nursery Helper, Joan B ~~~ Usher, Gary T ~~~ Social Hour Host, Donna H & Team # 1 ~~~ R.E. K-5 Jon/Kerry H & Donna H Africa Day (5/25) ~~~ R.E. Youth, Gretchen M & Alyce O, Heeding the Call: the Call for Responsible Leadership

**Sunday, May 28** ~~~ Greeter, Betty G ~~~ Nursery Helper, Nena O ~~~ Usher, Gary T ~~~ Social Hour Host, Kerry H & Team # 2 ~~~ R.E. K-5 ~~~ Janette M & Kristina M, Ramadan/Chinese Dragon Celebration (5/30) ~~~ R.E. Youth, Elizabeth W & Lynn H, Poetry & Music on Transformation

May's Theme is Joy

**May 7 - "White Supremacy Teach-In"**

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

We're disrupting our usual Sunday service to join hundreds of churches across the association for this teach-in. For more information on this important event, please see pages 1 & 2.

**May 14 - "Life's Longing for Itself"**

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Kahlil Gibran wrote, "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself." Rev. Cindy will explore how parenting is a series of letting go. Our Mother's Day service this year will also feature a child dedication.

**May 21 - "Joy"**

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Anne Morrow Lindbergh writes, "For happiness one needs security, but joy can spring like a flower even from the cliffs of despair." Rev. Cindy will explore the topic of Joy, which was the topic chosen by a member for the auction sermon Rev. Cindy offered at last year's auction.

**May 28 - "Remembering Memorial Day"**

– Lay Leader: Ann Green

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

