



Minister's Column

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 below and the full Bellnote newsletter for more Q&A's. I hope you will make it a point to attend on May 7th.

Peace, **Rev. Cindy**

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.

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Sunday Services at 11:00 am "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 the back side.

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**

Calendar

- 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 ~ Dinner at 4:00 pm & Bidding at 5:00 pm
- 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

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.

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

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.

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

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