



2017 ~ September

2231 Jefferson Road

Clarklake, MI 49234

(517) 529-4221 voicemail only

LOCATED 3/4 MILES WEST OF U.S. 127

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

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GRACE MULNIX



Minister's Column

Dear Members & Friends,

Who would have thought that our summer would end with marches of white supremacy and anti-Semitism and a national debate about how we tell our history through monuments and memorials? While there's important work to be done about the former, and to some degree I think the discussion about monuments and history-telling is a distraction from the vital work of resistance, I find myself drawn into thinking about the latter. I'm sure that my interest in the subject comes in part from my own family legacy in the South. But I also find it interesting that the country is having this discussion at the same time as we are embarked in a project of creating memorialization in our church in a more deliberate way and telling our story through our history wall(s) in the social hall.

I've been thinking about those UUCEL ancestors a lot. Our church was founded in 1881, so it was founded around the end of the "Reconstruction" era. Our church narrative tells of the founders coming from New York. New York was a vital place in both the women's rights and abolition movements. The first women's rights convention was in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. Frederick Douglass had a press, the North Star press, which he ran out of Rochester from 1847-1851. Both Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass were Unitarians, but New York Universalism was strong and active, as well. New York was the headquarters of Universalism from 1825 until the merger in 1961, and St. Lawrence University in New York was Universalist.

When I think about our church ancestors, I have a lot of questions. Why did they come here from New York? Where in New York did they come from? What were their relationships, and their parents' and grandparents' relationships to the abolition and suffrage movements? When they came to East Liberty, did they bring a message of social justice? What were the causes that were vital to them in our area at the time?

And I wonder what relationship our Universalist founding families had to the Unitarians in Jackson at the time. Did our Universalist ancestors interact with our Unitarian ancestors? Did they partner on justice issues? Did they build common ground in the area together?

Finding mentions of the Jackson Unitarians is difficult. A few snippets I can tell you: First, the Unitarian Church in Jackson was the religious home of Austin Blair, Michigan's Civil War governor, a noted abolitionist. He returned to Jackson the same year our church was founded. He spoke at the Unitarian church upon occasion. Secondly, a small anecdote: In 1899, the minister, Rev. Fred. V. Hawley, was part of a series of talks at the Western Unitarian Sunday School Society on "Methods of Church Work in the City and in the Country." Our Unitarian minister was part of the country side

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Notes from the Board

The board met at Elissa's home this month. We did not have an actual board meeting, but instead devoted our time to development of a new Strategic Plan, under the expert guidance of our own Ann Green. This plan will be distributed to the congregation, probably in hard copy but also in the newsletter after our September meeting. We are grateful for the many ideas contributed by you, the congregation, and I am very grateful to be a part of this hardworking Board of Trustees. In many important ways our church is flourishing, but there is always room for improvement, and it pays to expect the unexpected. This plan will help us do both of these things. Thank you for all the ways you contribute to this process.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

Cindy's column continued ...

of the discussion. Third, the Christian Register, the Unitarian publication for many decades, printed a little article in 1915 that said, "At Jackson, Mich., where the church after the sale of its building had been dormant for several years, there has arisen the possibility of a joint movement between the Universalists of Michigan and the Unitarians..." We know that joint movement discussion didn't amount to much, but how interesting to hear that the Us and Us of Michigan, centered here in Jackson, were talking about joint ventures that early in our history. Remember the merger didn't happen until 1961!

The answers to my questions about our ancestors may be lost to history, but what the controversies around the memorials is telling us is that how we tell our history matters. It matters what we choose to omit, and what we choose to include. I know as our board members create our history wall(s) they are trying to tell our story in as clear a way as possible with the information that is available to us, and to do so in ways that honor our history but are honest with our history.

Peace,

Rev. Cindy

Notes from Religious Education

Lesson Theme: Welcome

The annual RE breakfast is scheduled for **September 10th** at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to attend. We are still looking for donations of fruit to share. RE classes begin the next Sunday, September 17th. We have decided to move the RE classes for both K-5 and youth over in the schoolhouse. We are still looking for anyone who might be willing to teach or occasionally sub. We will also be trying out a new teaching system by having the teachers take a month at a time (2 times a month for youth and an average of 3 times a month for K-5). The theme for September will be "Welcome". As a part of this, we plan on creating busy bags for the children to help keep them occupied for the first part of the services as well as any intergenerational Sundays. We are looking for any donations or ideas for these (think finger puppets, pencil bags, little trinkets, rice, pipe cleaner, colored pencils, etc). The RE committee will be meeting again on **September 12th**.

**Submitted by: Elizabeth Walker
co-Chair R.E. Committee**

Meetings and Events U.U. Church of East Liberty

Visitor's Orientation Question & Answer

Would you like to learn more about the church? Please join the minister after the service for a short, informal conversation about any of your questions; Rev. Cindy will have the answers. On **Sunday, September 17** meet in the foyer after the service. Following the Q and A we can have a tour of our buildings if you would like. We will also be having a new member(s) joining service soon. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of that joining service. **Submitted by: Membership Committee**

“Welcome” Theme Exercises

These exercises go with our monthly themes and are designed for small groups, but can be used alone. If you're interested in getting together a small group to discuss the month's theme, let us know!

OPTION A: Step Outside Your Comfort Zone
We rarely give ordinary courage the honor it is due. On a daily basis, the threats we face are not the dramatic dangers of burning buildings but the insidious hazards of our comfort zones. This reminds us that the enemy of courage is often not fear but safety and routine. Sometimes those routines support and structure our lives; sometimes they stifle and shrink them. So this month, you are invited to pursue the practice of ordinary risk and adventure. Your instructions are simple: Pick an activity that pulls you out of your comfort zone. Here's some inspiration and guidance:

~ <http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/step-out-of-the-comfort-zone.html>

~ <http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/how-to-move-out-of-your-comfort-zone.html>

OPTION B: Prop Up the Courage of Others
We all have people in our lives who inspire us with their courage. But have we ever told them? We know how important it is to have our courage noticed, so let's be sure to offer that gift to others this month. Write a letter, give a symbolic gift or treat them to lunch or coffee—whatever it is, find a way to tell someone that their bravery is seen and matters. It's said that courage is contagious. But how would one ever know that their bravery has inspired many, unless we tell them so?

OPTION C: The Courage of an Ally
As a faith movement, we are waking up to the need for radical action around racial justice and healing. For white UUs, that work involves a deeper and more developed understanding of allyship. It is possibly the most courageous work to which we are called today. So this month, you are invited to begin or lean more intentionally into that work. Here is one way to turn that work into a spiritual practice this month:

1. Listen and learn: Make time this month to go through the list of videos and essays below.
2. Identify Your Resistance: Notice where you find yourself pushing back while watching and reading the videos and essays. Try to avoid defensiveness. Also be sure to offer yourself compassion.
3. Identify and Commit to *Your Work*: Maybe it's more learning. Perhaps it involves finding the courage to confront racism from a family member or co-worker. You might even be ready to invite someone into a courageous conversation. Take your time to figure it out. If you listen deeply to the videos and articles, your work will surely and clearly emerge.

Resources for Courageous Allyship:

- ~ Tips For White Allies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2c5xeIPE8fc>
- ~ How To Be A White Ally - DON'T: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sOPngK1DSc>
- ~ White Allies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SX4r7XZFJU0>
- ~ Five Strategies for Courageous Conversations about Racism with friends, family & co-workers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Vq7mc5PAg&index=37&list=PL8PINNdxk16gm66PDG9Yt_IVM1uf
- ~ Eleven Ways White America Avoids Taking Responsibility for its Racism: <http://www.hopkinsmn.com/police/equity/pdf/11-ways-avoid-taking-responsibility.pdf>
- ~ Increase Your Racial Stamina: Take The Pledge: <https://notesfromanaspiringhumanitarian.com/white-people-increase-your-racial-stamina-take-the-pledge/>
- ~ We Need Co-conspirators, Not Allies: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/26/how-white-americans-can-fight-racism>
- ~ White People in Solidarity Against Racism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KahoDlihsKI>
- ~ What Are White People To Do? - A Forum on Racism and Being Part of the Solution - UU Tulsa: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acx-PVNPDOQ>

Personal Care Ministry News

Please support the Jackson Personal Care Ministry by having dinner at **Finley's Grill & Smokehouse, 1602 W. Michigan Ave. on Tuesday Sept. 26 between 5 pm and 10 pm.** Finley's will donate 10% of all sales that evening to JPCM. You may use a hard copy coupon, or show your server the electronic version available on the Westminster Facebook page. One coupon will cover an entire table, and every person at the table will count toward Finley's minimum of 30 diners identified with JPCM. JPCM will receive 10 percent of every sale. The Jackson Personal Care Ministry marked its 5th anniversary in June, and handled more than 6,000 client visits! Thank you!

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, **September 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

Yoga

Robin will be having Yoga sessions again starting Monday, September 11 and ending November 13th. On Mondays 10:00 – 11:00 am in the schoolhouse. Thank you!

Submitted by: Robin Wormser



Evening of Entertainment

Matt Walsh entertainment evening is set for **Friday, September 22** at church at 7:00 pm. Fun time! Please come and bring friends!! If you have any questions speak with Elissa.

Submitted by: Elissa Alden

Caring Committee

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. Please Note: contact Debbie Hartsuff instead of Jane Volk now through Oct 1st if you need the help of the caring committee. You can see Debbie's information on the Supplement page.

Submitted by: Jane Volk



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...

Maintaining Financial & Legal Control as We Age
Thursday, Sept 21
Chris Smith, elder care attorney, talks about control over decisions and assets.

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.
Wednesdays October 11, November 15, 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/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.



JEWEL HEART CLASSES OFFERED AT UUCEL —The Four Noble Truths — This course introduces Buddha's revolutionary message that suffering can come to an end through one's own efforts. Following Gelek Rimpoche's transcript Four Noble Truths participants rely on readings, discussion and meditation **Mondays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20 Time: 7:00 – 8:30pm — \$80, Jewel Heart Members Free**
To register: Phone 734 239 5985 or email: jackson@jewelheart.org and look us up on our website: <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.



~Upcoming Fund Raisers ~

Friday, September 22 ~ See Elissa if you have any Questions

From: The Board

September's UUCEL Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted



3 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader; Lynn Hightower ~ 11:00 am
6 Wed.	Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
7 Thurs.	AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
10 Sunday	RE Breakfast ~ 10:00 am
10 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
10 Sunday	Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
12 Tue.	Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
12 Tue.	R.E. Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
14 Thurs	Membership Meeting ~ @JC North ~ 6:30 pm
17 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
17 Sunday	Visitor's Orientation Question & Answer ~ After the Service
17 Sunday	The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
21 Thurs.	Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
21 Thurs	JXN Community Forums Maintaining Financial & Legal Control as We Age
22 Fri	Matt Walsh Entertainment Evening ~ 7:00 pm
24 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Sept 3 ~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Nursery Helper, Kathy H ~~ Usher, Paul J ~~
Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team # 7 ~~ **R.E. K-5** Intergenerational ~~ **R.E. Youth** Intergenerational

Sunday, Sept 10 ~~ Greeter, Grace M ~~ Nursery Helper, Donna H ~~ Usher, Paul J ~~
Social Hour Host, Vic M & Team # 8 ~~ **R.E. K-5**, Intergenerational ~~ **R.E. Youth**, Intergenerational

Sunday, Sept 17 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Nursery Helper, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J ~~
Social Hour Host, Donna H & Team # 1 ~~ **R.E. K-5**, Nancy S & Janette M ~~
R.E. Youth, Elizabeth W & Gretchen M

Sunday, Sept 24 ~~ Greeter, Betty G ~~ Nursery Helper, Nena O ~~ Usher, Paul J ~~
Social Hour Host, Carole H & Team # 2 ~~ **R.E. K-5**, Nancy S ~~ **R.E. Youth**, Peter M ~~
R.E. K-12 Helper, Monica D

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

September's Theme is: Welcome

Sept 3 - "Testimonials"

Lay Leader; Lynn Hightower

— Participatory service with testimonials by three members on a welcoming theme - What made you feel welcome here and how did you know this was your "home?"

Sept 10 - "Water Communion and Ingathering"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Bring water from your home or a special place as we celebrate the beginning of our year with this ingathering service where we name the generations of our history, bless the backpacks of our school-goers, and talk about water and justice.

Sept 17 - "Radical Welcome"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy will talk about the religious value of creating a space of welcome. How do we welcome the stranger? How do we welcome people different than "us"? How do we welcome children and people of all generations?

Sept 24 - "The Right to Read"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

September 24th begins Banned Book Week. We'll talk about the values of the freedom to read, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech, and how they intersect with our religious values. And, yes, we will read some from banned books on this Sunday! Do you know what the most banned book was last year?

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

