



2017 ~ October

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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Minister's Column

This past spring our Worship Committee asked the board for some more direction about what our priorities were for worship services, with a particular question around social justice issues. The board followed this by each asking a handful of members about their priorities with an informal survey to get a sense of the congregation's priorities. The results were overwhelming that the highest justice issue right now for our congregation is the environment, with a particular interest in water justice. The board followed this by voting to create an annual social justice theme for the congregation, starting with the environment for this year. The plans for this theme are that since we don't have a social justice committee, committees and programs of the church will be asked to integrate this theme throughout the year. This is being met with enthusiasm so far by the groups I've talked about it with. We have a few members already lined up to write a monthly newsletter column about what our church can do on environmental issues from water justice to climate change. The worship committee is planning their first worship service connected with the theme for October, and looking at ways to integrate it throughout the year. And Monica Day is planning water justice activities for us that we will be able to participate in throughout the year. See her column on pages 2 and 3 for this month's discussion breakfast and the book we're asking people to read. I've purchased a few copies for our church members to share, but please feel free to get your own. It's available on Kindle as well as in hardcover.

What this experience has also pointed out is that our Social Mission Policy, created over a decade ago, has not gotten much use beyond our quarterly special collections. It was designed as a way for members to know how they could take issues important to them through a process for congregational engagement. Unfortunately, it relies on a now-defunct Social Mission Task Force to oversee the process, and almost every action (except emergency special collections) required a congregational vote, which meant that actions were few and far between. I'm working with the board to present you with a new social mission policy that will replace our current policy, for your vote at this year's annual meeting. The draft I've presented the board with has several types of actions that members can engage in with board or committee approval without a congregational vote, and it integrates the new concept of our annual justice theme. Hopefully this will go through some revision in the following months and come to you in the spring.

Notes from the Board

The Board met at the church, with everyone present. We decided to proceed with developing a display of all former ministers, as part of our History Wall project: many thanks to Elissa and Ann Green for their work on this. We also worked on a Social Justice plan to be incorporated throughout our various committees, following a different theme each year. The Board will meet again on Oct 11, at the church, 6:30 p.m. Full minutes of this meeting can be found in the Social Hall.

Gratia

**Submitted by: Gratia Karmes
Board President**

Notes from Religious Education

Lesson Theme: Courage

The RE breakfast took place on September 10th. We would like to thank everyone who donated and attended. Your donations and attendance made it a huge success. Classes started on September 17th over in the school house. Our theme last month was "Welcome". The curriculum this year will be the same theme for all ages, so it will be interesting to see how each age group's lessons compare. Both the K-5 and youth classes met in the school house. This worked out quite well. The theme this month will be "Courage". The next RE committee meeting will take place **Tuesday, the 17th** at 6:00 pm at the church.

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

Cindy's column continued ...

I'm excited and energized that our congregation is getting more involved in social justice and integrating it into our church life. I think with increased practice, and especially in connecting it in worship, we'll also learn to connect our works more deeply to our theology and spirituality. Justice is an important part of our faith tradition for a reason; it goes deep into our values.

In faith,

Rev. Cindy

Annual Justice Theme: Environment

Water Justice

Prepare for discovery, discussions and collective action on water justice. By Monica Day

I am a regular attendee of this Congregation and professional water resources Educator at Michigan State University Extension Jackson office. Water Justice is a focused yet expansive topic. It is urgently important and of critical local significance. Universalist Unitarians are taking up the subject all around the country. Few places are as rich in fresh spring water as we are here at the East Liberty Church. With proper attention, I foretell that 2017 – 2018 will be the year that we:

- deepened our experiences and knowledge of the freshwater features in the vicinity of Liberty Township and greater Jackson
- supported actions of neighbors addressing water injustices
- and advanced strategies for collective protection of high recharge areas

Let us begin with shared reading: ["Blue Future: Protecting Water for People and the Planet Forever"](#) by Maude Barlow. Critic Bruce

Cooperstein in a review of the book published originally in [Solutions Journal](#) on sustainability writes: "this is an excellent book and should be required reading for anyone interested in the future

Continued on page 3...

of water, but hopefully it is not the end of the story. Rather, this reviewer thinks a fourth book is needed, one entitled *Strategies and Tactics for Universal Water Justice.*”

The portions of the book most focused on strategies for positive change, rather than explanatory or raising awareness of the problems are chapters 4, 8, 12, and 16. For example:

“It is time to start charging industrial and commercial interests for the water they use. They are making a profit from what is essentially a public trust. This preferential treatment contributes to the redistribution of wealth from the public to the private sphere. Private companies should be returning some of that profit to the public good.” (emphasis mine) p60

“Public-public partnerships in which two or more water utilities or non-governmental organizations pool resources to buy power and technical expertise” (p124)

*“Protect and restore watersheds” (p196)
“stop the devastation of our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater” (p 205)*

Let water be the roadmap from conflict to peace: “International water disputes – even among fierce enemies – have generally been resolved peacefully because water is so important that nations cannot fight over it.” (p276)

Come discuss how these ideas from the book relate to local water resources during breakfast on **Sunday, October 22** at 9 AM at the Jackson County Outdoor Club <http://www.jacksoncountyooutdoorclub.com/> located at [3550 Hart Road, Jackson, MI 49201](http://www.jacksoncountyooutdoorclub.com/). Breakfast costs \$6 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Choose from these menu items: French toast, biscuits and gravy, eggs, link or patty sausage, bacon, hotcakes, hash brown potatoes and toast. Coffee is included. Milk or orange juice is extra. There is lots of room for the children to move around.

October Theme Exercises: COURAGE

OPTION A: Step Outside Your Comfort Zone - We rarely give ordinary courage the honor it is due. Sometimes the enemy of courage is not fear but safety and routine – the insidious hazard of our comfort zone. 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.

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.

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. It is possibly the most courageous work to which we are called today. For white UUs, that work involves a deeper and more developed understanding of allyship. This month, spend some time reading and learning about being an ally, identifying your areas of resistance and avoiding defensiveness, and committing to the work you need to do, whether that’s more education or entering into difficult conversations. One place to begin learning is with this the resources on allyship in the “Challenging Racism Toolkit” from the Michigan UU Social Justice Network: <http://www.uujustice.org/InterfaithToolkitonChallengingRacism-Final.pdf>

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Heeding the Call Faith, Hope & Climate Action

Our church is a member organization of Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, an organization that helps churches become environmentally friendly. They are sponsoring a conference this month that we invite you to attend. Tickets are \$50 for members, which we are, and \$20 for students. This is **Friday October 6th** from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm with 6 workshops held at the University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing call 248-537-9175 or MichiganIPL.org

Submitted by: Vic & Gretchen Marshall

Holiday Gift Baskets Auction

~Begins **Sunday Nov 19**

~Ends **Sunday Dec 10**

Start planning now for a basket, box or bag of special items for our annual Holiday Gifts Basket Auction. Some ideas from the past are: art supplies, children's games, books, personal care items, Michigan products, movie with popcorn & candy, pet supplies, bird feeding supplies, holiday decorations, gift wrapping supplies or goodies. See Nena Obits for more information. **Submitted by: Nena Obits**

Halloween Party

Please plan on coming to our UUCEL Halloween party that will be held during our social hour time on **Sunday, October 29**. The R.E. Committee is still working on the plans of this fun event at the time this issue went to press. We would like to invite everyone and have everybody wear their costumes.

Submitted by: Vicki Haynes

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

Personal Care Ministry News

THE BIG BLING SALE!

Jewelry Scarves Accessories! - FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, **NOV 17**. The night of the Santa Parade. DONATE ITEMS NOW! Real and Costume Jewelry! Old and New! Scarves and Purses, too Drop-off points at JTV, 152 W. Michigan Ave., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2301 Ridgeway Road, or our church. *Sale benefits Jackson Personal Care Ministry Free soap, shampoo, and other non-food items for needy in Jackson.* For information, or to donate, call Westminster: 787-4017

Submitted by: Nena Obits

5th ANNUAL PRAISE AND GOSPEL CONCERT

COME SING WITH US! COME LISTEN WITH US!

Sunday, October 15, 3:30 P.M. First Congregational Church 120 N. Jackson Street. To perform at the concert, Contact Janet Gage, First Congregational, 740-7179. Free Admission Free will offering will benefit Personal Care Ministry.

Halloween Trunk-or-Treat & Haunted House

This year our youth are doing a combined youth group with Arbor Grove Congregational Church. In October, our youth will be helping decorate and prepare Arbor Grove's annual Haunted House, which is free and open to the community. We'd like to invite adults to also get involved by bringing children to the trunk-or-treat if you have children or grandchildren who would enjoy it, and by participating in the trunk-or-treat as an adult with candy. Arbor Grove is still finalizing details about times, but mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 29**.

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, October 19 6:30 pm
City of Jackson **CANDIDATES FORUM**
Office of Mayor and wards 1, 3, 5, and 6
MICHIGAN THEATER, downtown Jackson.
Submitted by: Marge Duane

Memorial for Judd- Hartung

Laura Hannahs Judd- Hartung, former wife of our former minister Rev. Alfred Judd, passed away on August 2. A memorial service was held on September 23 in East Greenwich, RI. Donations may be made in Rowe Camp and Conference Center, 22 Kings Hwy, Rowe, MA 01367 this is a UU camp in Massachusetts. Notes may also be send to her daughter Karen Judd, 1601 Meadow Street, Wildwood, FL 34785. This information was submitted by Karen Judd and shortened version by Rev. Cindy. The full note can be found on the cork board downstairs

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.



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** — **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.



~Upcoming Fund Raisers ~

Holiday Gift Baskets Auction

Begins Sunday Nov 19- Ends Sunday Dec 10
Submitted by : The Church Board

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, **October 19** 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

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 **November** ISSUE, INFORMATION IS NEEDED BY: **SUNDAY, October 22.** ~~~~~ 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., MONICA DAY, VIC & GRETCHEN MARSHALL, NENA OBITS, JANE VOLK, MARGE DUANE, ROBIN WORMSER, CARING COMM. AND MEMBERSHIP COMM. FOR THEIR NEWS ITEMS THIS MONTH.

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.



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

October's UUCEL Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted



- 1 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader; Gretchen Marshall ~ 11:00 am
5 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
8 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
8 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
10 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
11 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
TBA Membership Meeting ~ @Marge's Vista Grande Villa ~ 6:30 pm
15 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
17 Tue. R.E. Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
19 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
19 Thurs JXN Community Forum ~ City of Jackson Candidates Forum ~ 6:30 pm
22 Sunday Water Discuss, Breakfast at 9:00 am @ Jackson County Outdoor Club 3550 Hart Road
22 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader; Lynn Hightower ~ 11:00 am
22 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
29 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
29 Sunday Halloween Party ~ Durning our Social Hour
29 Sunday Halloween Trunk-or-Treat/ Haunted House @ Arbor Grove Congregational Church

Upcoming Events

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Oct 1 ~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Nursery Helper, Kathy H ~~ Usher, Paul J ~~
Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team # 3 ~~ R.E. K-5, Kristina M & Jeanette M ~~ R.E. Youth, Stay for the Service

Sunday, Oct 8 ~~ Greeter, Grace M ~~ Nursery Helper, Donna H ~~ Usher, Paul J ~~
Social Hour Host, Jane V & Team # 4 ~~ R.E. K-5, Kristina M ~~ R.E. Youth, Elizabeth W
R.E. K-12 Floater Gretchen M

Sunday, Oct 15 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Nursery Helper, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J ~~
Social Hour Host, Sue R & Team # 5 ~~ R.E. K-5, Intergenerational ~~
R.E. Youth, Intergenerational

Sunday, Oct 22 ~~ Greeter, Betty G ~~ Nursery Helper, Nena O ~~ Usher, Paul J ~~
Social Hour Host, Joan B & Team # 6 ~~ R.E. K-5, Kristina M ~~ R.E. Youth, Elizabeth W ~~
R.E. K-12, Floater, Monica D

Sunday, Oct 29 ~~~ Greeter, Carole H ~~ Nursery Helper, Open ~~ Usher, Paul J ~~
Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team # 7 ~~ R.E. K-5, Intergenerational Halloween
~~ R.E. Youth, Intergenerational Halloween

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

October's Theme is: Courage!

Oct 1 - "Courageous Crusaders for Environmentalism"

Lay Leader; Gretchen Marshall

— Featuring Peg Beison on Rachel Carson, Vic Marshall on Mary Sinclair, and Nena Obits on Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha.

Oct 8 - "A Courageous Faith"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy will look at this month's theme of Courage and talk about examples in our history and opportunities for our future to be "a people of courage."

Oct 15 - "A Celebration of Books"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

October is National Book Month! Come with your favorite book to tell us about it, and bring a book for our donations. We'll be donating books to local

agencies from the list of agencies our church supports. Children's books are especially welcome.

Oct 22 - "Courage of Coming Out"

— Lay Leader; Lynn Hightower

This service features a variety of speakers sharing their experiences with coming out.

~~A special collection today for the Pride Center.

Oct 29 - "Days of the Dead Celebration"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

At this time of the year, we honor our ancestors and those who have gone before us. For this special service, bring a picture of a loved one who has passed on for our altar or a short story about them to share. If you would like their picture included in our rotating slide display, you can bring a picture to be scanned to Rev. Cindy or send her a digital copy by e-mail to cynlandrum@gmail.com

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