



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.

Continued on other side...

Sunday Services at 11:00 am

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 - Oct. 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

Calendar

- 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

Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

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. 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

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 for more information.

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.

Come discuss how these 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.jacksoncountyoutdoorclub.com/> located at [3550 Hart Road, Jackson, MI 49201](http://www.jacksoncountyoutdoorclub.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.

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

www.libertyuu.org

WHERE PEOPLE CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER AND CARE ABOUT THE WORLD.
