



2017 ~ November

The Bellnote

2231 Jefferson Road
Clarklake, MI 49234

(517) 529-4221 voicemail only
LOCATED 3/4 MILES WEST OF U.S. 127

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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CYNLANDRUM@GMAIL.COM

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GRACE MULNIX



Dear UUCEL Members and Friends,

November is election month, but I am not giving an election sermon this year. Our elections are on November 7th, and I really wanted to talk about the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation this year, and our last Sunday in October is intergenerational, so I moved that subject to that first Sunday in November which would usually be my election sermon. That means that this is a perfect thing to write my newsletter column about! Specifically, I want to clarify what the church's and minister's limitations are when it comes to elections.

I often hear people say things like "talking about politics in church is a violation of church and state" or "it's illegal for a church or minister to endorse a candidate." Both of these statements are trying to capture the concept of how churches and ministers need to stay out of politics in certain ways, but neither is exactly accurate.

What is the separation of church and state? "Separation of church and state" is our short-hand way of talking about the clause in the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution which states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Notice this clause does *not* place any limitations on the church. It is designed to keep the government out of religion, not vice versa.

Where does the limitation on the church's actions come from, then? Well, the answer is it is a function of our non-profit status, and that this restriction is relatively new (from a 1954 congress act). If churches were not tax-exempt, churches would have free reign to get involved in politics the same way corporations now do. But as tax-exempt entities, we have the restriction to not get involved in politics, to a certain degree.

Now, I said, "to a certain degree" – what does that mean? Well, there are limits within which churches can operate in a political sphere. For example, we're allowed to do lobbying on issues, as long as lobbying is not a "substantial" part of our overall activity (over 25%). If this comes into IRS question, they weigh what percentage of time and expense is devoted to lobbying. This does not include conducting meetings, preparing and distributing educational materials, or other educational efforts. If the church has done excessive lobbying, then they are subject to a tax of five percent of the lobbying expenditures. So even if I were spending one full day per week lobbying (which I'm not), we would be well within our limits.

When it comes to political campaigns, there are more significant restrictions. Churches are "absolutely prohibited" from directly or indirectly "participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." This means no financial contributions or public statements of position or endorsements by the church.

Minister's Column

Notes from the Board

Board meeting was held at the church at 6:30 on Wednesday, October 11. Gratia was away so meeting was conducted by Elissa. We received the minister's report from Rev. Cindy and the treasurer's report from Kerry. We heard from board liaisons to all committees and talked about incorporating our commitment to environmental issues, specifically water justice, into all our committees, especially worship. We have hired a new cleaning person who has cleaned once already. We also discussed our service on the 29th of October and fun tailgate party and chili cook-off in the new parking lot. By the time you read this we'll know whether the weather was on our side for this event. Our next meeting will be held on November 1.

Elissa

**Submitted by: Elissa Alden
Board Vice President**

Notes from Religious Education

Lesson Theme: "Abundance"

We are moving forward with the themes still in our RE classes. The theme for November is "Abundance". The teachers and children seem to continue to enjoy our new teaching schedule. We got a first-hand experiment in testing our courage in October with the youth and a surprise guest - a spider! On a more serious note, two of our youth were able to participate in one of the Sunday morning services by sharing their experiences and the steps they are taking for the LGBTQ in their schools. We are making progress organizing things for the busy bags. We will be filling some pencil bags with rice and some small trinkets. These should hopefully keep the younger children occupied during our intergen-erational services. The next RE committee meeting will be held at 5:30 pm at the church on November 14th. **Submitted by Elizabeth Walker
Co-chair of RE committee**

Cindy's column continued ...

Churches may do voter registration activities and hold public forums as long as there is no bias toward any candidate.

Ministers have similar restrictions to churches when acting on behalf of their church. But ministers still also have freedom of speech like any citizen. So the restrictions are very specific that a minister can't endorse a candidate *from a pulpit*, in any official publications of a church, or *on behalf of a church* in any public speech. Ministers are able to endorse a candidate on their own time, as long as they don't say that they are doing so on behalf of the church and their title and church name is used for identification purposes only. We're encouraged to go further and say directly that this is not on behalf of the church. In practice, I often say, "My yard, my bumper, and my Facebook page are free speech areas for me."

Lastly, churches and ministers *are* allowed to take positions on issues, "including issues that divide candidates in an election for public office." We have to be careful not to be directly involving ourselves in the campaigns, of course, but we're free to state our faith's opinions on issues that divide the candidates. The IRS states, "A communication is particularly at risk of political campaign intervention when it makes reference to candidates or voting in a specific upcoming election. Nevertheless, the communication must still be considered in context before arriving at any conclusions." There's a balance that must be paid attention to. For example, advocating on issues that we've been involved in already is okay, even if we're doing so right before an election and the issue is one that divides candidates. So it might well be okay to point out that there is an issue in the community that we've been deeply involved in and that divides candidates, depending on the larger context of our history on campaign activity and our history on that issue. This is the trickiest of the lines that are drawn.

I read over this type of material very carefully just about every election season, and my own understanding of the nuances continues to evolve. For folks wanting to understand this even more, I recommend this IRS document, from which I have quoted here: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1828.pdf>. Meanwhile, I encourage everyone to vote. That's something we can always say!

Peace,

Rev. Cindy

November Theme Exercises:

Our November theme is “Abundance.”

Here are a couple of exercises on that theme that you can explore this month.

Option A: Find It By Giving It Away

A student went to his master and said, “I am very discouraged. What should I do?”

The Zen Master replied, “Encourage others. When we are feeling the poorest, that’s time to give a gift.”

It’s a great spiritual truth: We find abundance when we give ours away. Jesus put this insight at the heart of his ministry: “You must lose your life to find it.” We lift it up every time we say “To give is to receive.”

If you are struggling with a lack of personal abundance right now, turn this truth into your spiritual exercise this month. Don’t try to find encouragement; give it to others. Don’t tackle your problem head on; look for others with the same struggle and find a way to offer them help. If you are feeling “poor,” figure out a gift you can give. In short, address others’ needs for more abundance and see what you end up with in return.

Option B: The Abundance of Clutter

Abundance gets in the way of abundance. Sounds silly but it’s true. Too much stuff leaves us trapped. An over-packed schedule leaves us feeling empty. Clutter -material or spiritual - acts like a cage, leaving us little room to move, or breath.

There’s no better month than November to take on this clutter in our lives. Fall trees shed their leaves, inviting us to do some of the same. The holidays are right around the corner, with their yearly attempt to get us to pack even more into our lives.

So find a few ways this fall to “declutter.” Of course, you will first need to figure out what that means to you. Often it is material clutter we need to tackle. Just as often it is spiritual clutter that needs to be addressed. Truth is, most of the time, it’s hard to separate the two. Whatever you decide to focus on, choose at least one strategy to address it. And remember that not all clutter is junk. Our work is not simply to throw the clutter out, but to sort through it. Almost always, there are gems buried in the mess.

Here’s some inspiration and guidance to help you along the way:

Continued on next column...

Thirty tips to unclutter your life

http://bpcenter.com/?page_id=63

The ten-item wardrobe | Jennifer L. Scott | TEDxStGeorge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3CLRL32Mcw>

The less you own, the more you have | Angela Horn | TEDxCapeTown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyKmpyYy14k>

Is your stuff stopping you? | Elizabeth Dulemba | TEDxUniversityofEdinburgh

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Pb-hjqdjbY>

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Annual Justice Theme: Environment

Climate Change By: Nena Obits

Over the years I’ve seen the environment that I love degraded. One of my biggest concerns is the effect of climate change. Besides the erratic weather, devastating hurricanes, and wild fires we’ve experienced in the U.S., many people in the third world countries are struggling for their very existence. Unchecked, climate change has given rise to species extinction, flooding and famine worldwide. In our 7th U.U. Principle we affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Things we can do:

- 1.) Confront elected officials; city, county, state and federal, to take action on climate change.
- 2.) Join the Sierra Club, (local chapter meets monthly), or other environmental organizations
- 3.) Take steps to lower our own carbon footprints

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

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

Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

This year the interfaith community Thanksgiving service will be held on Tuesday, November 21 at 7pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 309 S. Jackson St., Jackson. This is a wonderful annual event where we hear prayers and songs from a variety of religious traditions as we celebrate the harvest season and abundance. Come join us this year!

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Google Calendar

Do you use Google Calendar? You can have the events from our webpage (basically all the events from the newsletter) automatically added to your calendar. Go to your calendar to the section labeled "Other calendars" and click on the small triangle and choose "Add by URL." The URL to add is: <http://libertyuu.org/events.ics> There is a similar process for iCal and other calendar programs using the same link. Note: this does not currently add the worship services, which is a separate feature from "events" on our website.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Pizza and Karaoke for the Youth

On **Friday, November 3**, we're planning a youth party — pizza and karaoke — and have invited the youth of three additional LGBT-friendly congregations' groups to attend — First Congregational, St. John's UCC, and the Temple Beth Israel. The other groups are excited to join us. The event will be on Friday November 3, 7:00 -10:00pm at the Jackson Pride Center at St. John's UCC.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy

Personal Care Ministry News THE BIG BLING SALE!

The Big BLING will be held 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm, **Friday, Nov. 17** at First United Methodist Church, Jackson, to benefit the Jackson Personal Care Ministry. That's the night of the Santa Parade.

We'll be offering great buys on jewelry that's lightly used and inexpensively priced! A large selection of earrings, necklaces, bracelets, scarves, accessories and more, just in time for holiday shopping!

Proceeds benefit the Jackson Personal Care Ministry.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

Yoga

Robin will be having Yoga sessions again. On every **Monday** 10:00 – 11:00 am in the schoolhouse. They will continue through Monday, November 13th. Thank you!

Submitted by: Robin Wormser

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...

Thursday, November 9th ~ 6:30 pm

(note date change 2nd week not the 3rd)

Human Trafficking in Jackson County

A panel of local and state experts speak about local impact. Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force <http://mhddf.org>

Submitted by: Marge Duane

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, 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 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/](https://www.jewelheart.org/chapters/jackson)

[jackson](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.

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Getting rid of 1000 things | Liz Wright | TEDxBedford

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T33vGEPL-wg>

The Art of Letting Go | The Minimalists | TEDxFargo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7rewjFNiys>



~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, **November 16** 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

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 **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., NENA OBITS, JANE VOLK, MARGE DUANE, ROBIN WORMSER, CARING COMM. AND MEMBERSHIP COMM. FOR THEIR NEWS ITEMS THIS MONTH.



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

November's UUCEL Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted



- 1 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 2 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:00 pm
- 5 Sunday Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 5 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 9 Thurs JXN Community Forum ~ Human Trafficking ~ 6:30 pm
- 12 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 12 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 14 Tue. R.E. Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
- 15 Wed Membership Meeting ~ @ Marge's Vista Grande Villa ~ 6:00 pm
- 16 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 19 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 19 Sunday Holiday Gift Baskets Auction ~Begins
- 19 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 21 Tue Interfaith Comm. Thanksgiving Service @ 7pm St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Jackson
- 23 Thurs Thanksgiving Day
- 23 Thurs Smith Rental ~ Family Feast
- 26 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Guest Speaker ~ 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

- 10 Dec Holiday Gift Baskets Auction ~ Ends

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Nov 5 ~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Nursery Helper, Kathy H ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K ~~
Social Hour Host, Vic M & Team # 8 ~~ **R.E. K-5**, Kerry H & Jeanette M ~~ **R.E. Youth**, Peter M & Gretchen M

Sunday, Nov 12 ~~ Greeter, Grace M ~~ Nursery Helper, Donna H ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K ~~
Social Hour Host, Donna H & Team # 1 ~~ **R.E. K-5**, Kerry H ~~ **R.E. Youth**, Peter M
R.E. K-12 Floater Monica D

Sunday, Nov 19 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Nursery Helper, Nena O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K ~~
Social Hour Host, Carole H & Team # 2 ~~ **R.E. K-5**, Intergenerational ~~ **R.E. Youth**, Intergenerational

Sunday, Nov 26 ~~ Greeter, Betty G ~~ Nursery Helper, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K ~~
Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team # 3 ~~ **R.E. K-5**, Intergenerational~~ **R.E. Youth**, Intergenerational~~

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

November's Theme is: Abundance

Nov 5 - "95 Theses"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

The 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation was October 31st. Rev. Cindy will examine the historical impact and importance, and imagine how we might continue to improve our faith's practices.

Nov 12 - "Foster Parenting and Adoption Awareness"

— Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown

UUCEL will be delighted to welcome back Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown, pastor of the Arbor Grove Church on November 12th. Rev. Cindy will be speaking at his church. Both will be speaking about Foster Parenting and Adoption, in an effort to raise

awareness in our churches and community. November is adoption awareness month, and November 12th is "Orphan Sunday" when churches are encouraged to bring awareness to the issue of foster care and adoption.

Nov 19 - "Abundance"

— Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Abundance is our November theme, and just before Thanksgiving is a great time to talk about abundance in our lives. This service will also share the Guest at Your Table materials. This year's Guest at Your Table theme is "Small Change Is Big Change." Start saving your change!

Nov 26 - "Water Justice"

— Guest Speaker for our social justice theme of Environmentalism: Water Justice.

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

