



2018 ~ January

The Bellnote Mini-News

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY
 2231 Jefferson Road, Clarklake, MI 49234
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Minister's Column

This is a personal story this month. When I was in my first years of ministry, the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association had a week-long conference that happened every five years. At that time, we called it "Convo," short for "Convocation." The first one that I was eligible to go to was in March, 2002 in Birmingham, Alabama, and the theme was "The Mind and Soul on Fire: When Hunger and Passion Meet." But in January, 2002, I was fired from my first ministry position. In an act of generosity on the part of the congregation, part of my severance package included the professional expenses necessary to attend Convo. And so I went. It was a wonderful and painful week. I had to my shame and humiliation and fear over and over again. Over and over again I had to greet colleagues and explain when they asked "So where are you, now?" that I was unemployed, having gone through negotiated resignation. And they listened, patiently, kindly, and supported me in a time when my feelings were still raw, feeling like a failure, wondering if any church would ever give me a job again, wondering if my career was over as soon as it had started. I remember one conversation with a colleague who had gone through a negotiated resignation only a year or two prior, who was also a new minister who went through this in his first or second year of ministry, who commiserated with me, but also showed me that he had recovered and gone on and was in ministry again. And because of the kindness of colleagues, I slowly started to heal, and was able to go forward, believing in myself, applying to congregations to get out there and try it again.

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Sunday Services at 11:00 am

January's Theme is: **Intention**

Jan 7 - "Favorite Things" — Lay Leader: Elissa Alden - On this day you are invited to bring with you to church and talk about your Favorite Things. It can be almost anything from rocks to books and most anything in between.

Jan 14 - "Intention and Impact" (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend) — Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Our theme for January is "Intention." In anti-racism work these days, there is a lot of talk about "intention vs. impact," with the saying that "impact is greater than intent," meaning that how an action impacts someone is more important to pay intention to than what the intent was, in situations where the felt impact is racism. Rev. Cindy will explore this issue in greater detail in this service.

Jan 21 - "Baha'i Faith" — Guest Speaker: Alan Gamble, Lay Leader: Ann Green - Alan of the Gandhi-King Community is speaking about the Baha'i Faith.

Jan 28 - "Torda 450" — Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum 018 is the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda. What was the Edict of Torda, why is it important to our faith, and why should it matter to us now, 450 years later? The short answer is that the Edict of Torda was an act that legalized religious toleration and legalized the practice of Unitarianism. For more about it, come to the service! If you'd like to read up on how our faith is celebrating this anniversary, there's more at <https://www.uua.org/international/torda450>.

Calendar

- 3 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 4 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:00 pm
- 7 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Elissa Alden ~ 11:00 am
- 7 Sunday U. U.'s Seven Principles @ Arbor Grove Congregational Church ~ 12:30 pm
- 14 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum ~ 11:00 am
- 14 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 14 Sunday Worship/Membership/R.E. Meeting after the Service
- 18 Thurs JXN Community Forum "Hate Crimes in Michigan" ~ 6:30 pm @ JDL
- 18 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 21 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Guest Speaker: Alan Gamble ~ 11:00 am
- 21 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 28 Sunday ~~~~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

We no longer have "Convo," and instead we have "Institute" which is every three years, and has more emphasis on in-depth continuing education than the old Convo model had. I haven't attended every one of the four Institutes that we've had. In fact, I've only attended one in person, and attended a second one online. But this year, I'm not only attending, but I'm preaching on the first evening. This is my first opportunity to preach in front of a national gathering of Unitarian Universalists. I'm sharing the service with a colleague, and we'll both be preaching. I'm excited. I'm terrified. And I'm not yet prepared! I'll be spending my Christmas vacation, in part, writing for this. But here's what I do know: part of what I'm going to preach about is how these gatherings saved my ministry at a time when it might have ended.

We never know what the impact of our actions may be. That's part of what I'll be preaching on at our church later this month. Sometimes we don't intend to hurt someone, and we do. Sometimes we act without great intentions, and our kindness reverberates on through someone's life. Sometimes the smallest action at a time when someone is vulnerable, alone, afraid, lost, hurt, can be the life-giving strength they need to continue on. And we never know when those moments might be. We can't plan for them. And sometimes we will, inevitably, fall short. But, my friends, those moments of grace are worth the moments of failure.

Peace

Rev. Cindy

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

www.libertyuu.org

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

Youth Gathering

Youth and parents, please hold the date for the afternoon of **January 14th** for a possible youth gathering with our youth and the youth from Arbor Grove Congregational. The tentative plan is a board games and pizza party.

Monthly Spiritual Exercises

Start Your Day with Intention

"At the beginning of the day, the mind is most open to receive new impressions. One of the most important things we can do is to take full responsibility for the power of the morning."

- Marianne Williamson

This exercise invites you to explore the power of intentional mornings. Too often our days take hold of us rather than us taking hold of them. For at least one week, pick one of the below practices to begin your day with a greater sense of intentionality and purpose.

