



Sunday Services at 11:00 am

March's Theme is: Balance

Minister's Column

Over the last few years, the Board of Trustees and I have talked several times about whether or not we need more emergency and safety procedures for the church. There are several things we have already done to increase the safety in our church in a variety of ways. We've placed a phone in our nursery, school house, and social hall. Our smoke detectors have been recently replaced. We do background checks on all our volunteer teachers and require two adults with children at all times. We've created a policy that the church will not provide alcohol at any church event. All these are done with safety in mind. And, too, many of our Religious Education teachers are teachers by profession who have had training in various emergency procedures. But there is more that we can do. Following the tragic deaths in the Parkland, Florida high school this month, I am refocusing on the issue. Gordon Bernstein has drafted some thoughts for us, and I'm working on drafting a policy and pulling together a small committee to review and discuss plans. Vic Marshall has volunteered to be part of that committee, and has shared some resources. I've also reached out to law enforcement, local clergy, other UU clergy, and read numerous policies and procedures online as part of this process from churches, insurance companies, the government, and more.

Gordon Bernstein has said to me more than once when talking about this subject, "I believe that each step we take to make us safer shuts us off by one step from the seeker." I completely agree with this statement. This is a very important consideration for us, and one I take very seriously. We have to find the careful balance between actions we can take to make us safer and those that make us harder to join or be with.

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Mar 4 - "Self-Respect Can Change Lives" – Marion Shroyer, Lay Leader -Marion Shroyer will talk about his path to self-respect and how it connects to our principles after coming from the poorest of households, in a childhood filled with abuse.

Mar 11 - "Courage, Resilience and Risk" – Julica Hermann DelaFuente, Guest Preacher -Our guest preacher Julica Hermann de la Fuente brings us three stories about immigration, courage, resilience and risk. Julica currently serves as a retreat/program leader for the Beloved Conversations program and for the UU College of Social Justice. Born and raised in Mexico City, she first became committed to social justice when she came to the United States for college. In addition to a lay community ministry degree from Meadville Lombard, she also holds an MSW and is certified as a master life coach.

Mar 18 – "World Water Day Celebration" – Monica Day, Lay Leader -In an intergenerational service, lay leader Monica Day will help us further our church's year-long social justice theme on the environment with this service connecting to March 22's World Water Day.

Mar 25 – "Balancing" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum -Writer E.B. White once said, "I arise in the morning torn between the desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day." How do find balance in our lives? Rev. Cindy will talk about the balancing acts we face every day.

Calendar

- 1 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:00 pm
- 1 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm, date change
- 4 Sunday Church Buddies Breakfast and Welcome to Everyone ~ 10:00 am
- 4 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Marion Shroyer ~ 11:00 am
- 7 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 11 Sunday Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 11 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Julica Hermann DelaFuente ~ 11:00 am
- 11 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 15 Thurs. JXN Community Forum "Aging in Community" ~ 6:30 pm @ JDL
- 18 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader: Monica Day ~ 11:00 am
- 18 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 22 Thurs. Membership meeting @ Marge's place ~ 3:30 pm
- 23 Fri. Potluck Dinner and Game Night ~ 6:00 pm
- 25 Sunday ~~~~11:00 am ~ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

Similarly, whenever we take bold steps, it can make us afraid of a violent or destructive response. Every time we've done something bold that makes news and involves our building, from displaying a rainbow flag to hanging a "Standing on the Side of Love" banner to hosting a transgender photo display, I hear concerns about whether or not we might become a target. And, indeed, within the last few years several Unitarian Universalist churches displaying "Black Lives Matter" signs have had those signs torn down or defaced. Again, we have to find the balance between actions that make us safer, and living and expressing our values in the world. I believe we can do both. At my own home, I have a yard sign which proclaims my values, and I have a security system too. For me, that's the right balance. And we'll find the right balance for the church as we explore this carefully and thoughtfully.

If you have thoughts to share on these issues, I invite you to talk to me or a board member. And if you'd like to be part of the committee that we'll be forming to explore policy and procedure, let us know as well.

Peace,

Rev. Cindy

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, March 15th ~ 6:30 pm

"Aging in Community"

Medicare/Medicaid needs Virtual Village Concept Project Bridge: New JDL services for homebound seniors.

Potluck and Game Night

Join us for a potluck dinner on **Friday, March 23rd** at 6:00 pm, followed by a time of board and card games.

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

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