



April, 2025

The Bellnote

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY
2231 Jefferson Road
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 553-4311 - New Church Number
Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

Rev. Dan's Schedule

It will vary month to month

Minister

Rev. Dan Miyake
UUDJM@YAHOO.COM

Staff

Pianist: Anita Fobes
ANITAFOBES@GMAIL.COM

Board of Directors

President: Ann Green
GREENANNM@JCCMI.EDU

Vice President: Lynn Hightower
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Treasurer: Sharon Pedersen
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Trustee: Alyce Oosting
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Trustee: Patty Brue
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Caring Committee

Deb Hartsuff

Building & Grounds

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Vic Marshall
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Committee on Ministry

Marge Duane MJDUANE@ATT.NET

Tom Pepper P EPPET49@COMCAST.NET

Gratia Karmes GKARMES82@GMAIL.COM

Elissa Alden
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Steve Kish S.KISH1487@GMAIL.COM

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Debbie Hartsuff



Message from the Minister

The Spiritual Practice of Turning in Your Pledge Card

Friends, it's that time of year again—stewardship season!

The season when we are invited to reflect on what this congregation means to us, to our families, and to the wider world. And yes, it's the season when we ask you—kindly, lovingly, persistently—to turn in your pledge card. At the time of this writing, a dismal 12 pledge units have been received. We had hoped to have all of them in by the end of March. So, here is your nudge!

Now, I know what you might be thinking: "Oh, I'll get around to it," or "They know I'll give, so does it really matter when I turn it in?" And the answer, my friends, is a resounding YES! It does matter when you turn your pledge card in! Did you know that the Board will have only about six weeks to come up with a balanced budget before it is voted on at the annual meeting? Did you know that unless the Board sees the money in the pledge cards received, they can't fund much of anything? It is only by your pledge cards that they are able to know how much money they will have to put toward the final budget. The sooner you get your pledge cards in, the easier it will be for the Board to plan for next year and ensure that our doors will remain open.

Turning in your pledge card isn't just about money. It's a spiritual practice. It's a commitment to something greater than yourself. It's a tangible act of faith, an expression of gratitude, and a promise to sustain the community that sustains you.

This congregation doesn't just happen. The warmth of Sunday morning fellowship, the inspiring music, the religious education for our children, the pastoral care, —all of it happens because people like you believe in it enough to support it. And while spontaneous generosity is always welcome, a solid financial foundation requires planning. When you turn in your pledge card, you help our leaders plan responsibly for the coming year, ensuring that our congregation can thrive rather than merely survive.

And let's be honest—life gets busy. We fully intend to do things, but sometimes our best intentions get buried under the to-do lists of daily life. So consider this your gentle nudge, your sacred reminder, your holy post-it note: If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, now is the time.

Because what we build together is sacred. What we nurture here in this beloved community is rare. And what we sustain with our pledges is nothing short of love made visible.

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Notes from the Board

The board began the March 10th meeting by reading our covenant. The Treasurer reported no unusual expenditures. Norah Jones via Zoom presented the idea of a Peace Camp this summer and will follow with details. Progress continues on acquiring the land our large shed occupies with the hiring of a new attorney. The Volunteer/Committee/Board Informational service was successful with new signups for committees. The board unanimously approved covering the cost of a digital security service to scrub Rev. Dan's personal information from the internet for his protection.

Rev. Dan is one of two delegates for the annual UUA General Assembly meeting in June. The second delegate position is still open, and the Assembly can be attended in person or on Zoom.

If you're interested, see Rev. Dan for information. The board approved hiring a social media director, perhaps in partnership with another congregation, to manage our website and Facebook and to extend our social media outreach per our Strategic Plan. The pledge drive is underway and the goal is to have received all pledges by the end of March in order to begin creating the 2025-26 budget. The Worship committee has services planned through April. Discussion began about potential new members for the board and the possibility of hiring a ministerial intern.

Ann

**Submitted by: Ann Green
Board President**

Watch on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LibertyUU>

Notes from Religious Education

Call for Volunteer(s)

UUCEL proudly offers nursery care for babies and preschool children every Sunday. We have a roster of adult volunteers who kindly give one Sunday a month to make this happen (really, it's only about 45 minutes per month!). We need two adults per Sunday. We have an opening, with one more person needed for the 3rd Sunday to accompany Kathy Haynes. Please consider signing up for this fun and easy role to support UUCEL. (Keep in mind, sometimes no kids attend, so you can stay in church. And if a conflict arises where you can't make it on your day, it's easy to switch with one of the other volunteers.)

Submitted by Nancy Smith, RE Committee

Call for Easter Candy

Parents — As you know, on Easter Sunday we hold an egg hunt right after the church service, where our little ones get to run around the church yard and find candy-filled eggs hidden by the Easter Bunny. **You can help** by picking up a bag or two of wrapped candies and giving them to Nancy S., Donna H., or Lori A. The Big Day will be Sunday, April 20th. Thank you!

Submitted by Nancy Smith, RE Committee

Reminder to all

Social Hour Teams

When done with the regular social hour duties:

Please make sure the following are done.

~Open all registers in social hall

~Close the doors that go upstairs to sanctuary

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Rev. Dan's Column Continued

So, fill out your pledge card. Turn it in. Do it as an act of love, an act of faith, and an act of commitment to this community we cherish. And know that, no matter the amount, your participation makes all the difference.

With abundant love,

Rev. Dan Miyake

Spotlight on New Members

Doug Greene hails from Bowling Green, Ohio originally and attended BGSU in college as well as Northeastern University in Boston, studying math, physics, and computer science. These early interests have continued to engage him throughout his life. Computer graphics and web site development still draw his attention as does a political interest in Israel/Palestine. Added to those passions are the violin and bird watching. He's in his third year of learning the violin which he practices in the McIntyre room at the Carnegie Library. And, as for bird watching, he tries to make sure he has the Audubon guide and a pair of binoculars when he's in a likely bird watching spot. His take on the current political situation is that he's horrified by the present administration and is looking for an organization like "Indivisible" to join. **Submitted by: Ann Green**



Behind the Scenes

Each year at this time the board starts planning the pledge drive. From the amount we pledge the board creates the budget which in turn determines what we can do (and not do!) in the coming church fiscal year, starting in July. The budget also becomes the annual Strategic Plan that keeps our goals in sight and records our progress.

This year, because the UUA adopted a new logo with LOVE at the center of our values, we decided to use "Invitation to Love" as our theme and to ask congregants to reflect on what we love about this church and how we can show that love. So thanks to the people stepping up to help with this initiative. Join the conversation! See Sharon Pedersen or Ann Green.

Submitted by: Ann Green

Social Hour Team Schedule

The 2025 listing is posted on the Kitchen's corkboard along with a few extra copies.

A reminder; if your team is running low or out of a product/supply item(s) that is normally at church, please write it down on the pad of paper on the frig, so the UU buyers: Joan Bernstein, Vicki Haynes & Kathy Haynes can get it. Also, a friendly reminder that only drinks can be left over till the following week in the frig. YES, we have church mice and they like to eat too! So please take everything home. If you would like to join a team contact Kathy. Thank You.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

Meetings and Events for UUCEL

Pledge Drive

Now is the time to show your support for our church with your 2025-2026 pledge!

Today you can mail it to the church, email it to the church (uuliberty@gmail.com), drop it off in the church mailbox, call it in or text it to Ann Green; her contact info is on the top of the Supplement Page. All of us depend on each other.

Submitted by: Ann Green

Annual Auction

It's that time of year again!! We're preparing for our BIG annual auction which is not only our biggest fundraiser of the year but also lots of fun and an excellent opportunity for everyone to get involved! Please mark Friday, May 2nd on your calendars for the live auction at church beginning at 6:00. Our wonderful Fred and Debbie Marshall will again be providing boxed lunch meals for purchase that evening at 5:00 in the social hall. Please bring your items you have agreed to put up for bidding at that time and bring to the sanctuary for set up before 5:30. If you will be donating silent auction items, please bring them to the schoolhouse before service by 10:40 am or directly after service on April 6 or 13. The bidding on those items will run before service from 10:00 am and after service until 12:45 on April 20, 27 and conclude on May 4 at 12:45. Thanks so much for your support on this project!

Submitted by: Elissa Alden

Quarterly Donations

The Social. Mission Designee for the 4th quarter is Planned Parenthood. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Planned Parenthood in the memo. Your dollars go a long way toward providing healthcare for women.

Submitted by: Gretchen Marshall

UU Younger

The UU Younger group (known as YUUMM) will be starting recurring meetings the first Sunday of every month at 12:30 pm in the school house. It will include snacks, board games and conversation.

Submitted by: Scott Reese

CUUPs Meeting

The CUUPs pagan group will meet on the 4th Sunday, March 30 after Social Hour. Anyone wishing to learn more about various pagan and earth-centered traditions is welcome to attend.

Submitted by: Lori Athey

Conversation & Meditation

Are you struggling with anxiety, fear, or anger about the current political climate? We are starting a conversation to help vent some of our concerns. After an hour of conversation, you are invited to stay and join us in a relaxing meditation afterwards. New to meditation? We will guide you, and you can try it out. These are tough times, and we need each other more now than ever.

This group will meet March 30, April 13 and 27 in the schoolhouse from 12:30 - 2:15 pm.

You might want to bring a sweater and small pillow for the metal chairs. People can still join in!

For planning, please contact Elaine; her info is on the top of the Supplement Page, and to let her know if you will miss a meeting.

Submitted by: Elaine Wolf-Baker

Soul Matters

The Soul Matters Group will be meeting once a month on the Sundays Rev. Dan is speaking from the pulpit. They will meet in Social Hall after social hour on April 13.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday April 10 at 11:30 am at Soar Café & Form. 401 North Mechanic Street, Jackson. If you are not on Joan's list and want to come, please call her by Wednesday morning. Please see Joan's contact information on the top of the Supplement Page.

Submitted by: Joan Bernstein



**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.**

Jackson Personal Care Ministry

JPCM is a cooperative mission of 14 area churches. We offer a weekly pantry of personal care and cleaning products to anyone residing in Jackson County. Our team, (First Congregational, St. John's UCC, and UUCEL) works the first Thursday of the month, and that would be April 3rd. Because we are serving more people, the number of volunteers needed has grown from 3-4. Please let me know if you can help. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 4:30 pm. JPCM is held at: First Baptist Church 201 S. Jackson St., Jackson 49201, Thursday 5:00- 6:30 pm. It's an excellent way to meet the community and give back! If you'd like to work or have any questions. Nena's contact info is on the top if the. Supplement Page.

Submitted by: Nena Obits



Talent Show Success

I wish to thank all of the participants and wonderful audience members who supported and took part in this year's Talent Show on March 14th. It was a successful evening with top honors going to 3rd Place Peter Blackshear for his guitar solo. Second Place was awarded to Ann Green for her hilarious depiction of Julia Child. Taking first place this year was the delightful ukelele duet by Nena Obits and Tom Pepper. The People's Choice trophy was given to Fred Marshall singing a heartwarming rendition of "Puff the Magic Dragon" accompanied by Tom Pepper. We took in \$800 for our church and a good time was had by all!

Submitted by: Elisa Alden

Announcement

Rev. Dan will be leading a New UU class on Monday, April 14 at 7:00 via Zoom. This class is recommended for anyone who is considering membership in our congregation, and will cover such topics as UU history, theology, polity (governance), and other important themes. Please contact Rev. Dan as soon as you are able if you would like to participate.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan

~~ Celebrating Over 167 Years of Liberal Religion ~~
All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am



Apr 6 - "Amidst all this Chaos, Anger and Oppression – Why Talk about Joy?"

- Led by: Guest Minister, Rev. Alice Diebel

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Apr 13 - "What is Joy and Where can I get Some?"

- Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

True joy can be elusive, especially in challenging times such as these.

Is joy even possible still? Let's explore together what joy is and isn't,
and let's see if we can find some!

Apr 20 - "Easter Service" ~ 10:30 am

- Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

With Dan preaching from Elkhart, IN. Note: Service will begin at 10:30 rather than 11:00!

Join us for a joint Intergenerational Easter Zoom Service with the good folks of Elkhart UU Fellowship as we continue to reflect on how to incorporate the traditional Easter story into our lives today. The Zoom Link will be sent out to all before the 20th.

Apr 27 - "Avian Experience/We Celebrate Earth Day"

- Led by: TBA

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

April 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted



- 3 Thurs Personal Care Ministry @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
6 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Alice Diebel ~ 11:00 am
6 Sunday YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
7 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
10 Thurs Ladies Lunch @ Soar Café & Form ~ 11:30 am
13 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev Dan ~ 11:00 am
13 Sunday Conversation & Meditation ~ Schoolhouse ~ 12:30 - 2:15 pm
13 Sunday Soul Matters Group ~ Meet in Social Hall after Social Hour
14 Mon Board Meeting ~ 9:00 am
14 Mon New UU Class ~ 7:00 pm via Zoom ~ Anyone who is Considering Membership
20 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake ~ **10:30 am**
21 Mon Church & Schoolhouse Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
21 Mon The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
27 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: TBA ~ 11:00 am
27 Sunday CUUPs Pagan Group meets ~ After Social Hour
27 Sunday Conversation & Meditation ~ Schoolhouse ~ 12:30 - 2:15 pm

Friday, May 2 Annual Auction live at church beginning at 6:00 pm

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

- Sunday, Apr 6** ~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Lori A & Team 5
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Elissa A
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Lori A & Cecily S ~~ Nursery w/ Nena O & Sue R
- Sunday, Apr 13** ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Liz W & Team 6
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Tiffany R
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Lori A & Cecily S ~~ Nursery w/ Alyce O & Alice P
- Sunday, Apr 20** ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Alyce O & Team 7
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B & Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Lori A
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery w/ Kathy H & Helper Needed
- Sunday, Apr 27** ~~ Greeter, Jackie J ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Deb H & Team 1
~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Gordon B
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Lori A & Cecily S ~~ Nursery w/ Sharon P. & Donna H

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



Church's Website ~ <http://www.libertyuu.org>
 Church's E-Mail Address ~ uuliberty@gmail.com
 Wednesday's Chimes ~ WednesdayChimes@gmail.com
 Church's Facebook Page ~ <http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu>
 The Bellnote's E-Mail Address ~ UUCEL_Bellnote@yahoo.com
 Bellnote Newsletter ~ <https://libertyuu.org/category-newsletter/newsletter>

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 1st-June 30th. The church board asks those that receive the paper version of the newsletter pay a \$18.00 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.

For the May issue, the information is needed by: Monday, April 21 ~~ send submissions to: uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com or in writing to Kathy or Vicki, thank you. We want to thank Rev. Dan Miyake, Ann Green, Nancy Smith, Gretchen Marshall, Darrin Palmer, Deb Hartsuff, Nena Obits, Lori Athey, Scott Reese, Elaine Wolf-Baker, Sharon Pedersen, Vicki Haynes, Tech Comm., and Worship Comm., for their news items this month.

Where People Care About Each Other And Care About The World.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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 2231 JEFFERSON ROAD



UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY