



~ April 2026 ~

The Bellnote Mini-News

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

Message from the Minister

More Than the Role

Over the past few months, I've been hearing a quiet but important refrain from some of the leaders in our congregation—Board members, committee chairs, and volunteers who give so much of their time and energy.

What they've shared is not about workload. It's not about burnout in the usual sense. It's something simpler... and, in some ways, more tender. They miss being seen as people.

Many of them have noticed that most of their interactions at church, especially during social hour, are focused almost entirely on their roles. A quick question about a budget item. A follow-up about a meeting. A reminder about something that needs to be done.

All important things, for sure - all part of congregational life. But when those are the only interactions, something begins to fade. The sense of connection. The feeling of being known. The simple joy of being part of a community where you are more than what you do. One person put it this way: "It would be nice if someone asked how I'm doing... or even talked about the weather." That stayed with me because it's such a small thing. And, such a big thing.

Continued on next page ...

Sunday Services

Apr 5 - "Easter" ~ 10:30 am Start Time

- Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake

In person or live on Facebook.

This will be a joint service with the Elkhart congregation. Rev. Dan will be physically in Elkhart, and UUCEL will be on Zoom. Please check the Wednesday Chimes for the Zoom link if you will be viewing from home. This will also be an Intergenerational service. An Egg Hunt will follow the service.

Apr 12 - "What if...?"

- Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake

In person or live on Facebook.

What if...? It's a question that can open doors—or close them just as quickly. This Sunday, we'll explore how our "what ifs" shape our lives, and how a small shift in perspective might open the door to possibility—and maybe even a little joy. This will be one of the sermons that were won at last year's auction.

Continued on next page...

Calendar

Thurs	Personal Care Ministry @ Partnership Place, 801 S. Mechanic ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
5 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
5 Sunday	YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
6 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
9 Thurs	Ladies Lunch @ Olive Garden ~ 12:00 pm/noon
12 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
14 Tue	Board Meeting
17 Fri	Lunch with Rev. Dan at 11:30 @ West End Farm to Table in Jackson
19 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Patty Brue ~ 11:00 am
20 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
20 Mon	The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
26 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Cory Page ~ 11:00 am
May 2	Celebration of Life of Jane Volk ~ 1:00-4:00 pm
May 30	Celebration of Life of Dorothy Kerr ~

MINISTER ~ DAN MIYAKE ~ UUDJM@YAHOO.COM
BOARD PRESIDENT ~ ANN GREEN ~ GREENANNM@JCCMI.EDU

Rev. Dan's Column Continued....

In a community like ours, it's easy to begin relating to people primarily through the lens of their responsibilities. We see the role. We see the task. We see the function. And without meaning to, we stop seeing the person.

But the heart of congregational life has never been the work alone. It has always been the relationships that hold that work together - the small moments of connection, the conversations that have no agenda, the sense that we are known not for what we do but for who we are.

Our covenant calls us back to that. It reminds us that how we are with one another matters just as much as what we accomplish together. That community is not built only through meetings and decisions, but through attention, presence, and care.

So, this is a gentle invitation. The next time you see someone who carries a leadership role in this congregation, pause for just a moment before jumping into "church business." Ask how they are with genuine curiosity rather than a perfunctory statement. Share a story. Make a connection. Talk about something that has nothing to do with meetings, committees, or decisions - not because the work doesn't matter, but because the people doing the work matter just as much or more.

And perhaps this invitation extends beyond leadership. What would it look like for all of us to practice seeing one another more fully? To resist the pull to move quickly into business and instead linger, just a little, in relationship? Because in the end, it's not just the work of the church that sustains us. It's one another.

May it be so.

REV. DAN

Sunday Services Continued...

Apr 19 - "Butterflies"

- Led by: Patty Brue

In person or live on Facebook.

The Monarch Experience from Dexter will be coming to talk with us about Monarch butterflies. This will be an Intergenerational service, with the kids doing a song with Nena.

Apr 26 - "Immigration"

- Led by: Cory Page

In person or live on Facebook.

Tom Ori from the Jackson County Immigration Coalition will be coming by to tell us about the JCIC's work.

<http://www.libertyuun.org/category/newsletter/>

www.libertyuun.org

Where People Care About Each Other And Care About The World

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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