



August 2025

The Bellnote

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY
2231 Jefferson Road
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 295-3290 - New(er again) Church Number
Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

Rev. Dan's Schedule

It will vary month to month

Minister

Dan Miyake

Rev.:

UUDJM@YAHOO.COM

Staff

Pianist:

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Board of Directors

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Board/Elected & Nominating Comm

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May 2025 UUA General Assembly Adopted Issues

At the annual 2025 UUA General Assembly, four proposed issues were adopted and our congregations were strongly encouraged to address these (AIW) throughout the year or (CSAI) over the next three years. The board will be considering them as well as the Worship Committee who have been invited to create services around these topics.

An Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) is a statement about a significant action, event, or development in the world that necessitates immediate engagement and action among UU member congregations and groups.

We Declare and Affirm: Immigrants Are People Who Have Inherent Worth and Inalienable Rights. As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the sacredness of every human being and our shared humanity across lines of culture, experience, and theology. Our faith compels us to uphold the inherent worthiness and dignity of all people, including immigrants, and to insist they be treated with love, compassion, and justice.

Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism, a Call to Action: Reaffirming Our Covenants for Democracy and Freedom! Congregations should cast off the cloak of isolation and transcend our differences—both within and beyond ourselves—to defend the guarantees of just law, constitutional integrity, equal justice, meaningful separation of powers, due process, and the freedoms of speech, press, and assembly by:

non-violent civil society action, including our vocal support and exercise of these guarantees and our witness legislative advocacy; and judicial action, including our support of impactful litigation.

Defending LGBTIQ Freedom Amid Funding Crisis: A Call for Global Solidarity Our Unitarian Universalist principles affirm the dignity of every person, justice and compassion in human relations, and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. Our UU faith calls us to recognize that all bodies are sacred, and that each person is endowed with the divine gifts of agency, conscience, and self-determination, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

Congregation Study/Action Issues, (CSAI) are issues selected by Unitarian Universalist member congregations for **three years of study, reflection, and action.** The purpose is to provide congregations with an opportunity to mobilize energy, ideas and resources around a common issue.

The selected CSAI was **Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation.**

Abolition is a holistic approach to systemic social change that includes, but is not limited to: the abolition of slavery; replacing systems and cultures of violence, coercion and control with transformative justice and relational practices; and dismantling the prison-industrial complex as we now know it. It requires the transformation of our society and the replacement of our current public theologies of retributive justice and violence.

A commitment to the practices and ideals of abolition would ask our congregations to make connections among many threads of our social justice work.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan and Ann Green ~ 1 ~

Notes from the Board

The Board of Trustees met July 14th at the church. Treasurer Laurie Campbell summarized the balance sheet and income statement for June and for the year ending June 30, 2025. The checking account shows a healthy balance, but the last year's expenditures exceeded income. The updated By-laws have been posted on the website and there was discussion of further changes. Contracts for the minister, pianist, and housekeeper are close to being finalized. The final report of the Strategic Plan for the year shows significant accomplishment of our goals. A tentative date to craft the next Strategic Plan is September 6. The lengthy process of acquisition of the land our large shed sits on nears completion. Membership of the Nominating Committee and Committee on Ministry were discussed. Committee liaisons for the coming year are Worship/Alice Palmer, Caring/Patty Brue, Buildings & Grounds/Alyce Oosting, RE and Technology/Nancy Smith, and Membership and Social Justice/Ann Green.

Committee report highlights included: Worship – most services are planned through September; Buildings and Grounds – winterizing the schoolhouse; Membership – the church picnic takes place after church on Sunday, July 27. The Board will not meet in August but will resume on September 8, 2025.

Complete Board minutes are posted on the social hall wall by the kitchen.

Ann

**Submitted by: Ann Green
Board President**

Notes from Religious Ed

Volunteers Update

UUCEL is proud to offer 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 now have two openings, with another person needed for the 3rd and 4th Sundays. Please consider signing up for this fun and easy role to support UUCEL. Also, we have at least one opening for a teacher assistant volunteer, which means a commitment of nine Sundays, scattered throughout the school year. UUCEL wants to continue to be an inviting church for families to bring their kids. So please consider answering this call!

Submitted by: RE Committee

FREE VERSE AUGUST MUSINGS

Lime pop-cycles from the corner store
Hula hoop evenings until the street lights came on
Fireflies sparkling at dusk
Skinned bicycle knees and roller skate keys
Sunburned noses and diving board glee
Buttered corn on the cob and luscious watermelon slices
Shock theater with cousins
White sailor hats and Bermuda shorts
Running through the sprinkler with giggling sister friends
Rowboat rides and baited hooks
Window fans and warm sleep
Barefoot joy on infinite wet sand
Marshmallows on sticks and lemonade on parched tongues
Good Humor treats
Ferris wheels and tilt-a-whirls
Baseball games with a dad who liked and loved me
Curly haired pretty mama hanging clothes on the line
Long ago memories wistfully recalled.
remembered by Elissa Alden

Spotlight on New Members

Bob and Bert Sexton came to Jackson from Berrien Springs as children and now live in Michigan Center where they graduated high school. They both attended Jackson Community College and for Bert, Central Michigan University and North Wood University where she graduated *cum laude*. Bob worked at Clark Equipment and International Harvester while Bert worked for Consumers Energy.

Bert says they married too young, while Bob was serving in the U.S. Navy. They have one son, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren. They share a love of music, movies, friends, and family. And Bob has been an avid golfer all his life. They are active in the community. Bert is a board member of the Jacksonians (the Consumers employees' retirement organization), serves on the board of the League of Women Voters Jackson Area, and is involved with AARP Jackson, the Lansing State Advocacy Team, and the Business and Professional Women's Association.

They are both active in their Lions Clubs of Michigan Center. Bert is a Past District Governor of Lions District 11B1. She says, "We enjoy belonging to the UU Church and love the dedicated and talented members we meet there. We were blessed to have found this beautiful church after many years without a church."

Submitted by: Ann Green



Best of wishes to long-time member Sharon Pedersen who has relocated to Troy

Tell Them I said "Yes" to Life

—A poem about Sharon Pedersen
written by ; Gretchen Marshall

Sharon's numbers

1 of 10 kids
3 e's in Pedersen
Too many talents to count
Many extended family members to love
Never enough cats to rescue as well as people

Sharon's favorite activities

Saying yes
Dancing and singing
Building bridges with people
Cooking for others and partying
Speaking truth to power, making a difference

Sharon's legacy at UUCEL

Big ideas and lots of them – Her vision
Big volunteering, lots of it – Her work
Rarely giving up – Her persistence
Inclusive thinking – Her respect
Moving beyond disappointment – Her resilience

Watch on Facebook:

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



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 for UUCEL

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday August 14 at the Eagles Nest 12:00 /noon, 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

Quarterly Donations

The Social Mission Designee for the 1st quarter is Jackson Personal Care Ministry – It is a cooperative mission of 14 area churches. That offers a weekly pantry of personal care and cleaning products to anyone residing in Jackson County. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Jackson Personal Care Ministry in the memo.

Submitted by: Gretchen Marshall

Soul Matters

The Soul Matters Group will be meeting once a month on the Sunday Rev. Dan is speaking from the pulpit. They will meet in Social Hall after social hour. The next meeting will start up again in the fall with no date set.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan

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

The Covenant of UU

CUUPS meets the fourth Sunday after church in the Social Hall. Thank you all for your interest.

Submitted by: Lori Athey

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 August 7th. 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 of the Supplement Page.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

NEW Information for Social Hour Host

Those on the team of the **1st Sunday of Each Month** - Please READ the NOTE that has been added to the paper copy on the corkboard in the KITCHEN. - With NEW directions YOU need to KNOW. **Thank you From the Board**

Social Hour Team Schedule

The second half of the year listing has been posted on the Kitchen's corkboard. 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 or 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

~~Visitor Tips for Everyone~~

Here are some ways to make people feel welcome that everyone can follow:

- **Introduce yourself and get to know a visitor by name.**
- **Invite a visitor to social hour.**
- **Wear a nametag.**
- **Sit toward the middle of the pew or nearer to the front of the church so visitors can be more anonymous if they choose.**
- **Watch for people who may be alone during social hour and ask them about the sermon or their faith journey. Thank you!**

Build a Community of Hope at the 17th UU Women's Retreat this September

Women of all Michigan UU Congregations are invited by the Ann Arbor congregation to attend their 17th WomUUn's Retreat, Sept. 26-28, at YMCA Camp Copneconic in Fenton, MI. Last year, over 70 women from 7 congregations attended. --- The theme for this year's retreat is Community of Hope. The retreat begins Friday evening with a pot-luck Community Café, book and jewelry exchanges, sale of woman-made products, Welcoming Session and a bonfire with storytelling Saturday will be packed with small group gatherings; social justice and heart-healing workshops, good food; fun craft workshops; outdoor activities such as zip lining, archery and high ropes course, and plenty of joyful singing. The retreat wraps up Sunday morning with the closing Community Celebration. **Registration materials are available at: <https://uuaa.org/womuuns-community/>. Women should register and pay by June 30 to receive early bird pricing.**

2025 WomUUn's Retreat Brochure:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YiEt8oLJ-AH69dLyDdAGPAFGuEm95whK4dcuzztJGKU/edit?tab=t.0> **Online registration:**

<https://forms.gle/jkqW6mF5kNUgqiYu5>

2024 Photo book : <https://www.mixbook.com/photo-books/interests/>

[blankcanvas34648109?vk=dFGt1EGeqcWkNvYF9kKd](https://www.mixbook.com/photo-books/interests/blankcanvas34648109?vk=dFGt1EGeqcWkNvYF9kKd)

Questions? Email womuunsretreat@uuaa.org.

Submitted by: Judi Lintott jlintott@comcast.net

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 in person 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. Dan Miyake or a member of the membership committee.



August 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted

- 3 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Peg Beison ~ 11:00 am
- 3 Sunday YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
- 7 Thurs Personal Care Ministry @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 10 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
- 11 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 14 Thurs Ladies Lunch @ Eagles Nest ~ 12:00 am
- 17 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
- 24 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: February Sky ~ 11:00 am
- 24 Sunday CUUPs Pagan Group meets ~ After Social Hour
- 25 Mon The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
- 25 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 31 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: TBA ~ 11:00 am

Sept 8 Board Meeting ~

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Aug 3 ~ Greeter, Alyce O ~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed
 ~ Social Hour Host, Deb H & Team 1
 ~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~ Worship Associate, Tiffany R
 ~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ Nena O & Sue R

Sunday, Aug 10 ~ Greeter, Lori A ~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed
 ~ Social Hour Host, Kathy H & Team 2
 ~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~ Worship Associate, Gordon B
 ~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ Alyce O & Alice P

Sunday, Aug 17 ~ Greeter, Joan B ~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed
 ~ Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team 3
 ~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~ Worship Associate, Elissa A
 ~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ Kathy H & Helper Needed

Sunday, Aug 24 ~ Greeter, Jackie J ~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed
 ~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team 4
 ~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~ Worship Associate, Alice P
 ~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ Donna H & Helper Needed

Sunday, Aug 31 ~ Greeter, Julie F ~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed
 ~ Social Hour Host, Lori A & Team 5
 ~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~ Worship Associate, Wendy S
 ~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ two helpers needed

~~ Celebrating Over 167 Years of Liberal Religion ~~

All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am

Aug 3 - “Contraduction”

- Led by: **Peg Beison**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

You're right! Contraduction is not an official word, but we are going to explore the possibilities of a new word to describe getting reality exactly backwards. Be ready for head-scratching, thinking-outside-the box fun.

Aug 10 - “Spiritual Harvests”

- Led by: **Rev. Dan**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

August is a time for harvesting crops and reaping what was sown. This harvesting is essential for our continued existence – without it, we die. But we also need food for the soul, or that, too, can wither away. What feeds your soul?

Aug 17 - “If the Shoe Fits”

- Led by: **Rev. Dan**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

UUs often struggle with spiritual language – words like holy, sacred, and grace, but can we abandon religious words and still call ourselves a church? Come and explore this question with Rev. Dan.

Aug 24 - “Quite Early Morning”

- Led by: **February Sky**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Aug 31 - “Favorite Things”

- Led by: **TBA**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.



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
-

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 September issue, the information is needed by: Monday, August 25 ~~ 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, Vicki Haynes, Tech Comm., and Worship Comm., for their news items this month.

A Quick Look of What's Inside - Full Info on Page 7

Aug 3- Peg Beison, "Contraduction"
Aug 10- Rev. Dan, "Spiritual Harvests"
Aug 17- Rev. Dan, "If the Shoe Fits"
Aug 24- February Sky, "Quite Early Morning"
Aug 31- TBA, "Favorite Things"

Payment due of \$18.00 for The Bellnote Newsletter paper copy

A Reminder to all, that it's that time of year again folks. There are now 23 members & friends who receive the papers copy of The Bellnote. Plus the two Rev's on our list that receive a copy for free. Four (4) have paid & Two (2) have moved to on-line leaving 15 to hear from soon. The editors can collect the money per person for the year's expenses of printing and postage. Please give the \$'s to Kathy Haynes or mail to her, in a check made out to UUCEL & write paper copy on the memo line. See the Supplement page for her contact info. The money will get marked paid & passed on to the church treasurer. If you want to change over to the on-line version there is no charge, just send a message to uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com **Thank you from the editors Kathy & Vicki Haynes**

Church's Website ~ <http://www.libertyuu.org>
Church's E-Mail Address ~ uuliberty@gmail.com
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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>



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

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UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

