



August 2026

The Bellnote

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

2231 Jefferson Road

Clarklake, MI 49234

Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

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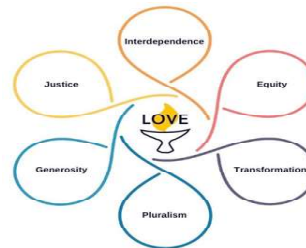


Beloveds,

Last month's *Bellnote* featured comments from a number of us saying what we love about our church.

We defined our love by "what it is" – a family, a community of seekers, a blessing in my life – and also "what it does" – values each person, has a sense of activism and care for community service.

The Principles and Purposes of Unitarian Universalism are the shared values of Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, and Transformation – and love is central.



More specifically, the Rev. Susan Fredereick-Gray emphasizes that love, "the power that holds us together and is the center of our shared values is a form of love that both inspires and requires action."*

Requiring action gives power to our claim of love by challenging us not just to sit by but to make things happen. What injustices touch our lives now? How do we put love into action in our everyday lives?

The current administration's Department of Defense in May 2026 slashed 180 faiths from the military's Recognized Religion List including the UUA, leaving only 31 recognized faiths. Now that we are no longer a governmentally recognized religion, UU service members won't be able to select their religious identity in their personnel records and may find it more difficult to get UU spiritual care.

The first amendment of our constitution forbids government from favoring one religion over another but this appears to be happening anyway. The Church of Latter Day Saints, at first excluded, appealed the decision and was reinstated. The UUA is also in the process of crafting a strategic response. And as for us?

What we can do is to put our love into action by the power of the vote. We can individually or as a church write to elected officials demanding justice. We can make sure we vote and encourage others to vote. The League of Women Voters Jackson area (lwvjackson.org) has much information and hosts postcard writing events to remind others to vote. Another way is to volunteer to be a poll challenger. The Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) is recruiting volunteers to be poll challengers in the August and November elections and provides training. Do it now.

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Notes from the Board

There was not a board meeting in the month of July. This section will have new information after the next month's board meeting on August 12, at 12:30 at the church. **Submitted by: The Editors**

Page One Column Continued

On another note, the current administration continues its policy of directing ICE to arrest, detain, and deport immigrants, a long-running battle that shows no sign of waning. On July 13 ICE shot and killed yet another innocent person. What can we do to protect the immigrants in our community? We have the power of our love behind us to fight for justice denied. As Dr. Cornell West of the Union Theological Seminary famously said "justice is what love looks like in public."

To stand up to ICE and policies that violate our citizens' rights, we can – as individuals - join the Jackson County Immigration Coalition, a local grass roots organization devoted to helping protect our immigrant community. Because the coalition work helps vulnerable people, everyone involved must be pre-approved. The first step is to fill out an application form. Visit the JCIC linktree to access that form:

https://linktr.ee/Jackson_County_For_Immigrants
(The form is the second link from the top). Do it now.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice and justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love." It's time to put our love into action, share our ideas at church, at social hour, with others, make it happen.

As Glen Thomas Rideout from Meadville-Lombard Seminary, notes, "the future isn't waiting. Love demands an answer, now."*

Dr. Ann Green, board president

*quoted in *Love at the Center Unitarian Universalist Theologies*, Sofia Betancourt, editor. 2025

Notes from Religious Ed

Return to school is fast approaching. Religious Education will be resuming soon. Jackie Johnson and Donna Hinton met in July. We will be contacting previous teachers and volunteers soon.

If you are interested in teaching RE once a month, please contact either Jackie or Donna.

We also **would like one or two new members** on the committee. Please let Donna or Jackie know if you are interested

The **new nursery care policy**, since all of our kids are old enough to attend K-5 classes, will be to ask our past nursery volunteers to be available on an as-needed basis, in the case that visitors or new members come on a Sunday and wish to take advantage of nursery care for their preschool-aged children. This means there will no longer be a nursery "schedule" to keep track of. Of course, our hope is that new families will join someday, and if they have preschoolers, we can re-establish our slate of weekly nursery volunteers.

For **Summer Services** in July and August, families are welcome to bring kids to the service, keeping in mind that there are no classes happening in the schoolhouse. You may want to keep track of a given Sunday's theme in the Chimes to see if it's kid-friendly. Reminder that the nursery is only for babies and preschoolers. If you or a visitor with nursery-aged children attends on a Sunday, we can ask our previous nursery volunteers to help (we'll need two adults). Also, a parent is welcome to use the nursery on their own if a child needs a quiet room or a spot to collect themselves. **Submitted by: RE Committee**

Would you like to play your Music

Would you like to?

Would you like to help with R.E.

Offertory
Swimming to the Other Side
by Pat Humphries
Performed by Tom Pepper

Your contact information

Have you moved? Do you have a new phone number - dropped or added a land line? Is your e-mail different than what you wrote on the visitor sign-in forms the church has? If anything has changed, please get your new info to Kathy.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes



Would you like to?

Would you like to be a Worship Associate leader

Would you like to learn to Run the Tech Desk

Would you like to be on a Social Hour team

Would you like to Sing with the Choir

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 13th at SOAR Café and Farms at 401 N. Mechanic Street at 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

Lansing Lugnuts Baseball Outing!

The annual Faith and Family Lansing Lugnuts baseball game will be on August 22. Each congregation in attendance will be highlighted on the scoreboard at some time during the game, and all the ministers will be honored on the field during the pre-game activities. After the game, the fun continues with a fabulous fireworks show! If you are attending, you know who you are; have fun at the game.

Watch on Facebook:

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

Quarterly Donations

The Social Mission Designee for the 1st quarter is Jackson Co. Immigrant Coalition. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Jackson Co. Immigrant Coalition in the memo

Submitted by: The Church Board

Jackson Personal Care Ministry

Jackson Personal Care Ministry JPCM is a cooperative mission of 7 area churches. We offer a weekly pantry of personal care and cleaning products to anyone residing in Jackson County. Our team consists of First Congregational and UUCEL and we volunteer the first Thursday of month, which would be August 6. Please let me know if you can help. JPCM is located at Partnership Place 801 S. Mechanic St. in Jackson. Distribut-ions are 5:00-6:30 pm with volunteers arriving at 4:30. Nena's contact information is on the top of the Supplement Page.

Submitted by: Nena Obits

UU Younger

The UU Younger group (known as YUUMM) has started a recurring meeting 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

~~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!**

Fall Multi-Congregational UU Retreat!

The Bay de Noc UU Fellowship in northern Michigan is excited to host the 3rd annual UU Retreat at the Garden Grove Retreat Center (formerly Marygrove) in Garden, MI. This year, they are inviting the Petoskey, Marquette, Keweenaw, Bay de Noc, and East Liberty congregations to attend.

The retreat begins at 3:00 PM on Friday, October 16, and concludes after lunch on Sunday, October 18, with the majority of programming scheduled for Saturday. Garden Grove is a beautiful 40-acre site on the Garden Peninsula, and they can personally vouch for the great food and the wonderful time they've had in previous years.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Vicki (Volk) McGaffigan of the Bay de Noc UU Fellowship for details at mcgaffiganvicki@gmail.com

The Bellnote Editors can forward You an e-mail, send inquiries to uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com for information on "How to book a room and meals for the Retreat". Thank you! **Submitted by: Vicki McGaffigan**

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

Social Hour Team Schedule

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 buyer, 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

Reminder of First Sunday Information for Social Hour Host

Those on the team that is on 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 directions YOU need to KNOW.

Thank you From the Board



August 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted

2 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Ann Green ~ 11:00 am
2 Sunday	YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
6 Thurs	Personal Care Ministry @ Partnership Place, 801 S. Mechanic ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
9 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 10:30 am
10 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
12 Wed	Board Meeting ~ 12:30
13 Thurs	Ladies Lunch @ SOAR Café ~ 12:00 pm/noon
16 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
22 Sat	Lansing Lugnuts Baseball Game
23 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Cory Page ~ 11:00 am
24 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
24 Mon	The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
30 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Gretchen Marshall ~ 11:00 am

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Aug 2~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Lori A & Team 5

~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Bert S

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helpers as Needed

Sunday, Aug 9 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Liz W & Team 6

~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Jim B

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

Sunday, Aug 16 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Alyce O & Team 7

~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G or Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Lori A

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

Sunday, Aug 23 ~~ Greeter, Julie F ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Deb H & Team 1

~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Nathan C

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

Sunday, Aug 30 ~~ Greeter, Laura B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Kathy H & Team 2

~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Elissa A

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

~~ Celebrating 170 Years of Liberal Religion ~~

All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am

Aug 2 “Favorite Things”

-Led by: Ann Green

This is the service we will share our Favorite Things. Please bring your favorite thing with you or a picture of it to share. Please let Ann know that you want to share.



Aug 9 “Matthew 22”

-Led by: Rev. Dan

Aug 16 “Immigration”

-Led by: Rev. Dan

Aug 23 “Expectations and Resentments”

- Led by: Cory Page

Aug 30 “Sharing the Bounty”

- Led by: Gretchen Marshall

This is the service in which we share our bounty from the garden whether it is crops or flowers. We are seeking participants who will also share what gardening means to them in all ways. Please bring items that you are growing to share. Also, share stories of your feelings and stories regarding Bounty. Contact Gretchen Marshall if you would say a few words about your experiences with the art and work of gardening.

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

A Reminder to all, that it's that time of year again folks. There are now 22 members and friends who receive the paper copy of The Bellnote. We have only 5 who have paid so far. There are also 2 Rev's on our list that receive a copy for free. The editors can collect the \$18.00 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 and write paper copy on the memo line. See the Supplement page for her contact info. The money will get marked paid and 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 and Vicki Haynes

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 a few 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 2026 issue, the information is needed by: Monday, Aug 24 ~~ 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, Jackie Johnson, Gretchen Marshall, Darrin Palmer, Deb Hartsuff, Nena Obits, Scott Reese, Vicki Haynes, Tech Comm., and Worship Comm., for their news items this month.

A Quick Look at the Sunday Topics - Full Information on Page 7

Aug 2 - Favorite Things - Led by: Ann Green

Aug 9 - Matthew 22 - Led by: Rev. Dan

Aug 16 - Immigration - Led by: Rev. Dan

Aug 23 - Expectations and Resentments - Led by: Cory Page

Aug 30 - Sharing the Bounty - Led by: Gretchen Marshall



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>

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CLARKLAKE, MI 49234

2231 JEFFERSON ROAD

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

