



~ August 2026 ~ The Bellnote Mini-News

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

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.

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Sunday Services

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

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Calendar

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	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

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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.

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](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

Sunday Services Continued...

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.

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