



~ December 2025 ~

# 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

### Choosing Hope

As we enter December—the month of long nights, soft lights, and ancient stories of miracles—it’s tempting to think of hope as something that simply arrives on its own. A feeling. A mood. A passing moment of uplift that comes and goes like winter sunshine.

But real hope—the kind that changes us, anchors us, and keeps us moving—is not passive. It is something we choose.

Choosing hope does not mean ignoring the griefs and injustices of the world. It doesn’t require optimism or cheerfulness. It certainly doesn’t mean pretending everything is fine when it clearly isn’t.

Choosing hope means deciding to believe that what we do still matters.

It means taking the next faithful step even when the path ahead is unclear.

It means lighting one candle against the darkness—not because it banishes the night, but because it reminds us that the dark does not have the final word.

Hope is a discipline.

It’s a practice.

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## Sunday Services

### Dec 7 - “Guest Minister”

- Led by: **Cory Page & Rev. Baker**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook. Today is a Guest Methodist Minister Rev. Melanie Baker with Cory Page coordinating

### Dec 14 - “Journey to Faith”

- Led by: **Nate Close and Joe Pryor**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook. We will be hearing the Journey to Faith from Nate and Joe

### Dec 21 - “Christmas Pageant!”

- Led by: **Rev. Dan**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook. Come join the fun as we present our annual Christmas Pageant! Always a hit with both humor and deeper meaning, this service helps us to remember “the reason for the season”.

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## Calendar

- 1 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 4 Thurs Personal Care Ministry @ St. John’s Church, 801 S. Mechanic St ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 7 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Guest Methodist Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 7 Sunday YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
- 8 Mon Board Meeting ~ 10:00 am
- 11 Thurs Ladies Lunch @ The Roadhouse Grill & Bar, 4112 Lansing Ave. ~ 12:00 am
- 14 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Nate Close and Joe Pryor ~ 11:00 am
- 15 Mon The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due a week early due to the Holidays
- 15 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 21 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
- 24 Wed Christmas Eve Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 6:00pm
- 28 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Alice Palmer ~ 11:00 am
- 29 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes

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## Rev. Dan's Column Continued....

It's a muscle we build together in community.

Every time we show up for one another, we choose hope.

Every time we speak a kind word in a harsh season, we choose hope.

Every time we keep learning, keep resisting, keep caring, keep loving—especially when it's difficult — we choose hope.

This month invites us to ask:

What does it look like for me to choose hope, on purpose, right now?

Maybe it looks like reaching out to someone who's struggling.

Maybe it looks like giving yourself permission to rest and heal.

Maybe it looks like refusing to let cynicism, fear, or cruelty have the last word.

Whatever shape your hope takes this season, know this:

You don't have to choose it alone.

We are learning this practice side by side, strengthening one another's courage as we go.

May this December find us not waiting for hope, but creating it—together.

With Love Abundant,

**REV. DAN MIYAKE**

## Sunday Services Continued...

### Dec 24 - "Christmas Eve Service"

- Led by: Rev. Dan 6:00 pm starting time with Rev. Dan at UUCEL, Zooming in with UUFE

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Our Christmas Eve service will be a joint intergenerational service with Rev. Dan in the pulpit at UUCEL, and the Elkhart congregation will be joining via Zoom. Come and enjoy familiar carols and a special story for this season of Hope!

### Dec 28 - "Topic To Be Determined"

- Led by: Alice Palmer

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

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