



June , 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

Rev. Dan Miyake
UUDJM@YAHOO.COM

Staff

Pianist: Anita Fobes
ANITAFOBES@GMAIL.COM

Board of Directors

President: Ann Green
GREENANNM@JCCMI.EDU

Vice President: Lynn Hightower
LYNNMHIGHTOWER@GMAIL.COM

Secretary: Nancy Smith
HEYNANCY2015@GMAIL.COM

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SSPEDERSEN@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Trustee: Alyce Oosting
OOSTING115@COMCAST.NET

Trustee: Patty Brue
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Caring Committee

Deb Hartsuff

Building & Grounds

Alyce Oosting OOSTING115@COMCAST.NET
Vic Marshall VBMARSHALL@GMAIL.COM

Committee on Ministry

Tom Pepper PEPPET49@COMCAST.NET
Gratia Karmes GKARMES82@GMAIL.COM
Nathan Close NATHAN.C.5444@GMAIL.COM
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Board/Elected & Nominating Comm

Steve Kish S.KISH1487@GMAIL.COM
Tom Pepper PEPPET49@COMCAST.NET
Debbie Hartsuff



Message from the Minister

Dear UUCEL,

Summer is upon us — that sacred stretch of longer days, blooming gardens, and the sound of children chasing fireflies into the twilight. For many of us, June marks a natural turning point: the program year winds down, the calendar opens up just a little, and something in our body's exhales. We lean, at last, into rest.

But let's be honest: rest isn't always easy. We live in a culture that treats exhaustion as a badge of honor and productivity as the measure of worth. Even our vacations can become packed agendas, and quiet time can feel like something to earn. The truth is, it takes practice — spiritual practice — to truly rest.

This summer, I invite you to reclaim rest as a sacred act. Turn off the news for an afternoon. Say no to something out of love for yourself. Take a nap and bless it as holy. Let the sun warm your shoulders, not because you've "deserved" a break, but because your body, your spirit, your soul — all of you — deserve to be well.

Rest is not retreat. It is preparation. It is restoration. In nature, rest is what allows growth. Dormant seasons lead to blooming ones. So too with us.

As your minister, I'll be taking sometime this summer to rest and recharge as well — to read, to go fishing and boating, to spend time with those I love. I do this not to "step away" from you, but to ensure I can keep stepping toward you with presence and energy and heart.

May this season be one of renewal for you — body, mind, and spirit. And may we return to each other in the fall with fresh energy, deep roots, and the joy that comes from knowing we are held in community, even in the quiet seasons.

With love and summer blessings,

Rev. Dan Miyake

**Annual Meeting
after the Service
12:15pm on June 1st
Please plan to attend
this important church meeting**

Notes from the Board

The board met May 19, 2025 at the church. The April Treasurer's report showed that a sizeable amount of income from the auction will appear in the May report. Pledges are somewhat behind but reminders have gone out to people. The annual budget was approved in preparation for inclusion in the Annual Meeting packet. Rev. Dan reported that his weekly sermon schedule for next year will be sent out soon and that the Soul Matters group has been very fulfilling and there's energy to continue it.

The Strategic Plan review included spring clean-up plans starting at 9:00 am May 31st. The small shed by the schoolhouse is fragile but before a decision whether to demolish is made, we will check with church elders for their opinion. The possibility of a social media director, while much needed, is on hold until the Ann Arbor church with whom we might share the position, moves forward.

Of the three board positions coming open, Nancy Smith will serve another year, Laurie Campbell has agreed to take over the treasurer position from Sharon Pedersen, and another member is considering taking the place of Lynn Hightower. The board chose two people to serve on the Committee on Ministry, Lynn Hightower being one. The long slow effort to finalize the land acquisition may be in its final stages of approval.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that the lift has been inspected and is good for two years. Nancy reported that the RE Committee seeks leadership for the coming fiscal year. The Annual Meeting agenda was reviewed and revised. Delegates to the General Assembly are Rev. Dan and Ann Green. One more position is open. The next meeting is Monday, June 16th at 5:30pm at the church.

Ann

**Submitted by: Ann Green
Board President**

Watch on Facebook:

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

Notes from Religious Education

Call for Volunteer(s)

UUCEL proudly offers 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 need two adults per Sunday. We have an opening, with one more person needed for the 3rd Sunday to accompany Kathy Haynes. Please consider signing up for this fun and easy role to support UUCEL. (Keep in mind, sometimes no kids attend, so you can stay in church. And if a conflict arises where you can't make it on your day, it's easy to switch with one of the other volunteers.)

Submitted by Nancy Smith, RE Committee

Rev. Dan's June and July Availability

Rev. Dan will have limited availability in June and July. His schedule is below.

June 1: Preaching at UUCEL

June 2 – 8: In-person in Elkhart

June 9 – 13: Working at UUCEL, normal availability

June 15 – 22: Attending Ministry Days and GA in Baltimore, MD

June 23 – 27: Study Leave*

June 28 – Off

June 29-30: Working at UUCEL, normal availability

July 1-31: Vacation*

*Note that Rev. Dan will only be available for emergencies during Study Leave and his vacation. If an emergency arises, please indicate so in the email subject, text, or phone call. All other communications will be responded to after he returns on August 1st. Communication will also be limited to important issues during GA.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan

Spotlight on New Members

Please welcome our newest
members who joined our
church on May 4,
Peter and Megan Blackshear
Bob and Bert Sexton
Parker Brue
With Great Rejoicing!

Parker Brue

I work at MSU doing Information Technology for the Department of Physics and Astronomy. I've been there since undergrad, about 11 years. In regard to enriching activities, I love to read just about anything, but literary fiction and world lit in translation are my favorites. I also enjoy time with my dogs and in nature, gaming, model kits. I went to this church growing up and I'm so happy to finally be an official member as an adult. Seeing such a strong youth presence deeply inspired my decision.

Submitted by: Ann Green



New Members at the Joining Service

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.



**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

Sunday, June 8 – Flower Communion

Our annual Flower Communion service will be on June 8. Please remember to bring a flower to share during this special service. And since this is a joint service with the Elkhart congregation, we will start at 10:30 instead of 11:00. Also, we will not be streaming on Facebook. Instead, online viewers will be able to view the service on Zoom. Rev. Dan will be leading the service from Elkhart.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan

Quarterly Donations

The Social Mission Designee for the 4th quarter is Planned Parenthood. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Planned Parenthood in the memo. Your dollars go a long way toward providing healthcare for women.

Submitted by: Gretchen Marshall

Pledge Drive Update

The pledge drive winds to an end with almost \$104,000 pledged due to the generosity of our members and friends. Gratitude for your gifts to our church and to those who gave testimonials, helped design the brochure, addressed envelopes, signed letters, talked with others about pledging, kept records, and expressed support.

Submitted by: Sharon and Ann

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

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. **Conversation and Meditation** meetings will be postponed due to current scheduling conflicts. When the schedule eases up, we hope to try it again. Thank you all for your interest. **Submitted by: Lori Athey, Elaine Wolf-Baker and Ann Green**

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

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 June 5th. 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**

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday June 12 at Hunt Club at 12:00 /noon; please contact Alyce Oosting if you are coming for this lunch as Joan will not be able to be there.

Submitted by: Joan Bernstein

Social Hour Team Schedule

The second half of the year listing has been posted on the Kitchen's corkboard also it's on the bottom of page 6. 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

Race and Class: Intersections and Differences

A Convocation of the Unitarian Universalist
Multiracial Unity Action Council

Saturday, June 7, 2025, 11 am - 1:00 pm
Central time (Starts at Noon Eastern,
10:00 am Mountain, 9:00 am Pacific)

3 Authors are the Featured Speakers

Prof. Toure' F. Reed - author of *The Case Against Race Reductionism* and other books.

Assoc. Prof. Olufemi O. Taiwo - author of *Elite Capture: How The Powerful Took Over Identity Politics* and other books

and Rev. Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove - co-author, with Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, of *The Third Reconstruction* and *White Poverty*, along with authoring several books on his own.

To register, individuals should send an email expressing interest to uumuac@gmail.com

~~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!**

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

Once Upon A Time Our Historical Photos



~~ Celebrating Over 167 Years of Liberal Religion ~~
All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am



June 1 - "Pride Month"

- Led by: **Rev. Dan Miyake**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Given the current attack on the rights of LGBTQ+ people, Rev. Dan will offer some personal insights on the issue.

June 8 - "Flower Communion" ~10:30 am

- Led by: **Rev. Dan Miyake**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Come join us for this joint intergenerational service that celebrates our diversity and uniqueness while also highlighting our relationships with each other. Please remember to bring a flower to share! The service will begin at 10:30, and will be available on Zoom instead of Facebook. Look for the Zoom link in a future Wednesday Chimes.

June 15 - "Father's Day"

- Led by: **Darrin Palmer**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

June 22 - "Urban Renewal"

- Led by: **Guest Speaker John Willis**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

June 29 - "Poetry Sunday"

- Led by: **Ann Green**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Social Hour Teams for July – December, 2025 -- Nena's #3 was last week in June & continuing...

4 - Nancy Smith & Rob Gaecke ~ Kerry H., Paul J., Donna H., Doug G. **7-6 ~ 8-24 ~ 10-12 ~ 11-30**

5 - Lori Athey ~ Elissa A., Julie F., Tom P. ~ **7-13 ~ 8-31 ~ 10-19 ~ 12-7**

6 - Liz Webb ~ Joan B., Peg B., Tomm T., Elaine W-B. ~ **7-20 ~ 9-7 ~ 10-26 ~ 12-14**

7 - Alyce Oosting ~ Lynn Mc., Bert S., Darrin P., Tiffany & Scott R. ~ **7-27 ~ 9-14 ~ 11-2 ~ 12-21**

1 - Deb Hartsuff ~ Jackie E., Steve K., Wendy S., Laurie C., Norah J. ~ **8-3 ~ 9-21 ~ 11-9 ~ 12-24**

2 - Kathy Haynes ~ Sue R., Chris B., Sharon P., Vicki H., Tina B., ~ **8-10 ~ 9-28 ~ 11-16 ~ 12-28**

3 - Nena Obits ~ Vic & Gretchen M., Sharon M., Cecily S., Maria C. ~ **8-17 ~ 10-5 ~ 11-23 ~ 1-4/26**

June 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted



- 1 Sunday ~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake ~ 11:00 am
- 1 Sunday Annual Meeting ~ After the Service
- 1 Sunday YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
- 2 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 5 Thurs Personal Care Ministry @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 8 Sunday ~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake ~ **10:30 am**
- 12 Thurs Ladies Lunch @ Hunt Club ~ 12:00 am
- 15 Sunday ~ Service ~ Led by: Darrin Palmer ~ 11:00 am
- 16 Mon Church & School House Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 16 Mon Board Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
- 22 Sunday ~ Service ~ Led by: John Willis ~ 11:00 am
- 22 Sunday CUUPs Pagan Group meets ~ After Social Hour
- 23 Mon The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
- 29 Sunday ~ Service ~ Led by: Ann Green ~ 11:00 am
- 30 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, June 1 ~ Greeter, Alyce O ~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~ Social Hour Host, Liz W & Team 6
~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~ Worship Associate, Tiffany R
~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ Nena O & Sue R

Sunday, June 8 ~ Greeter, Lori A ~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~ Social Hour Host, Alyce O & Team 7
~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~ Worship Associate, Tomm T
~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ Alyce O & Alice P

Sunday, June 15 ~ Greeter, Joan B ~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~ Social Hour Host, Debbie H & Team 1
~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~ Worship Associate, Alice P
~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ Kathy H & Helper Needed

Sunday, June 22 ~ Greeter, Jackie J ~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~ Social Hour Host, Kathy H & Team 2
~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~ Worship Associate, Alice P
~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ Sharon P. & Donna H

Sunday, June 29 ~ Greeter, Julie F ~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~ Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team 3
~ Technology Streaming, Ann G ~ Worship Associate, Laurie C
~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~ Nursery w/ two helpers needed

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



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>

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 July issue, the information is needed by: Monday, June 23 ~ 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, Sharon Pedersen, Vicki Haynes, Tech Comm., and Worship Comm., for their news items this month.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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 2231 JEFFERSON ROAD



UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY