



June 2026

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

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Message from the Minister

Dear UUCEL Members and Friends,

June's theme is "Flourishing Together," and I've been thinking lately about how difficult flourishing becomes when life turns into constant exhaustion.

Many of us, myself included, spend our days moving from responsibility to responsibility, carrying jobs, caregiving, volunteer commitments, appointments, worries, and endless to-do lists. Even the things we care deeply about can slowly become overwhelming when there is never enough time to rest and recover. Over time, exhaustion can begin to feel normal. We tell ourselves we are simply doing what needs to be done. We push through one more task, one more meeting, one more obligation.

Church life can sometimes reflect this same pattern of over-doing things to the point of burnout. In many congregations, a relatively small number of people quietly carry a great deal of the work. They serve because they care deeply about the community and want it to thrive. But even meaningful work can become unsustainable when too much responsibility rests on too few shoulders for too long.

Healthy gardens do not flourish when the soil is endlessly depleted. Farmers understand the importance of allowing fields time to rest and renew so that growth remains possible. Human beings are not so different.

Rest is not laziness. Renewal is not selfishness. Flourishing requires space to breathe, to reconnect with joy, and to remember that our worth is not measured only by how much we produce or how many responsibilities we can carry at once.

With that said, I wanted to let you know that I will be taking the month of July off so that I can rest, re-charge, and flourish. I won't be responding to emails, texts, or phone calls during this time, with the exception of there being a true emergency situation. What is an emergency? A death, a serious illness, mental health crisis, or injury, a major issue with the building (fire, flood, etc..., or other similar things). So, if a true emergency happens, please indicate that in the subject line of your email or at the beginning of your voicemail, and I will respond accordingly. I will return on August 1st. I hope that all of you are able to take some time this summer as well so you can care for your own spirit so that you can feel refreshed and energized for a new church year in August.

As far as the concept of flourishing together as a congregation goes, it means sharing responsibility for the health of our church more fully. A healthy community depends not only on financial generosity, but also on participation – by everyone. Though we have a great many volunteers that help us in ways large and small, many of our leaders wear way too

Continued on Page 3....

Notes from the Board

May Board Meeting- On May 18 the board held our regular meeting. After reading the board covenant and approving the April minutes (which are posted on the social hall wall by the kitchen), Treasurer Laurie Campbell reported that our pledge income is on track and income vs. expenditures are on target. In the Minister's Report Rev. Dan gave an overview of pastoral care and memorial services, meeting about leadership development, pledge drive wrap-up, and mention of the Lugnuts baseball game.

Review of the Strategic Plan yielded additions of Nancy Smith to post UUCEL updates on Facebook to increase our visibility and identifying the Jackson County Immigrant Coalition as an organization to work with to address community needs.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds. The church clean-up took place; purchase of a generator was discussed; social hall windowpanes are to be installed; carpet ramp was cleaned; Christoff's Floor Covering will evaluate the stairs to the social hall; Gene Kopf will speak to the board about church safety; people trained in first aid need to be recertified.

Religious Education. RE classes end in May and begin again in September; help is needed with volunteer recruitment, volunteer background checks, and building a teaching schedule.

Technology. The possibility of real-time closed captioning was researched and found to be overly expensive.

Social Justice. There is the hope to revive this committee as part of the initiative to support the Jackson County Immigrant Coalition.

Membership. Rev. Dan offered a new member session; interest was limited at this time.

Caring. Numerous cards for birthday, anniversary and sympathy were sent in a timely manner.

Rev. Dan brought up the possibility of UUA's Common Read activity for our church (*Love at the Center: Unitarian-Universalist Theologies*) and will introduce the idea to the congregation in the fall. The board met in executive session to confirm next year's budget. The next meeting will take place Monday, June 15, 2026 at (TBD).

Ann

**Submitted by: Ann Green
Board President**

Notes from Religious Ed

Help Needed! The Religious Education Committee has only one member. We're asking for one or two more people willing to keep this very important part of our church alive and functioning. UUCEL currently provides regular classes in the schoolhouse for six children. The RE Committee's jobs are to recruit teachers, collect paperwork for state background checks (once-a-year), build a schedule, and brainstorm fun special events throughout the year for our kids and their families. Please contact Nancy S., Donna H., or Rev. Dan if you can help!

Since all of our current UUCEL kids are old enough to attend K-5 classes in the schoolhouse, our **new nursery care policy** 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 members will join someday, and if they have preschoolers, we will potentially re-establish our slate of weekly nursery volunteers.

If you are still willing to help in this more limited capacity, we will sign you up for another year and send in the paperwork, as usual, for background check clearance with DHHS.

Submitted by: RE Committee

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

**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.**



Important Announcement from the Board —

Remember that our annual congregational meeting will be immediately following the service on **Sunday, June 14th**.

We encourage you to attend to hear reports of church business, vote on next year's budget, new trustees, and next year's special giving recipients.

We are required to have a quorum at the meeting - we'll need at least 23 members present.

If you would like to see the agenda and documents in advance of the meeting, there will be paper copies available one week in advance. Please reach out if you'd rather receive a digital copy. If you plan to attend the meeting virtually, please let a Board member know and we will send you a Zoom link and digital version of documents.



We
Sing!

Lansing Lugnuts Baseball Outing!

The annual Faith and Family Lansing Lugnuts baseball game is on August 22. In past years, we've had 20+ people attend. In addition to enjoying a good baseball game, 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 would like to attend, we need to know ASAP so we can reserve our tickets. Tickets are \$16 for excellent seats behind home plate, and we all sit together as a group. Also, food vouchers are available for \$10 that include a hot dog or hamburger, chips, and a drink. The food voucher needs to be purchased at the same time as the tickets. The deadline is fast approaching. Please contact Rev. Dan via email with how many tickets/food vouchers you would like.

Rev. Dan's Column Continued

many hats here - almost to the point of burnout. As we move through this month together, perhaps this is an opportunity for all of us to reflect gently on balance. Where might we be invited to participate more fully in the shared work of this community? If that sounds like it is a call for help, it's because it is. Sometimes new energy and new leadership only emerge when others step forward and discover they, too, have something meaningful to offer, because like any good garden, it happens best when many hands help tend the soil.

With love abundant,

Rev. Dan

Meetings and Events for UUCEL

Announcement from Rev. Dan

Flower Communion

Our annual Flower Communion is June 14. It is a joint service with Elkhart, which means it starts at 10:30, not 11:00. Rev. Dan will be here in person and Elkhart will Zoom in. Please bring at least one flower to the service for our special ritual.

Rev. Dan's Vacation

Rev. Dan will be on vacation during the month of July. He will return to the office on August 1. He will respond to email and other messages upon his return. In the event of an emergency (death, serious illness, mental health crisis, or other emergency issue), please note it in the subject line of emails or at the beginning of voicemails, and Rev. Dan will respond accordingly.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan

Quarterly Donations

The Social Mission Designee for the 4th quarter is Partial to Girls/Women Taking Action. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Partial to Girls/Women Taking Action in the memo.

**Submitted by: Gretchen Marshall
& Ann Green**

Social Hour Team Hosts

The teams for the rest of year have been updated and a copy is in the kitchen. Below are the first 4 weeks

Team 1 Deb H - July 5

Team 2 Kathy H - July 12

Team 3 Nena O - July 19

Team 4 Nancy S - July 26

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday June 11 at the Deck Down Under 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

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

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

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 April 2 and because April 2 is Maundy Thursday the Personal Care will be closed that evening. May 7 is the next time. Please let me know if you can help. JPCM is located at Partnership Place 801 S. Mechanic St. in Jackson. Distributions 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

~~Visitor Tips for Everyone~~

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

LOST & FOUND

The box is in the window ledge; is anything yours?
Kid's sleeping face mask 'Blue' Stitch' - Light Gray Sweater/Jacket - Dark Blue Shawl - Tan Scarf - White Cap/Hat w/ Intermobile Racing & Norman - Oversized Dark Sunglasses

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

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!**

UUMUAC now has Podcasts

UUMUAC, the Unitarian Universalist Multi-racial Unity Council, is now offering a growing library of podcasts that features sermons from our 40-plus monthly Vespers services, along with newly digitized recordings by founding member the late Finley Campbell. These short, accessible episodes make a welcoming experience for people who want to listen to them while driving, walking, crafting, or simply taking a quiet moment. Our Vespers services are already on YouTube and new podcast episodes are being added regularly to our feed on <https://rss.com/podcasts/uumuac-you-me-act>. These thoughtful and inspiring audio recordings are perfect for people who support liberal religion and multiracial unity, but don't have time for a full-length service. To help others discover this new resource, please share, rate, and comment. If you have additional feedback, or want to help with the conversion process, contact Bjeanwalsh@outlook.com. For more information about UUMUAC, visit our website UUMUAC.org.



June 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted

4 Thurs	Personal Care Ministry @ Partnership Place, 801 S. Mechanic ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
7 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Darrin Palmer ~ 11:00 am
7 Sunday	YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
11 Thurs	Ladies Lunch @ Deck Down Under ~ 12:00 pm/noon
14 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake ~ 10:30 am
14 Sunday	Annual Congregational Meeting will be immediately following the service
15 Mon	Board Meeting at (TBD)
15 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
21 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Darrin Palmer ~ 11:00 am
22 Mon	The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
28 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Cory Page ~ 11:00 am
29 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, June 7~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S
~~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team 4
~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Liz W
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helpers as Needed

Sunday, June 14 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S
~~ Social Hour Host, Lori A & Team 5
~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Elissa A
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

Sunday, June 21 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S
~~ Social Hour Host, Liz W & Team 6
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Not Needed
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

Sunday, June 28 ~~ Greeter, Jackie J ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S
~~ Social Hour Host, Alyce O & Team 7
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Elissa A
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

~~ Celebrating Over 170 Years of Liberal Religion ~~
All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am

June 7 - "We've Always Been Here"

- Led by: Darrin Palmer

In person or live on Facebook.

We will explore the rich history of trans and nonbinary religious figures, and the benefits of embracing the trans community in our spiritual practices.

June 14 - "Flower Communion" JOINT at UUCEL w/ Elkhart Zooming 10:30 Start Time

- Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake

In person or live on Facebook.

June 21 - "GA Sunday"

- Coordinated by Darrin Palmer

In person or live on Facebook.

We will be tuning into the General Assembly livestream presented by the UUA.

June 28 - "Ruth Ellis Center"

- Coordinated by: Cory Page

In person or live on Facebook.

Elysia Khalil, will speak about the Ruth Ellis Center's involvement with LGBTQ+ youth in and around Detroit.



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 July 2026 issue, the information is needed by: Monday, June 22 ~~ 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, 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

June 7 - "We've Always Been Here" - Led by: Darrin Palmer

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June 21 - "GA Sunday" - Coordinated by Darrin Palmer

June 28 - "Ruth Ellis Center" - Coordinated by: Cory Page



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

CLARLAKE, MI 49234

2231 JEFFERSON ROAD

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

