



~ June 2026 ~

# 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

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.

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## Sunday Services

### 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.

Continued on next page...

## Calendar

- 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

MINISTER ~ DAN MIYAKE ~ UUDJM@YAHOO.COM  
BOARD PRESIDENT ~ ANN GREEN ~ GREENANNM@JCCMI.EDU

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

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 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.

**REV. DAN**

## Sunday Services Continued...

**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.

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<http://www.libertyuun.org/category/newsletter/>

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Where People Care About Each Other And Care About The World

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