



March, 2025

The Bellnote

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY
2231 Jefferson Road
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 553-4311 - New Church Number
Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

Rev. Dan's Schedule

~ Please see page 5 as it will vary month to month (no info this month)

Minister Rev. Dan Miyake
UUDJM@YAHOO.COM

Staff

Pianist: Anita Fobes
AFOBES@JUILLIARDALUMNI.NET

Board of Directors

President: Ann Green
GREENANNM@JCCMI.EDU
Vice President: Lynn Hightower
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Trustee: Alyce Oosting
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Caring Committee

Deb Hartsuff

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Marge Duane MJDUANE@ATT.NET
Tom Pepper P EPPET49@COMCAST.NET
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Steve Kish S.KISH1487@GMAIL.COM
Tom Pepper P EPPET49@COMCAST.NET
Debbie Hartsuff



Message from the Minister

I know I've said this before, but these are anxious times. The air crackles with uncertainty, the headlines churn our stomachs, and democracy itself feels as though it is teetering on the edge. Many of us wake up each morning to check the news with a mixture of dread and determination, wondering: What now? And some of us simply choose to not engage with the news at all out of a need for self-preservation.

The threats to democracy we see unfolding—from attacks on voting rights to the erosion of trust in our institutions—are not abstract. They are real, urgent, and deeply personal. Many in our congregation feel the weight of these times in their bones. We worry for our families, our freedoms, and the values we hold dear. The fear is not unwarranted, nor is the anger. But as people of faith, we know that fear and anger alone cannot sustain us.

So what do we do? We remain steadfast. Steadfast in love. Steadfast in hope. Steadfast in action.

Love is not passive. It is not a soft whisper that fades in the wind. Love is fierce. Love is the voice that speaks up when others are silenced. Love is the hand that steadies another in a storm. Love is the act of showing up—again and again—even when it feels like the tide is against us.

Hope is not naïve. It is not a fragile thing that crumbles at the first sign of trouble. Hope is resilient. It is the fire that keeps burning, even when the night feels endless. Hope reminds us that history bends, but only when we press our weight upon it.

And action—action is where love and hope meet. Our faith calls us to act. To organize, to vote, to protect the most vulnerable, to refuse despair. Democracy is not a spectator sport, and neither is Unitarian Universalism. We are called to engage, to resist, to repair.

I know many of you are exhausted. I know the uncertainty is daunting. But we are not alone. We have each other. We have this community. And we have a faith that does not surrender to fear, but instead turns steadfastly toward justice.

So let us hold each other close. Let us root ourselves in love and hope. And let us rise—again and again—to meet this moment with courage. We are small in number, and it might feel like we're too small to make a difference, but we cannot afford to be apathetic and inactive. Make a commitment. Today. Commit to do something to help reign in these attacks on our democracy and our freedoms, be it contacting congressional reps, writing letters, attending protests, or otherwise expressing and living out our values. If we don't, who will?

With Abundant Love,

Rev. Dan Miyake

Notes from the Board

The board began the February 10th meeting with reading our covenant. The treasurer's report showed expenses higher than expected due to repairs and upgrades to buildings and grounds but they will moderate in the second half of our fiscal year. We have paid our 2025 UUA dues which enables us to apply for Chalice Grants. The transfer of the property the large shed sits on has encountered another challenge but the board is following up. The historical sign which you may have noticed is missing will be returned refurbished in 4-6 months. The board is prepared to present a service February 23 on the work of church committees with invitations to participate.

The Strategic Plan was reviewed with progress in areas of the church's structural integrity and a renewed commitment to addressing involvement in the church, community, and larger UUA. The board seeks assistance in the transition of the Treasurer's work as Sharon hopes to relocate to Troy eventually. The Pledge Drive theme, "An Invitation to Love," will focus on what we love about our church and that pledging is an expression of our love. We began to build the budget for our upcoming fiscal year starting July 1 with committees reporting their financial requests. All our initiatives are on target. Of note was the need for an additional volunteer for the nursery on Sunday mornings. The next meeting will be March 10th at 9am at the church. All are welcome.

Ann

**Submitted by: Ann Green
Board President**

Watch on Facebook:

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

Notes from Religious Education

Call for Volunteer(s)

Our little church is proud to offer 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. We need two adults per Sunday. Currently, there's 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

Social Hour Team Schedule

The 2025 listing is posted on the Kitchen's corkboard along with a few extra copies.

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 Haynes & 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

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

Spotlight on New Members

Elaine Wolf-Baker

by: **Ann Green**

My mom's family, the Moores, were Irish descendants via Nova Scotia. They settled a farm in the Battle Creek area in the early 1800s. Their farmhouse, where my mom grew up, is still standing, has tunnels and hidden rooms used during the times of the Underground Railroad, to help people fleeing slavery.

My Dads family descended from Germany, and settled in the Waterloo, Chelsea and Grass Lake area. One of my cousins Maritta Wolff, wrote the book "Whistlestop" which became a hit in 1941 and was made into a movie starring Ava Gardner. The Coe House Museum in Grass Lake was my great aunt, Murdie Coe's home.

I am widowed and have an adult son and am quite close to my adult niece and nephew who came to live with us in CA, at 9 & 11, after their parents' death.

I graduated from Jackson High, MSU and later from UCSC. I worked as a designer & ceramic engineer in CA. I designed large sculptural fountains & tile installations for museums, civic centers, hotels. My last job in CA was with a nonprofit to set up handicraft co-ops in developing countries, and help struggling villagers profit from selling their handicrafts in the US. I absolutely loved my work; but also loved coming back to the US and to my peaceful home on the ocean.

Then my life took a U turn. I had several sudden deaths in my immediate family in a very short time. After my husband died of cancer in CA, I had to sell our beach house. Shortly after, my mom, here in Jackson, was diagnosed with ALS and needed help. So I moved back after 35 yrs in CA.

I would like to find a few people who are open to connecting on a deeper, more spiritual level through regular conversation, meditations, mindfulness, and other spiritual group practice.

I volunteered with the Mi Sierra Club on environmental issues and served as the Jackson County Chair from 2017 to 2023.

My hobbies are exploring new places / nature hikes / going to museums, galleries to find artwork I admire, and can learn from- to inform my own painting / buying fine arts and antiques to resell in my shop / trying out tasty, healthy vegetarian recipes / painting / gardening.



Behind the Scenes

Each year at this time the board starts planning the pledge drive. From the amount we pledge the board creates the budget which in turn determines what we can do (and not do!) in the coming church fiscal year, starting in July. The budget also becomes the annual Strategic Plan that keeps our goals in sight and records our progress.

This year, because the UUA adopted a new logo with LOVE at the center of our values, we decided to use "Invitation to Love" as our theme and to ask congregants to reflect on what we love about this church and how we can show that love. So thanks to the people stepping up to help with this initiative. Join the conversation! See Sharon Pedersen or Ann Green.

Submitted by: Ann Green



Singer, songwriter Jim Scott led the February 2nd service on "Gaia, Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything"

Meetings and Events for UUCEL

Talent Show

Attention fun loving UU folk! It's time to start thinking of what you might like to do in our upcoming coming talent show at the church!! Music, skits, silly and sublime are all welcome!! We are looking at Friday night, March 14 at 7:00 pm. See Elissa Alden for more information and/or to secure your spot! Many details coming but for now get you CREATIVE juices churning!

Submitted by: Elissa Alden

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday March 13 at 12:00/noon at One North Kitchen and Bar, 2115 Bondsteel Dr. 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

CUUPs Meeting

The CUUPs pagan group will meet on the 4th Sunday, March 30 after Social Hour. Anyone wishing to learn more about various pagan and earth-centered traditions is welcome to attend.

Submitted by: Lori Athey

Quarterly Donations

The Social Mission Designee for the 3rd 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

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

Pledge Drive

The board is planning the pledge drive and budget, which affects the church's fiscal year starting in July and the Strategic Plan; they're also inviting you to participate in reflecting on what you love about the church and how to show that love. See Sharon Pedersen or Ann Green for more information.

Submitted by: Ann Green

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 March 6. 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

Spotlight on New Members

Gene has also included a Poem by: e e cummings;
which he feels is apropos for the Church.

i am a little church (no great cathedral)
far from the splendor and squalor of hurrying cities
-i do not worry if briefer days grow briefest,
i am not sorry when sun and rain make april

my life is the life of the reaper and the sower;
my prayers are prayers of earth's own clumsily striving
(finding and losing and laughing and crying) children
whose any sadness or joy is my grief or my gladness

around me surges a miracle of unceasing
birth and glory and death and resurrection:
over my sleeping self-float flaming symbols
of hope, and i wake to a perfect patience of mountains

i am a little church (far from the frantic
world with its rapture and anguish) at peace with nature
-i do not worry if longer nights grow longest;
i am not sorry when silence becomes singing

winter by spring, i lift my diminutive spire to
merciful Him Whose only now is forever:
standing erect in the deathless truth of His presence
(welcoming humbly His light and proudly His darkness)

Gene and Vickie Kopf have been together for 31
years and have two daughters, Juliana and Abigail.
They moved to the Jackson area from Battle Creek
on December of 2019.

Vickie is a caregiver to both her mother and
Abigail. Gene has a job in Ann Arbor and so commut-
es a sizeable distance every day.

Vickie is interested in animals and the outdoors
and enjoys both jazz and heavy metal music. Gene
has eclectic interests, including math, science,
philosophy; and jazz and classical music. The
musical difference makes an interesting mixture in
the house, and as can be imagined, they mostly
listen to jazz when together. They also enjoy baking
and birdwatching as a mutual activity.

Gene is a very active freemason and the secretary
of Jackson Lodge #17. He holds a degree in physics
with a minor in mathematics.

The couple discovered the church while on a
country drive. Having heard of Unitarian Universalism
before and having highly unorthodox religious views,
they both have been interested in the Church, but
were never close enough to one to investigate. When
they discovered that they were mere minutes away
from one at their new home, they decided to
investigate and were delighted to join afterwards.

Submitted by: Gene Kopf ~ 5 ~

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.**

~~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.

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



Mar 2 - "Stewardship Kick-off!"

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

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

It's that time of year again for the Sermon on the Amount!

Mar 9 - "The Divine within the Mundane"

- Led by: **Darrin Palmer**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Mar 16 - "Hope, Faith, Grist, Reliance"

- Led by: **Cory Page**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Mar 23 - "Spiritual Books"

- Led by: **Norah Mae Jones**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Mar 30 - "Auction Winner Sermon #2"

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

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

This is another sermon from last year auction winners,
the topic will be announced on this Sunday.

March 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church

Unless Otherwise Noted



2 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake ~ 11:00 am
2 Sunday	YUUMM Meeting in the School House ~ 12:30 pm
6 Thurs	Personal Care Ministry @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
9 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Darrin Palmer ~ 11:00 am
9 Sunday	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
10 Mon	Board Meeting ~ 9:00 am
13 Thurs	Ladies Lunch @ One North Kitchen and Bar 12:00 noon
16 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Cory Page ~ 11:00 am
23 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Norah Mae Jones ~ 11:00 am
23 Sunday	CUUPs Pagan Group meets ~ After Social Hour
23 Sunday	Church & Schoolhouse Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
24 Mon	The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
30 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake ~ 11:00 am

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Mar 2 ~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Alyce O & Team 7
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Wendy S
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nancy S & Sharon P ~~ Nursery w/ Nena O & Sue R

Sunday, Mar 9 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Deb H & Team 1
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Tom P
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nancy S & Sharon P ~~ Nursery w/ Alyce O & Alice P

Sunday, Mar 16 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Kathy H & Team 2
~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Alice P
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nancy S & Sharon P ~~ Nursery w/ Kathy H & Helper Needed

Sunday, Mar 23 ~~ Greeter, Jackie J ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Neno O & Team 3
~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Elissa A
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery w/ Sharon P. & Donna H

Sunday, Mar 30 ~~ Greeter, Julie F ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team 4
~~ Technology Streaming, Ann G ~~ Worship Associate, Lori A
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery w/ Sharon P. & Donna H

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 April issue, the information is needed by: Monday, March 24 ~ 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
 CLARLAKE, MI 49234
 2231 JEFFERSON ROAD



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY