



May, 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

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
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Secretary: Nancy Smith
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Treasurer: Sharon Pedersen
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Trustee: Alyce Oosting
OOSTING115@COMCAST.NET

Trustee: Patty Brue
BRUECREW@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Caring Committee

Deb Hartsuff

Building & Grounds

Alyce Oosting
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Vic Marshall
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Committee on Ministry

Marge Duane MJDUANE@ATT.NET

Tom Pepper P EPPET49@COMCAST.NET

Gratia Karmes GKARMES82@GMAIL.COM

Elissa Alden
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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

Imagination—A Survival Skill in Disguise

Dear UUCEL,

I used to think imagination was just about crayons and cardboard boxes—something kids did before they discovered taxes and cable news. But these days, I've come to believe imagination is actually a survival skill. Maybe even a sacred one.

Let's be real: life throws some curveballs. I've known heartbreak and disappointment. I've sat with the heavy silence that follows deep loss. I've been told "no" when I was trying my hardest to live my truth and do some good in the world. And yet, here I am—writing to you as your minister. Still here. Still dreaming. Still imagining.

Imagination is what carried me through some of the hardest times in my life—like when I thought my dream of ministry was over, or when grief knocked the wind out of me (again). And every time I thought I couldn't go on, someone—often in a UU congregation—helped me imagine that maybe I could.

Imagination isn't escapism. It's a seed of possibility. It's the moment when you can picture something better, even if you can't quite see how to get there. It's imagining a world where everyone's inherent worth and dignity really does matter. Where trans folks like me aren't just tolerated, but celebrated. Where our communities are places of love, justice, and mutual care.

Some days, that kind of imagination feels like a stretch, especially with everything happening in the world right now. But even when I don't feel hopeful, I try to practice hope. Like an act of imagination. Like lighting a candle in the dark—not because it solves everything, but because it helps you see the next step.

So this month, I invite you to imagine boldly. Dream up new ways to connect, care, and create. Imagine this congregation blooming in ways we haven't even thought of yet. Imagine the love we can offer—to each other, and to those who haven't even found us yet.

With abundant love and a bit of holy mischief,

Rev. Dan Miyake

Notes from the Board

The board met April 14th at the church. The Treasurer's report showed we are at 75% of our fiscal year and donations are ahead of pace. The board adopted the restatement of the UUA Retirement Plan and voted to offer a retirement plan to all UUCEL employees – including pianist and housekeeper. The pledge drive is almost complete with nearly \$104,000 pledged. The UUA awarded the congregation a FY25 Honor Certificate for paying the total of our share to the UUA. Rev. Dan reported that he has signed up for *DeleteMe*, a service which protects him by removing his personal information on social media. There are still two openings for church members to participate in the General Assembly. Strategic plan updates were reviewed. We are currently seeking a social media director, likely in partnership with another congregation, and we are researching the idea of having an intern for the congregation. The process of acquiring the land that our large shed occupies continues. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19th.

Ann

**Submitted by: Ann Green
Board President**

Watch on Facebook:

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

NEW Information for Social Hour Host

For 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

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

May 2025 Announcements

Rev. Dan will be on Study Leave from May 5-9. He will be unavailable for meetings during this time except for emergencies. Emails will be responded to once he returns to the office.

It is not too late to register for the UUA General Assembly in June. This year, GA will be held in Baltimore, but people can also attend virtually for a much cheaper rate. If you have never been before, it is well worth it! Please see Rev. Dan if you have any questions.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan

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

Annual Auction Great Offerings

so far, there's still time to add
to the list!

One Pound Chocolate & black walnut Fudge (3)
One Pound Peanut Butter Fudge (3)
Quart of maple syrup
Pint of maple syrup (2)
One loaf of homemade sourdough bread
One dozen chocolate chip caramel cookies
Homemade biscotti & coffee (4)
Apple cake
Key lime pies to order (4)
Poppers hors d'oeuvres (2 trays)
Raft rides on Clark Lake with snacks for 6 (2)
Charades party
Igloo party for six at Cherry Creek Winery (2)
Soiree on the deck with food and live music
Nature hikes (4) one for each season
Wine and Sign
Ladies lunch on the farm for six (package)
Pizza dinner w/ salad, drinks & dessert
Patio grill party for six
Kids' Day at the Lake with hot dogs
Crocheted animal of your choice
5 X 5 lap quilt
Handmade original pottery chalice
Elegant handmade pottery chalice
Framed print of farm scene
Photograph of misty mountains
Gift card to Atlas Restaurant
Antique rocking chair

Tiffany lamp
Pottery dinnerware
Paddle board lessons (2)
Handyman Joe for two hours (2)
Sermon of your choice (2)
Hidden Lake Gardens Membership (2)
Dahlem Family Membership
\$20 gift card to Kibby Kobb
Gemstone facial gift certificate
2 tickets to JSO concert Romeo & Juliet 11/15/25
2 tickets to JSO concert Mozart Requiem 4/25/26
Chocolate chip cookies to order by the dozen
Homemade bread (4) w/ Apothic 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon
Banana nut bread (3)
Bag of caramel corn (3)
One dozen farm fresh eggs (2)
Framed original artwork
Framed original artwork
Flat of flowers (2)
Centerpiece with dried flowers
Blanket
Party at Elissa's with piano entertainment
Picnic at the lake with box lunches
\$50 gift cards for Knights Steakhouse (2)
Dinner party at Bert and Bob's

Meetings and Events for UUCEL

Annual Auction

It's that time of year again!! We're preparing for our BIG annual auction which is not only our biggest fundraiser of the year but also lots of fun and an excellent opportunity for everyone to get involved! Please mark Friday, May 2nd on your calendars for the live auction at church beginning at 6:00. Our wonderful Fred and Debbie Marshall will again be providing boxed lunch meals for purchase that evening at 5:00 in the social hall. Please bring your items you have agreed to put up for bidding at that time and bring to the sanctuary for set up before 5:30. The silent auction items bidding will be from 10:00 am and after service conclude at 12:45 on May 4th. Thanks so much for your support on this project!

Submitted by: Elissa Alden

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

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



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.

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 Sundays Rev. Dan is speaking from the pulpit. They will meet in Social Hall after social hour on May 4.

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 May 1st. 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 if the.

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday May 8 at 12:00 noon at Vista Grand Villa 2251 Springport Road, Jackson. 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



Social Hour Team Schedule

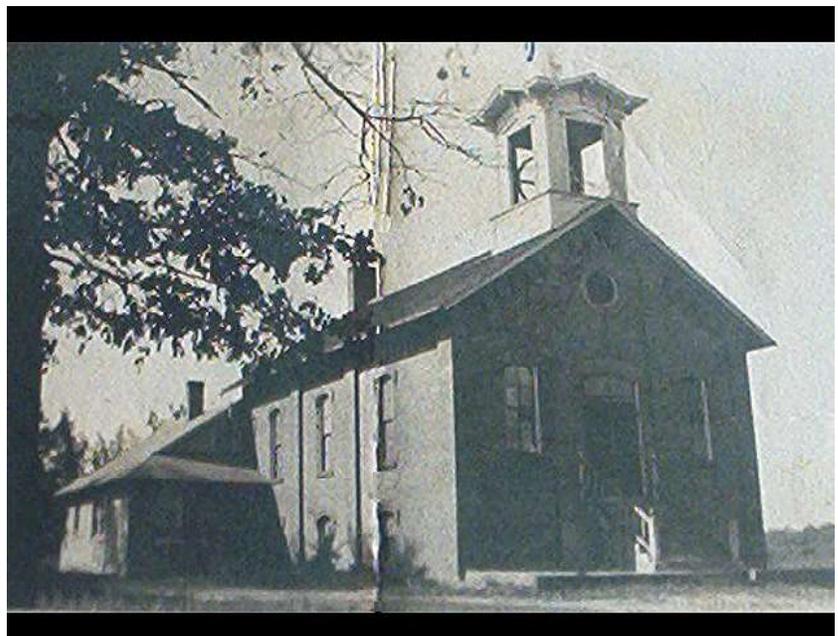
The first half of the 2025 listing is posted and -- on the Kitchen's corkboard along with a few extra copies. A reminder; if your team is running low or out of a product/supply item(s) that is normally at church, please write it down on the pad of paper on the frig, so the UU buyers: Joan Bernstein, 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

One-Time-Only Event for Kids on Sunday, May 4th

Hey Kids! Do you know you can be on the radio?? UUCEL members Gordon Bernstein and Tom Pepper will give a demonstration on how **ham radio** is used to send and receive messages. You'll have a chance to actually talk on a real ham radio! This educational event will take place after the May 4th church service, outdoors. There is no upper age limit on this activity — "big kids" are welcome too. **Submitted by: Gordon and Tom**

Once Upon
A
Time
Our
Historical
Photos



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



May 4 - "Wheel of the Year"

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

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

This Sunday, we celebrate the winding down of the church year by honoring our many volunteers who have done so much to support our beloved community. We will also recognize life transitions this year. If you have a life transition (a graduation, marriage, divorce, retirement, etc...), please let Rev. Dan know ahead of time. And finally, we will also welcome new members into our congregation!

May 11 - "Mother's Day"

- Led by: **Norah Mae Jones**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Today will be led by Nora along with multiple speakers.

May 18 - "February Sky"

- Led by: **Susan & Phil**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

"Gonna, Gonna Rise Again". Music Service with Susan Urban and Phil Cooper

May 25 - "Inclusivity in Hip Hop Culture"

- Led by: **Cory Page**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

May 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted



- 1 Thurs Personal Care Ministry @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 2 Fri Box Dinners in Social Hall starting at 5:00 pm
- 2 Fri Annual Auction live at church beginning at 6:00 pm
- 4 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake ~ 11:00 am
- 4 Sunday End of Silent Auction bidding
- 4 Sunday Soul Matters Group ~ Meet in Social Hall after Social Hour
- 4 Sunday YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
- 5 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 8 Thurs Ladies Lunch @ Vista Grande Villa ~ 12:00 am
- 11 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Norah Mae Jones ~ 11:00 am
- 18 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Susan & Phil ~ 11:00 am
- 19 Mon Board Meeting ~ 9:00 am
- 19 Mon The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
- 19 Mon Church & Schoolhouse Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 25 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Cory Page ~ 11:00 am
- 25 Sunday CUUPs Pagan Group meets ~ After Social Hour

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, May 4 ~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Kathy H & Team 2

~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Tomm T
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Kerry H & Darrin P ~~ Nursery w/ Nena O & Sue R

Sunday, May 11 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team 3

~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Wendy S
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery w/ Alyce O & Alice P

Sunday, May 18 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team 4

~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Ben B
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Kerry H & Darrin P ~~ Nursery w/ Kathy H & Helper Needed

Sunday, May 25 ~~ Greeter, Jackie J ~~ Usher, Paul J & Steve K
~~ Social Hour Host, Lori A & Team 5

~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Nathan B
~~ 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 June issue, the information is needed by: Monday, May 19 ~~ 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



UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY