



May 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

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: Patty Brue
BRUECREW@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Secretary: Nancy Smith
HEYNANCY2015@GMAIL.COM

Treasurer: Laurie Campbell
DANDLCAMPBELL@COMCAST.NET

Trustee: Alyce Oosting
OOSTING115@COMCAST.NET

Trustee: Alice Shepherd
ABPALMER98@GMAIL.COM

Caring Committee

Debbie Hartsuff

Building & Grounds

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

Committee on Ministry

Tom Pepper PEPPE49@COMCAST.NET
Gratia Karmes GKARMES82@GMAIL.COM
Nathan Close NATHAN.C.5444@GMAIL.COM
Lynn Hightower LYNNMHIGHTOWER@GMAIL.COM
Elissa Alden ELISSA.ALDEN@COMCAST.NET

Nominating Committee

Peg Beison MABEISON2@GMAIL.COM
Parker Brue PARKER.D.BRUE@GMAIL.COM
Tiffany Reese TMREESE26@GMAIL.COM



Message from the Minister

Awakening Curiosity

For most of us, curiosity doesn't usually disappear. It just gets quiet. Over time, our lives tend to become predictable. We settle into familiar patterns that are comfortable, yet uninspiring and perhaps even stale. Most days move along without much interruption, and we rely more on what we already understand than on asking new questions.

At some point between childhood and adulthood, we begin to notice less—not because this amazingly diverse and beautiful world has changed, but because our attention has. Curiosity is still there hiding in the shadows. It simply isn't being used very often.

The theme this month is Awakening Curiosity. The word "awakening" matters. It suggests that curiosity hasn't been lost. We just need to remember to tap into it and let its magic reconnect us to wonder, joy, new ideas, and to new possibilities.

Curiosity does not always return on its own, however. Sometimes it has to be intentionally chosen. Curiosity emerges when we decide to look more closely at something we might otherwise pass by, when we ask a question instead of settling for the first answer that comes to mind, and when we remain engaged with a person or an idea long enough to see beyond our first impression. That kind of curiosity is not accidental. It is something we practice. It grows when we make room for it—when we give our attention more deliberately and allow space for something new to emerge.

Curiosity also has a way of reconnecting us with each other. A simple question can open a conversation that would not have happened otherwise. In a time when quick conclusions are easy to reach, choosing to remain open takes intention and is in keeping with how we have covenanted to be together.

Awakening curiosity does not require becoming someone different. It begins with small shifts in how we move through the day: noticing something we might have overlooked, giving a little more space to a question, and staying present long enough for understanding to deepen. Those small shifts have a way of adding up. Over time, curiosity comes back into focus—not as something new, but as something that has been there all along.

This is something we can practice together. In our conversations, in our committee work, and in the ways we show up for one another, there are opportunities to listen more closely and to ask one more question. Curiosity has a way of opening space—space for understanding, for connection, and for the possibility that we may discover something delightful we had not yet seen.

So, as we move into the month of May and all of its spring glory and new life, may we all try to rekindle our natural the latent curiosity and learn to see the world through different, more curious eyes.

Rev. Dan ~ 1 ~

Notes from the Board

April Board Meeting

On April 13 the board held our regular meeting. After reading the board covenant and approving the March minutes (which are posted on the social hall wall by the kitchen), Treasurer Laurie Campbell reported that our pledge income is ahead of expected. In the Minister's Report Rev. Dan gave an overview of his pastoral care, attendance at public events, meeting with the Nominating Committee, and ideas for future adult RE programming. Peter Blackshear and Tom Triplett have agreed to join UUCEL Board if offered.

Updates on the Strategic Plan featured participation in No Kings Rally with a table and Rev. Dan speaking as part of the goal of Outreach to the Community. The pledge drive update is that we are close to our goal for the next fiscal year.

In terms of church safety, Alyce has contacted several people for oversight led by Gordon Bernstein and the board will ask Gene Kopf to meet with them at his convenience. All regularly attending children will be old enough for RE classes so we may have "on-call" nursery volunteers. RE classes meet in April and May and resume in September.

Other considerations included a possible open house to celebrate our 170th year and purchasing a suite for a Lugnuts game in August. Our Zoom account will move from the UUA to a new vendor.

Committee reports included seasonal buildings and grounds issues and a recommendation to purchase two generators in case of power outages. Worship services are scheduled through May. Erica Kelly will manage social media. Rev. Dan is working on reviving the Social Justice Committee, as part of an initiative to support the Immigrant Coalition of Jackson County which church members approved after the April 9 service.. Dan provided the Membership Committee with a list of attendees who are potential members for possible follow up.

The Caring Committee presented a retirement cake for Ben Brue, and cards for 8 birthdays, 2 anniversaries, 2 get well cards, and one sympathy card. Following the meeting the board met in executive session to discuss the budget draft for the next fiscal year.

The next meeting will take place Tuesday, May 18, 2026 at 12:30pm.

Ann

**Submitted by: Ann Green
Board President**

Notes from Religious Ed

Volunteers Update

We have at least one opening for a teacher assistant volunteer, which means a commitment of nine Sundays, scattered throughout the school year. UUCEL wants to continue to be an inviting church for families to bring their kids. So please consider answering this call!

UUCEL 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 (really, it's only about 45 minutes per month!). To continue offering this important service to our families, we need two adult volunteers per week. Due to some recent changes in our lineup, we have openings! Can you help out? Again, it is only a once-a-month obligation. Please contact Lori A. or Donna H. Thank you. **Submitted by: RE 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.**

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

**Rev. Dan addressed the audience
at the No Kings Rally in Jackson**



**Racism in the Age of Trump
A Convocation, held via Zoom,
of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council
Saturday, May 9, 2026, 11 am-1 pm Central time
(Starts at NoRacism in the Age of Trump A Convocation, held via Zoom,
of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council Saturday,
May 9, 2026, 11 am-1 pm Central time
Starts at Noon Eastern, 10:00 am Mtn, 9:00 am Pacific)**

3 Featured Speakers address aspects of this issue

“Media and Racism” by Dr. Lanier Frush Holt; is an associate professor in the School of Communication at The Ohio State University. His research sits at the confluence of journalism, media effects, and social psychology. In particular, he investigates the underlying psychological mechanisms that operate when audiences are exposed to race-related news media and examines how that influences their opinions about Blacks. The specific questions his research seeks to answer are: How does the relationship between racial and ethnic identity operate differently for Blacks than Whites,

“Racism in Trump Administration Policies” by Dr. Alan Spector; has worked for racial justice in general since his college days at the Univ. of Wisconsin, later as an SDS organizer. While working toward his PhD in Sociology at Northwestern, he helped found the International Committee Against Racism with Dr. Finley Campbell. He was a professor at Purdue Univ. Calumett/Northwest for 45 years and has given dozens of presentations on issues of race-ethnic justice and served as President of the Association for Humanist Sociology.

“Racism is not hate; its trauma trolled” by The Rev. Dr. Thandeka, PhD; is a Unitarian Universalist theologian, minister and small group consultant, founder and President of Love Beyond Belief, creator and co-director of the Universal Connections small group project and The Untrolling Project. Thandeka’s books and essays have helped secure her place as a “major figure in American liberal theology” (The Making of American Liberal Theology: Crisis, Irony, and Post-modernity, 1950-2005). She has taught at The Czech Unitarian Academy in Prague, Williams College, Harvard Divinity School and Brandeis University. There will be time for questions and comments by those in attendance after the three presentations

TO REGISTER send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com;

Meetings and Events for UUCEL

Announcement from Rev. Dan

Please join us on Saturday, May 2 to celebrate the life of beloved long-time member, Jane Volk. Then, please return the end of the month on Saturday, May 30 to celebrate the life of beloved life-long member, Dorothy Kerr. Both of the services are held at our church by Rev. Dan, the times are below.

On a lighter note, join us for the May's Lunch with the Minister gathering will be on Friday, May 22 at 11:30 at Bone Island Grill in Vandercook. Come and join Rev. Dan and others for casual conversation, great food, and even greater company!
Submitted by: Rev. Dan

Memorials

There will be a memorial service for long-time member **Jane Volk** on Saturday, **May 2nd** at 1:00 at the church. A reception with food will follow.

There will be a memorial service for life-time member **Dorothy Kerr** on Saturday, **May 30th** with a visitation from 11:30 – 1:15 with the service starting at 1:30 at the church. Dorothy would like that everyone to wears their favorite Hat. Beach Bar 3:00- 7:00

Submitted by: The Editors

Annual Church Auction Friday May 1st

Please come to our
Annual Fun Fundraising Auction
Friday, May 1st. at the church.

A boxed dinner will be offered; starts at 5:00 in the social hall with a variety of sandwiches to pick from. If the same as in pasts years it will include a fruit cup, cookie and bottle of water and that is a good bargain at \$10.00 per box.

The Live Auction starts at 6:00 pm upstairs. The Silent Auction bidding is open in the School House until the beginning of the live auction.

Come Join the FUN and Bid once Bid twice and MORE and MORE it is a fundraiser!

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. Distributors 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

“If you had been assigned a task for a Sunday or even any committee meeting and you are not able to attend, would you please call or contact someone to let them know” – thank you

~~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!

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

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday May 14th at the Artesian Wells Sport Bar & Restaurant at U.S. 12 & 127 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

LOST & FOUND

The box 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

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

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.



May 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted

- 1 Fri Annual Findraising Boxed Dinners ~ 5:00 pm ~ \$10.00 per Box
- 1 Fri Annual Findraising Auction ~ 6:00 pm
- 2 Sat Celebration of Life of Jane Volk ~ Service @ 1:00 pm
- 3 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: A Woman ~ 11:00 am
- 3 Sunday YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
- 4 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 7 Thurs Personal Care Ministry @ Partnership Place, 801 S. Mechanic ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 10 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Patty Brue ~ 11:00 am
- 14 Thurs Ladies Lunch @ Artesian Wells ~ 12:00 pm/noon
- 17 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Mike McKenney ~ 11:00 am
- 18 Tue Board Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 18 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 22 Fri Lunch with Rev. Dan at 11:30 @ Bone Island Grill in Vandercook
- 24 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
- 25 Mon The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
- 30 Sat Celebration of Life of Dorothy Kerr ~ Service @ 1:30
- 31 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, May 3~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S
 ~~ Social Hour Host, Liz W & Team 6
 ~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Bert S
 ~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Kerry H & Darrin P ~~ Nursery w/ Nena O & Sue R

Sunday, May 10 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S
 ~~ Social Hour Host, Alyce O & Team 7
 ~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Ben B
 ~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Kerry H & Darrin P ~~ Nursery w/ Alyce O & Helper Needed

Sunday, May 17 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S
 ~~ Social Hour Host, Debbie H & Team 1
 ~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Wendy S
 ~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Kerry H & Darrin P ~~ Nursery w/ Kathy H & Ashley S

Sunday, May 24 ~~ Greeter, Jackie J ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S
 ~~ Social Hour Host, Kathy H & Team 2
 ~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Lori A
 ~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery w/ Donna H & Helper Needed

Sunday, May 31 ~~ Greeter, Julie F ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S
 ~~ Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team 3
 ~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Laurie C
 ~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Kerry H & Darrin P ~~ Nursery w/ two helpers needed

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

May 3 - "League of Women Voters"

- Led by: **A Woman**

In person or live on Facebook.

League of Women Voters, historical women voters in Jackson.

May 10 - "Mother's Day"

- Led by: **Patty Brue**

In person or live on Facebook.

Come hear stories about our Mothers from a few of our Members and Friends.

May 17 - "Awakening Curiosity"

- Led by: **Mike McKenney**

In person or live on Facebook.

Awakening Curiosity, with Darrin Palmer coordinating.

May 24 - "A World Full of Wonders"

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

In person or live on Facebook.

In keeping with our monthly theme of Awakening Curiosity, we'll explore how curiosity can help us to be more intentionally engaged with this beautiful and amazing world.

May 31 - "Wheel of the Year"

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

In person or live on Facebook.

During this annual service, we gather to celebrate the many milestones we have experienced over the past church year. Come and celebrate with us!



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 June 2026 issue, the information is needed by: Monday, May 25 ~~ 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

May 3 – “League of Women Voters” - Led by: A Woman

May 10 – “Mother’s Day” - Led by: Patty Brue

May 17 – “Awakening Curiosity” - Mike McKenney

May 24 – “A World Full of Wonders” - Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake

May 31 – “Wheel of the Year” - Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake



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