



October 2025

# 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  
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Secretary: Nancy Smith  
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Trustee: Alyce Oosting  
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## Caring Committee

Debbie Hartsuff

## Building & Grounds

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## Nominating Committee

Peg Beison MABEISON2@GMAIL.COM

Parker Brue PARKER.D.BRUE@GMAIL.COM

Tiffany Reese TMREESE26@GMAIL.COM



## Message from the Minister

Dear UUCEL,

Like many of you, I have been troubled by the recent shooting of Charlie Kirk. Whenever words are met with bullets, it is not just one person who suffers — democracy itself is wounded. Whether we agree with someone's politics or not, violence is never the answer. And so, this is not just about one man's death, tragic as it is. It is about a creeping culture that says violence is permissible when difference feels threatening, that silencing others is acceptable when their truth challenges our comfort.

At the same time, this tragedy is part of a much larger and more troubling story. It is part of a larger storm we are living through — a storm where authoritarian voices grow louder, where differences are used as weapons, and where vulnerable groups are made scapegoats. Across the country, authoritarian voices tell us who belongs and who doesn't. They use fear to divide us, and they target those who live outside the lines of "acceptable" identity — LGBTQ+ people, immigrants, people of color, religious minorities, and especially transgender people.

As a trans person myself, I cannot help but feel fear that the current administration wants to silence, erase, and legislate people like me out of public life. Fascism always begins by deciding who belongs and who doesn't, whose voices may be heard and whose must be silenced. This is what fascism does: it thrives on fear, control, and scapegoating. It narrows the circle of belonging until only a few are left inside.

But as Unitarian Universalists, we proclaim a different vision.

Our faith affirms:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person. No one is expendable.

The call to practice justice, equity, and compassion, even when it is costly or uncomfortable.

The interdependent web of existence, which reminds us that an attack on one group is an attack on us all.

These aren't just lofty words. They are a spiritual practice — a way of being together, a way of facing the world with open hearts rather than closed fists.

So how do we respond to this current situation?

# Notes from the Board

The Board met September 6 to begin crafting the strategic plan for the 2025-26 church year. Further discussion and finalization will take place at the October board meeting. This year committee liaisons offered strategies from their committees which was a new and welcome addition to the process.

On September 8 the board assembled for its regular meeting. Treasurer Laurie Campbell summarized the balance sheet and income statement to date with a note that our checking account continues to have a healthy balance and at present income exceeds expenditures. Rev. Dan introduced the UUA 2025 initiative called *Meet the Moment* which is a movement-wide framework helping Unitarian Universalists analyze, discern, and take values-based action.

The chunk of land under our large shed has finally been deeded to the church following months of work by Alyce Oosting and Nancy Smith. The RE committee has gathered 14 background checks on this year's volunteers. Classes began on September 7th. Representatives from the Elkhart Fellowship will be learning our technology for livestreaming Sunday services. It was the consensus of the board to purchase the *Sing Out Love* subscription, an online collection of hymns, songs, chants, and other musical resources which can be updated. It will be in place by October 1. The next board meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2025 at 9:00 am

Complete Board minutes, once approved, are posted on the social hall wall by the kitchen.

**Ann**

**Submitted by: Ann Green  
Board President**

## **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**

# 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!). Thank you

**Submitted by: RE Committee**

## **Rev. Dan's Schedule**

October 1-12 at UUCEL

October 13-15 Away at a minister's retreat

October 16-18 at UUCEL

October 19 – 25 at UUFE

October 26-31 Study Leave

(Note: Rev. Dan will only be available for emergencies during this time.)

## **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 NEW directions YOU need to KNOW. **Thank you From the Board**

# Rev. Dan's Column Continued

We speak up for those whose voices are silenced, especially our transgender neighbors, our Black and Brown neighbors, our immigrant neighbors, and others who are targeted.

We practice courageous love by listening to stories unlike our own, by being willing to change, and by holding one another accountable to our best selves.

We embody hope in a world that thrives on fear — by being a place where every person who walks through our doors is received as a gift, not a threat.

I know this isn't always easy. We are a small congregation in a conservative place. But friends, never under-estimate the power of even a small flame in the darkness. Our small flame matters. Our circle of welcome matters. Every smile at the door, every word of encouragement, every act of kindness in our wider community — these are not small things. They are acts of resistance. Every time we choose compassion over cruelty, courage over silence, hope over despair, we are resisting the pull of fascism and building something more powerful: the Beloved Community.

May we have the courage to resist hatred without becoming hateful.

May we have the tenderness to welcome difference without fear.

May we have the boldness to keep speaking love into a world that needs it desperately.

Together, we can — and we must — be that light.

With love abundant,

**Rev. Dan Miyake**



**Watch on Facebook:**

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

## **Spotlight on New Members**

Nathan Close, who recently signed the membership book, has been active in the church for some time, particularly as a member of the YUUMMs (Younger UU Monthly Meetup) and he now serves on the Committee on Ministry. Nathan works full time at Harvest Solar as a solar engineer and is going back to school part time for his electrical engineering degree at Michigan State! A game enthusiast and skilled organizer, he arranges board game meetups on Saturdays at Jackson Coffee Company from 2-7pm. He enjoys acting in local theatre and currently has a role in Center Stage Jackson's production of *The Full Monty*. Nathan loves connecting to others and his community! On a personal note, he is enjoying his role as an uncle to his twin brother's new baby, Kenau. Please welcome Nathan with great rejoicing!

**Submitted by: Ann Green**

# Meetings and Events for UUCEL

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## Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday October 9, at La Catrina Bar & Grill, located at 501 Longfellow at the point of Ganson and Wildwood on Oct 9th at 12:00 noon. They offer authentic Mexican style appetizers, especialidades, seafood, burritos, tacos, sides, fajitas, steak, desserts, chicken and more. 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**

## Quarterly Donations

The Social Mission Designee for the 2nd quarter is **Residents in Action, Inc.** is a nonprofit community - driven initiative, focused on addressing social issues, particularly homelessness and racial equity. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Residents in Action in the memo **Submitted by: Gretchen Marshall & Ann Green**

## 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.

## 3 Announcements from Rev. Dan

### Soul Matters

Rev. Dan will be leading the first Soul Matters group on Sunday, October 12 after Social Hour. If you signed up but have not yet received your October packet, please contact Rev. Dan.

### UU History Class

Rev. Dan will be leading a six-session UU History class on Thursday evenings at 7:00 via Zoom beginning October 2. Please contact Rev. Dan for the Zoom link if you wish to participate.

### Lunch with the Minister for October

Rev. Dan invites you to join him for lunch on Tuesday, October 7 at Eagle Point at noon. Come and enjoy good food and good company to your heart's content. The more, the merrier!

### Grief In Slow Motion

There was no memorial service for the last time you went out to dinner together, the last time they told you a joke, the last time they said your name. No one sent you flowers for the social events you've missed, the roles that have changed, the plans that will never be, the decisions you have to make. When you love someone with dementia, Parkinson's, or other progressive neurological disease, you lose so many things along the way, long before you lose your person. When we don't recognize and process our losses, they build up and weigh us down.

Join **Jill Terwilliger, M.Div., CPCC**, grief coach, educator, and UU minister for **Grief in Slow Motion**, a 4-session grief group combining learning, sharing and support for people caring for loved ones with dementia. <https://www.anbaucoaching.com/slowmotion>

**Grief in Slow Motion** will take place live on zoom the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 10-11:15am EST from October to January. The first session is October 10. The cost is \$75 for all four sessions. The group is live, confidential, and will not be recorded for public sharing. Register here: <https://www.anbaucoaching.com/slowmotion> Whether you are a direct caregiver or indirect, you are allowed to honor and grieve your losses, even while your person is still alive. You don't have to do this alone.

Jill Terwilliger, M.Div., CPCC (Jill was a minister at UUCEL) **Submitted by: Dan & Ann**

## LOST & FOUND ----- Is this YOURS ??

-In the frig was a bag with an Apple & Dark Sunglasses - the Apple has been tossed out the glasses are on top of frig for now -- are they Yours?

Yeah they found their owner! -Sunglasses - overx.com, Cocoon, Teal & Black

-Sweater/Jacket - Light Gray & White w/ Zipper - Size X-L

-Shawl, Dark Blue, Long Rectangle w/ Fringe and Buttons by: harve benard

-Scarf - Very Long, Tan Knitted w/ 4 rows of Cable by: Isotoner

-Cap/Hat - White w/ Intermobile Racing & N norman

These items are in the bottom part of the bookcase in the social hall.

**Submitted by: Kathy Haynes**

### 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 October 2nd. 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**

### Social Hour Team Schedule

The second half of the year listing has been posted on the Kitchen's corkboard. 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 or 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**

### ~~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!**

**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.**



# October 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted

2 Thurs	Personal Care Ministry @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
2 Thurs	UU History Class ~ via Zoom w/ Rev. Dan ~ 7:00 pm for 6 weeks
5 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
5 Sunday	YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
6 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
7 Tue	Lunch w/Rev. Dan at 12:00 at Eagle Point
9 Thurs	Ladies Lunch @ La Catrina Bar & Grill ~ 12:00 am
9 Thurs	UU History Class ~ via Zoom w/ Rev. Dan ~ 7:00 pm #2 week
12 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
12 Sunday	Soul Matters Group w/ Rev. Dan after Social Hour
13 Mon	Board Meeting ~ 9:00 am
16 Thurs	UU History Class ~ via Zoom w/ Rev. Dan ~ 7:00 pm #3 week
19 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Peg Beison ~ 11:00 am
20 Mon	The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
20 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
23 Thurs	UU History Class ~ via Zoom w/ Rev. Dan ~ 7:00 pm #4 week
26 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Cory Page ~ 11:00 am
30 Thurs	UU History Class ~ via Zoom w/ Rev. Dan ~ 7:00 pm #5 week

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## Weekly Volunteer Schedule

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**Sunday, Oct 5** ~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed  
~~ Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team 3  
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Lori A  
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery w/ Nena O & Sue R

**Sunday, Oct 12** ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed  
~~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S / Rob G & Team 4  
~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Gordon B  
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Lori A & Nathan B ~~ Nursery w/ Alyce O & Alice P

**Sunday, Oct 19** ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed  
~~ Social Hour Host, Lori A & Team 5  
~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Elissa A  
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery w/ Kathy H & Ashley S

**Sunday, Oct 26** ~~ Greeter, Jackie J ~~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed  
~~ Social Hour Host, Liz W & Team 6  
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Alice P  
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Kerry H & Darrin P ~~ Nursery w/ Donna H & Nicole B

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

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**Oct 5 - "Blessing of the Animals"**

- Led by: Rev. Dan

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

On October 5th, we will be having a Blessing of the Animals intergenerational service. All are welcome to bring their furry, feathery, scaly, or slithery animal friends for a special blessing. Please use judgement as to whether or not to crate your friend. Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Also, if you have lost an animal companion in the past year, we will have a small altar set up where you can bring a token of remembrance.

**Oct 12 - "Sermon Auction Surprise!"**

- Led by: Rev. Dan

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Rev. Dan will be tasked with writing the sermon of the last auction winner's choice. Topic TBA.

**Oct 19 - "Home, Sweet Home "**

- Led by: Peg Beison

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

This intergenerational service on the theme of home is presented by Peg, featuring music by our favorite homegrown singers and musicians.

**Oct 26 - "Wait, That's Not in the Bible!"**

- Led by: Cory Page

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.



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**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 November issue, the information is needed by: Monday, October 20 ~~ send submissions to: [uucel\\_bellnote@yahoo.com](mailto: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 of What's Inside - Full Info on Page 7

October 5 - Blessing of the Animals with Rev. Dan  
October 12 - Sermon Auction Surprise! with Rev. Dan  
October 19 - Home, Sweet Home with Peg Beison  
October 26 - Wait, That's Not in the Bible! with Cory Page



Church's Website ~ <http://www.libertyuu.org>  
Church's E-Mail Address ~ [uuliberty@gmail.com](mailto:uuliberty@gmail.com)  
Wednesday's Chimes ~ [WednesdayChimes@gmail.com](mailto:WednesdayChimes@gmail.com)  
Church's Facebook Page ~ <http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu>  
The Bellnote's E-Mail Address ~ [UUCEL\\_Bellnote@yahoo.com](mailto: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  
CLARKLAKE, MI 49234  
2231 JEFFERSON ROAD



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY