



July 2026

# The Bellnote

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

2231 Jefferson Road

Clarklake, MI 49234

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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Treasurer: Laurie Campbell  
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Trustee: Peter Blackshear  
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Trustee: Tomm Triplett  
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## Caring Committee

Debbie Hartsuff

## Building & Grounds

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## Committee on Ministry

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## Nominating Committee

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



Rev. Sofia Betancourt, our UU president, opens her new book *Love at the Center*, by writing

"It is meaningful when a community of people known for diverse and divergent beliefs builds consensus on something this impactful. Love is what we express as our highest value. Every time. Larger than life. Right at the center of our living tradition. Our pressing task now is to ask ourselves and each other how this understanding calls us forward, individually and collectively."

In our own words, this is what we love about our church:

People~ Debbie M.

Being with friends~ Joan B.

This church provides my centering. I have this feeling that I feel when I'm at each Service~ Gretchen M.

Good people, friendly, real concerns about others. Meets my needs~ Bob S.

Our church values each person and all beings~ Deb H.

The history, beauty, music, and people of the church~ Doug G.

I have been here my whole life and I love being here to learn~ Gordon B.

Everyone cares and takes care of each other. We're a family!~ Alyce O.

Our close-knit and loving community of basically like-minded souls. I love the history of our lovely old building AND the humans here!~ Elissa A.

I love that our church has an online service for our members and guests who cannot attend~ Mike B.

The joy of seeing and talking to everyone at social hour~ Peg B.

The intimacy, love, sense of activism, care for community service and the warm supportive friendships I have made ~Maria C.

I love that I see our members at community activities that matter. I don't have to keep my involvement in radical activities a secret~ Jackie J.

I enjoy Darren and Cory being here, the music, the friendly people, coffee time~ Pam P.

I am a lifelong seeker, so this church is the place to be. And I've always felt a little "different" so this is the place to be. Sometimes I need friends to help in an emergency so ... the place to be. It's a blessing in my life~ Tom P.

The warmth, caring and closeness of the people~ Chris B.

The people so talented, so hard working, practicing what they believe, welcoming, friendly, loving and kind~ Bert S.

Continued on Page 3.... ~ 1 ~

## Notes from the Board

### June Board Meeting

On June 8 the board held our regular meeting. After reading the board covenant and approving the May minutes (which are posted on the social hall wall by the kitchen), Treasurer Laurie Campbell reported that pledges continue to be on track and expenses are somewhat lower than anticipated.

In the Minister's Report Rev. Dan highlighted two ideas that would be helpful for the church: 1. establishment of a Program Council where committee chairs meet on a regular schedule to share information and 2: the creation of a Denominational Liaison to keep us better connected and engaged with the wider UUA. The two ideas were approved unanimously by the board.

Review of the Strategic Plan noted progress on or completion of most goals. Strategies where work is still needed will roll over into 26-27 Strategic Plan to be developed in the fall.

No committee reports were received. Finally, the board reviewed the agenda and plans for the annual congregational meeting, Sunday, June 14, 2026 following the service. There is no board meeting scheduled for the month of July. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2026 at 11am at UUCEL with newly-elected members Tomm Triplett and Peter Blackshear.

**Ann**  
**Submitted by: Dr. Ann Green**  
**Board President**

## Notes from Religious Ed

**Help Needed!** Someone has responded to our call and stepped up to join the Religious Education Committee (*thank you!*). We're still hoping for one or two more people willing to keep this very important part of our church alive and functioning. UUCEL currently provides regular classes in the schoolhouse for six children, from September through May. The RE Committee's jobs are to recruit teachers, collect/submit paperwork for state background checks (once-a-year), build a schedule, and brainstorm fun special events throughout the year for our kids and their families. Please contact Nancy S., Donna H., or Rev. Dan if you can help!

The **new nursery care policy**, since all of our kids are old enough to attend K-5 classes, will be to ask our past nursery volunteers to be available on an as-needed basis, in the case that visitors or new members come on a Sunday and wish to take advantage of nursery care for their preschool-aged children. This means there will no longer be a nursery "schedule" to keep track of. Of course, our hope is that new families will join someday, and if they have preschoolers, we can re-establish our slate of weekly nursery volunteers.

For **Summer Services** in July and August, families are welcome to bring kids to the service, keeping in mind that there are no classes happening in the schoolhouse. You may want to keep track of a given Sunday's theme in the Chimes to see if it's kid-friendly. Reminder that the nursery is only for babies and preschoolers. If you or a visitor with nursery-aged children attends on a Sunday, we can ask our previous nursery volunteers to help (we'll need two adults). Also, a parent is welcome to use the nursery on their own if a child needs a quiet room or a spot to collect themselves. **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.**

**Enter, Rejoice and Come In!**



## **Page One Column Continued**

I deeply enjoy the feeling of family (support, acceptance, fun homilies from congregants, etc) that UUCEL provides. In general, I enjoy the UU liberal political stance. In particular, I enjoy the UUCEL pride in liberalism~ Jim B

We are proudly woke. We embody diversity, equity and inclusion. We are family~ Laurie C.

The community of searchers~ Vic M

I love all the past history of this building, the values of all the people I know here at UUCEL and the kindness from all~ Kathy H.

A sense of community and all inclusivity like a crazy jigsaw puzzle, we all fit together in this thing called life. And people who are willing to lend a helping hand and a sympathetic ear~ Vicki H.

I love that I grow up in this church and the friendliness of it all, it is like family~ Donna H

I love that our church has such deep roots - 170 years and still going! - but isn't at all stuck in the past. I love the shared values of UU and the sense that those around me are sincere about them. I love that I can be myself (and allow that to develop and evolve) and not fear judgement.~ Peter B.

It is a judgment-free zone where I can explore my spiritual and healing path, and learn the best parts of many faiths and philosophies. The services help me feel grounded and centered in a world that makes it seem impossible to do that. UUCEL makes me want to be a better person so I can reciprocate the open, wholehearted support and love I feel from the congregation.~ Megan B

Let our love call us forward indeed. Where may it take us?

**Submitted by: Dr. Ann Green**

# Meetings and Events for UUCEL

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## **Announcement from Rev. Dan**

**Rev. Dan is on vacation for the month of July.**  
**Submitted by: Rev. Dan**

## **Quarterly Donations**

The Social Mission Designee for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter is Jackson Co. Immigrant Coalition. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Jackson Co.

Immigrant Coalition in the memo

**Submitted by: The Church Board**

## **Lansing Lugnuts Baseball Outing!**

The annual Faith and Family Lansing Lugnuts baseball game will be on August 22. Each congregation in attendance will be highlighted on the scoreboard at some time during the game, and all the ministers will be honored on the field during the pre-game activities. After the game, the fun continues with a fabulous fireworks show! If you are attending, you know who you are have fun at the game.

## **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**

## **Ladies' Lunch**

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday July 9 Sandbar Cafe, 103 S. Calbot, in Addison 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**

## **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**

## **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 July 2. Please let me know if you can help. JPCM is located at Partnership Place 801 S. Mechanic St. in Jackson. Distribut-ions 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**

## ~~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!

## Fall Multi-Congregational UU Retreat!

The Bay de Noc UU Fellowship in northern Michigan is excited to host the 3rd annual UU Retreat at the Garden Grove Retreat Center (formerly Marygrove) in Garden, MI. This year, they are inviting the Petoskey, Marquette, Keweenaw, Bay de Noc, and East Liberty congregations to attend.

The retreat begins at 3:00 PM on Friday, October 16, and concludes after lunch on Sunday, October 18, with the majority of programming scheduled for Saturday. Garden Grove is a beautiful 40-acre site on the Garden Peninsula, and they can personally vouch for the great food and the wonderful time they've had in previous years.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Vicki (Volk) McGaffigan of the Bay de Noc UU Fellowship for details at [mcgaffiganvicki@gmail.com](mailto:mcgaffiganvicki@gmail.com)

The Bellnote Editors can forward You an e-mail, send inquiries to [uucel\\_bellnote@yahoo.com](mailto:uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com) for information on "How to book a room and meals for the Retreat". Thank you!

**Submitted by: Vicki McGaffigan**

## LOST & FOUND

The box is 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**

## 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](mailto:Bjeanwalsh@outlook.com). For more information about UUMUAC, visit our website [UUMUAC.org](http://UUMUAC.org).





# July 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted

|           |                                                                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 Thurs   | Personal Care Ministry @ Partnership Place, 801 S. Mechanic ~ 4:30-6:30 pm                    |
| 5 Sunday  | ~~ Service ~ Led by: Nathan Close ~ 11:00 am                                                  |
| 5 Sunday  | YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm                                                       |
| 9 Thurs   | Ladies Lunch @ Sandbar Cafe in Addison ~ 12:00 pm/noon                                        |
| 12 Sunday | ~~ Service ~ Led by: Elissa Alden ~ 10:30 am                                                  |
| 13 Mon    | The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due (one week early)<br>Board Meeting no meeting in July |
| 13 Mon    | Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes                                                            |
| 19 Sunday | ~~ Service ~ Led by: Peg Beison & Our Talented Musicians ~ 11:00 am                           |
| 26 Sunday | ~~ Service ~ Led by: Cari Rust ~ 11:00 am                                                     |
| 27 Mon    | Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes                                                            |

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## Weekly Volunteer Schedule

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**Sunday, July 5~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S**  
~~ Social Hour Host, Debbie H & Team 1  
~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Nathan C  
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helpers as Needed

**Sunday, July 12 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S**  
~~ Social Hour Host, Kathy H & Team 2  
~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Elissa A  
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

**Sunday, July 19 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S**  
~~ Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team 3  
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Tomm T  
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

**Sunday, July 26 ~~ Greeter, Jackie J ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S**  
~~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team 4  
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Wendy S  
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

# ~~ Celebrating 170 Years of Liberal Religion ~~

## All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am

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**July 5 "Exploring Our Depths"**

**-Led by: Nathan Close**

**July 12 "What's Important to You?"**

**-Led by: Elissa Alden**

A participatory service. Please, agree to participate by contacting Elissa

**July 19 "Summer Music"**

**-Led by: Peg Beison and Our Talented Musicians**

**July 26 "Stories and Songs"**

**- Led by: Cari Rust**

### **Payment due of \$18.00 for The Bellnote Newsletter for the paper copy**

A Reminder to all, that it's that time of year again folks. There are now 22 members and friends who receive the papers copy of The Bellnote. There are also 2 Rev's on our list that receive a copy for free. The editors can collect the \$18.00 per person for the year's expenses of printing and postage. Please give the \$'s to Kathy Haynes or mail to her, in a check made out to UUCEL and write paper copy on the memo line. See the Supplement page for her contact info. The money will get marked paid and passed on to the church treasurer. If you want to change over to the on-line version there is no charge, just send a message to [uucel\\_bellnote@yahoo.com](mailto:uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com) Thank you from the editors Kathy and Vicki Haynes



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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 August 2026 issue, the information is needed by: Monday, July 13 (1 week early) ~~ 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 at the Sunday Topics - Full Information on Page 7

July 5 "Exploring Our Depths" -Led by: Nathan Close

July 12 "What's Important to You?" Led by: Elissa Alden

July 19 "Summer Music" -Led by: Peg Beison and Our Talented Musicians

July 26 "Stories and Songs" - Led by: Cari Rust



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

