~ July 2026 ~
# The Bellnote Mini-News

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY
2231 Jefferson Road, Clarklake, MI 49234
Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

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.

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Sunday Services

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

Calendar

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)
	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

MINISTER ~ DAN MIYAKE ~ UUDJM@YAHOO.COM
BOARD PRESIDENT ~ ANN GREEN ~ GREENANNM@JCCMI.EDU

Rev. Dan's Column Continued....

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 sup-portive 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. 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 center-ed 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

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