November 2026

The Bellnote

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

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Message from the Minister

Healing Isn't the Same as Going Back

November's Soul Matters theme is "Healing". How fitting, then, that we begin to think about healing in reference to the mid-term elections. By the time you read this, we may know the results of the November 3 elections. For many of us, the weeks leading up to Election Day have been filled with anxiety about the future of our country and the health of our democracy. The cost of living continues to strain household budgets, international relationships feel uncertain, and public trust has been shaken by dishonesty, corruption, and concerns about the abuses of power. Beneath the headlines, many people are simply tired of wondering what comes next.

Whatever the election brings, there will be healing to do.

Even welcome changes cannot undo what has happened. A calmer political climate won't instantly restore trust. Economic improvements won't immediately erase the strain families have endured. Better relationships with other nations won't undo the damage already done. The effects of years of conflict and instability don't vanish just because circumstances begin to improve.

Perhaps one of the hardest truths about healing is that we cannot simply go back to the way things were. The past has happened. Some losses cannot be reversed, and some relationships may never return to what they once were. Pretending otherwise won't help. The work must begin where things stand now, with an honest understanding of what has been damaged and what still needs care.

Healing begins when the harm that has been done is honestly acknowledged. Those responsible must be willing to face the consequences of their actions, and rebuilding trust requires more than promises that things will be different. It takes meaningful change and a commitment to preventing the same harm from happening again.

This is true in personal relationships, and it is true of public life. When people lose confidence in institutions, when neighbors begin to regard one another as enemies, or when truth itself becomes a source of constant contention, repairing the damage takes sustained effort. People won't always agree about the causes of our problems or the best solutions. Still, honesty, respect, and a willingness to recognize the humanity of those with whom we disagree are essential to moving forward.

Continued on Page 3 ....

Notes from the Board

October Board Meeting

On October 13 the board held our regular meeting. After reading the covenant and approving the September minutes (posted on the social hall wall by the kitchen), Treasurer Laurie Campbell reported that our income is strong and our current checking account balance is steady.

In the Minister's Report Rev. Dan highlighted the excellent minster's retreat he attended in Indiana. He is in the process of planning services for next year and has ordered new brochures available in the foyer. He is eager to work on ideas for growth in the congregation. Tomm Triplett and Rev. Dan met to discuss Tomm's new role as Denominational Liaison. Rev. Dan reminded the Board that UUCEL could apply for Chalice Lighters grants for infrastructure projects being envisioned (e.g., second egress, potential roof replacement). Program Council is being planned. Rev. Dan sent info for TimeTree and has asked people to try the online calendar.

The Strategic Plan was completed and updated.

Committee Reports

Buildings & Grounds: Peter Blackshear and Doug Greene are in charge of items needing quarterly check. Ferne Kerr-Arnold received a quote for a new roof on the church building. The lift is out of order and waiting repairs.

Safety: The Liberty Township fire chief led members on a walk-through for safety issues. We are in good shape; we don't need a sprinkler system for the sanctuary; and we should pursue a second egress for the sanctuary.

Worship & Caring: no reports

Religious Education: the committee will meet soon to work on schedule and discuss creating activity bags for kids who stay in services.

Tech: Update – all services (except Zoom) are saved to the hard drive. The church has two Facebook accounts; Rev. Dan will explore deactivating one.

Membership: There was discussion of creating a subcommittee for outreach activities.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm. The next meeting will be Monday, November 9th at 12:00pm at UUCEL.

Ann

Submitted by: Dr. Ann Green
Board President

Notes from Religious Ed

We will be using Soul Matters 2026 for the upper Elementary Curriculum this year. The November theme is Healing. We have classes planned out for the first, second,third and fifth Sunday's. On the fourth Sunday it will be an Intergenerational Service that service.

Jackie has the lessons printed and will bring them to church. The teachers can also access the lessons on-line at the Souls Matters web site. Please see Jackie if you need more information. The teachers for the month are listed on page 6 of this issue. We will be working on getting the activity bags togethers soon, for the children to use while in the service as needed. Feel free to contact Donna or Jackie if you have any questions.

Submitted by: Jackie Johnson

The Lost and Found Box —Is quite empty so that good, it only has two (2) items —a clear cellphone cover and 1 triangle shaped white & black earring along with a framed photo that belongs to Theresa Spencer.

Submitted by: the Editors



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.

Rev. Dan Column Continued

Healing takes time. There is no single moment when a community can declare itself healed, no simple measure that tells us when trust has returned. Progress may be uneven, and some days the work may feel discouragingly slow. Even so, there are choices to be made about the kind of future worth building. Transformation, one of the central values of Unitarian Universalism, offers a useful way to think about this work. Transformation means more than restoring what was lost. It invites us to ask what needs to change so that the conditions that caused the harm are not recreated. A society built on justice and equity requires more than patching up damage after a crisis. It calls for institutions, relationships, and communities that are more honest, humane, and worthy of trust.

That may seem like an enormous responsibility when the problems feel far beyond any one person's reach. No individual can repair every broken institution or resolve every national conflict. Yet each person has some influence over the communities they inhabit and the ways they treat the people around them. Listening rather than dismissing, taking responsibility for one's own mistakes, speaking up when someone is mistreated, and refusing to answer contempt with more contempt are ways of helping create a healthier environment for everyone.

The UU value of Interdependence reminds us that lives are connected, even when people disagree about how best to live together. A society cannot thrive when its members lose faith in one another or believe that their well-being depends on someone else's defeat. Healthy communities need relationships and institutions that allow people to work together, address shared problems, and find common ground without requiring everyone to think alike.

Continued on Page 5….

Please welcome our newest member who joined our church on October 11

Nan Moynihan

With Great Rejoicing !



Meetings and Events for UUCEL

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday **November 12** at 12:00/noon at Bone Island Grill in Vandercook. 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

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 November 5. Please let me know if you can help. JPCM is located at Partnership Place 801 S. Mechanic St. in Jackson. Distributions 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

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 our 2nd Quarter is Grow Jackson. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Grow Jackson in the memo line.

Submitted by: The Church Board

Books and Puzzles Sale Coming Soon

A Special sale for Books and Puzzles will be held in the schoolhouse after the service **on November 8 and 15.** Please bring your donations for the sale to the schoolhouse after the service on October 18 and or 25. **Submitted by Elissa Alden & Deb Hartsuff**

Your contact information

Have you moved? Do you have a new phone number - dropped or added a land line?
Is your e-mail different than what you wrote on the visitor sign-in forms the church has?
If anything has changed, please get your new info to Kathy. **Submitted by: Kathy Haynes**

Donating to UUCEL

If you are currently donating to UUCEL, you may be interested in knowing that for the 2026 tax year, you can deduct up to $1000 ($2000 if filing jointly) for cash donations even if you don't itemize. This benefit is for donations to charitable organizations only, which includes churches. You may want to consider increasing your donation now to maximize your benefit before the end of the calendar year. You will receive a statement from the church in January showing your 2026 donation total, if you would like to know how much you've donated in 2026 so far, email, call or text Laurie Campbell, her contact info is on the top of the supplement page. Use the IRS link to read more about it.

https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc506

Submitted by: Laurie Campbell

Watch on Facebook:

https:www.facebook.com/LibertyUU

November 26 Announcements

November's Lunch with the Minister gathering will be on Friday, November 13 at noon at Red Lobster in Jackson. Come and hang out with Rev. Dan and enjoy causal conversation and great food!

The Love at the Center Book Group's next meeting will be on Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 via Zoom. If you didn't participate in the first meeting, you are still welcome to join the group. See Rev. Dan for details.

The new Drum Circle, led by Ben Brue, will have its first gathering on Wednesday, November 11 at 6:30 at the church. No drumming experience required, and extra drums will be available if you need one to use. Come and explore the spiritual and communal benefits of group drumming, whether you think you have rhythm or not!

Rev. Dan will be on Study Leave November 23 through 27. He will not be available for phone calls, texts, or emails unless it is an emergency.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan

Rev. Dan Column Continued

It is natural to hope for a future in which the wounds of recent years have healed and the country has found a steadier footing. No one can know how quickly that future will arrive. But healing doesn't have to wait for everything to be settled in Washington or for every uncertainty to disappear.

It begins wherever people choose to repair rather than deepen a division, tell the truth rather than look away, and build trust where it has been lost. These may seem like small acts beside the challenges facing the country, but a healthier future cannot be built without them.

The past cannot be changed, and the future is not yet settled. What comes next will be shaped, in part, by the choices made now: whether harm is acknowledged, whether accountability is taken seriously, and whether people are willing to work toward something better. Healing is not a return to the way things were. It is the chance to build something more just, more humane, and more worthy of our hope.

None of this guarantees that healing will come quickly, or that the work will always be easy. There will be disappointments, and progress may not look the way we imagined. But the possibility of a better future remains. Perhaps that is the hope worth holding onto as we face an uncertain future. The past cannot be undone, but it need not determine everything that comes next. Healing gives us the opportunity to learn to create something better—not by returning to the way things were, but by moving toward a future that is more just, more humane, and more worthy of our hope.

Rev. Dan

November 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted

1 Thurs	Personal Care Ministry @ Partnership Place, 801 S. Mechanic ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
1 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Ann Green ~ 11:00 am
1 Sunday	YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
2 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
8 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
8 Sunday	Special Sale for Books and Puzzles ~ In the schoolhouse ~ After the service
9 Mon	Board Meeting ~ Noon
11 Wed	New Drum Circle 6:30 pm
12 Thurs	Book Group ~ Zoom 6:30 pm
12 Thurs	Ladies Lunch @ Bone Island Grill ~ Noon
13 Fri	Lunch with the Minister @ Red Lobster ~ Noon
15 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Pastor Michael Peters ~ 11:00 am
15 Sunday	Special Sale for Books and Puzzles ~ In the schoolhouse ~ After the service
16 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
22 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 10:30 am
23 Mon	The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
23-27	Rev. Dan on Study Leave
29 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Patty Brue ~ 11:00 am
29 Sunday	Potluck Dinner after the Service
30 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Nov 1~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & ??
~~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team 4
~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Bert S
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Donna H & Kathy H ~~ Nursery, Ben B & Patty B

Sunday, Nov 8 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & ??
~~ Social Hour Host, Lori A & Team 5
~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Cecily S
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Jackie J & Nena O ~~ Nursery, Ashley S & Alyce O

Sunday, Nov 15 ~~ Greeter, Gordon B ~~ Usher, Paul J & ??
~~ Social Hour Host, Liz W & Team 6
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Cory P
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nancy S & Kerry H ~~ Nursery, Donna H & Kathy H

Sunday, Nov 22 ~~ Greeter, Laurie C ~~ Usher, Paul J & ??
~~ Social Hour Host, Alyce O & Team 7
~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Wendy S
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nancy S & Kerry H ~~ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery, Jackie J & Maria C

Sunday, Nov 29 ~~ Greeter, Laura B ~~ Usher, Paul J & ??
~~ Social Hour Host, Debbie H & Team 1
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Ben B
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Pageant Practice ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed



Nov 1 "UU: Church of Change"
-Led by: Ann Green
In person at UUCEL or live on Facebook.

Nov 8 "The Things We Cannot Fix"
-Led by: Rev. Dan
In person at UUCEL or live on Facebook.
Not every wound can be repaired, every loss reversed, or every question answered. We may spend enormous energy trying to change what lies beyond our control, struggling against realities we wish were different. But what does healing look like when there is no easy solution? Together, we'll explore the difference between giving up and learning to live with what cannot be changed, while remaining open to comfort, meaning, and joy.

Nov 15 "Native Traditions and the Teachings of Jesus"
-Led by: Pastor Michael Peters
In person at UUCEL or live on Facebook.
There will be some smoke involved with a pipe ritual.

Nov 22 "It Wouldn't Be Thanksgiving Without…"
A Joint Intergenerational Service - Start time 10:30 am
-Led by: Rev. Dan
In person at UUCEL or live on Facebook.
Favorite foods, familiar traditions, funny mishaps, and stories we tell year after year. Thanksgiving means something different to each of us, shaped by the memories we cherish and the experiences that have changed us. Join us for an intergenerational service celebrating the many ways we experience this holiday—and the traditions, old and new, that make it our own. Rev. Dan will be in Elkhart and UUCEL will Zoom in.

Nov 29 "A Focus on Thanksgiving"
- Led by: Patty Brue
In person at UUCEL or live on Facebook.
With a Potluck Dinner to follow. Please bring a food dish to share.

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 2026 issue, the information is needed by: Monday, October 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, Jackie Johnson, 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

Nov 1 "UU: Church of Change" -Led by: Ann Green
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Nov 15 "Native Traditions and the Teachings of Jesus" -Led by: Pastor Michael Peters
Nov 22 "It Wouldn't Be Thanksgiving Without…" A Joint Intergenerational Service -Led by: Rev. Dan - 10:30 am
Nov 29 "A Focus on Thanksgiving" - Led by: Patty Brue with a Potluck Dinner after the Service







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

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Where People Care About Each Other And Care About The World.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED