



October 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

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Message from the Minister

The Courage to Let Go

Dear UUCEL Members and Friends,

October's Soul Matters theme is "Courage." And this month, nature gives us an interesting way to think about what courage can look like.

There is something beautiful about October. The trees that have been green and full for months begin to change. Their leaves turn gold, orange, red and brown. Then, little by little, they let go, leaving the branches bare as the tree prepares for winter.

We often think of autumn as a season of loss. Yet the trees are not dying. They are responding to a change in season. The leaves have done their work. They gathered sunlight and helped nourish the tree through the growing season. Now the conditions have changed. Holding onto those leaves would no longer serve the tree, so the tree lets them go.

There is some wisdom here for us. We tend to think of courage as doing something difficult or frightening: speaking up, taking a risk, facing something head-on. But sometimes courage is quieter. Sometimes courage is letting go.

We carry many things from one season of life into another. Some are worth carrying. Others may have once served us well but no longer fit the life we are living. We may be holding onto an old expectation, a habit of thinking, a role we've outgrown or no longer desire to play, or even an old understanding of who we are.

Letting go can be difficult because what we are releasing isn't necessarily bad. The leaves weren't mistakes. They were part of the tree's life. They served an important purpose. Their time has simply come to an end.

Human beings have seasons, too. Our dreams can change, responsibilities we once gladly accepted can become burdens we no longer need to carry, and beliefs that once made sense may no longer fit who we have become. Sometimes we have to acknowledge that a part of our life has reached its natural ending. That takes courage.

The trees offer us a way of thinking about letting go. When the season changes, they release what has finished its work. They don't need to condemn the leaves or regret having grown them. The leaves were part of the tree's life. They served their purpose. Then it was time to let them fall.

Continued on Page 3....

Notes from the Board

September Board Meeting

On September 15 the board held our regular meeting. After reading the board covenant and approving the August minutes (posted on the social hall wall by the kitchen), Treasurer Laurie Campbell reported that our pledge income is strong and our current checking account is robust. We are moving most of our remaining funds from the pandemic from Fidelity to our church Capital Campaign account. However, the Fidelity account will remain open for those who wish to make donations to the church.

In the Minister's Report Rev. Dan highlighted that the picnic was a success and that Tomm Triplet is the Denominational Liaison - he and Rev. Dan are working to help the congregation be more aware of and involved with the greater UUA. Coming soon are the Program Council, an Online Calendar, and the Common Read book group (*Love at the Center*) [contact Rev. Dan to join].

The new camera system to improve the safety of the church was discussed at length and approved. The Strategic Plan was completed with modifications.

Committee Reports: Doug Greene has been taking care of minor issues with SimpliSafe sensors and other small repairs. Worship services are mostly planned through this year. Lynn Hightower is the new Caring Committee chair. RE classes began September 13. Additional volunteers are needed for the nursery. The possibility of hiring a part-time RE coordinator was raised and the board would like RE to create activity bags for kids who need something to do during the church service. Nancy will follow up with the Tech Committee about the sound quality of the Facebook stream. Ferne is headlining a Halloween activity/fund raiser.

Rev. Dan summarized the congregational comments from Sunday's service, "We Didn't Start the Fire." The board agreed to add Rev. Dan and Ann Green as authorized signers with access to the Flagstar debit card.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13 at noon at UUCEL.

Ann

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

Notes from Religious Ed

We will be using Soal Matters 2026 for the upper Elementary Curriculum this year. The October theme is Courage. We have classes planned out for the first, third and fourth Sunday's. On the second Sunday it will be an Intergenerational Service of Blessing of the Animals. Please see page 7 for more info about that service. See you there with your pets.

Jackie has the lessons printed and will bring them to church this Sunday. 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. 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

Rev. Dan Column Continued

Perhaps we can learn something from that kind of release. There are things in our own lives that deserve gratitude precisely because they have served us well. We can honor what they gave us and still release them. Sometimes courage is knowing when to let go. As we watch the leaves fall this October, perhaps we might take a moment to consider what in our own lives has finished its work. What are we ready to let go of?

As you consider that question, you might think about how the trees remind us that letting go is part of being alive. Sometimes what falls away is making room for something new to grow.

With Love Abundant,

Rev. Dan



**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 Announcements

The Common Read Book Group will meet on October 19 on Zoom. There is still time to sign up. Please contact Rev. Dan if you want to participate.

This month's Lunch with the Minister is this Friday October 9 at noon. Come and join Rev. Dan for good food and great conversation at Knight's Steakhouse on Horton Road.

Don't forget that our Blessing of the Animals service is October 11. You are invited to bring you furry, winged, or scaly friends to receive a special blessing. Dogs must remain leashed at all times. It's also Bring a Friend Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend to the service so they can get to know us.

Rev. Dan's schedule for October is below. Though he will not be in town very much this month, he will still be available for pastoral care calls and emergencies.

October 1 – 3: In town
October 4 – 7: Away at a ministers' retreat
October 8 – 18: In town
October 19 – 25: In Elkhart
October 26 – 28: In town
October 27 – 31: Study Leave and out of town

Meetings and Events for UUCEL

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday **October 8** at 12:00/noon at the Jackson Airport Restaurant, 3608 Wildwood Jackson. 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

Please Note: For this October (only) our team will be volunteering on the **Oct 1st and Oct 22nd**

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 October 1. 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

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

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**

Fall Fundraiser

"Come One, Come All! Join in the fun and buy, buy, buy! On **October 30** from 5:00pm to 7:30pm, we will be having a Fun Fall Soup Dinner & Fall Basket Auction Fundraiser. There will be a variety of soups and other treats to choose from along with coffee & bottled water. Donation of \$10 is requested per person for the dinner. Feel free to come in costume - you just might win a "Best of" prize! Bidding on the baskets begins on October 4th and lasts until the event. **~~What we need ~~**

– 1) Fall-themed cupcakes and/or cookies donated to be part of the meal – 2) Fall Baskets donated for the auction (we have some already but need more!) – 3) Homemade treats for the Bake Sale (have them priced and ready to sell!). Please contact Ferne Kerr-Arnold with questions and to let her know what you can donate!

Submitted by: Ferne Kerr-Arnold

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

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**

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**

Watch on Facebook:

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

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**

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

Social Hour Team Schedule

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 buyer, 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

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

The Bellnote Editors can forward You an e-mail, send inquiries to uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com for information on "How to book a room and meals for the Retreat". Thank you! **Submitted by: Vicki McGaffigan**



October '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
4 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson ~ 11:00 am
4 Sunday YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
5 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
8 Thurs Ladies Lunch @ Jackson Airport Restaurant ~ 12:00 pm/noon
11 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 10:30 am
13 Tue Board Meeting ~ 12:00/noon
18 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Becky McKenney ~ 11:00 am
19 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
19 Mon The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
22 Thurs Personal Care Ministry @ Partnership Place, 801 S. Mechanic ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
25 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Cory Page ~ 11:00 am
30 Fri Fall Soup Dinner & Fall Basket Auction ~ 5-7:30

Nov 8 & 15 Special Sale for Books and Puzzles ~ in the schoolhouse ~ after the service

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Oct 4~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Kathy H & Team 2 (we switched dates)

~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Wendy S

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Jackie J & Lori A ~~ Nursery, Ben B & Patty B

Sunday, Oct 11 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Debbie H & Team 1

~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Elissa A

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery, Ashley S & Alyce O

Sunday, Oct 18 ~~ Greeter, Gordon B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Alyce O & Team 7 (we switched dates)

~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Liz W

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nan M & Donna H ~~ Nursery, Donna H & Kathy H

Sunday, Oct 25 ~~ Greeter, Laurie C ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team 3

~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Gordon B

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nancy S & Kerry H ~~ Intergenerational~~ Nursery, Jackie J & Maria C

~~ Celebrating 170 Years of Liberal Religion ~~

All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am



Oct 4 “Broken Hearts and Mosaic Healing”

-Led by: Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson

In person at UUCEL or live on Facebook.

When our hearts break – at the grief in our own life, at the state of the world, about losses and tragedies – we sometimes want to make the pieces the same as they were. But it doesn't work. What if healing is making a mosaic with those beautiful colors and powerful shapes? What if the breaking is one thing but the healing is many things?

Oct 11 “Blessing of the Animals”

-Led by: Rev. Dan

In person at UUCEL or live on Facebook.

Our pets and animal friends play a huge role in our lives, and we are blessed to have them. Let's return the favor by giving them a blessing! Everyone is invited to bring their furry, feathered, or scaly friends to receive special blessing. Dogs must be leashed at all times. We will also take a moment to pay tribute to beloved pets who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge during the past year. We will have a special altar set up where you can bring a photo or other trinket such as a favorite toy or collar and place it on the altar in remembrance. Finally, it will also be Bring a Friend Sunday, so let's see how many visitors we can welcome!

Oct 18 “Preparing for Midterms”

-Led by: Becky McKenney with Patty Brue coordinating

In person at UUCEL or live on Facebook.

Oct 25 “Folklore Monsters and Cultural Fears”

- Led by: Cory Page

In person at UUCEL or live on Facebook.

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

Oct 4 "Broken Hearts and Mosaic Healing" -Led by: Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson

Oct 11 "Blessing of the Animals" -Led by: Rev. Dan

Oct 18 "Preparing for Midterms" -Led by: Becky McKenney with Patty Brue coordinating

Oct 25 "Folklore Monsters and Cultural Fears"- Led by: Cory Page



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

CLARKLAKE, MI 49234

2231 JEFFERSON ROAD

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

