



~ October 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

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

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Sunday Services

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

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Calendar

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

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Rev Dan's Column Continued....

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.

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

Sunday Services Continued...

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.

<http://www.libertyuuc.org/category/newsletter/>

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