



~ September 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 Congregation We Are Becoming

There is something about September that makes us think about beginnings. Summer loosens its grip. Familiar routines return. We gather again, open our calendars, greet people we haven't seen for a while, and look toward the year ahead. But what if a beginning is not simply a fresh start? What if every moment is a beginning?

Process Theology offers a simple but powerful way of imagining our lives. We are not finished beings moving along a predeter-mined path. We are continually becoming. The future is not entirely decided in advance; it emerges from what has come before and from the possibilities available to us now. We inherit the past, but we are not prisoners of it. Every moment brings something new. We receive the circum-stances, relationships, stories, and choices that have shaped us. And then we respond. We can repeat what we have always done, or we can notice a new possibility and give it our attention.

That possibility may be small - a conversation we didn't expect, a new friendship, a question that won't go away, an idea someone finally says out loud, a newcomer who changes the way we see our community, or a moment when we realize that something we thought was settled is actually still unfolding.

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Sunday Services

Sept 6 "Ingathering and Water Communion"

-Led by: Rev. Dan

In person at UUCEL or live onFacebook.

Sunday, September 6 will be our annual Ingathering and Water Communion service. This will be a joint service with our friends in Elkhart, which means **the service will start at 10:30**. Rev. Dan will be at East Liberty, and UUFEE will Zoom in this time. Note that this service will not be streamed on Facebook. If you plan to watch online, please check the Wednesday Chimes that week for the Zoom link. Please bring a small amount of water from a meaningful place to you – a vacation spot, a lake, the ocean, or even your own kitchen faucet. We will blend these waters during this unique UU ritual.

Sept 13 "We Didn't Start the Fire"

-Led by: Rev. Dan

In person at UUCEL or live onFacebook.

Where did Unitarian Universalism come from? Our tradition grew out of generations of people who questioned inherited beliefs, challenged conventional wisdom, and dared to imagine something different. This Sunday we'll take a lively look at some of the people and ideas that shaped the tradition we inherited—and consider what it means that we didn't start the fire, but we're tending it now. What will we add, change, and pass on?

Continued on next page...

Calendar

3 Thurs	Personal Care Ministry @ Partnership Place, 801 S. Mechanic ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
6 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
6 Sunday	YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
7 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
10 Thurs	Ladies Lunch @ Olive Garden ~ 12:00 pm/noon
12 Wed	Board Meeting ~ 12:30
13 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 10:30 am
20 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Darrin Palmer ~ 11:00 am
21 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
21 Mon	The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
27 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Cory Page ~ 11:00 am

MINISTER ~ DAN MIYAKE ~ UUDJM@YAHOO.COM
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Rev Dan's Column Continued....

The future is pregnant with possibility, and already stirring within the present, although we cannot yet know exactly what it will become. This is true of congregations as much as it is of individuals. We inherit much from those who came before us: traditions, stories, buildings, songs, commitments, relationships, and ways of understanding our faith. Some of those things continue to nourish us. Others may invite us to reconsider what we need now. And we, in turn, will leave something for those who come after us. That makes the life of a congregation less like maintaining an institution and more like participating in an ongoing creative process. Each generation receives something and then adds something. Each person who walks through our doors becomes part of the story and, in some small way, changes it. So perhaps the most interesting question for us this September isn't, it is: "What are we planning for the coming year?" What is trying to begin among us? Maybe there is a possibility we haven't noticed yet. Maybe there is a gift among us that hasn't found its purpose. Maybe there is a conversation we need to have. Maybe there is a new way of being together that is waiting for us to imagine it. We don't have to know the answers. In fact, perhaps not knowing is part of the point. If the future were already completely determined, there would be little room for creativity, surprise, or hope. Instead, we meet one another in the present—with everything we have inherited and with more possibilities than we can see. And then we choose. We listen. We respond. We create. This September, as we begin another year together, may we pay attention to what is emerging among us. May we honor what has brought us here without assuming that it has already told us where we are going. And may we have the imagination and courage to participate in the future that is still becoming. We are not simply beginning another congregational year. We are becoming the congregation we will be. With Love Abundant,

REV. DAN

Sept 20 "The Good Samaritan"

-Led by: Darrin Palmer

In person at UUCEL or live onFacebook.

We will be exploring the story of The Good Samaritan, and its echoes and parallels across several different cultural and religious traditions.

Sept 27 "Wait For It!"

- Led by: Cory Page

In person at UUCEL or live onFacebook.

Exploring the science and spirituality of waiting for outcomes instead of forcing them to occur.

Sunday Services Continued...

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Where People Care About Each Other And Care About The World

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