



September 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 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 predetermined 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 circumstances, 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.

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, "What are we planning for the coming year?"

Continued on Page 2....

Notes from the Board

August Board Meeting

On August 12 the board held our regular meeting where we welcomed new members Tomm Triplett and Peter Blackshear. After reading the board covenant and approving the June minutes (posted in the social hall wall by the kitchen), we heard a description from Christoff's for replacement treads needed for the interior staircase.

Committee reports. Building and Grounds.

Alyce reported that broken windows in the social hall were replaced. She and Lynn are stepping away from the committee and working to prepare others to assume the duties. The **Safety committee** reported the Pride flag was stolen and the spotlight for the flag damaged. They recommend FirstAid upgrades, installation of a security camera system, concealed firearms in the sanctuary, installation of a sprinkler system for fires, and a second egress from the sanctuary. The board discussed these recommendations extensively. **Worship** reported services are planned through October. **RE** Jackie Johnson and Donna Hinton are leading. **Social Justice** is promoting the Jackson County Immigration Coalition and **Membership** has planned a picnic at the church Friday, August 28th at 5:30.

Treasurer's report. Laurie Campbell will manage closing our small Fidelity account and moving funds to our UUA capital campaign account. She is also giving a trial run to *Zeffy*, an alternative website donation service to Tithe.

The board will meet Monday, August 24th to create the Strategic Plan for this church year. The next board meeting will take place noon Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at UUCEL.

Dr. Ann Green, Board President

Ann

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

Notes from Religious Ed

Fall is quickly approaching. RE will be up and running September 13. We would really like another volunteer for the RE committee. Contact Jackie or Donna if you are interested in helping guide RE. Additional volunteers for nursery would also be welcome. If you have not got your background check form into Jackie or Donna please do that as soon as possible. We are excited about this year is curriculum!

The **new nursery care policy**, since all of our kids are old enough to attend K-5 classes, will be to ask our past nursery volunteers to be available on an as-needed basis, in the case that visitors or new members come on a Sunday and wish to take advantage of nursery care for their preschool-aged children.

Submitted by: Jackie Johnson

Payment due of \$18.00 for The Bellnote Newsletter for the paper copy

A Reminder to all, that it's that time of year again folks. There are now 22 members and friends who receive the papers copy of The Bellnote. **We have only 6** who have paid so far. There are also 2 Rev's on our list that receive a copy for free. The editors can collect the \$18.00 per person for the year's expenses of printing and postage. Please give the \$'s to Kathy Haynes or mail to her, in a check made out to UUCEL and write paper copy on the memo line. See the Supplement page for her contact info. The money will get marked paid and passed on to the church treasurer. If you want to change over to the on-line version there is no charge, just send a message to uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com Thank you from the editors Kathy and Vicki Haynes

Rev. Dan Column Continued

It is:

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



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.

Announcement from Rev. Dan

1. Rev. Dan will once again be leading a Soul Matters Small Group this year. This group meets once a month, and engages with a monthly themed packet of readings and exercises geared toward deeper spiritual thinking, personal growth and awareness, and building relationships. Though the previous groups have been fairly small, everyone who has participated stated that they enjoyed the group and got a lot out of working with the content of the packets. A new group will be forming in September. If you would like to participate, please contact Rev. Dan by September 4. You can also talk to some previous group members, such as Peter and Megan Blackshear, Ann Green, and Tom Triplett about their experiences with the group.
2. Starting in this month, Rev. Dan and Ann Green will be leading a congregational reading of the book "Love at the Center", edited by UUA president Sofia Betancourt. This book is a collection of insightful, short essays by various UU ministers about the centrality of love in our UU values, faith, and identity. The way it works is that everyone will be encouraged to purchase the book, read selected essays, then come together, probably via Zoom, to discuss the readings. The UUA has long suggested congregational reads, and up until now, we have not really engaged with any of them. Both Rev. Dan and Ann agree that this book is especially appropriate in this current environment in which we live, and hope that you all will choose to participate. Please contact Rev. Dan or Ann if you are interested or have questions.
3. 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 here at East Liberty, and Uufe will Zoom in this time. 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.

Meetings and Events for UUCEL

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday September 10th at Olive Garden 12:00 noon. 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 September 3. 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 the 1st quarter is Jackson Co. Immigrant Coalition. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Jackson Co. Immigrant Coalition in the memo

Submitted by: The Church Board

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**

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

~~Visitor Tips for Everyone~~

Here are some ways to make people feel welcome that everyone can follow:

- Introduce yourself and get to know a visitor by name.
- Invite a visitor to social hour.
- Wear a nametag.
- Sit toward the middle of the pew or nearer to the front of the church so visitors can be more anonymous if they choose.
- Watch for people who may be alone during social hour and ask them about the sermon or their faith journey. Thank you!

Watch on Facebook:

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

The **Lost and Found Box** has a set of earphones for maybe a child - clear phone case – one triangle shaped dark blue/black earring – leash for a pet – child's face mask – the clothing items, scarf/cap/sweater have been here for about a year will be donated if not picked up by you soon –

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

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

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**



September 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted

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

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Sept 6~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Nena O & Team 3

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

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery will have Helpers as Needed

Sunday, Sept 13 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Nancy S & Team 4

~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Laurie C

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Jackie J & Nan M ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

Sunday, Sept 20 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Lori A & Team 5

~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Tiffany R

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ TBA & TBA ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

Sunday, Sept 27 ~~ Greeter, Julie F ~~ Usher, Paul J & Bob S

~~ Social Hour Host, Liz W & Team 6

~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Tomm T

~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ TBA & TBA ~~ Nursery will have Helper as Needed

~~ Celebrating 170 Years of Liberal Religion ~~

All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am



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 UUFEB 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?

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.

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 September 2026 issue, the information is needed by: Monday, Aug 24 ~~ 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

Sept 6 "Ingathering and Water Communion" -Led by: Rev. Dan Service will start at 10:30

Sept 13 "We Didn't Start the Fire" -Led by: Rev. Dan

Sept 20 "The Good Samaritan" -Led by: Darrin Palmer

Sept 27 "Wait For It!" -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

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

