



April 2022 Newsletter

HARBOR Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION

Muskegon, MI 49441-1719
1296 Montgomery Ave. at McGraft

231-755-2932
www.harboruu.org

HUUC Mission Statement:

Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a safe haven inspiring people to seek their own spiritual truths through worship and learning in community as we build a better world together.

HUUC Vision Statement:

The people of Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation envision a community where connections are strengthened and deepened, where families are supported, and where diversity is celebrated.

Sue McIntire, *Music Director*

HUUC Board of Trustees

Poppy Sias Hernandez, *President*

Robin Dennany, *Vice President*

Kurt Troutman, *Treasurer*

Jones Barton, *Secretary*

Members at Large:

Carolyn Holmes • Rebecca St. Clair • Jim Stier

Sunday Worship Services

*Virtual!
or In Person!*

**Begin at
10:30am**

April 3rd

"The Guy On The Bus"

Carolyn Holmes

Based on an award winning sermon written by Rev. Bill Neely, Originally delivered to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton in March of 2017, this sermon received the Stewardship Sermon of the Year Award which is selected by a committee from the Liberal Religious Educators Association, The Annual Program Fund, and the UU Minister's Association. *Sometimes, things go wrong. Especially when you are a kid. Learn how a stranger offered a lesson in giving, and receiving in gratitude, through a simple gesture of kindness.*

April 10th

Congregational Gathering

Poppy Sias Hernandez

Special 3-hour meeting in lieu of our regular worship service to talk about what our next steps look like for our community. Please reach out to a board member with any questions or concerns regarding our congregation and its path forward.

April 17th

"Resiste, Rest, Rise... Repeat"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

The Jewish Holy Days of Passover/Pesach and the Christian celebration of Easter speak to the parts of us that need both rest and resistance. Join pulpit guest, The Rev. Matthew Cockrum, along with the HUUC choir and Worship Assistant, Nancy Johnson, in a rich and full service.

Choir Sunday

April 24th

"After Life"

Dr. Brent Smith

Considerations of what is involved "after life" are prominent features of a religious point of view. Heaven/hell, rebirth, Sheol, the Pureland, and other conceptions take a "long view" of "where" souls arrive after "crossing over," as if religion is about destinations. But what about the immediate moments leading into and just beyond the land of the living? We'll take a look at recent findings on this to build a framework for understanding an experience that none of us has yet had, but all will.

Zoom With Us at <https://zoom.us/j/91447658076>



Greetings from the Board of Trustees!

As Spring bursts forth, so does the activity level at HUUC. This is the time of year when the Board and other active members find themselves deeply enmeshed in the work of our fifth principle, "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Now is the time for planning for the future and we are hopeful for the support of as many members as possible. There will be several important events to watch for. I hope to see many of you at each one as we move forward together. Please note the dates on your calendar and plan to attend as many as you can. Peace! Carolyn

April 3 is the date that we will no longer require the wearing of face masks in our building. Of course, if you feel more comfortable wearing your mask, that is your option but it will not be required. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines and continue to monitor our local situation. Should changes be required, we will let you know. This will also be the date we kick off our annual pledge drive. Treasurer Kurt Troutman will have information to share during our morning service.

April 10 is a special day for the future of HUUC. The Board of Trustees is asking all members to join in a congregational meeting to share ideas about the community we want to be, going forward. Be at Harbor from 10:30 to 1:30. Lunch will be served. This is not our Annual Congregational Meeting but we need as many members present as possible to discuss the future of Harbor UU Congregation. In a recent sermon, Ted Jauw stated that we may have recently gone through an "extinction event"-- a reference to the changes that may stem from the last two years of isolation due to the Covid pandemic as well as recent societal and political changes. It is time to define our new "normal" and the leadership of Harbor wants to know which direction its members want to take. From there, we will be able to plan a budget and set goals for the next year and into the future.

April 18 is the next Board of Trustees meeting at HUUC at 6:30. If you wish to be placed on the agenda during our public comment segment, contact Poppy Hernandez.

May 15 will be our Annual Congregational Meeting. We will have a prepared budget to vote on, officers to elect to the Board, a report from the Endowment Committee, and presentation of the Mason-Berlow Award for outstanding fellowship in the last year.

The Board has approved plans by the Endowment Fund Committee to award six grants this year, with a total value of \$6525. Three scholarships were awarded to Jaden Duquette, Jamie Huizinga, and Rhian Williams. \$550 was awarded to the Boys and Girls Club for training expenses for water safety instructors, \$700 was awarded to our choir members for use at the Association of UU Music Ministries Conference, and \$3475 was awarded for Building Repair. There is a balance in the endowment fund of \$171,006.92.

Submitted by Carolyn Holmes,
HUUC Board Member



Updates from the Board President!



Dear family-

I promised a letter on behalf of the board regarding our vision for what's next for our community. Recently the board convened at a retreat to spend some time in reflection and visioning for our future as a community.

Over the past two years, our community has lost so much. Many of us are hurting from the absence of our children in church, our time fellowshiping, our extended social justice work and our leadership development activities. The board has worked diligently to hold both the loss and the opportunities that have been placed before us.

While dealing with this most difficult time, our community has shown resilience and grown tremendously. Some examples we are most proud of include:

- Only 1 missed Sunday of gathering for worship in more than two years of pandemic challenges.
- Increased engagement from your board through monthly sermons and updates in the newsletters.
- We have been nimble and adapted providing virtual services and now providing hybrid services.
- We installed a lift to make our building truly accessible.
- We hired a pastoral consultant when it was clear that our community was hurting and in need of support. She curated both community gathering opportunities and met one on one with each of our members.
- Thanks to our worship committee, our pulpit has been a balm for the spirit with amazing lay leaders and visiting ministers.
- We have remained fiscally solvent.
- We have made improvements to our building.
- We have protected the health and safety of our congregation.
- We have had new members join.

During our retreat we considered both our assets and challenges as a congregation to discern our next steps. While several members have expressed a desire to implement building improvements, we are going to prioritize **fostering community connections** and exploring the possibility of **launching a ministerial search**.

We need our entire community to participate in this process of deciding what is next and working toward it. Regarding fostering community connections, please join us for a congregational gathering on April 10th. We will use our regularly scheduled sermon time for our work with an additional 2 hours. So please plan on 10:30am-1:30pm for this important gathering.

On the issue of how to consider the feasibility of a ministerial search, we will be calling every member of the congregation to gather input on three basic questions. Please share honestly and openly when one of the board members calls you. The calls will occur between March 10th and March 19th. If for some reason you don't hear from us and you want to share your input, please call me at 231-343-6852 before March 21st. Be advised that if you are calling during business hours, I likely won't answer but please leave a voicemail indicating you would like a returned call. Thank you in advance for your participation in this process – we are hopeful because we are together.

With love and in service,

Poppy



Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Deeds, not Creeds!

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 HUUC Annual Pledge Drive. Our theme this year is ***Deed, not Creeds!*** We have all embraced our Sunday morning return to the sanctuary. Covid appears to have abated, but we remain ever vigilant. Zoom will continue to be an ancillary delivery method for our service each Sunday morning.

Your pledge insures that HUUC maintains the resources necessary to grow and thrive in fellowship and service to each other. Pledge submit your annual pledge to Kurt Troutman by June 1, 2022 by means of email at kurttroutman@hotmail.com or a sealed envelope marked **2022-2023 Pledge** mailed to HUUC.

Your pledge can be donated by check, cash or online options which can be accessed through <https://harboruu.org/pledgedonate/>



Thank you for your consideration and contributions. ***Deeds, not Creeds!***

Sincerely,

Kurt Troutman

Treasurer, Harbor UU Congregation

Many Beliefs, One Faith



2022-2023 HUUC Annual Pledge Form

Name (s):

Address:

Email:

Phone:


Annual Pledge Amount:

Method of Payment:

UUA Fair Share Guideline:

<file:///C:/Users/laptop/Desktop/UUA%20Pledge%20Guidelines.pdf>





Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday April 11th • 7:30 pm
via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/93775234810> or room code 9377-5234-810
All are welcome!



Family Promise Volunteers Needed May 8-15

at Harbor of Grace (W. Southern location)

We would absolutely love to hear from you if you are able to volunteer for Family Promise. We are in need of morning and afternoon drivers, dinner providers, overnight hosts, activity hosts, help with set up, help with tear down, help with laundry, trailer pick up, van pick up, etc...

This program could not exist without our volunteers. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Michelle Pridnia 231-766-1918
Sharlene Naylor 231-286-9914

Do Your Best to Protect Us!

As of April 3rd, HUUC Mask
Requirement Lifted

- The board continues to track the county data regarding COVID infection rates
- We are continuing with social distancing, **wear a mask at your own discretion**
- In-person service participants: please continue to sign in when entering the building
- If you test positive and have attended in-person services, please contact the board

kundalini yoga



Every Monday 5:30-6:30
1296 Montgomery • 49441
Bring a Mat & \$5 donation

All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.
For more information, please visit www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming.



LGBTQ / TGQNB*
Welcoming Congregations

*Transgender, Genderqueer, Non-Binary

Please submit information for the **May Newsletter** by Monday, April 25th to
Jessica at gingermajick@hotmail.com • text or call 231.206.4947

