



September 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**

September 4th

"You're in Good Company"

Christine Cleary

September 11th

"Water Communion"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Join in Harbor UU Congregation's annual Water Communion service. Bring waters representing your life and origins for this intergenerational service in which all ages are invited to stay throughout the entire service. Rev. Matthew Cockrum, Consulting Minister, will be in the pulpit this morning.

September 18th

"Reflections in Seaglass"

Jones Barton

You can stumble across the small pieces of beauty, wisdom and truth that surround us all the time, but to find them in earnest takes training and intentionality. A sermon by Rev. David Pyle, the Regional Lead and a Congregational Life Consultant with the MidAmerica Regional Staff.

September 25th

"Return Again: On Covenant and Community"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

What agreements do we hold? What agreements hold us? How do we renew and/or release in order to begin again. Join Rev. Matthew Cockrum, Consulting Minister, in this service inspired by the Jewish High Holy Days.

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

Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Greetings!

We are two months in to our current fiscal year but it feels like right now is the real beginning to our annual restart.

The most significant change this year is our contract with consulting minister **Matthew Cockrum**. His service to our congregation started August 1, but things really took off August 27 with our first of monthly work sessions and Matthew showed up well prepared. He led us through an exploration of our history – covenants, members, large gatherings, even the building itself. In short it was a pleasant reminder of the best we can be going forward into the new year. I hope you will join me in welcoming Matthew to HUUC and let him know how much his service here is appreciated.

Check other sections of the newsletter for the two services in September when Matthew will be speaking.

Also, look for more information on the annual City Of The Dead production.

Finally, note that this month we welcome back the choir after a summer vacation. Summer can be a slow time for churches but I was encouraged by the return of a few long absent members as well as new attendees, some of whom even attended our August 27 work session. Board trustees are each assigned with preparing 2-3 messages per year for this newsletter. My hope is that the next time you hear from me in this space I will need to tell you to show up early for services on Sunday to get a seat.

Yours in best of thoughts and wishes,
Jim Stier
HUUC Board Trustee.

If you ever have any questions for the Board you can contact us via e mail at trustees@harboruu.org

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday September 12th • 6:30 pm
All are welcome!

from the Consulting Minister, Rev. Matthew Cockrum

It is good. It is good to be. It is good to be together.

Thank you for the invitation to join you as your Consulting Minister for this church year. I was delighted with the response to our first workshop on August 27. Nearly 20 congregants participated either in person or virtually via zoom. We moved and stretched in body, mind and spirit. Our two points of investigation and exploration were covenant and history. After exploring folks' history in Muskegon, with Unitarian Universalism and with this congregation (some folks since the 1960's and others as recently as 2022!) we discussed the role of covenant within our tradition and how it has become more of a focus since our move away from the doctrinal disputes that gave us birth: Unitarianism and Universalism - challenging orthodox teachings about the natures of God and humanity. We explored the history of covenant in this congregation and how, not so long ago, a "Communication Agreement" covenant was developed and read during worship services as a reminder of how we live into our mission and vision together. Though that practice has disappeared it is an important reminder that as community we benefit from ritualized and vocalized prompts of why and how we gather, to what we aspire.

We then moved on to exploring the history of this congregation and the communities in which it is embedded. Much like the recognition of the multigenerational nature of the histories we share that was part of the August 28 service, "The Tales We Tell," we explored the forces that have shaped this congregation at the personal and social levels. Due to time constraints we had to press "pause" on our history exploration in the midst of discussing the ministry of the Reverend Nana Kratochvil, the first (and only) called minister at Harbor. For this reason we will pick up where we left off when we gather for another workshop after services on Sunday, September 25. Exploring history is an important part of communities remembering who they are and preparing for how to move into their next set of visions and hopes. I hope you will be able to join us, to peruse the documents and updates on the consulting process that will be regularly posted on the church website.

One of the things that stands out to me from this first workshop is how resilient and strong this congregation is and has been over the years. Your history is full of resourcefulness and a willingness to roll up your sleeves and do the work together. This is in large part why Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation is where it is today. You continue to stubbornly (in the best way) hang in there and maintain a place for our liberal and liberating religious tradition. You have done so largely without formal professional clergy guidance. I have high hopes that our work together this year will reveal yet more of your resources and resilience that will serve you well as you articulate and live into this next leg of your journey.

It is good to be together. It is good to be. It is good.

Here's to The Work, Friends.

Peace, Faith & Passion,
Matthew

Rev. Matthew Cockrum (he/him)
Consulting Minister

Consulting Ministry Workshop September 25 • 12p-3p

Join Rev. Matthew Cockrum, Harbor's new Consulting Minister, in our second workshop as part of a consulting ministry to explore how Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation might prepare for a new relationship with a minister. We will continue our exploration of church history and the role of covenant. The workshop will begin following a potluck lunch immediately after the service and will last three hours (noon-ish to 3:00-ish). For questions or to volunteer to help please contact the Board of Trustees at: trustees@harboruu.org,

**Meeting
Thursdays at
HUUC!
6:30**

FUNDRAISER NEEDS YOU!

CITY of the DEAD

CITYOFTHEDEADMUSKEGON@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFTHEDEADMUSKEGON

Join the City of the Dead Crew as we march in the
Labor Day Parade! September 5th
The parade starts at 11:00 am and Jackie's Blue Cutlass
will be in front of the CIO on Western holding our spot
about 9:30 am. Please arrive by 10:30. Bring water for
yourself and wear a hat!

Join the City of the Dead Crew at the Norton Shores
Library! Tuesday, September 27, 2022
at 6 pm
A "mini tour" as a library program.
Come to participate or spectate.

October 8th & 9th: A historical tour of Muskegon's oldest city-owned cemetery.

Tour guides walk their groups through towering monuments and towering trees while introducing guests to some of Evergreen Cemetery's residents. A full cast interprets Muskegon's former members through historical documentation, time-period clothing, context and language as we walk through this Victorian garden cemetery.

Resistance Armbands

offering black elastic armbands in different sizes with sayings - "Pro-Roe," "Ruthless" or "I dissent" to support abortion funds at NNAF and Fountain Street Choice Fund. These are in the social hall and donations can be made directly to those funds. Wear your "resistance armbands" proudly to show your support for reproductive freedom.

Questions?

Ask Gwen Williams 231-638-7237



Remember to gather
A SAMPLE OF WATER
for our Annual Fall
Ingathering Service

**Anyone interested in becoming a
member of HUUC or learning more
about Unitarian Universalism**

contact Carolyn Holmes. She can arrange an information session to get answers to questions you may have.

Holmesland58@gmail.com or 231-744-4099.

News from Caring Committee...

The past two years have been fraught with worry, confusion, and exhaustion. As we strive to become the best we can be as people and as a congregation, it is important to remember that which was good pre-pandemic. Some positive things fell to the wayside and are being revived. To that end the caring committee, an important element for any congregation as it is a sacred pillar of what it means to be a loving and thoughtful body, has been brought to life. We are here to help you carry those difficulties that make knots in our lives—a hand, a shoulder, an ear for those times.

Condolences to **Roma Ziarnko's** family. Roma was a friend of HUUC for several years and passed away on August 5th. A memorial service was held on August 21st.

Condolences for **Robin Dennany** and family on the loss of her mother after a long fight with pulmonary fibrosis. A "meal train" has been set up for the family, visit this link if you are able to sign up: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/36vqr1>

Condolences to **Janet Perreault** on the loss of her sister.

Several people attended all of HUUC services in August (either in person or on Zoom). Out of those with perfect attendance we drew a name to win a prize. Congratulations to **Poppy Hernandez**! We appreciate you continuing to show up at HUUC.

We have three members: Sue McIntire, Mary Van Slooten, and Christine Cleary.

(If you would like to be involved in any way, please let one of us know.)

Contact: Sue McIntire (231) 563-3988

Welcome New (and returning) Member Shirley Hoffstedt!

"HOME AGAIN"

"For those of you who don't know me, my name is Shirley Hoffstedt. My husband, Dick, and I moved from the Chicago area to Michigan in the late fall of 1986. We came from the Northshore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, IL which had a congregation of over 350 members.

"Fountain Street Church led us to this small UU Fellowship where we found Ruth Berlow and Dorothy Liechti at the top of the stairs waiting with open arms. We soon found ourselves absorbed like a sponge into fellowship life.

Worship Committee – members and finally chairs

Membership Committee – members and chairs

Finance Committee – Dick Building & Maintenance Committee - Dick

Social Committee – Shirley

Board Presidents – Shared one year

Shirley – Midwest Leadership School

Shirley - Board President

"RE Committee – The fellowship needed someone to lead RE and decided that this would be a paid position. It took a lot of thought and consideration before I consented to become the RE director. I was older and didn't have credentials. My love for the children and wanting our fellowship to grow, I said yes. Once in this position, I took it upon myself to become involved in the Heartland District's RE programs. I traveled to other cities in Michigan for monthly meetings with other DREs. The UUA offered DRE training with Renaissance Modules in different categories. Eventually I became a co-leader of the UU Identity Module. I completed 75 hours and received a Letter of Recognition from the UUA. I became a member of LREDA (Liberal Religious Education Directors Association.) I was chosen by the district DREs



to represent the district at ConCon, a yearly meeting in Boston. There were many other workshops and trainings through the years. Two other members of the fellowship and I were trained in the Middle-school Owl curriculum. What a joy it was to bring to our children and families all that I had learned.

"In 1996, the District of Michigan presented me with the UUnsung UU Award.

"I became a board member of the Heartland District, and I also attended General Assembly every year.

"So even though our congregation was small, it was well represented within the wider UU community.

"For almost 15 years, my membership in this congregation brought me closer to Unitarian Universalism. It was time to move on.

"When I left, I became a member of All Souls Community Church in Grand Rapids and then a member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. I am a humanist with a pagan spirit. However, the search for truth and meaning is never ending.

"As my years began to catch up with me, I really wanted and needed to go back home. Thank you for welcoming me once again."