



October 2022 Newsletter

# HARBOR Unitarian Universalist CONGREGATION

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

231-755-2932  
[www.harboruu.org](http://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

### October 2nd

#### *"Onward, Christian Soldiers"*

Dr. Brent Smith

As war has been called "politics with other means," the 19th century Christian hymn "Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war..." reflects more than just militarism. Its central image combines religion and politics. This combination is as old as religion and government in any form, and its modern American guise is called Christian Nationalism, espoused by a few today in our nation's capital. We'll devote our time to an analysis of Christian Nationalism as an incorporation of two hubs of power, religion and government, and as hostile both to the message of Jesus as the beginning of Christianity, and the basis of our Constitutional democracy from its founding.

### October 9th

#### *"Reproductive Justice"*

Poppy Hernandez

--with special music by Just Us (women's a cappella)

### October 16th

#### *"Living Wide Open...But Boosted"* Rev. Matthew Cockrum

How do the structures we inhabit reflect the values we espouse? Can we remain open while also being guarded and bounded? A spiritual exploration of space, structure, safety and immunity in this era of COVID.

### October 23rd

#### *"Open the Doors & See All the People"*

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

How does a systematic Unitarian Universalist theology impact how we organize and live together in community? What would living with a Jack-O-Lantern's heart look like?

### October 30th

#### *"Sam Hain Family Reunion"*

Peggy Humphreys

We'll speak of the journey, including those who are no longer with us, and share our memories. Feel free to wear a costume... or at least your favorite hat!

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

# Greetings from the Board of Trustees

## *Greetings!*

Members and friends of the congregation,

We had some excellent soup and conversation this past Sunday. ***Thank you to Matthew and all who contributed!***

Please take a few moments to consider your current contributions to our community. I'm not specifically referring to dollars, though our commitment to this path with Matthew as a ministerial consultant will need that, too... **Your involvement** is what makes Harbor UU more than a building on the corner with pretty windows (which it is!)

**You are VALUED and VALUABLE!**

**Your diverse skills and perspectives are needed to make our congregation flourish!**

Opportunity STARTS with helping now and then with **"Sound and Tech"** on Sunday mornings. But the fun (and chances to participate) don't stop there!

Our social justice committee has suffered a loss as **Gwen Williams** heads off on a retiree's dream. Happy trails, Gwen! Who will step in to lead the charge of social justice work in Muskegon? Is it you? It could be you.

Bringing treats and coffee, or staying to clean up after coffee, or making coffee (**THANK YOU MARY**) are also valid and important contributions!

But this is not an exhaustive list.

I need your creativity, time, and energy! WE need it, so that we can continue being a place where all people can feel welcome to search for meaning and truth and find belonging.

If you feel there is something missing at HUUC, please hear that as a call to action. Don't wait, expecting someone else will do it.

***You can be the change you wish to see.***

With love and light,

Robin Dennany  
HUUC Board Trustee

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday October 10th • 6:30 pm  
All are welcome!

# from the Consulting Minister, Rev. Matthew Cockrum

## *Ministerial Message*

As autumn settles in I find myself grateful for my favorite season. I love the chill in the air, being able to wear layers of clothing and cozy sweaters. And I always find myself having the impulse to attend a high school football game, though I rarely did so when I was in high school. It is inexplicable to me, but there it is.

For several years after completing my institutional education I would find myself out of sorts in the fall. "Shouldn't I be going back to school?" I would ask myself. I still sometimes long for the ritual of buying school supplies, getting some new school clothes and having a sense of the year ahead, wondering what it would hold.

We don't have to save that for autumn, of course. Though the "church year" does seem to mimic the academic calendar...ramping up in September, slowing down during breaks of public school in the secular calendar. Perhaps religious community could be considered a school for the soul...a place where we come to grow, be challenged, be reminded about our aspirations and hopes for our lives.

I heard in our September workshop a sense from some folks that Harbor is a warm and welcoming place. I heard from others there that you would still like to be warmer and more welcoming. I heard from some folks that you feel good about your communication in its clarity and honesty. I heard from others that communication can still sometimes be confusing and less clear than you would like.

There is still room to grow, friends. This does not mean your past efforts have failed. It is, rather, a sign that there is still a longing or a yearning in you for some unmet need... perhaps a longing to see and be seen...call it a soul's deep longing. How can you lean into your longings...not in order to project them onto those around you, but rather to get to know yourself better? What can you learn about yourself by examining your needs - met and unmet - in every season?

For myself, I suppose the desire to be at an outdoor football game on an autumn evening tells me that I still want to belong to something larger. I still want to feel held. I still want to be able to cheer on others. I want to feel both the crispness and the coziness of life at the same time. And I want to be with others as I do it.

***Here's to the Learning, Friends...the Love and the Labor.  
It is good to be in The Work with you.***

Peace, Faith & Passion,  
Matthew

Rev. Matthew Cockrum (he/him)  
Consulting Minister



# CITY of the DEAD MUSKEGON

In-Person Historical Walking Tours  
Begin every 15 minutes

**Saturday, October 8th 5-8pm**  
**Sunday, October 9th 2-4pm**



- Wear Walking shoes
- Dress for the weather
- "After Dark" tours: bring a flashlight
- Tours last approximately 1 hour

Tickets \$5 • Kids under 6 Free



**Evergreen Cemetery**  
**400 Irwin • Muskegon • 49442**

[CityOfTheDeadMuskegon@gmail.com](mailto:CityOfTheDeadMuskegon@gmail.com)  
[www.harboruu.org/events/city-of-the-dead](http://www.harboruu.org/events/city-of-the-dead)  
[facebook.com/cityofthedeadmuskegon](https://facebook.com/cityofthedeadmuskegon)



Brought to you by Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation, a member of AhFest



## Workshop Summary/ Report & Looking Forward

On Sunday, September 25, twenty of Harbor's friends and members stayed after service for a tasty soup potluck and reflection on themes of covenant and history. Those present articulated their perceptions of the strengths and challenges of Harbor UU and imagined how strengths could be leveraged to address challenges in pursuit of the mission and vision of the congregation. Rev. Matthew Cockrum, Consulting Minister, proposed considering that mission, vision and covenant are ways of telling ourselves and the world what we most value and how we are pursuing that. Though no formal covenant emerged from this portion of the workshop, Harbor members and friends were invited to **consider continuing the conversation and exploring how to most accurately articulate the "why" and the "how" of this congregation.**

This was followed by sharing of memories of the ministries of Nathan Wood and Revs. Nana Kratochvil, Gary Gillum, John McCarthy and Bill Freeman. We explored the gifts and challenges of each of these ministries, lessons learned and hopes for the future. **A common theme appeared to be the call for organization in congregational life.**

**Join us for our next workshop on Sunday, October 23,** following the service. Please bring a potluck item to share. The workshop theme will explore structure and size dynamics. Workshop length will be 3 hours and will run approximately 12:15-3:15 p.m



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.

Congratulations to **Arionna Huffman** for passing her driver's test.

Healing thoughts to **Michelle Martin-Mills**, who is recovering from knee surgery.

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 **Dale Humphreys!** 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

Please submit information for the **November Newsletter** by Monday, October 31st to Jessica at [gingermajick@hotmail.com](mailto:gingermajick@hotmail.com) • text or call 231.206.4947

## Join HUUC as a Member!

Did you ever wonder if membership at Harbor UU was right for you? The decision to join a religious congregation should be made after careful consideration of many factors and we want our members to be assured that this church is the right fit when committing to join us.

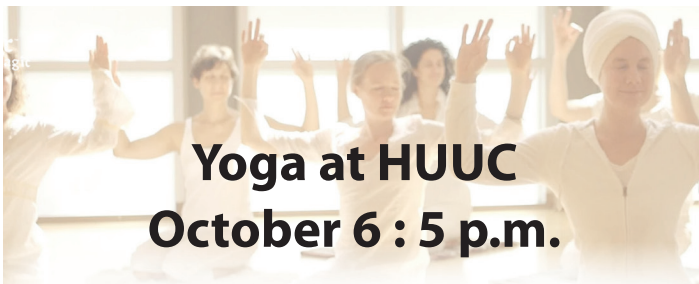
You can become a member of HUUC by attending 2 "Pathways to Membership" sessions this Fall. New members who attend will be welcomed into membership during a brief ceremony during the Sunday service on December 11. The first session will be on Sunday, November 6 at 9:00 a.m. The first session will cover the rights and responsibilities of membership as well as an introduction to several members of our Board of Trustees and other church leaders. The

second session will be held on November 20 at 9:00 a.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Please reserve your spot in the Pathways to Membership classes by signing up in the social hall. A sign up sheet will be located on the counter near the entry. Contact Carolyn Holmes either in person or at [holmesland58@gmail.com](mailto:holmesland58@gmail.com) with any questions or to sign up.

Joining HUUC was one of the most life affirming and best decisions of my life. I hope you will explore the possibilities of membership with us!  
~Carolyn

Carolyn Holmes  
[holmesland58@gmail.com](mailto:holmesland58@gmail.com)  
231-327-0375



Join us for a new yoga class Thursday evenings here at HUUC in the social hall led by Blake Daugherty. Come explore how to listen to and love your body and soul, and calm the mind through the practice of gentle movement, meditation, and breathwork. We will also be incorporating Qigong, an ancient practice related to Tai Chi that focuses on circulating energy through the body. This will be a gentle, restorative class for all levels, including those who would like to use a chair. Bring your mat with you, and also blocks and a blanket if you would like. Donations will be accepted to raise money for the church. Contact Blake at 231-750-0064 or [blake.daugherty27@gmail.com](mailto:blake.daugherty27@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### 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