



November 2022 Newsletter

H A R B O R Unitarian Universalist C O N G R E G A T I O N

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

November 6th

Robin Dennany

November 13th

"To Bless the World"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Our shared life depends on our generosity. There is no way around it. How do we share our gifts? What happens when our offerings show up in unexpected ways?

*Potluck Sunday *Choir Exchange

November 20th

"By your endurance you will gain your lives"

Bro. Tom Wagner: "I have been meditating on this verse from Luke 21:19 (RSV) lately, focusing particularly on the word *endurance*. The verse comes from one of the few apocalyptic discourses attributed to Jesus of Nazareth. The Greek behind the word endurance can also be translated, patience, fortitude, steadfastness and perseverance. The slogan *"Persist"* comes to mind. The larger literary context is full of dark images, but contains a sense of ultimate hope, much of which relies on our own action."

November 27th

"What are you Waiting For?"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Darkness deepens as we approach the final weeks before Winter Solstice. Many Christians begin observing the season of Advent at this time, counting the days and weeks before Christmas. Join Rev. Matthew Cockrum, Consulting Minister, in an exploration of waiting.

December 4th

Bittersweet Christmas Band

Band members will sing holiday songs old and new, and share how the mythology of this often magical, sometimes bittersweet season has touched their lives personally.

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

from the Consulting Minister, Rev. Matthew Cockrum

As we enter autumn more deeply and as we anticipate - and then live into the realities - of yet another election cycle, how are you managing, friends? I know there are deep worries and concerns among us. I know there are burning convictions. I know you continue to carry a fierce hope not only for this congregation you call a spiritual home but also for the community and the nation. How do you keep yourself warmed and focused without burning out or becoming hopeless?

A few winters ago my husband and I began a practice of meditating together for a short period each morning. Actually, the practice began in the summer...and then continued into autumn and winter. Since we began in summer it was easy and pleasant to practice outside. As the weather shifted, it was tempting to withdraw indoors. We challenged ourselves, though, bundling up...adding more and more layers...often huddling wrapped in blankets as snow blew around us. We added a weekly fire in the backyard (with a city permit, of course!) and found ourselves creating a life that prioritized these weekday minutes and weekend hours of sharing silence and focus.

I have to admit that as my work schedule picked up I began to skip these morning meditations more and more. I realized recently that it had come to the point where I rarely was sharing these morning pauses... instead running out the door with my headphones on, usually on a work call and heading out to a meeting. Reflecting on this with some co-workers recently, I remembered how good it felt to have a morning meal and some moments of silence and focus at home with family to begin my day. And so, as

of my writing, I began today (at least) with resuming that practice.

I do not expect that I will return to meditating every day...or all winter long.

What I do expect is that being recalled to the importance of this practice and how it nurtured not only my own spirit but also my relationship with my husband is a step in returning to something important...something that grounds and roots me in my values and in one of the core relationships in my life.

What can you remember that keeps you grounded? Hopeful? Connected?

What can you reasonably (without the expectation of perfection) practice as you move into these colder months with longer nights and shorter days?

And how can you offer grace to everyone around you... knowing they, too, are struggling with the pressures of the common life we share?

Finally - and completely unrelated - in my October 23 message I shared an update on the proposed revisions to the Principles and Purposes, put forth by the Article II Study Commission. If you are interested in this work and want to learn more...possibly even to be part of small group conversations about this within the HUUC community, check out this link and let me know what you think:

[Reimagining Article 2 Small Group Ministry Guide
| UUA.org](http://UUA.org)

It is good to be in The Work with you, Friends.

Peace, Faith & Passion,
Matthew

Rev. Matthew Cockrum (he/him/his)
Consulting Minister

Workshop Notes

On October 23 nearly 20 HUUC members and friends participated in the third workshop of our consulting year together, exploring together the themes of systems and sizes. We began by reflecting on these three questions:

- 1. What am I learning about myself from participating in these workshops?*
- 2. What am I learning about HUUC from participating in these workshops?*
- 3. What are the implications of these learnings for the future ministry of HUUC?*

We then continued, exploring the sizes and dynamics of the families we were born into and imagining how those impact our current families and relationships, including those at Harbor UU Congregation. Much wisdom in the room was shared about various systems theories (family systems, natural systems, ecosystems) and participants were invited to draw maps of the congregation from their perspectives, delineating relationships between leadership, constituents, groups and also indicating sites of strength as well as conflict. Rev. Matthew Cockrum invited people to **explore issues of differentiation (having a sense of a solid, connected but separate self), anxiety, positions of power, patterns of communication and conflict management.**

Conversation continued around issues of size and how congregational size impacts what is possible, what is needed, and how congregations function. Rev. Matthew shared resources from the Unitarian Universalist Association pertaining to how Boards in small congregations. According to the mainstream church size theory, HUUC is **squarely in the "small/family-sized church" category**, characterized by attendance under 75, focus primarily on relationships, shorter-term ministries and particular types of responses to conflict.

Participants closed by once again reflecting on their learnings and the implications for the future.

Comments shared included:

- Loss is not bad
- HUUC has done lots of growth in shedding some bad behavior
- HUUC has capacity to appreciate gifts of the members and friends
- There is a desire to grow, rebuild and revive the structure at HUUC
- There is a need to focus on a few issues and do them well
- We are opening up
- We are more laid back than we used to be
- We need/want a minister who inspires us, is a strong personality and a presence in the community
- We have lots of talent and knowledge
- We have missed group gatherings like these
- We have some fear and hesitation regarding growth
- We feel listened to

Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in future workshops: Sundays after services with potluck/soup lunches: November 13, December 11, February 26, March 26, April 23, May TBA and Saturdays 10-4 with food TBA: January 21 and June 10

Helpful links shared at the workshop:
[Overview of Church Size Theory Governance in Small Congregations | LeaderLab | UUA.org](#)

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday
November 21 • 6:30 pm
via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/96744707168>
All are welcome!

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.

Join us on Saturday night! “Fun & Games” Service Auction

Saturday, Nov. 5 at 7:00pm

An evening of
fun & games.

Drinks and snacks
available.

A sampling of items for
auction:

*Professional photo session
for your pet

*Euchre party

*Cocktail party

*Kombucha-making class

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

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

Two 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 **Shirley Hoffstedt**! 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 December Newsletter by Monday, November 28th to
Jessica at gingermajick@hotmail.com • text or call 231.206.4947



Interested in becoming a member of Harbor UU Congregation?

Attend our "Pathways to Membership" classes!

Please register in advance by **contacting Carolyn** at holmesland58@gmail.com or sign up on the sheet in the social hall at the church.

Meetings will offer an opportunity to learn about Harbor UU and what it means to become a member, as well as offer an introduction to members of the Board of Trustees and various committees that get the work done here at HUUC. A light snack will be served.

Session 1

November 6, 2022

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Lower Level

Session 2

November 20, 2022

9:00-10:15 a.m. Lower Level

New Member Welcome Ceremony
December 11, 2022
During the Worship Service

Worship Assistants needed!

Each Sunday a worship assistant is needed to guide the congregation through the service. We would like to welcome two new people (at least) to our worship team. Training is planned for Sunday morning, November 20 at 11:45a.m. Meet in the Sanctuary.



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 if you have any questions.



2022 City of the Dead Cast & Crew

Thank you for helping make City of the Dead Muskegon 2022 one of our most popular and well received events yet!

We appreciate everything you have done to make the event its best, it would not have been the same without you!

We have enjoyed your energy, time, and talent and hope to see you again next year!

**All Welcome!
Join Cast & Crew for the COTD**

“Post Mortem”

**Sun, Nov 6 • 2-5 pm
HUUC Social Hall**

**Share Your Feedback • Enjoy
Socializing • Light Refreshments
Let’s Talk About COTD 2023!**

Front of House “Ghosts”

Ambrosia Peck Sanford - Carolyn Holmes

Harriet Mott - Jackie Engel

Lumber Camp Cooks - Janet Perreault and Peggy Humphreys

Lumberjacks - Mary VanSlooten and Dale Humphreys

Nan Jones - Gwen Williams

Gladys Swanson - Amber Weerstra

Kittie Lee - Cindi Mitchell

James McGordon - Scott Sheldon

Special Guests

Third Class Flynn

Event Staff

David McIntire

Sue McIntire

Poppy Hernandez

Diane Weenum

Ray Williams

Theresa Marie

Tour Guides

Charwoman - Jessica Sheldon

Millie Peck - Ellen Pallasch

Clarence Zylman - Brock Horton

Hattie Dolly - Jenn Fairweather

Sarah Malloch - Marsha Barnosky

Tour Stops

John Torrent - Adam Winters

Josephine Harkness - Jamie Green

Nelson DeLong - Tim Hamlin

Newsome McGraft - Jim Steir

Lumber Strikers - Jones Barton, Joe Glatz, Jeff Justin

Jeannie Morgan - Melissa Lyman

Event Admin. Team

Anna L. EldenBrady

Jackie Engel

Jessica Sheldon

Kristina McCloskey

Ellen Pallasch

Tim Hamlin

Carolyn Holmes

In Memory Rev. Bill Freeman



HUUC Minister 2011-2014



Rev. Bill Freeman is a Los Angeles Pastor, Spiritual Director, Coach, Husband, Father, and Cat and Dog Lover. He graduated in 2005 with a Master of Divinity Degree from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. He is a minister in the United Church of Christ and has pastored six churches. He's been arrested and convicted of Civil Disobedience. And he conducted 48 same-sex weddings all in one day. Pastor Bill decided to pursue a path to pastoring on his birthday in 2001. His birthday is 9/11. He was baptized in 2003 on December 7. Pearl Harbor Day. And he was assigned to preach his first sermon in seminary in 2005, on April First. April Fools Day. He takes those days and dates to mean that his ministry should always be about Peace & Love & Joy. And he is committed to helping you achieve Peace & Love & Joy.

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 / TGQN*
Welcoming Congregations
*Transgender, Genderqueer, Non-Binary

In Search Of...

“Sound and Tech” Helpers on Sunday mornings

Social Justice Committee to lead the charge of social justice work in Muskegon

Kitchen: Bring in treats, Make coffee, or Stay to Clean up after service

- Contact Robin Dennany
robin.dennany@gmail.com
HUUC Board Trustee

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





Coming Up... at HUUC

Saturday	November 5	7pm	Service Auction
Saturday	November 5	7pm	Volunteer Recruiting Event
Sunday	November 6	2am	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sunday	November 6	9am	Pathways to Membership
Sunday	November 6	10:30am	Worship Service
Sunday	November 6	2pm	City of the Dead Post Mortem
Sunday	November 13	10:30am	Worship Service
Sunday	November 13	11:30am	Potluck / Soup Lunch
Sunday	November 13	12:15pm	Workshop
Tuesday	November 15	7:30pm	Worship & Music Committee
Sunday	November 20	9am	Pathways to Membership
Sunday	November 20	10:30am	Worship Service
Sunday	November 20	11:45am	Worship Assistant Training
Sunday	November 27	10:30am	Worship Service
Monday	November 28th	5pm	Newsletter Deadline
Sunday	December 4	10:30am	Worship Service
Sunday	December 11	10:30am	Worship Service
Sunday	December 11	10:30am	New Member Welcome Ceremony
Sunday	December 11	11:30am	Potluck / Soup Lunch
Sunday	December 11	12:15pm	Workshop
Sunday	December 18	10:30am	Worship Service
Sunday	December 25	10:30am	Worship Service
Monday	December 26	5pm	Newsletter Deadline
Sunday	February 26	11:30am	Potluck / Soup Lunch
Sunday	February 26	12:15pm	Workshop
Sunday	March 26	11:30am	Potluck / Soup Lunch
Sunday	March 26	12:15pm	Workshop

