



March 2023 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

March 5th

"Giving"

Poppy Sias Hernandez

What is your time, talent, and treasure? How will you share it with your church and community?

March 12th

"The Whole Megillah"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Part one of a two-part series on knowing and being known. This week, we will explore the Purim story from the book of Esther in Jewish scriptures and its implications for us as Unitarian Universalists. Come in costume if you'd like. *Remember to spring forward!*

March 19th

"Light vs. Dark: Who Wins?"

Kwame James

What better time than Spring Equinox to consider balance - one of the most fundamental principles of life? We will use the power of analogy to explore an appreciation of the primordial struggle between The Darkness and The Light

Choir Sunday

March 26th

"Being Visible"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Part two of a two-part series on knowing and being known. This week our service will include an exploration of the Transgender Day of Visibility. A potluck lunch and congregational workshop will follow.

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



Greetings from the Board of Trustees

I am so looking forward to Spring and the new growth and freshness it will bring! Living in Michigan for most of my life, I am aware that March may indicate that, while Spring has technically arrived, the weather may not necessarily behave accordingly. But hope “springs” eternal and the atmosphere here at HUUC also fills me with a sense of new growth and renewal.

Our Board of Trustees continues to work closely with our Consulting Minister, Rev. Matthew Cockrum, to plan the direction we will take as a congregation. Many of you have aided in this endeavor by attending the monthly workshops and offering your ideas, your reflections of your experiences here at “Harbor,” and your wishes for the future. Together we are moving toward a renewal that is a very much welcome event after what feels like a dormant, hibernation period during the recent pandemic. According to Phil Lund, UUA MidAmerica Region Consultant, many congregations like ours are finding themselves re-examining their Vision and Mission and Values Statements because we have experienced so much change over the past few years. We are also evaluating our fiscal practices and thinking strategically about the future. We are re-awakening our congregational life and exploring ways to re-engage with one another socially now that we are less fearful of being in close proximity to others. It’s exciting! I hope you will become involved in the areas that speak to your soul. We are a small, but mighty group and the input of as many as possible will help to create a congregation that reflects and serves us well.

In the near future be watching for your chance to participate in several ways.

- Our Pledge Drive will be taking place soon!
(I plan to increase my pledge this year. UP YOURS!!)
- We are reviewing and renewing our Mission/Vision/Covenant and adding a Values Statement. See a notice elsewhere in this newsletter.
- We are approaching our Annual Meeting on June 4. This will be a chance to get updates on where we are and vote on where we would like to go in the next year.

- Sincerely
Carolyn Holmes
HUUC Board of Trustees

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday March 20th • 6:30 pm
All are welcome!
in person or via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96744707168>





Knowing... and Being Known

This month I will be focusing my time with you in worship on knowing and being known. In philosophical circles the field of epistemology explores how we know what we know. Whether we are exploring this through the Jewish story of Queen Esther, through the Transgender Day of Visibility or any other mode, the salient question remains, ***"How do we know what we know?"*** And all of this is set within the season which many Christians observe as Lent - a time of reflection, internal inventory and preparation for Easter. How do we know who we are?

Some of us tend to prioritize head knowledge - things that are intellectually sound, rational and historically or logically proven. Others among us lend more credence to intuition, a "gut sense." Decades ago the developmental psychologist Howard Gardner popularized his theory of "multiple intelligences," listing many ways of being "smart" which also carry with them, I would argue, their own ways of knowing. Not surprisingly, his theory has subsequently been criticized as having "lack of empirical evidence." Ironical, no?

What about you? How do you know what you know? What are the most comfortable and familiar ways to know? What ways are more challenging?

As we continue to explore and imagine the future of HUUC it is important to make room for multiple ways of knowing and of being known. This is another way to ***"Hasten Beloved Community"*** and create alternatives to White Supremacy culture in HUUC and our lives.

Are these terms new and/or troubling to you? Check out the following links (which I referenced in my February 26 sermon, "Hastening Beloved Community" to explore further:

White Supremacy Culture Characteristics

Toward a Vision of Beloved Community - The Chaplaincy Institute

I invite you to remember and pay special attention to two things:

1. Tema Okun, who articulated characteristics of White Supremacy Culture, cautions us to avoid weaponizing these notions. In my mind, that means these are not to be used as tools of shaming, but rather as methods of inquiry
2. Notice as you consider these ideas:
 - a. What you feel in your body, where you feel it and how you feel it;
 - b. What you think as you consider these ideas;
 - c. What stories arise that are related to your thoughts and feelings.

As always, Friends, it is good to be in this work with you. Stay in touch. Practice Love.

Peace, Faith & Passion,
Matthew

Rev. Matthew Cockrum (he/him/his)
Consulting Minister
mscockrum@gmail.com
206.849.9171 (cell - text or call as needed)



February 2023 Workshop Review

On Sunday, March 26 over twenty HUUC members and friends stayed after service for a potluck and congregational workshop. Thank you to all who participated and special thanks to those who facilitated and provided leadership (Ali, Carolyn, Jones, Kurt, Poppy, Rebecca and Robin)!

The focus of the workshop was to consider recommendations made by the Board and Leadership Development Committee after their January retreat and to do so in work groups based on three proposed areas:

1. Reviving Congregational Life & Calendar
2. Reviewing and Renewing Congregational Values, Vision, Mission and Covenant
3. Strategizing Stewardship Efforts

Each group engaged in two rounds of conversations. The first followed a circle process style in which participants were asked to respond one at a time, using "I statements" and recalling times when they had experienced HUUC at its best in each area listed above. The second round of conversation was more free-form conversation (and much more boisterous) and groups were asked to create short-term and long-term goals for their areas as well as to imagine what they would do with budgets

of one million dollars and one dollar. Below is a listing of their proposed work:

1. Reviving Congregational Life & Calendar: focus on having more events in a sustainable way including organization and communication.
 - a. Short-term goal (3-6 months) - create a physical, visual calendar in the social hall where people can see and add events, post needs as well as interests and availability
 - b. Longer-term goals (6-12 months)
 - i. Create a centralized on-line calendar
 - ii. Get out in the community more as a congregation in order to more visibly live HUUC values
 - iii. Create an "idea garden" where people can "plant" ideas without having to volunteer to lead them or take responsibility for them
 - c. Budgets
 - i. With one million dollars: billboards/ publicity, hire an event coordinator, buy house next door for green space, install heated sidewalks (this after an ice storm)
 - ii. With one dollar: ???
2. Reviewing and Renewing Congregational Values, Vision, Mission and Covenant
 - a. Short-term goals (3-6 months)
 - i. Clarify Values - in the month of March, group members will reach out for one-

February 2023 Workshop Review

on-one contacts to all congregation members to invite them into conversation about values (personal and congregational). These will initially be done via text with an invitation for a phone call or continued text conversation. Goal of final compilation on March 27.

- ii. Clarify Covenant - in the month of April, group members will do the same with the congregational covenant with a goal of final compilation at the end of April.
- iii. Congregational Presentation - results from above will be presented at the congregational meeting in June along with a timeline and recommendations for a similar process addressing mission and vision by January 2024.
- b. Longer-term goals (6-18 months)
 - i. Clarify mission & vision - similar process as above for mission and vision between June 2023 and January 2024
 - ii. Highlight values & covenant - use 3-5 values and covenant as service topics between June 2023 and January 2024
 - iii. Congregational Presentation - present results on mission and vision in January 2024 for congregational approval
- c. Budgets
 - i. With one million dollars - give it away
 - ii. With one dollar - invest and grow, then

give it away

3. Strategizing Stewardship Efforts

- a. Short-term goal (3-6 months) - establish a budget that includes and supports
 - i. Hiring a minister
 - ii. Aspirational goals around social action
 - iii. Revenue streams - how do we raise money for HUUC?
 - iv. Robust pledge drive including pledge committee
 - v. A bigger footprint in the local community - what is next for HUUC? Possibly stronger presence at Pride
- b. Longer-term goal (6-18 months) - implement this budget
- c. Budget
 - i. With one million dollars - hire a minister and endow position to protect in perpetuity
 - ii. With one dollar - ???

Thanks again to all who participated! Please plan to join our next congregational workshop on Sunday, March 26 immediately following the worship service. As has become the norm, a potluck lunch will be included.

Sunday March 26 Potluck & Workshop

Join HUUC members and friends immediately following Sunday service for a potluck lunch and workshop facilitated by Consulting Minister, the Reverend Matthew Cockrum. Continue to imagine and build together the future of Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation!



YOGA!



Thank you all for being patient with me, as I needed some time to hibernate, learn, and re-evaluate how I want to facilitate my life and my classes. It was a very humbling, and honoring experience being able to share this practice with my elders. I felt in the middle of some of the meditations, these are the virtues I should be learning from you :) Thank you everyone for all the love and support. I really do cherish you all.

I have spent a good amount of time hanging out at On The Path in Spring Lake with Sandy Parker, where I learned a lot in a small amount of time. Great teachers at a fair price, well worth it if your looking for something during the weekdays. My teacher training with Sacred Moon has been such a blessing, though I am my only teacher, as I honor in you. I love the circles and community that yoga can create... and don't get me started on permaculture!

I am excited to be resuming class Saturday, Feb. 11th, where we all can develop our own practice. I also do have a black belt in Tae Kwon Doe, and I enjoy encorapating a bit of what I have learned with that and Qigong, an ancient chinese practice focusing on the subtle energy body. Don't worry, we won't be throwing punches ;) Feel free to ask, however, if you would like to know more after class.

In every class, it will be your own practice. Feel free to engage as hard or soft as you would like; and if you feel the need to hold where you

are at in a pose or do something completely different, whether resting, need to excuse yourself, or feel the need to do a headstand, go ahead! These all level classes will be open for you to find what you need that day.

The first hour long session will begin at 9:30 downstairs in the nursery. This will be a gentle yoga, focusing on mobility and restoration. You are welcome to use a chair or any props you may need. There will have a half hour in between the next session I call Yang Yoga, which will consist of more strength building, balance, and flexibility. Both will focus on breathing exersices. Make yourself at home; there is tea and water in the social hall; continue your own meditation / practice in between if you wish to stay for both classes. Donations for the church are appreciated, but not expected. Everyone is welcome.

These will be most reoccurring Saturdays, except for my training weekends, in which we will do a combined class on Friday that week. Time will to be determined. Those dates will be Feb. 17, March 17, and April 14. I will create and post a facebook page to the HUUC page to keep you updated on classes. We will begin by focusing on our roots, and build our foundation from the ground up. Feel free to call or message me if you have any questions.

Nameste,
Blake Daugherty
231-750-0064





[Inclement Weather](#)
Please check for cancellations on
HUUC's Facebook
group and pages

New Member Orientation Scheduled

If you are interested in making the commitment to Harbor UU as a congregation member, please attend our orientation sessions on March 19 and 26, 9:30-10:20 a.m. At that time you will learn the benefits and responsibilities of membership at HUUC as well as get acquainted with some of our current members. Once you have completed this orientation you will be able to make an informed decision about membership and may be a participant in a new member ceremony held on March 26 during the worship service.

Contact Carolyn Holme:
holmesland58@gmail.com
or text 231-327-0375
if you are interested.

This will be the last opportunity to become a member in time to be eligible to vote at our Annual Meeting on June 4

IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:

LOVE IS LOVE

BLACK LIVES MATTER

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL

ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD

WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES

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.

Healing thoughts and energy to **Eric Glatz**, who is recovering at MyMichigan Medical Center in Midland, you may reach out on Facebook to show your support.

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

We have six members: Sue McIntire, Christine Cleary, Mary Van Slooten, Chad Axe, Nancy Johnson, and Ange Barnes.

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

Contact: Sue McIntire (231) 563-3988



Who are we? What Defines us? What is really important to us?

Values. They matter. They are important. They can guide whatever steps we may wish to take upon our journey through life. As a congregation they can guide us in developing our priorities. Where will we devote our time, treasure and talent? What activities will we pursue? A careful examination of our congregational values is taking place this month and we need your help. We need to identify the values that we, as a congregation, will use to guide our Vision and Mission.

Our current Mission, Vision and Covenant Statements contain references to the values of Safety, Honesty, Inspiration, Truth, Education, Community Connection, Diversity, Kindness, Respect.

That is a lot.

As we review, renew and draft our statements we are attempting to narrow our focus and find what authentically guides us. Not just our aspirational values (which we think should guide us) but what are our actual values? One UU Congregation has a Values Statement that is "Service, Integrity, Joy." We may share those values but are they truly reflective of our top priorities as a congregation? This is a statement we need to create for ourselves. A simple, direct statement of our guiding values.

To that end, we will be attempting to contact each member to collect the 3-5 values they feel are reflective of Harbor UU Congregation. We will be reaching out in several ways including text messages, emails and phone calls. More information will be offered at Sunday services this month and in the future.

Please respond when you receive a text message or email or phone call from one of our "feedback seekers" within the next month. We will be holding a meeting at 5:00 pm, March 27 to look at our values and attempt to begin work on a refreshed version of our Covenant statement.

If you are willing to help with this process please attend the meeting or contact Carolyn Holmes, holmesland58@gmail.com, or 231-327-0375 for more information.



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HUUC is looking for Speakers!
Looking for persons to present a
Sunday morning service

**Contact a member of worship
committee to sign up today!**

Carolyn Holmes • Anna EldenBrady • Peggy
Humphreys • Arionna Huffman • Jessica Sheldon
Sue McIntire • Kwame James • Rebecca St. Clair
email Jessica at gingermajick@hotmail.com

Earth-Based Spiritualist Kick-Off Meeting Wednesday, March 22nd 7pm @HUUC

Join us to discuss the possibilities and interest
to develop an earth-based spirituality group at
HUUC. Direct interest and inquiries to to Jessica
at gingermajick@hotmail.com
or text/call 231.206.4947



Cozy Craft Circle

meets March 13th and 27th from 6:30-8:30pm in the social hall. Bring a work-in-progress, something new, or just a notebook to brainstorm and collect inspiration. You are encouraged to bring a beverage of choice and snacks to share. This is a welcoming space to stretch your creativity and socialize. We'll use the side door, but if you need the front door available for accessibility, message Robin at 2482291601. Join our FB group, via the HUUC News and Events page - Cozy Craft Corner. Happy Crafting!

The 8th Principle

of UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALISM

www.8thprincipleuu.org

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

Please submit information for the **APRIL Newsletter** by Monday, March 27th
to Jessica at gingermajick@hotmail.com / text or call 231.206.4947