



June 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**

June 4th

*"Trans*gressive Joy and Queer Liberation"*

Anna L. EldenBrady

Happy Pride Month! Join HUUC member Anna in this service to continue the celebration of queer pride. A protest, a party, and the commemoration of an uprising against police brutality and oppression, Pride holds many meanings, but at the heart of it all is a community defiantly standing strong and sharing the colours of their joy with the world... There is no Pride without throwing bricks. It's time to smash the myth of respectability politics and rise up for liberation.

June 11th

"Flower Communion"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Join Harbor UU friends and family as we celebrate together the beloved Flower Communion ritual, originated by Unitarian ministers, the Revs. Norbert and Mája Čapek in pre-Nazi Prague. Bring a flower to share or simply come knowing there will be one there for you to take. Please avoid fragrant lilies and fox-glove.

June 18th

"After a Dying Dad"

Jim Stier

adapted from an essay by the Rev. Jaco ten Hove, retired minister from Cedars UU Church of Bainbridge, Washington. "Old life recomposes into new life, and we are not separate from this grand, inclusive regenerative scheme."

June 25th

"Summer School, Anyone?"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

For his last Sunday in the pulpit as Consulting Minister (though he plans to preach regularly, resuming in September), Rev. Matthew invites us to imagine what lessons from our time together we might savor over the summer and bring forward into our lives and ministries in the world.

July 2nd

"Let Me Be Clear...!"

Peggy Humphreys

This Sunday we will be continuing the annual tradition of **Free Speech Sunday** at HUUC. Members and friends are welcome to speak on their own subjects for up to 3 minutes. Come listen to us, and if you would like to speak out, please contact Peggy (marpeghumphr@yahoo.com), who will be the worship coordinator. There might be a few slots of time left over where someone can give an impromptu message, but it's better to sign up so that your place among the speakers is assured! Please join our event celebrating democracy!

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

from the Consulting Minister, Rev. Matthew Cockrum

"How good and pleasant it is when people dwell together in peace." These words from Psalm 133, set to music in our hymnal (#392) communicate the hope and affirmation we bring when we come into religious community. We come with the aspiration of, as I have oft repeated during our year together, "hastening Beloved Community." That invitation, articulated by the Rev. Shirley Strong here: Toward a Vision of Beloved Community - The Chaplaincy Institute, returns readers and thinkers to the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, and the notion of Beloved Community which he popularized from the philosophy of Josiah Royce.

Good and pleasant, yes...but not without difficulty...not without challenge...not without disappointment...and not without labor. Though we may often refer to HUUC as a church "family", we ought always be cautious about projecting the notion of "family" onto religious community. Congregations have generational histories just as families do, yes, but people come and go in communities in ways that are far different than in most families. And congregations have responsibilities to their surrounding communities in ways unique when compared to most families. Finally, congregations, if they want to survive and to thrive, have to be intentional about how they welcome, educate and tend to the wellness of their members.

My sense is that Harbor UU Congregation is engaged in doing the work of hastening Beloved

Community. In the past months we have worked together, you have taken a look at many aspects of your community life together, asking how you can improve, noting what you do well, challenging yourselves to examine your stories and habits and trying out some new things together. This work will need to continue as together you grow into your emerging ministry. Whether that ministry includes paid, trained and ordained leadership of a clergy person or not, you are clearly committed to keeping Harbor UU alive and thriving as a vibrant liberal and liberating religious presence in the greater Muskegon community.

It has been good and pleasant to be with you for this consulting year. Thank you for your patience and generosity. I ask your forgiveness for ways I may have fallen short of our aspirations. I offer you my best wishes for your continued health, growth and wellness...for each of you individually, for you collectively and for your work in Muskegon. I anticipate joining you on a roughly monthly basis of preaching in the 2023-24 church year.

Here's to The Work, friends.

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

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, June 19th • 6:30 pm
All are welcome!
in person or via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96744707168>

May 2023 Workshop Review

On Sunday, May 21, just over a dozen stalwart Harbor members and friends engaged in our monthly workshop, this month looking at “integrity” through the lenses of stewardship, power, crises and imagination. We began with your Board President, Poppy, facilitating conversations about our individual stewardship stories, drawing attention to the differences between the stories we *tell* or *believe* and the stories that actually *are*. Noting that the Board will be presenting an anticipated deficit budget at the upcoming Congregational Meeting, Poppy invited those present to imagine how they might help close the gap through changing their stewardship stories regarding the time, talent and treasure they might contribute to support the ministries of HUUC. Focusing questions included: “How does it grow us as a community?” and “How does it contribute to our fiscal health?”

Rev. Matthew, Consulting Minister for the 2022-2023 fiscal/church year, then led participants through a workshop on integrity drawn from the UU curriculum, “Harvest the Power,” (Workshop 5: Integrity | Harvest the Power, 2nd Edition | Tapestry of Faith | UUA.org). We began by reflecting on the leadership story of Fannie Barrier Williams and asking which types of power she leveraged for her work in racial justice. We then recalled our own experiences of crises and how we navigated them. We acknowledged that our collective skills and talents are needed in the work of addressing the stressors, pressures, opportunities and challenges we face, including:

unchurched liberals in Muskegon,
burnout, limited resources, competing

priorities, inequity in Muskegon, little connection to the UUA, fatigue, trying to do too much, difficulty maintaining focus, overscheduled/competing interests, poor use of church parking by neighbors, recognizing we’re not the only ones in the building.

Our workshop concluded with reflecting on “imagination limiting notions” comparing the congregational systems approach from Rabbi Edwin Friedman with those of Juana Bordas, author of *Salsa, Soul and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age*. We looked at data-gathering, empathy and self, noting how each is double-edged. Of note, participants observed:

- *Data Gathering*: can be silencing and aggressive when used to push people out; can be reductive and destructive or illuminative; can be done instead of doing anything else; must have a clear purpose; ought to be iterative, intentional and up to us, now rather than solely historical and fixed
- *Empathy*: empathy and responsibility can be in creative tension with one another; can be a commitment to seeing people rather than saving people
- *Self*: noting the importance of boundaries and integrity; recognizing that “too much self” may inhibit others

Gleanings from this and all previous workshops will be integrated into our final workshop on Saturday, June 10, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thanks to all who have participated!

Annual Congregational Meeting June 4th

Service, potluck, and annual meeting: we will have a prepared budget to vote on, officers to elect to the Board, Values Statement endorsement, and more. Please join us, your presence is valued.

Final Workshop: Saturday, June 10th • 10am-4pm

Our final workshop of the consulting process will take place on Saturday, June 10. This workshop will be a full day and will include lunch (details forthcoming). Plan on a day of reviewing and celebrating where we've been in the past year and clarifying next steps as HUUC continues to live into its ministries of Hastening Beloved Community!

Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation

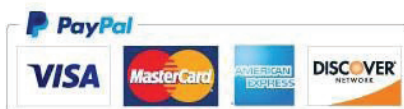


The 2023-2024 HUUC Pledge Campaign is coming to a close. Our final budget must be submitted to the entire Congregation at the annual meeting in June.

Anyone who has yet to submit a pledge, please contact:

Kurt Troutman, Treasurer
kurttroutman@hotmail.com

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



THE HUUC VALUES STATEMENT

READY FOR CONGREGATIONAL APPROVAL!

A Values Statement has been created for HUUC based upon 105 suggestions submitted by over 80% of our members.

Wordsmiths Michelle Martin-Mills, Nancy Stier, Eli Fox, and Carolyn Holmes sorted through the entries and created a concise statement that expresses what defines us as a congregation. We are asking the membership to endorse the statement at the annual meeting on June 4. It contains two parts. The first expresses our three most important core values and the second part elaborates on those with a definition of each one. Much time and thought has gone into this project with participation from so many. The work will continue with the creation of a new Mission statement, Vision statement, and Congregational Covenant in the near future.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the completion of this project!

Statement of Values for Harbor UU Congregation

*Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation (HUUC) is our spiritual home where we practice our values of **Acceptance, Compassion, and Social Justice in the wider world.***

HUUC is a community that:

- Welcomes and respects a diverse set of beliefs and the inherent worth and dignity of all people;
- Fosters love, kindness and friendship to all;
- Promotes practices to create a more just and healthy world.



News from **CARING COMMITTEE...**

The caring team has become a strong and vital part of our UU experience. We acknowledge the vital and valuable part we play in this sacred space and to that end, we hope that you will turn to us for any issue that is a concern in your life. We are here to help you carry those difficulties that make knots in our lives. We offer a hand, a shoulder or an ear for those times. Please reach out - we are here.

Several people attended all of HUUC services in April and May (either in person or on Zoom). Out of those with perfect attendance we drew a name to win a prize. **Congratulations to Judy Spitler (April's winner) and Carolyn Holmes (May's winner)!** We appreciate you continuing to show up at HUUC!

We have five members:
Sue McIntire, Christine Cleary, 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



Evergreen Cemetery • 391 Irwin Ave • 49442

Cast Meeting!

Saturday, June 17th • 10am

Casting will be announced!

Meet the other members of the cast, share ideas and get answers to all your questions!

RSVP HELPFUL!

CITY of the DEAD

Join Us!

STRIKE

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

CITYOFTHEDEADMUSKEGON@GMAIL.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFTHEDEADMUSKEGON

The Muskegon Pride Festival

for this year will take place along Western Avenue in downtown Muskegon. The festival will start at 11:30 am right after the Pride Parade. It will feature music, entertainment, a vendor's market, and food trucks. Everyone is welcome to celebrate love and acceptance on this day. The festival will end at 7:00 pm, followed by a ticketed after-party starting at 8:00 pm at Unruly Brewery.

HUUC will be represented with a booth among the vendors and a contingent in the Pride Parade. Please note the following:

Begin line up for the Pride Parade
9:00 am, 7th & Western

HUUC Booth set-up (Kal, Jonathan, Jones)
9:00 am, Western Ave

Pride Parade 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Booth Support 11:30 - 7:00 pm

Booth Tear Down 7:00 pm

Official Pride Afterparty 8:30 pm - 11:00 pm
Unruly Brewery, Tickets cost \$15

IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:

LOVE IS LOVE

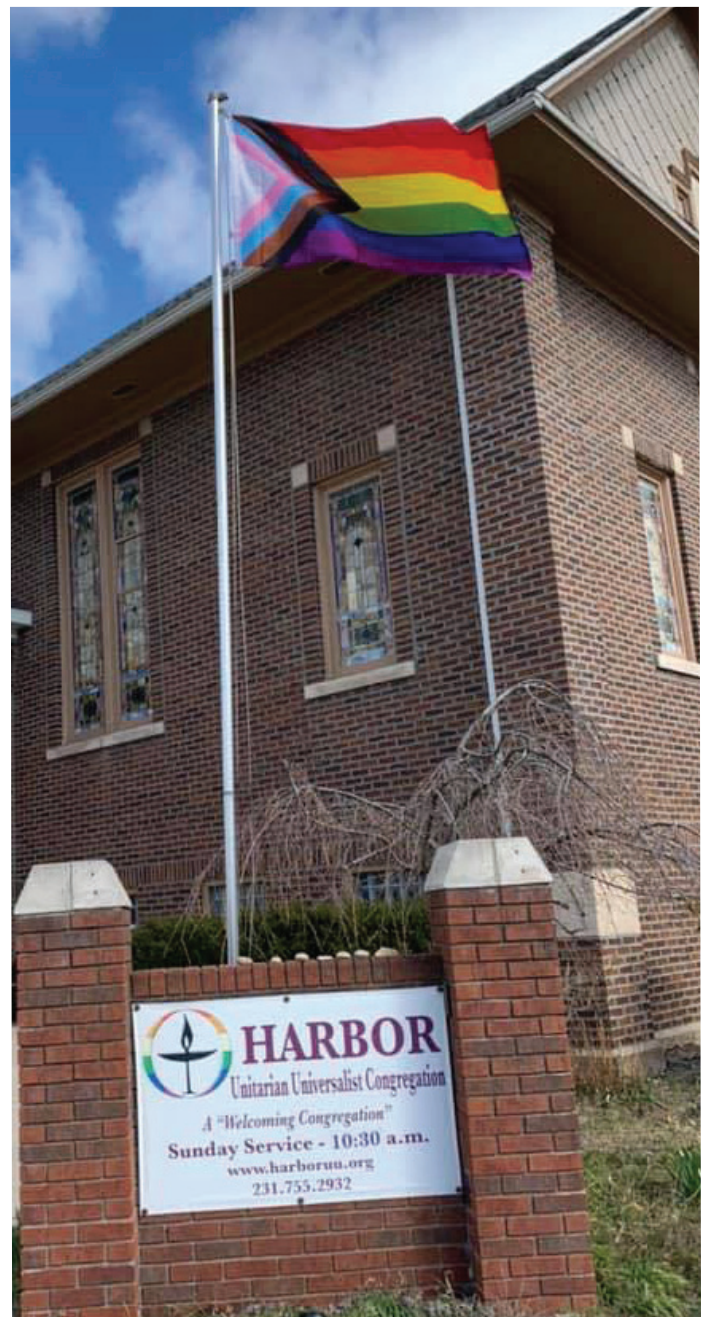
BLACK LIVES MATTER

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL

ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD

WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES



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

**HUUC Earth-Based
Spiritualists Host**

Summer Solstice

Ceremony & Celebration

**Weds, June 21st @ 7pm
HUUC Lower Level**

**Direct interest and inquiries to Jessica:
gingermajick@hotmail.com
or text/call 231.206.4947**

See you there!

**Choir is on
Summer Break!**

**Practices
Resume Late
August**

YOGA ALL WELCOME!



**Thursdays 5:30-6:30
1296 Montgomery • 49441
Bring a Mat & a Friend!**

**While you enjoy
Summer Adventures...**



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

Please submit information for the
JULY Newsletter by Monday, June 26th
to Jessica a gingermajick@hotmail.com
text or call 231.206.4947

2023 JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 5:30p Yoga	2 4:30p 4H Mtg	3 9am Muskegon Pride Festival
4 10:30a Worship 12:00p Annual Meeting	5 6:30p Craft Corner	6	7	8 5:30p Yoga	9	10 10:00a Workshop
11 10:30a Worship	12	13	14	15 5:30p Yoga	16 4:30p 4H Mtg	17 10:00a City of the Dead Cast Call
18 10:30a Worship	19 6:30p Board Mtg	20 7:30p Worship Committee	21 7:00p Summer Solstice	22 5:30p Yoga	23	24
25 10:30a Worship	26 7:00p Newsletter Deadline	27	28	29	30	