



August 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 • Kal Fox

Sunday Worship Services

*Virtual!
or In Person!*

**Begin at
10:30am**

August 6th

"White Supremacy, Religious Orthodoxy, and the Nature of Exclusion" **Rev. Dr. Brent A. Smith**

White Supremacy and religious orthodoxy – the idea that there is right and wrong beliefs – share the feature that both are exclusionary. Some people are embraced and others are ostracized. What is it in human beings such that we include some and exclude others? Is it an unsavory feature of the human yearning to belong whereby there arises the need and inclination to exclude? Is it in our desire to be loved and needed that we seek out the fellowship of some which inevitably involves shunning others? Our Universalist forebears made the theological declaration that God loves all souls but was that declared out of the realization that we can't or don't or won't?

August 13th

Poppy Sias Hernandez

August 20th

"Praise for the Amazing Gift of the Poet" **Carolyn Holmes**

How do you describe a feeling or emotion with words? And how do you do it with words within a language that have rhyme or rhythm? For some, this seems to come naturally. For those of us who sweat bullets with each word we write, not so much. In celebration of those who have "the gift" and share it with the world, our service will feature poetry. Some of it written and shared by our own beloved members and friends!

August 27th

"Storyteller"

Amy G. S. A. Brooks

In this season of book bans, Amy will reflect on the power of knowing and sharing our stories.

September 3rd

"This is a Union Town, Fellow Workers!"

Anna Lorena EldenBrady

Join Anna for this celebration of organized labor and Muskegon's place in its history. The movement today is stronger than it has been in decades and workers are organizing in droves, regardless of industry. So let's get energized to support the strikes, work disruptions, and worker uprisings across the country as workers learn of their power when united!

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

Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Greetings HUUC Family!

We are entering what many of us consider the final month of summer. I cannot help but look forward to the approaching cooler season (which, I must confess, is my favorite). As our summer activities wind down, I hope you will experience great joy, and relaxation. Remember to gather a small sample of water from wherever you may find yourself to share during our "ingathering" in September. We will blend the waters we bring in a common vessel representing our coming together as a beloved community.

The Board of Trustees continues its work during the summer months. Our July meeting featured a sincere statement of appreciation to three of our HUUC members who have finished their terms in various positions. Sincere thanks to:

Jim Stier for serving on the Board of Trustees.

David McIntire for serving on the Leadership Development Committee.

Darlene VanderKolk for serving on the Endowment Committee.

Your support of HUUC by giving of your time to serve is greatly appreciated!

Officers who will serve for the next year were selected from the Trustees are as follows:

Poppy Hernandez- President

Robin Dennany-Vice President

Jones Barton-Secretary

Kurt Troutman-Treasurer

Welcome to **Kal Fox** who joins as Trustee at Large and serves with **Rebecca St. Clair** and **Carolyn Holmes**.

This year our Board members will continue moving HUUC toward professional ministerial leadership.

We are developing a "job description" that will provide for a part time minister for the year beginning in October. Duties will include appearing in the pulpit two Sundays per month as well as providing pastoral care, support for our Board and Committees and helping to provide Adult Religious Education/Spiritual Development opportunities for our congregants and possibly the community at large. We are exploring methods to find the right person to fulfill this important position and will keep you posted as we continue the process.

Board members are also continuing to provide one sermon or message per month and members will rotate the responsibility to submit a report to the newsletter in order to facilitate the flow of information to our members. Board meetings are open to all and meet in the social hall . Our next meeting is Monday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m. If anyone has concerns they would like the Board to address or questions, contact one of the members or email trustees@harboruu.org

Peace and Joy,

Carolyn Holmes
HUUC Board Member

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, August 21 • 6:30 pm

All are welcome!

in person or via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96744707168>

News from C A R I N G 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 JULY (either in person or on Zoom). Out of those with perfect attendance we drew a name to win a prize.

Congratulations to *Carolyn Holmes!*

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

Cozy Craft Circle

meets every-other Monday 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!

YOGA ALL WELCOME!



Thursdays 5:30-6:30
1296 Montgomery • 49441

Please submit information for the **September Newsletter** by Monday, August 28th to Jessica at gingermajick@hotmail.com • text or call 231.206.4947

CALLING ALL
Poets & Troubadours!



On **August 20** we will offer a service celebrating the creative gift of poetry. If **you have** a poem that you have written or one that you have discovered and would like to share, please contact Carolyn Holmes to be included in the Worship Service. If you have a **favorite poem** but would prefer to have someone else read it, that's welcome too! **Songs** also qualify so if you would like to share a song with the congregation let us know!

Carolyn 231-327-0375 or
holmesland58@gmail.com

HUUC Earth-Based Spiritualists

MEETING & PLANNING

Tues, August 29th
@6:30pm

HUUC Lower Level

Q&A's : gingermajick@hotmail.com
or text/call 231.206.4947

All Are Welcome!

Choir is resuming
on Wednesdays
starting August 16
with a kickoff party at
Ty Newton's!

Regular rehearsals at the church
will start the following week
from 6-7:30pm.

Please contact Sue McIntire
if you are interesting in joining a
great group of people...
spread joy!

While you enjoy
Summer Adventures...

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



While we are enjoying the Summer weather and perhaps traveling or staying in our own back yards, remember to save a sample of water to represent your experiences and bring it to our "Water Ceremony" on September 10. We will observe our uniquely UU tradition of blending waters from our lives as we regroup after our busy summer activities and begin a new "church year."



CITY of the DEAD

October 14th & 15th

Evergreen Cemetery

City of the Dead is an annual, family-friendly immersive theater event featuring actors portraying the figures prominent (and not so prominent) from Muskegon history at their burial places in Evergreen Cemetery (391 Irwin Ave.). The event is sponsored by Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

The event began in 2010 when this church was looking for a fun way to raise some money to support their Religious Education program. The exploration of history and understanding those who have lived in the past are a part of the church's values as they seek to acknowledge the inherent worth and dignity of all people. History can also help to foster equity and compassion in human relations, acceptance of other people and their growth, encourage the free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and foster the concept of a world community. All these things are values held by Unitarian Universalist congregations like Harbor UU.

The event has steadily grown each year in participation and attendance, becoming popular among community residents as well as bringing guests from other locations.

Evergreen Cemetery had its beginnings in 1862, only one year after Muskegon became a village. The 10 acres on Irwin Avenue was sold to the Village of Muskegon by Mayor Chauncey Davis. It was so far removed from town center it was thought the village would never extend to the scruffy piece of real estate.

A Ladies Cemetery Association was formed to make it a fit place to bury the beloved departed, planting trees and flower beds and installing fences and gates. Each year they prepared an annual report

published in the newspaper. An article in the Chronicle (13 May 1899) called "Cities of the Dead" tells the story of the cemetery quite well including such information as how many were buried that year, how many were buried in potter's field, and what new monuments were erected.

This is an example of the stories cast members of City of the Dead-Muskegon share with their audience.

City of the Dead highlights Muskegon's industrial and entrepreneurial past and seeks to accurately portray the people who shaped this city in an informative and respectful way. Period games and traditions are also demonstrated when appropriate to the people portrayed.

Tour guides lead groups through the Victorian garden cemetery that features towering monuments and towering trees while introducing guests to some of Evergreen Cemetery's residents. The cast interpret those lives using historical documentation, time-period clothing, context, and language.

Please visit our Facebook page, City of the Dead – Muskegon for updates, more information, or if you are interested in joining our cast.



Muskegon County Cooperating Churches Peace and Justice
Committee is sponsoring an Interfaith

PRAYER WALK AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

United we gather with love for God and our neighbors
In honor of the many killed by gun violence in our community



we gather wearing

BLAZE ORANGE



the color that people wear in the outdoors
that proclaims in LIVING COLOR ---



**PLEASE SEE ME
DO NOT SHOOT ME**



Sunday, August 27 --- 4:00-6:00 pm
Hackley Park – gather at 3:45 pm



PRAYING! SINGING! SOLIDARITY! SAFETY! ACTION!

The Walk will begin and end at Hackley Park. Prayer and singing will take place in the park during the prayer walk. We will be united in prayer regardless of your ability to physically make the journey. Stops will include worship locations, our county building, and our city building.

Orange Stoles, String backpacks and orange ribbons will be given out as supplies last. Please wear orange. We hope to have a limited supply of orange shirts to purchase. St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be graciously providing water and light snacks. They will also be our last prayer stop before we return to the park.



For more information or with questions – CONTACT:
Muskegon County Cooperating Churches
231-727-6000 or office.mccc@frontier.com



2023 AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 5:30p Yoga	4 4:30p 4H Mtg	5
6 10:30a Worship	7 6:30p Craft Corner	8	9	10 5:30p Yoga	11	12
13 10:30a Worship	14	15	16 6:00p Choir Kick-off	17 5:30p Yoga	18 3:30p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	19
20 10:30a Worship	21 6:30p Board Mtg	22	23 6:00p Choir 7:30p Social Action	24 5:30p Yoga	25	26
27 10:30a Worship 4:00p Prayer Walk	28 7:00p Newsletter Deadline	29 6:30p Earth Based Spiritualist Mtg	30 6:00 Choir	31 5:30p Yoga		