



## November 2023 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 • Kal Fox

## Sunday Worship Services

*Virtual!  
or In Person!*

**Begin at  
10:30am**

### November 5th

#### *"On This Gray November Morn"*

February Sky (Phil Cooper & Susan Urban)

In Northern places, November is a time when the world seems to be holding its breath. Gray skies and bare trees mark this interval between high Autumn and Winter. Some find November dismal, but there is a beauty to it that can be appreciated by those with open eyes and open hearts. It's no coincidence that we choose this barren and gloomy month to give thanks for the blessings in our lives. We will deal with the idea of being able to savor our personal November-like times as we wait for the next thing to arrive.

### November 12th

#### *"Context and the Search for Truth and Meaning"*

Bro. Tom Wagner

The role of context in interpreting news, Scripture and history.

### November 19th

#### *"Lake Huron rolls, Superior sings in the*

*rooms of her ice-water mansion...."* Anna Elden Brady

The Edmund Fitzgerald went down in Lake Superior November 10, 1975 with all 29 hands. One of many casualties of the Great Lakes, the ship is a symbol of the raw power of the water, something we can point to that reminds us that no, the Lakes do not care for our lives, they are elemental, something sublime, beautiful, and so far beyond taming that it inspires a spiritual awe simply to stand on the shore and look out over them in wonder.

\*Choir Sunday\*

### November 26th

#### *"When Giving Thanks Comes Hard"*

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Gratitude practices abound along with those who sing their praises. Simultaneously there are injustices to name and resist. How do we balance these, thriving at the intersections of justice and joy?

### December 3rd

#### *"Is the Beginning the Beginning?"*

Rev. Dr. Brent A. Smith

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

# Greetings from the Board of Trustees



*Hello Friends,*

Last month the Board of Trustees met to create a safe church policy. We are proud to introduce our Safe Congregation Policy, reaffirming our commitment to creating a welcoming space for all. This policy ensures a community free from harassment and discrimination, guided by the values of respect and inclusivity. We encourage prompt reporting of any incidents to the Board, offering support and confidentiality. Together, we stand united in celebrating diversity and nurturing a sanctuary of safety and belonging for everyone. The policy will be available in the social hall and on the church website.

Thanks and be well,

Rebecca StClair  
on behalf of the HUUC Board Trustees

If you ever have any questions for the Board you can contact us via e mail at  
[trustees@harboruu.org](mailto:trustees@harboruu.org)

## Get Funding for Your Vision!

Thanks to the inspired giving of past members and the continuing stewardship of present members, Harbor UU is blessed with the opportunity to award grants from our endowment fund each year to support special projects aligned with our mission. The **Endowment Committee** is accepting grant applications from now until December 1.

Our mission is to be "... a safe haven inspiring people to seek their own spiritual truths through worship and learning in community as we build a better world together." If you have something you'd like to do that would benefit from our community's financial support, please apply!

Applications can be downloaded at [harboruu.org/endowment](http://harboruu.org/endowment). Email completed applications to [endowment@harboruu.org](mailto:endowment@harboruu.org), or deliver hard copy applications to the Endowment Committee's mailbox in the office at the church.

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, November 13th • 6:30 pm  
All are welcome!

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





# Safe Congregation Policy

## Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation

### Statement of Commitment

We, the Board of Trustees of Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation, wholeheartedly commit to fostering a Safe Congregational Space that is unwaveringly free from harassment, abuse, and discrimination. Our primary aim is to ensure the safety, well-being, and dignity of all members, visitors, and staff.

### Code of Conduct

Acceptable behavior and interactions within our congregation are grounded in respect, inclusivity, and the nurturing of a vibrant community atmosphere. We affirm the values and principles espoused by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and we warmly welcome all individuals who share a commitment to living in harmony with these principles.

### Reporting Procedures

We recognize the importance of promptly addressing any incidents of harassment, abuse, or violations of this policy. We strongly encourage anyone who witnesses or experiences such behavior to report it to the Board of Directors. Timely reporting is encouraged, and we assure confidentiality and unwavering support for those who come forward.

### Protection


Above all, we empower and support individuals who have experienced harassment, abuse, or policy violations to establish and assert personal boundaries that ensure their safety. This may include asserting their right to ask the perpetrator to cease, discontinuing any interactions on social media platforms, and making the choice to disengage from the individual involved. Furthermore, we encourage our members and guests to explore all available legal avenues for protection, which may include seeking Personal Protection Orders or other legal remedies.

### Statement of Inclusion, Diversity, and Non-Discrimination

Inclusion, diversity, and non-discrimination are not only fundamental principles of our faith but also the cornerstone of this policy and our communal interactions. We affirm our commitment to embracing and celebrating the rich tapestry of humanity. We are resolute in our stance against discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, socioeconomic status, or any other characteristic. We pledge to create a community where every individual is valued and respected, and where their unique contributions enrich our shared experience.

### Conclusion

By upholding these principles and values, we reaffirm our dedication to creating a sanctuary of safety, respect, and belonging for all who seek solace and spiritual growth within Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Together, we aspire to build a congregation where love, compassion, and justice flourish, and where every member can thrive in an environment of trust and support.



# 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.*

Condolences to **Shirley and Dick Hoffstedt** on the loss of their son, Richard.

Healing thoughts to **Dale Humphreys** who was recently hospitalized.

Healing thoughts to **Kal Fox's** mother, who is currently at U of M Hospital in Ann Arbor.

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



## Chalice Circles



Chalice circles are small groups of 8-10 people that gather once or twice a month to discuss topics of spirituality and life. In sharing their stories, deep friendships are formed and community is cemented. From personal experience I know that this expression of small group ministry is fun, rewarding and helpful for both personal growth and community relationships. Do you think it might find a home at Harbor UU? If you think you would like to be part of a group or be a group leader, or if you have any questions feel free to reach out to me at [angebarnes70@gmail.com](mailto:angebarnes70@gmail.com) or 303-717-6366.



## 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!

Please submit information for the **December Newsletter** by Monday, November 27th to Jessica at [gingermajick@hotmail.com](mailto:gingermajick@hotmail.com) • text or call 231.206.4947



# MUUSJN

## To: MUUSJN Board and UU Social Justice Leaders

The MUUSJN team requests your help in publicizing our \$4k Matching Grant Challenge to your congregation or fellowship. Our work is funded by congregational and individual donations, as well as grants. Please include news of our \$4k Matching Grant Challenge in your church newsletter, Facebook page, or other communication channels. ***Following is text and graphics for you to copy for this purpose.*** Please contact us if we can help with other formats for you to use (see contact information below).


The **Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)** is a statewide alliance of UU congregations. Its director and consultants help to leverage expertise, coalition-building among UUs and partner organizations, and the strengths of congregational social justice efforts to expand the impact of our collective justice-making.

MUUSJN is excited to announce a **\$4k Matching Grant Challenge**. The Unitarian Universalist Funding Program will match all contributions to MUUSJN up to a total of \$4,000. Your support will go twice as far in creating positive change!

**Donate Today:** Click [here](#) or scan the QR code, then click the Donate button to pay via Paypal or credit or debit card. [This QR code links to the MUUSJN website]




We have a supply of these postcard-size cards. Please contact us if you'd like some to distribute. You may also use these images in your digital communication.



MICHIGAN  
UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIAL  
JUSTICE  
NETWORK

# Matching Grant Challenge

**DOUBLES Your Donation!**


**GIVE NOW** 

[uujustice.org](http://uujustice.org)

Your generosity will fund:

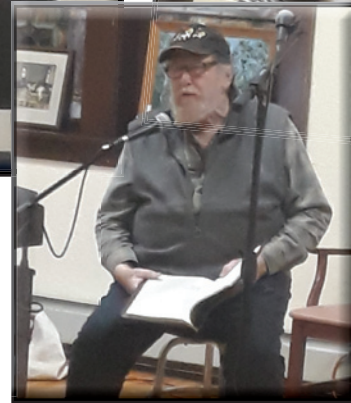
- **Educational Workshops:** Equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to be effective allies for LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and other historically marginalized communities. MUUSJN is also working to educate UU's and advocate for the dignity of Native Americans.
- **Policy Change Campaigns:** Influencing policy changes that address systemic inequalities and promote justice. From ending child marriage and protecting reproductive rights to reforming the cash bail system and enacting sensible gun reforms, MUUSJN will continue to push for legislative action that reflects our UU values and those of our justice partners.
- **Support for UU Congregations and Partner Organizations:** Providing resources in support of anti-racism and anti-oppression work that will help to build the Beloved Community throughout our UU movement and beyond.

Donate today and your dollars will be doubled thanks to a matching grant from the UU Program Fund!





**Thanks to all who shared their talents and fellowship at our October Coffee House!**



**Special Thanks to Sue and David McIntyre  
for their time, talent, and energy to make it happen.**



**CITY of the DEAD  
MUSKOGON**



**Thank-You for  
a Great 2023!**

# 2023 NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:00p Choir	2 5:30p Yoga	3 4:30p 4H Mtg	4
5 10:30a Worship	6 6:30p Craft Corner	7	8 6:00p Choir	9 5:30p Yoga	10 5:30p COTD Dress Rehearsal	11
12 10:30a Worship	13	14 7:30p Worship Committee	15 6:00p Choir	16 5:30p Yoga	17 3:30p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	18
19 10:30a Worship 12:00p Potluck	20 6:30p Board Mtg 6:30p Craft Corner	21	22 6:00p Choir	23 5:30p Yoga	24	25
26 10:30a Worship	27 7:00p Newsletter Deadline	28	29 6:00p Choir	30 5:30p Yoga		