



December 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**

December 3rd

"A Dark in the Lightness"

Margi Peterson, ULC-FC

Join us in the approach to Winter Solstice for this message on a dark in the lightness from new visiting Chaplin Margi Peterson.

December 10th

"Nurturing Holding Spaces"

Rev. Mimi Bush

...we "need to learn the practices and create the "holding space" that nurtures a healthy inward journey that can undergird our outward callings". Once again we live in times that drive us crazy with so much need for justice and peace work near and far - and we have the fortune to be distracted by "holidays" and plenty and sometimes are a "mess" inside ourselves.

December 17th

"The Tapestry of Compassion:

Weaving a World of Understanding"

Kal Fox

Choir Sunday *Potluck Sunday*

December 24th

"What Child Is This?"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Join HUUC friends and family for a service honoring Christmas Eve Day...a Unitarian Universalist way. We will have some familiar seasonal music as well as some new tunes. Rev. Matthew Cockrum is happy to be in the pulpit today with Brother Tom Wagner as Worship Assistant.

December 31st

"On Becoming"

Kwame Kamau James and Rebecca StClair

How do we become... whatever we will become? Could we already know the answer?

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



Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Hello All,

We are firmly headed into winter and this time is a wonderful time to gather in and appreciate the warmth and safety we have built around ourselves. With the colder weather, it is easy to see the blessing provided by our heaters and soft clothes, but we should also recognize the warmth brought by our beloved community.

We actively work to foster a healthy community of respect and inclusivity. Every Sunday we gather either in person or online to share in this community, not to mention the opportunities outside of Sunday mornings such as our Core Circles group, Cozy Craft Corner, Social Justice program and other opportunities to get to know each other better and further build our community to be the best version of itself.

Please also remember that Endowment submissions are open, this is a great opportunity to use the funds so graciously left to us to further our community.

Stay Safe, Stay Warm,

Jones Barton
Board Secretary

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. Email completed applications to 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, December 18th • 6:30 pm

All are welcome!

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



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.

Caring thoughts to **Sue McIntyre and Family** as her nephew heals after traumatically being hit by a car.

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

Healing thoughts to **Dale Humphreys** who is recovering from recent hospitalization.

Healing thoughts to **Kal Fox's** mother, who is recovering from her stay at U of M Hospital.

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.)

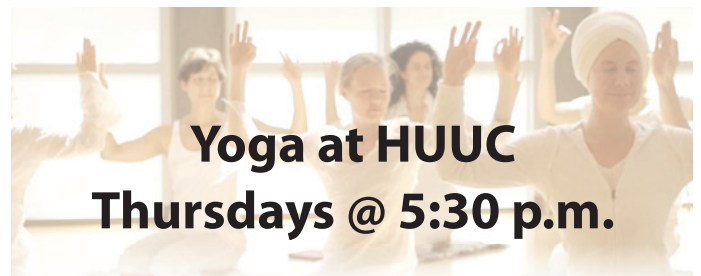
Contact: Sue McIntire (231) 563-3988



The HUUC Social Action Committee is:

Thank you all for your donations to Adopt-A-Family for Every Woman's Place! We are coming down to the wire and if you still have any money left in your pockets, we need the following: a swifter wet-jet mop; a 3-drawer plastic storage container; a baker's rack; LOL doll and LOL room decor for a young girl.

Producing a paper copy directory of services for the poor, including phone numbers and addresses. EWP gave us their list with websites, but we thought that might be challenging for some folk. We added some services for LGBTQ folk and others. We hope this project will be funded by our endowment fund. We plan to distribute it to all agencies that serve the poor. Thank you to **Chad Axe** for doing all the leg work.



Join us for a yoga class Thursday evenings here at HUUC 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.



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

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!





Announcement!

Christmas Eve Field Trip Options

Through Muskegon Cooperating Churches, **HUUC members have been invited** to join either service below if interested in various Christmas Eve traditions. Feel free to visit and participate in how our friends at other Muskegon-area churches celebrate the season.

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church

1200 Seminole Rd, Muskegon, MI 49441

9:30pm "Midnight" Mass

From Rev. Lily Marx: Anyone and everyone is welcome, and all may take communion in the Episcopal Church. Service begins with carol singing, and Eucharist starts at about 10:00pm.

Service is typically over around 11:30pm.

<https://stgregorysmuskegon.org/>

First Congregational Church UCC

1201 Jefferson St, Muskegon, MI 49441

11:00pm service, ends at midnight

From Cindy Barnum-Steggerda: a beautiful worship with lots of candles and music! What I like about FCC's Christmas Eve service is that they do not stick in communion like some traditions. They have bells, brass, and choir. No sermon--lessons and carols.

<https://www.fccmuskegon.org/>

Tea Time



You Are Invited!

Hosted by Susan and Christine:

Mark Your Calendars:

Saturday, December 16th @4pm

Hats On!

Pinkies Out!

and... Have Fun!

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 or 303-717-6366.

Please submit information for the **January Newsletter** by Monday, December 25th to Jessica at gingermajick@hotmail.com • text or call 231.206.4947





Inclement Weather
Please check for cancellations
on HUUC's Facebook
group and pages



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!

Join Us For
Solstice
CELEBRATION
Thurs • 12/21/23 • 7pm



2023 DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				5:30p Yoga	1 4:30p 4H Mtg	2
3 10:30a Worship EWP Gifts Due	4 6:30p Craft Corner	5	6 6:00p Choir	7 5:30p Yoga	8	9
10 10:30a Worship	11	12	13 6:00p Choir	14 5:30p Yoga	15 3:30p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	16 4:00p Tea
17 10:30a Worship 12:00p Potluck	18 6:30p Board Mtg 6:30p Craft Corner	19 7:30p Worship Committee -Zoom-	20 6:00p Choir	21 5:30p Yoga 7:00p Solstice Celebration	22	23
24 10:30a Worship	25 7:00p Newsletter Deadline	26	27 6:00p Choir	28 5:30p Yoga	29	30
31 10:30a Worship						