



April 2024 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**

April 7th

"What do we believe about God?"

Kurt Troutman

As Unitarian Universalists, we bring our whole self, our full identity, our questioning mind and our expansive heart in our individual and collective quest to identify *What We Believe*.

April 14th

"Wisdom of the Elders"

Rev. Mimi Bush

Indigenous teachings for Earth care and community. Recognizing and embracing wisdom from older and younger First Nations' wise ones regarding our life on Earth.

Choir Sunday

April 21st

"Lessons from Living, Loving & Leaving"

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

featuring music from Nina Simone join Reverend Matthew Cockrum in this service inspired by the great recording artist and activist's life and legacy.

April 28th

"Angels Among Us"

Tyler Newton

HUUC Member shares the faith meandering of a born-again Unitarian.

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

If you have any topics or speakers you would like to hear in our Sunday morning services, contact

Carolyn Holmes at holmesland58@gmail.com.

We are always open to suggestions!



Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Greetings All,

This letter comes to you in the midst of a Michigan spring! Will it be snowing in the morning? Will it be 65 degrees in the afternoon? Guessing is half the fun! While mother nature is in the throws of indecision, the beautiful grounds of our historic building are stirring to life. Daffodils have started to bring their blooms to show and many others will surely soon follow.

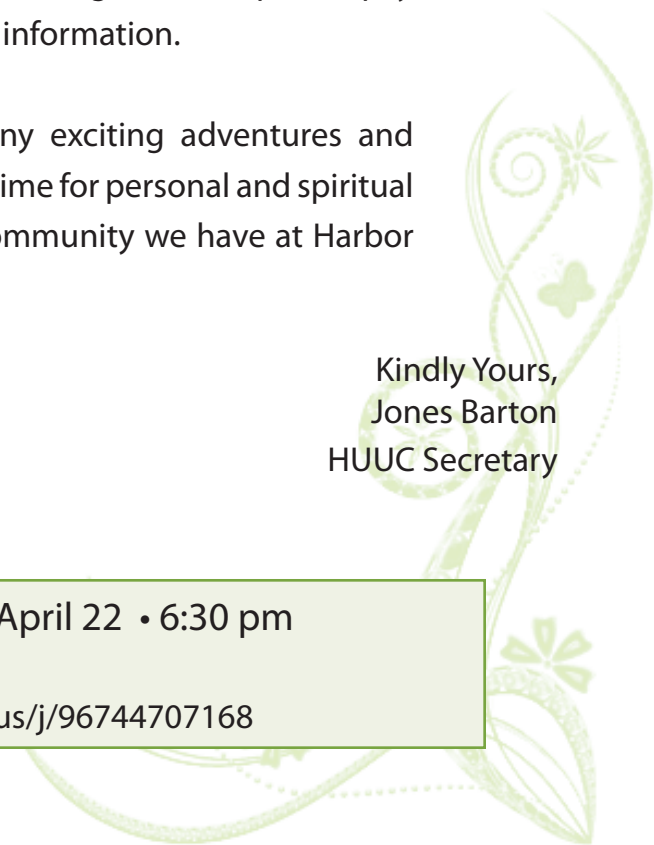
On the inside of our spiritual home, **Jim Stier** is planning a spring cleaning effort to help keep our space clean and conducive to our use. Please keep an eye out for more information from him as it becomes available. Organizing and cleaning at the church is a great way to contribute time and talents to support our community in a very visible and tangible manner.

Pledging is another way to help support HUUC as we continue to grow and flourish. **The Financial Committee** has been hard at work drafting a budget for the 24-25 financial year. To help support this effort and raise funds to accomplish our goals, we will be having a Service Auction and Pledge Drive event on Saturday, **May 4th** (mark your calendars!). This is a great time to consider your pledging and support for our community and what you can do to be involved during this exciting time in our growth! More details will be coming soon, so please pay attention to announcements and emails for further information.

We will soon be heading into summer with many exciting adventures and beautiful memories to be created. This is a fantastic time for personal and spiritual growth, which is only furthered by the amazing community we have at Harbor Unitarian Universalist.

Kindly Yours,
Jones Barton
HUUC Secretary

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, April 22 • 6:30 pm
All are welcome!
in person or via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96744707168>



General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles

VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 20 - 23, 2024



General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. You can join online Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024 for this 4-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore the virtual exhibit hall. **GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who participate.** You'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with our congregation and community-at-large!

The votes that GA delegates cast have a huge impact on Unitarian Universalism. This year there will be a **vote on proposed changes** to the section of the Unitarian Universalist Association bylaws that includes the Principles, Purposes, and Sources. There will also be votes to determine our elected leaders, and shape the justice work that we do as a movement. If you are interested in serving as a delegate from our congregation, talk to a Board of Trustees member (Poppy Hernandez, Jones Barton, Robin Dennany, Rebecca St. Clair, Kal Fox, or Carolyn Holmes). **You can learn more at www.uua.org/ga**

www.uua.org/ga



SPRING CLEANUP

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

Are you annoyed by that stain you see every time you enter a particular area of HUUC?

Is there a room here that you have been itching to re-arrange?

Maybe you have something special you would like to add to our beautiful garden.

Whether you like to work inside or out, your Space and Grace committee has a to-do list to get us started on Saturday, April 20. If you are curious about what's on that list or you have something to add, give Jim Stier a call or text at 231 798-7362. If we can't assemble the crew and tools for your project in time for April 20, we can at least start planning and budgeting for a later date. Some of us will be there all day, from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, but even if you have only an hour or two to spare and can't show up till the afternoon, your help and fellowship will be appreciated just the same. Let's make HUUC the crown jewel of the neighborhood!



70th Anniversary

Sunday April 21st
Potluck & Fellowship

Please bring a dish to share and a smile for an extra special potluck of fellowship and food immediately following service to celebrate our 70th anniversary

Hear a short introduction about the pledge party/service auction "**May the Fourth Be With You**" to be held on 5/4!

HUUC will be
Celebrating 70 Years
of Worship, Friendship, Fellowship
and Charter in April!

1954 - 2024



Who else is turning 70 this year? Oprah • John Travolta • Annie Lennox • Jackie Chan • Godzilla!

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.

Congratulations to **Scott Roodvoets** on his new job.

Healing thoughts to **Dale Humphreys** who is recovering from a broken hip.

Welcoming bundles of joy!

Congratulations to **Tom Wagner** on the birth of his granddaughter, Molly Eileen Golden, born 3/17. **Ben and Lewis** now have a sister!

Congratulations to **Jim and Nancy Stier** on the birth of their granddaughter, Ahri Lynn Levine, born January 31.

Congratulations to **Ty and Sue Newton** on the birth of their granddaughter, Eleanor Sue Burgam, born February 16.

(See grandparents for proud photos!)

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

Worship & Music Committee

April 23 at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting of the Worship Committee will take place at HUUC on Tuesday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Free Speech Sunday

is an annual opportunity to use our pulpit to speak for 3-5 minutes on a topic of your choosing.

We are planning for the service which is tentatively scheduled for **July 7**

If you wish to be included in the service please contact Carolyn (holmesland58@gmail.com).

ICYMI...

(In Case You Missed It)

Let It Blow Through - Maggie Wheeler

**Gathering and Postlude Attribution
for 3/31 service: "Let It Blow Through"
by Maggie Wheeler**

Enjoy it here:

<https://vimeo.com/398104028>

**HUUC Earth-Based
Spiritualists Host**

May Day Ceremony & Celebration

Tuesday, April 30th @6:30pm

Location TBD

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

See you there!



Child Care Provider

HUUC is in need of a responsible person to act as a Child Care Provider during our Sunday morning services. If you know of such a person please refer them to Poppy Hernandez for information.



REALLY REALLY FREE MARKET

Take what you need, donate what you don't.

**SATURDAYS
APRIL 20 • MAY 18 • JUNE 15
2PM TO 5PM**



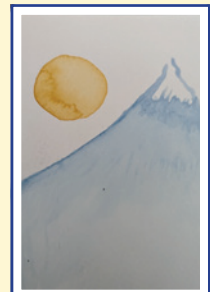
**1198 SPRING ST
MUSKEGON**

**NO CHARGE TO
PARTICIPATE**

*Clothing, Shoes, Cold Weather Wear,
Household Items, Personal Hygiene Items,
Craft Supplies, and More!*



Robin's Custom Cards...



Cards are for sale in the social hall
for \$4 each or 3 for \$10

"I love doing commissioned work"
and will create a themed set of 4 for \$20.

Custom portraits and other commissions start at
\$30 depending on size and complexity.

Your support is much appreciated!

I accept cash and Venmo @robin-dennany.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

 Theme:

Love Unites, Stories Ignite

Unite with fellow UUs as we explore the boundless power of love in our faith community. Ignite your spirit with the incredible stories that shape our faith and inspire change. Dive into the rich tapestry of narratives that have the potential to ignite a brighter future for us all.

Virtually Uniting Our Faith Community

Join the 2024 UUA General Assembly! Dive into a groundbreaking experience from the comfort of your own space. The 2024 UUA General Assembly is going virtual, opening the doors to an incredible opportunity for all to come together, share ideas, and unite our faith community like never before. Experience the warmth and camaraderie of fellow UU members, ministers, and leaders from around the world. This fully virtual event allows us to transcend borders and celebrate our shared values.

Inspiring Workshops and Soulful Worship

Gain insights from influential voices in the UUA community and beyond. Be inspired to make a difference in the world. Explore important topics, share your perspectives, and learn from others to deepen your spiritual journey. Be a part of the change we want to see in the world. Discover opportunities for meaningful engagement on social justice, climate justice, and other initiatives. Celebrate the beauty of UU worship through dynamic virtual services that will uplift your spirit.

When

June 20 – 23, 2024

Where

Your Home, Your Space,
Your Connection!

Engaging Discussions

Participate in meaningful dialogues on issues that matter. Engage with thought-provoking workshops and seminars led by visionary leaders. Explore your faith and perspectives with fellow attendees. Let's prove that distance can never dim the power of our collective spirit.

Register Now

Don't miss out on this remarkable gathering of minds and hearts. Secure your spot today to connect, engage, and empower yourself with like-minded individuals who share your faith. Registration is available at uua.org/ga. Register before March 1 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 15.

Join us at the 2024 UUA General Assembly and be a part of this transformative virtual gathering!



IN NEED OF Rehearsal Director for 2024 Event Season

City of the Dead is an on-site outdoor **historical reenactment tour** taking place at Muskegon's Evergreen cemetery the second weekend in October annually. Rehearsals take place at Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Muskegon or at the cemetery. **Harbor UU is the sponsoring organization** for this event. The Rehearsal Director needs to be able to get to these locations.

Responsibilities will include attending meetings with the planning team starting in the spring, scheduling and managing regular rehearsals in August, September, and October with a cast of around 20-25 people (not all cast members need to be at every rehearsal) and coordinating with the tour guide group lead to make sure all cast members are well prepared for their roles as either tour stops, host ghosts, or guides. Preparing cast members and coordinating with the crew organizers for the event taking place the second weekend in October.

Because this is an all volunteer event, we are unfortunately not able to pay for this position. We wish we could, as we understand that this is a big ask of anyone who has experience in this area. Our entire cast, crew, and planning team are volunteers.

Video of previous years' events are available at www.youtube.com/CityoftheDeadMuskegon. Questions or interest can be directed to cityofthedeadmuskegon@gmail.com.

For Science!



Is your child or a child you know interested in joining a 4-H club that isn't just "sows, cows, and ploughs?" What about one that's centered on STEAM--science, technology, engineering, arts & architecture, and

mathematics? Well then it's your lucky day, because the For Science! 4-H Club meets at Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation and Love Community Garden (weather permitting) on the first and third Fridays of every month and we are open to new members year-round!

The club explores various STEAM fields with youth ages 5-19 through hands-on projects based on youth interests. Michigan 4-H does not collect participation fees and enrolled members are able to take part in special events throughout the year, so this youth development program is free! 4-H is one of the nation's oldest youth development organizations and is administered by land-grant universities across the country.

Club leader Anna EldenBrady invites anyone interested to get in touch at for.science4h@gmail.com for more information on the club and on how to enroll.

BE a Peace-Maker!
“PEACEFUL RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE”
TRAINING

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Training will take place at First Congregational UCC
1201 Jefferson St. Muskegon, MI 49441



Gathering &
Registration at 9:30 AM
Training 10:00 AM-2 PM



The Meta Peace Team from Lansing, MI
(MetaPeaceTeam.org)
will offer Violence De-escalation Skills Training.

Topics to be addressed include:

The power and efficacy of Nonviolence	Systematic Causes of Violence
The Spirituality of Nonviolence	Creating Resiliency in a World of Conflict

The training will begin and end with spiritual centering. The session will be tailored to the needs of our community as we learn to be peacemakers in an assertive, loving, and peaceful manner. A boxed lunch will be provided.

MCCC is supplementing the cost of the training. Donations are appreciated.
The cost to MCCC is \$45 a person (including lunch).

“BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,
FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD”
MATTHEW 5:9 NRSV

Sponsored by
The Peace and Justice Committee of
Muskegon County Cooperating Churches
120 W. Apple Ave., Muskegon, MI 49440
231-727-6000 office.mccc@frontier.com

REGISTRATION FORM
“PEACEFUL RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE” TRAINING

Saturday, April 13, 2024
First Congregational Church U.C.C.
1201 Jefferson, Muskegon, MI 49441
Registration at 9:30 AM
10 AM-2 PM

Name of Participant: _____

Contact Information:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Church or Organization (if relevant): _____

Number of people Participating from your group: _____

Any special dietary needs:

Contact Muskegon County Cooperating Churches:

Email: office.mccc@frontier.com

Phone: (231) 727-6000



MCCC is asking for a suggested donation of \$10 to hold your spot.
Advanced registration is required for lunch and materials,
and also to ensure the necessary number of trainers.

Please reserve your place by April 1 at 12 PM.

Please feel free to copy this form for each person registering
from your church or organization.

VIRTUAL RAINBOW SUMMIT



April 25-27, 2024 | Register at <https://beav.es/cQQ>



25 APR 2024

Boarding Pass to Belonging: Tool for Navigating the Politics of Rural Diversity and Inclusion - Isabel H.

Enhancing Joy and Creating Community: Practical Applications for... 2021 National Survey - Cindy B.

Making Meetings Thrive: Creating Safe Spaces in 4-H Club Meetings - Chad P.

Building Inclusive Schools and Communities for LGBTQ+ and Gender Diverse Youth - EmpowerMT

Many Faces & Forms: Understanding & Aiding those with Gender Dysphoria - Dani D.

Assertive Communication, Boundaries, & Consent: The ABCs of Healthy Relationships - Maisy C.

26 APR 2024

Positive Youth Development Programs as a Site of Queer Survival and Thrival - Kait M.

Reading the Rainbow: LGBTQ+ Child's Literature - Mollie T. & Anna E.

Caregiver Support: A Trail Guide to Affirming Youth - Kassia F.

Fairies, Fruits, and Faggots: A Brief History of LGBTQIA+ Slurs and How They Were Reclaimed - Zachary W.

I.D.E.A.S. 2024: Youth Empowerment in Action - Lex M.

Building Healthier Communities: A Comprehensive E-Learning Journey for - Maisy C.

27 APR 2024

Unity in Diversity: Queer Youth Leading Change in Salem-Keizer Public Schools - Bailey A. & Youth

Inclusion on the Home Front: Caring for LGBTQIA+ Youth - Jennifer P.

Inclusion for All Students: ... LGBTQ Students with Disabilities with Affirming Practices - Carolyn B.

the Poetics Lab—Performance of the Self through Poetry and Public Storytelling - Mitchel D.

Join the LGBTQ+ Youth Panel with Rainbow Youth - Rainbow Youth

Art as Activism - Emma F.

Register at <https://beav.es/cQQ> - Questions at virtualrainbowsummit@gmail.com

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]



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!



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."

Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for Newsletter is the last Monday of the month prior to Newsletter month.
for example: April Newsletter Deadline is the last Monday of March

Newsletter Submissions

can be made to Jessica Sheldon at
gingermajick@hotmail.com or 231.206.4947

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 • Marcia
Hovey • Eli Fox • Jessica Sheldon
Sue McIntire • Kwame James • Rebecca St. Clair
email Jessica at gingermajick@hotmail.com



YES, TWO FB PAGES!

In addition to our public page: Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation, we have a PRIVATE **GROUP Facebook page**. "Harbor UU News and Events" can be typed on the Facebook search bar, when page comes up... ask to be a member. If you like FB, this is a good way to notify members of events along with emails we already send out.

Please submit information for the **May Newsletter** by Monday, April 29th to Jessica at gingermajick@hotmail.com • text or call 231.206.4947



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

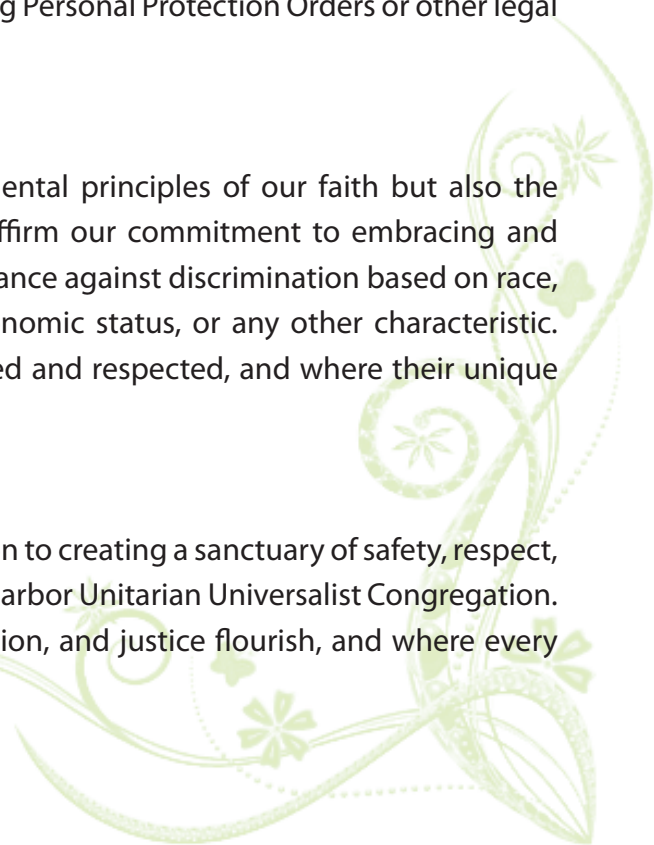
Above all, we empower and support individuals who have experienced harassment, abuse, or policy violations to establish and assert personal boundaries that ensure their safety. This may include asserting their right to ask the perpetrator to cease, discontinuing any interactions on social media platforms, 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.





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions