



September 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

Kal Fox, *President*

Robin Dennany, *Vice President*

Kurt Troutman, *Treasurer*

Jones Barton, *Secretary*

Members at Large:

Rebecca St. Clair • Christine Cleary

Poppy Sias Hernandez

Sunday Worship Services

*Virtual!
or In Person!*

Begin at
10:30am

September 1st

"Perfect"

Margi Peterson

What we believe "Perfect" means and how it affects who we are and how we think of ourselves. Chaplain Margi Peterson who makes a return visit to our pulpit from Grand Rapids Fountain Street Church.

September 8th

"The Power of the Flower?"

Robin Dennany

Our shared UU values of Interdependence, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice center around Love creating balance and interconnectedness... or does it? What do the shared values mean to U? To UUs? To us?

September 15th

"Water Communion Sunday"

Carolyn Holmes

Each year, as we gather in the fall, it is our custom to offer water as a symbol of connection one to another. We will contemplate our travels, movements and life changes, life's storms: our concerns, worries, frustrations and losses. We will also consider our blessings and joys.

September 22nd

"Creative consciousness: from mundane to magical"

Arionna Huffman

in this service, Arionna Huffman will be talking about her own experiences dealing with mental health issues and how playing make-believe changed her mindset for the better, and enriched her adult life. ****Trigger warning**** I will be talking about suicide, addiction, substance abuse, and the traumas of living with various mental health issues.

Choir Sunday

September 29th

"Turning the other cheek and loving your enemy"

Bro. Tom Wagner

I will discuss the literary and social context of Matthew 5:38-48 as it appears in "the Sermon on the Mount" (Matt. Ch.5-7) and the entire Gospel According to Matthew. I will also discuss the passage's influence on Christian pacifist traditions.

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

Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Dear Poppy,

On behalf of the entire Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your years of dedicated service as President of the Board of Trustees. Your leadership has been nothing short of inspirational, and your impact on our community will be felt for years to come.

Throughout your tenure, you have generously shared your time and talents, guiding our congregation with wisdom, compassion, and foresight. Your commitment to our shared principles has been evident in every decision and initiative you've championed.

We also want to acknowledge your unwavering advocacy for marginalized communities. Your voice has been a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change, reminding us all of our responsibility to create a more just and equitable world. You've challenged us to live our values more fully and to extend our circle of care ever wider.

Poppy, your leadership has strengthened our congregation, deepened our connections with each other, and expanded our impact in the broader community. The hours you've dedicated, the thoughtful perspectives you've shared, and the compassionate ear you've lent have all contributed to making our congregation a more vibrant and inclusive spiritual home.

Dear Harbor UU Congregation,

We hope this newsletter finds you well.

We are pleased to confirm that the long-anticipated revision of Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) bylaws has been officially adopted at the 2024 General Assembly. This marks a significant milestone in our denomination's history, as Article II contains our Association's statement of shared values and principles.

The adoption of the new Article II comes after a years-long democratic process that involved extensive discussions, debates, and input from UU congregations across the country. The final vote at the General Assembly required a two-thirds majority for approval, which was successfully achieved.

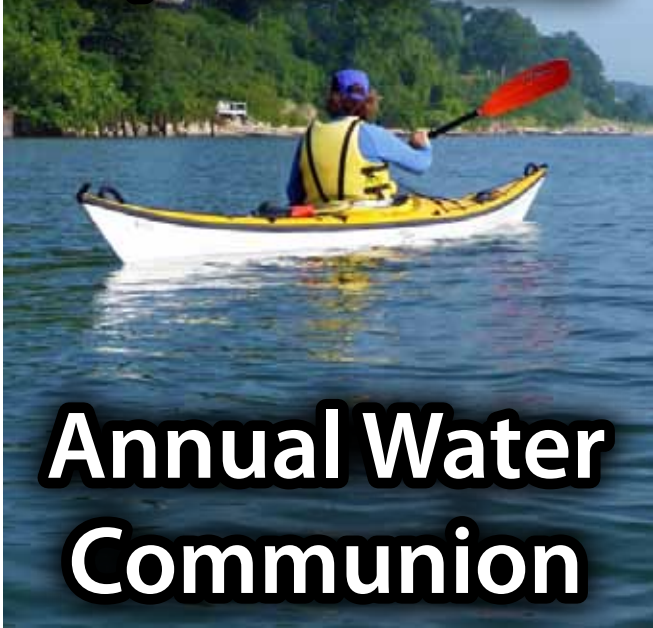
This revision represents an update to our guiding principles, ensuring our values remain relevant and inclusive in today's world.

For those interested in reading the full text of the newly adopted Article II, it is now available on the UUA website. We encourage all members of our congregation to familiarize themselves with these updated shared values, as they will guide our collective work and spiritual growth in the years to come.

Kal Fox
HUUC Board Member

While you enjoy
Summer Adventures...

Bring A Sample of Water!
September 15th



**Annual Water
Communion**

September 15 will be our annual **Water Communion!** Also known as the Water Ceremony, this is a Unitarian Universalist (UU) worship service that originated in the 1980s. During the service, members of the congregation bring small amounts of water from a special place or occasion to a large bowl, where they pour it together. The collection is symbolic of each of us bringing our lives and experiences together in one community and as the blended water is given back to the earth it symbolizes what we may be able to give to the world going forward. Be sure to collect a small sample of water over the Summer months to bring to the service on September 15th!

Membership Committee

Interested in learning more about UU or becoming a member of Harbor UU?

It is time to get down to business!

Now that Summer is drawing to a close we can turn our attention to our "Church Year" schedule which tends to pattern itself after the school year. If you have ever considered making the move to become a full member of Harbor UU or would just like to learn a bit more about HUUC and how it functions, consider attending orientation sessions which will be scheduled for November. New members of HUUC are expected to attend 2 sessions which will allow them to determine if HUUC is a good fit for them.

Joining as a member is easily accomplished by attending the sessions and then signing our membership book in the presence of at least two Board of Trustees members. Attendance at the sessions does not obligate you to become a member. If you have any questions about our process or what will be included in the sessions, contact Carolyn Holmes at Holmesland58@gmail.com. There will be a sign up sheet posted near the calendar in the social hall. Please sign up and leave your contact information so that we will know who is interested. Information sessions will be

Sunday, November 10 and November 17
following the worship service at 12:00 noon
until 1:30 p.m.

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.

We are sending caring and peaceful thoughts to **Peggy & Dale Humphreys** as Dale is now receiving hospice care.

Congratulations to **Jamie Huizinga** on her graduation from University of MI medical school. She will begin her OB/GYN residency in Grand Rapids in June.

Congratulations to **Rhian Williams and Sosse (Chanise) Love** on their marriage on June 8th.

Congratulations to **Kate Huizinga and Sam Stewart** on their marriage on June 22nd.

Condolences to family and friends of **Jim Thompson**, educator, musician, lover of sailing and cruises and long time HUUC member passed away on Thursday, July 11, 2024.

We have four members:

Sue McIntire, Christine Cleary,
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

So long Old Friend



HUUC member and friend **Jim Thompson** (1933-2024) was praised, celebrated and memorialized by over 100 friends and family at the Coopersville Farm Museum on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

His celebration of life was led by his daughter and featured numerous personal testimonies from family members and friends, sharing the highlights and moments of Jim's life. The open house featured plenty of good food and several hours of live musical tributes to Jim, a long-time blue grass bass player and enthusiast. The entire crowd joined in singing one of Jim's favorite songs, "*Will the Circle Be Unbroken.*" He was a regular at the Farm Museum Tuesday night acoustic jam sessions for many years.

Dr. Jim Thompson was a long-time professor of political science at Grand Valley State University prior to retiring in 1999. A proud contrarian, he enjoyed good wine and stimulating conversation.

Many HUUC members and friends attended the celebration of life. Jim Thompson will be missed in our community and at Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Coffeehouse with All Souls

Saturday
September 21st
5pm at HUUC



We will be hosting All Souls Community Church and look forward to hearing songs, stories, poems, and the like.

This is a free event, but you may bring a snack or beverage if you wish.

Let's make a joyful noise together!
Drinks and snacks provided.



Choir is resuming on Wednesdays

Regular rehearsals at the church
from 6-7:30pm.

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



In recognition of outstanding fellowship, **Marcia Hovey-Wright** was presented the *Ruth Berlow and Lucile Mason Award* during Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation's annual meeting. Each year, one congregation member is selected to receive this honor. Once president of the congregation, Marcia has contributed to our church in many ways over the years. She revived the Social Action Committee two years ago, which provided some funding for the Pride Festival and connects members with students who need tutoring at Bunker Elementary School. More recently, she coordinated the approach to this year's successful pledge drive and auction.



ATTENTION COTD CAST AND CREW!

September 2, 2024 at 9:30 am, parade line up downtown

September 3 at 6pm at the church FULL CAST REHEARSAL

September 8 at 4pm at the church TOUR STOPS

September 8 at 5:30 research assistance with Anna at the church

September 9 at 6pm at the cemetery, TOUR GUIDES

September 16 at 6pm at the cemetery, TOUR GUIDES

September 18 at 6pm at the church, TOUR STOPS

September 23 at 6pm at the cemetery, FULL CAST

September 30 at 6pm at the cemetery, FULL CAST

October 7 at 5:30 at the cemetery FULL CAST DRESS REHEARSAL

October 11 at 5:30 at the cemetery RAIN date for dress rehearsal

October 12 show time! Call time is 4pm at the cemetery

October 13 show time! Call time is 1pm at the cemetery

October 20 at 5pm at the church POSTMORTEM Dessert Potluck

**Save
the
Dates!**



Once Upon A Time

CITY of the DEAD MUSKEGON *15th Anniversary*

Evergreen Cemetery

400 Irwin • Muskegon • 49442

Tickets \$7.50

Kids Under 12 Free

One hour walking tours
depart every 15 minutes

Dress for the weather

Let Our City Residents Be Your Guide

Saturday

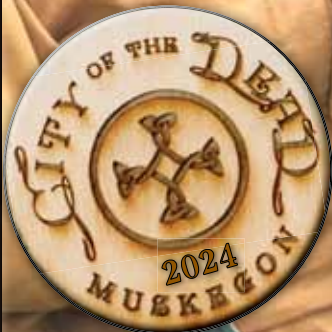
Oct. 12, 2024

5-8pm

Sunday

Oct. 13, 2024

2-4pm



Brought to you by Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, September 16 • 6:30 pm
All are welcome!
in person or via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96744707168>



Article II Shared Values Flower Image

This image is of a chalice with an overlay of the word Love over the flame, with six outstretched arms that create a circle around each of the core values and form a six-petal flower shape.

Each arm is a different color, and clockwise they are: Interdependence (Orange), Equity (Red), Transformation (Purple), Pluralism (Blue), Generosity (Green), and Justice (Yellow).

Join us Sunday September 8th as Robin talks about "The Power of The Flower"

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.

Please submit information for the **October Newsletter** by Monday, September 30th 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.



September 2024 Calendar

H A R B O R
Unitarian Universalist
CONGREGATION

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30a Worship	2 9:30a COTD Parade	3 6:00p COTD Full Cast	4 6:00p Choir	5	6 4:30p 4H Mtg	7
8 10:30a Worship 4:00p COTD Stops	9 6:00p COTD TG	10 NO Choir	11 NO Choir	12	13	14
15 10:30a Worship Water Communion 12:00p Potluck	16 6:30p Board Mtg 6:00 COTD TG	17 7:30p Worship Committee	18 6:00p Choir 6:00p COTD Stops	19	20 3:00p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	21 5:00p Coffeehouse
22 10:30a Worship 4:00p Core Circles	23 6:00 COTD Full Cast	24	25 6:00p Choir 7:30p Social Action	26 7:00p Core Circles	27	28
29 10:30a Worship	30 6:00 COTD Full Cast Newsletter Deadline					

Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions