



Sunday Worship Services

Virtual!
or In Person!

Begin at
10:30am



December 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



December 1

Teresa Folkmier

How do our personal experiences shape our perspective of the world and other people? How and why might others see things differently?

December 8

"Another Mary"

Bro. Tom Wagner

During the Christian liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmastide Mary the mother of Jesus plays a starring role in the stories we tell. Yet there was another Mary who played a significant role in the life of Jesus of Nazareth: Mary Magdalene. What traditions surround her story and what is actually found in the Gospel accounts?

December 15

"Mary's Song of Hope"

Mimi Bush

— when both religion and politics were oppressive

Choir Sunday

December 22

The Light Within and Among Us

Kal Fox

A UU Christmas Reflection

December 27

"Pearls of Wisdom"

Carolyn Holmes

Let's spend this last Sunday of the year taking stock and sharing what little bits of wisdom we have gained from this roller coaster ride of 2024. All are invited to share what pearls or golden nuggets of wisdom they have gained in the last year, the last few years, or the last few decades. Let's fortify one another as we head into 2025!

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



Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Winter greetings to all!

Harbor UU has many exciting things in the works this winter as well as plenty of opportunities to get involved!

Our ongoing search for a minister continues on, and has been joined by a search for a Religious Education Coordinator. We are working behind the scenes to ensure that we are appropriately prepared to receive applications for these roles (including a website face lift!) and that we present a good first impression for our beautiful community.

Alongside these activities, we are working with Every Woman's Place to provide gifts for a family in our community. For more information, see Angie Barnes or the table in the social hall to see how you can help! These gifts are due by December 13th.

If you have been looking for more ways to get involved at Harbor UU, consider joining a committee! To learn more about opportunities to help, talk to a committee head such as Jim Stier (Space and Grace), Marcia Hovey Wright (Social Justice), Carolyn Holmes (Worship), or Sue McIntire (Membership and Caring). We are also welcome to starting new committees or reviving old dormant committees!

Be blessed, stay warm,
Jones Barton
Board Secretary

If you ever have any questions for the Board you can contact us via e mail at trustees@harboruu.org

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, December 16 • 6:00 pm
All are welcome!
in person or via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96744707168>



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



On Being UU



The worship committee plans our services each week by making very intentional choices regarding each element of the service that you experience. This is an attempt to explain one segment of our worship tradition:

Why do we have “Joys and Concerns” as a part of our worship services?

In our UUA purposes and principles we affirm and promote respect for **“the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part”**. To exercise our affirmation of this principle, each Sunday we exert an effort to deepen and strengthen our connections to one another by sharing our **“Joys and Concerns”**. This has become a tradition in many UU churches and it takes various forms. At HUUC we invite all who wish to participate to step forward and **briefly express their deeply personal joys or sorrows** (In larger congregations this is not often possible due to time constraints so the verbal expression is omitted or submitted in writing to a reader who delivers it to the congregation). Often this is followed by a time of meditation in the form of song, reading or silence. At HUUC we often sing hymn #123 **“Spirit of Life”**.

We use a bowl of sand and offer **feathers and stones** to represent our joys and sorrows. Feathers often represent the lighter feeling that sharing a joy can bring, while the stones placed in the sand can represent the laying down of a burden. If desired, we express our joys and sorrows by verbally sharing them with one another. **“For we believe that a joy that is shared is enhanced while a sorrow that is shared may be diminished.”** If a joy or sorrow needs to be shared without verbal expression, that is ok too. “Joys and Sorrows” can be a time to put our wishes out into the universe. Some may think of it as a prayer request.

This ritual is a way we take care of each other by listening respectfully, and later, offering comfort when we know that someone is going through a difficult time. For those who share their joys and sorrows, this may often be the only place where such thoughts and feelings can be expressed because we don’t often get that opportunity in our weekday worlds. Participating in Joys and Concerns can sometimes require us to be vulnerable and it is the safety of the congregation and the sanctuary that makes this possible. **This is a sacred space and time.**

We hope to maintain a sense of safety by remembering that this is a time for sharing deeply **personal** thoughts and feelings. We ask that the Joys and Concerns time **not be used** as a platform for sharing information that would be better shared in another way or in another place. **Political opinions** may be better received when expressed in the social hall during our fellowship time. **Announcements** should be made during the early portion of the service or following the service in the social hall. **Church “business”** that needs to be shared can often take place in the appropriate meeting.

Sharing our joys and our sorrows and expressing gratitude each week can often be the most profound part of our worship service. We welcome guests and visitors as well as our members to take part.

Worship & Music Committee

December 17 at 7:30 via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/91447658076>

All are welcome to attend and offer suggestions for Sunday programming.





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.

Healing thoughts to **Peggy Humphreys**

Condolences to **Linda Squires** and the All Souls Community Church on the sudden loss of their beloved minister, Rev. Colleen Squires.

Healing thoughts to **Jerry Bakke**.

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



Annual Hanging Of The Greens

Sunday, December 1

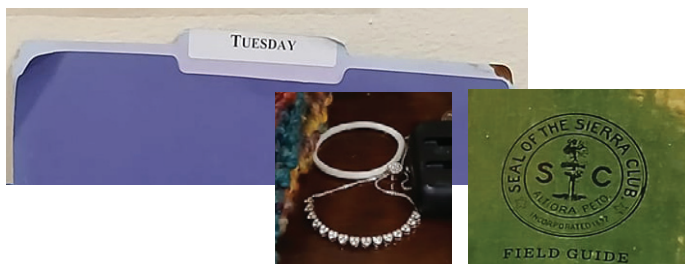
beginning at noon.

Join the Space and Grace Committee as we put up the Christmas tree and decorate the sanctuary and social hall with holiday joy.

Lost & Found!



Please check our lost and found for items you may have mis-placed! Located in Social Hall



Get Funding for Your Vision!

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

Our church values statement reads the congregation "is our spiritual home where we practice our values of Acceptance, Compassion and Social Justice in the wider world." If you are aware of a relatively inexpensive social action project we could fund to express those values in the community, please apply! Annually, we normally have a total of about \$6,500 to offer in grants, some of which has funded internal church or member needs, like attendance at UU workshops.

Applications and a detailed description of projects eligible for consideration can be downloaded at harboruu.org/endowment ("opportunities" tab). Email completed applications to (endowment@harboruu.org or deliver hard copy applications to the Endowment Committee's mailbox in the church office. Members of the committee this year are: Nancy Stier, chair; Jeff Ochsner, financial secretary; Ange Barnes, recording secretary; and members Kwame James and Anna Eldenbrady.



Love is at the center of
Unitarian Universalism.

www.accotinkuu.org

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!



Please submit information for the **January Newsletter** by Monday, December 30th to newsletter@harboruu.org



HUUC Social Action Committee

The current social action committee began its work in January 2023. We meet on the **fourth Wednesdays at 7:30pm** downstairs.

Tutoring: Our biggest project is organizing tutoring Bunker School students and reading grades 1-3 during the school year. We spend **1-2 hours a week** tutoring students selected by staff. The students really eat up the one-on-one attention.

Supper House: Due to its impressive impact on the food insecure, HUUC commits to this essential program. Dinners are served six days a week to anyone who walks in the door. They are not questioned about their need, just respected and served. Our committee is trying to help Kwame secure volunteers. Our time is the **3rd Friday of the month at 3pm**. Please tell Kwame James or Mary VanSlooten if you want to volunteer.

Gun Safety: Six HUUC members attended the prayer walk on August 25, organized by the Cooperating Churches. We made a connection with their leadership so we can collaborate in the future. We want to do more to directly encourage gun safety legislation, especially a ban on assault weapons. There are differing strategies on how to do that, including postcard writing to encourage our congresswomen and senators to reinstate the former federal ban and laying the groundwork for a Michigan citizens initiative with research about other state initiatives. We can do research until the election, then mount an extensive postcard writing campaign, involving our members and all the groups we associate with.



Planned Parenthood: Marcia is pursuing every option to bring back Planned Parenthood because there is so much community support for that, and the need is huge. Telemedicine may have the most immediate opportunity. Marcia will follow up with MCC and Planned Parenthood.

Pride: We supported the Muskegon Pride event in June with funds and marching in the parade.

HUUC raised \$856 for the Alzheimer's Association and participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Hackley Park on October 19. Big thanks to all who donated to this event that raises awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research.



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.





December 2024 Calendar

H A R B O R
Unitarian Universalist
C O N G R E G A T I O N

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30a Worship 12:00p Hanging the Greens	2	3	4 6:00p Choir	5 6:00p Yoga	6 4:30p 4H Mtg	7
8 10:30a Worship	9	10	11 6:00p Choir	12 6:00p Yoga	13 Wrapped & Labeled Gifts Due	14
15 10:30a Worship	16 6:00p Board Mtg	17 7:30p Worship Committee	18 6:00p Choir	19 6:00p Yoga	20 3:00p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	21
22 10:30a Worship 4:00p Core Circles	23	24	25	26 6:00p Yoga 7:00p Core Circles	27	28
29 10:30a Worship	30 Newsletter Deadline	31				
Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions						