



# HARBOR

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

### CONGREGATION

MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

## February 2025 Newsletter

### Sunday Worship Services Begin at 10:30am

**February 2**

*“The Word Made Flesh”*

**Margi Peterson**

Margi Peterson returns to our pulpit to talk about how what we think, believe, and say becomes our lived experience.

**February 16**

*“Love is a Many Splintered Thing”*

**Christine Cleary**

HUUC board member speaks on the dynamics of life and living with love in the center.

**February 9**

*“Where Did White Folks Come From?”*

**Kwame Kamau James**

We will consider current scholarship describing how we were trained to think of “white people” as a natural category... and what we might wanna do about that.

**February 23**

*“It Matters What We Believe”*

**Dr. Louis Yock**

At the root of divisions are the beliefs that see us as separate from one another. Religions seem to appeal both to a universality and an exclusivity. Our task is to consider the elements of our beliefs that lead us to unity with others, and minimize those that keep us separate.

**Meet With Us In-person at 1296 Montgomery, Muskegon, MI 49441**

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

# Greetings from the Board of Trustees

*Greetings All,*

I hope this finds you safe and warm.

As we work our way through this winter and prepare for the joys of spring and summer, I have some updates for you all from the **Board of Trustees**.

We are actively recruiting a **Religious Education Director** to help fill the need we have involving child care and the education of our youngest friends, guests, and members. The role is currently posted to our website and Facebook page as well as a UU religious education job board. We will be conducting interviews soon, so if you know anyone who may be a good fit, please encourage them to reach out!

Our sanctuary will soon be getting brighter and more inviting! **Kal Fox** and **Jeffrey Ochsner** have been hard at work planning to clean and upgrade the lighting in our beautiful

sanctuary. This will involve modern tunable smart bulbs, replacing the wall sconce fixtures, and cleaning the hanging fixtures.

Last month, our **endowment committee** announced the approval of over \$6,700 in grants to the groups who submitted in the last endowment cycle. Some of these projects are already in motion. Keep your eyes peeled for updates from those folks on how our Endowment is serving those around us!

Finally, I would like to extend a loud and public note of gratitude to the members of our community who have remained on top of **removing snow** from our walkways. Their hard work and diligence keeps our space open and available to all who enjoy it.

*Be Well,*  
**Jones Barton**  
Board Secretary

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



Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, February 17 • 6:00 pm

All are welcome!

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

## **HUUC Board of Trustees**

Kal Fox, President  
Robin Dennany, Vice President  
Kurt Troutman, Treasurer  
Jones Barton, Secretary

## **Members at Large**

Christine Cleary, Rebecca St. Clair,  
Poppy Sias Hernandez

**Music Director** Sue McIntire

## 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

February 18 at 7:30 via Zoom:

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

Those who are interested in helping create our Sunday morning services are welcome to join

# 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.*

Deepest concerns to **Rebecca St. Clair and Kwame James** on the loss of their son, Ladon.

Healing thoughts to **Peggy Humphreys** as she recovers from surgery.

Caring thoughts to **David and Sue McIntire** as their daughter, Heather, battles ovarian cancer. Also, Sue's mother is currently hospitalized.

We have four members:  
Sue McIntire, Christine Cleary,  
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

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Christmas program from EveryWoman's Place  
We took on a large family this year! A single Mom with five kids! Imagine what a job she's got with 4 girls and 1 boy ages 17 down to 9. Thank you to all who donated gifts and funds to help them have a merry Christmas and settle into a new home. Special thanks to **Nancy and Jim Stier** for shopping and to **Chad Axe** for helping to unload! I was especially lucky to meet Mom, Patrice, at Every Woman's Place when bringing in one last pile of gifts. She expressed warm and loving thanks and hopes to visit HUUC someday!.

~Ange



**SATURDAYS**  
**FEB 15 • MAR 15 • APR 19**  
**12PM TO 30PM**



McLaughlin Community  
Fellowship

**1198 SPRING ST  
MUSKEGON**

**NO CHARGE TO  
PARTICIPATE**



# The Endowment Committee

is pleased to announce our board approved a total of \$6,716.45 to supply 10 grants to various causes in 2025. They are:

APPLICANT	FUNDING CATEGORY	Project	Amount
Anna EldenBrady	Community Outreach	Shelving/racks, McLaughlin Neighborhood's Really Really Free Market	362.88
HUUC's Social Action Com.	Community Outreach	Food truck we will staff at Temple United Methodist	\$1,000
HUUC's Social Action Com.	Community Outreach	Books provided 40 Nims early elementary students in conjunction with a West Michigan Symphony "Clicky Clack" musical	\$400
HUUC's Social Action Com.	Physical plant	Upgrade HUUC's social hall sitting area by replacing furniture with newer items	\$500
Muskegon's Bethesda Baptist Church	Community Outreach	Contribute toward this inner-city church's plan to purchase a variety of outdoor recreational equipment for a youth afterschool program	\$750
Lauren Action	Community Outreach	A new banner our congregation can carry in parades and UUA Assembly	\$124.17
Boys & Girls Club	Community Outreach	Promoting water safety by paying lifeguard training fees. Purchase of STEAM activity supplies	\$1,500
Kaleb Lam	Ed. Opportunity	Funding costs of attending GVSU	\$800
Kurt Troutman	Physical plant	Complete upgrade of sanctuary lighting using LED bulbs	\$475
Abigail Dennany	Ed Opportunities	Partial funding of three-week Miniwanca summer camp	\$800

Members of the Endowment Committee are: Nancy Stier, chair; Jeff Ochsner, financial secretary; Ange Barnes, recording secretary; Kwame James and Anna EldenBrady



**POTLUCK!**  
**Sunday February 16th, 2025 • Noon**  
**Share in Friendship and Fellowship following**  
**Worship Service...**  
**What's cooking in your kitchen?**

# MUUSJN Needs You Now More Than Ever



MICHIGAN UU SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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

JOIN US TODAY!



The **2025 Membership Drive** for the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) is underway, and your support is more crucial than ever.

There are challenging times ahead, and we remain steadfast in our **commitment to prevent harm, protect rights, and safeguard our democracy**. During 2025, we will help organize, educate, and connect UU communities in this work. We will collaborate with justice partners to amplify our impact.

**None of us can do this alone.** With your financial support, we can continue our work. Every dollar you contribute goes toward achieving our vision of a more just and caring world. **Please visit [uujustice.org](http://uujustice.org)** and become a member or renew your membership today. You may choose a one-time gift or make a monthly commitment.

There is **power in numbers**, and together, Michigan UUs and friends can make a difference. Please consider what you can contribute to help sustain this work. Thank you!



## Resources of Support for Transgender and Non-Binary People

Unitarian Universalism honors diversity of genders and gender expressions. These resources are available to ensure that trans people get what they need.

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/resources>



<https://bit.ly/m/UPLIFT-links>

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Unitarian Universalism honors diversity of genders and gender expressions. These resources are available to ensure that trans people get what they need.

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

*Hotlines • Warmlines • Crisis lines that don't call the police for intervention • and more!*

**All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.**

For more information, please visit [www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming](http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming).



**LGBTQ / TGQNB\***  
**Welcoming Congregations**

*\*Transgender, Genderqueer, Non-Binary*

Please submit information for the **March Newsletter** by Monday, February 24th to [gingermajick@hotmail.com](mailto:gingermajick@hotmail.com)

# HUUC Social Action Committee



1. HUUC will be sending 3 **reading tutors** to Bunker and Marquette after the new year. They help one or more students once a week for the rest of the school year. Materials will be provided and the process is easy. Tutors get as much out of it as the tutors. If you are interested in joining us, contact Marcia Hovey-Wright 231 740 8492 before Tuesday January 7 when we meet with their staff.
2. HUUC sends a few volunteers every month to Temple United Methodist Church (2500 Jefferson St, Muskegon Heights) to **serve hot meals** to the community. Kwame James, Scott and Mary VanSlooten are the most regular and others go as well. Let Kwame or Mary know and show up at 3:00 and they will show you the ropes.
3. We have talked about promoting **gun safety legislation**, especially banning assault weapons, for a while. We participated in the /cooperating Churches Walk for ending gun violence for 2 years. The State passed many gun safety laws about safe storage, child safety locks, red flag laws while the Democrats had control of the House, Senate and Governor. But that ended with the election. We decided to research the 12 states that banned assault weapons for strategies to participate in a ballot initiative. Currently there are no known efforts in Michigan to ban assault weapons by citizens initiative, but that could change and we will follow it.
4. Marcia has been in touch with local entities and statewide **Planned Parenthood** of Michigan officials. There have been several possible opportunities, but currently Planned Parenthood is focusing on surviving the incoming administration and wants to take a 6 month pause and regroup in May.
5. **Alzheimer's Walk** – HUUC assisted Sue McIntire's walk and raised \$750
6. Angie Barnes and Arionna Huffman chaired the **Every Woman's Place** Christmas Family effort. We were successful in meeting the needs of our family. The gifts were delivered and happily received by the mother.
7. This committee submitted an endowment request for a **food truck** with Cooperating Churches and financial help for Muskegon **students attending the Civic Theater production** of "Clickity Clack". The Endowment funded a food truck (date to be determined) for up to \$1000 and buying the book "Clickety Clack" for 40 kids at Muskegon Public Schools for \$400.
8. At our last meeting we decided to encourage HUU members to help **writing postcards** to elected officials (mostly federal) on various issues every Friday from 3-5 at the CIO on West Western. Susan Fabrick, the new chair of the county Democratic Party, will provide direction and organization

*We meet at 7:30 on the 3rd or 4th Wednesday (depending on holidays) downstairs. We would love to welcome new members. The next meeting will be held, however, on **Wednesday February 5**, due to availability of active members.*

# 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.





# February 2025 Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:30a Worship	27	28 7:30p Worship Committee	29 6:00p Choir	30 6:00p Yoga	31	1
2 10:30a Worship	3	4	5 6:00p Choir 7:30p Social Action Committee	6	7 4:30p 4H Mtg	8
9 10:30a Worship	10	11	12 6:00p Choir	13	14	15
16 10:30a Worship 12:00p Potluck	17 6:00p Board Mtg	18 7:30p Worship Committee	19 6:00p Choir	20	21 3:00p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	22
23 10:30a Worship 4:00p Core Circles	24 Newsletter Deadline	25	26 6:00p Choir 7:30p Social Action Committee	27	28	1

*Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions*