



# HARBOR

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

### CONGREGATION

MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

## March 2025 Newsletter

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

March 2

#### ***“Singing for Our Lives”***

**Rev. Matthew Cockrum**

Join us for this musically driven service exploring how we can use our breaths and bodies for rest, resistance and refuge in these challenging times.

*\*Choir Sunday\**

March 9

#### ***“Was Jesus a Revolutionary?”*** **Baba Teddy**

Baba Teddy takes us through the Easter Story with a historical twist. Was Jesus a radical? Who were the Mary's? Why did Jesus whip the money lenders, and why curse a fig tree? Ride a donkey? These questions and more, will make sense if you see Jesus as the leader of the Resistance and Easter as the Remembrance of a Revolution.

March 16

**TBA**

**Robin Denanny**

HUUC Board Vice President returns to our pulpit to share a timely topic.

March 23

#### ***“Do We Need Religion?”*** **Rev. Harold W. Beu**

*Imagine there's no countries / It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for / And no religion, too  
Imagine all the people / Livin' life in peace.*

But what I wonder about is a world with no religions. Is that possible? And if that happened, would we be better off than we are now? Obviously, we can imagine that religion can cause great destruction as we see today in the Middle East. But I am wondering if people as individuals would be better off without religion. Join me in my one small exploration into this imaginative journey.

March 30

#### ***“Stirring Things Up”*** **Women of HUUC**

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. As we close out the month, HUUC will observe by hosting several prominent women with Unitarian Universalist ties who made significant contributions. Join us for a unique, informative, educational, and possibly entertaining visit with these remarkable women.

**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,*

We would like to welcome Anna Eldenbrady as our new RE director Her energy and knowledge was made for this job. Our Core circle went well. The topic this past Sunday was 'coping skills', a timely subject. Peggy Humphreys is doing well after her surgery and we are soon to get the scaffolding for changing the bulbs and cleaning the ceiling lamps.

**Christine Cleary**  
Board Member

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



Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, March 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

## From the Board Treasurer

*Hello Members & Friends,*

We are quickly approaching April, which is our annual pledge month. Our stewardship campaign for fiscal year 2025-2026 will continue to support our congregational goals, objectives and values.

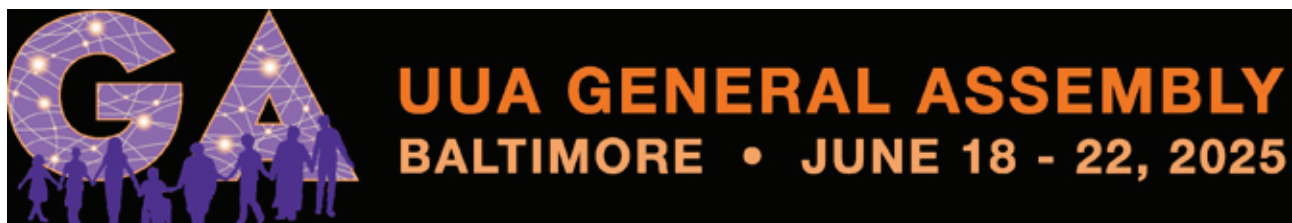
Individual pledge request letters will be sent out in mid-late March. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions

Cheers,  
Kurt Troutman  
Board Treasurer

COMMUNITY



Together in Spirit,  
United in Love



### General Assembly 2025

From June 18–22, 2025, the 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event, with the main stage hosted at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland and hundreds more joining on the Whova app.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. While anyone can attend, congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

# News from the Director of Religious Education

## March 2025 Religious Education Updates

Hello Harbor Unitarian Universalist family. It is my pleasure to be able to introduce myself as **HUUC's new RE coordinator!** I am excited to take on this role and have big goals for our RE program at HUUC.

A lot has been going on behind the scenes since I accepted this role at the start of February. If you've been downstairs, you may have noticed some rearranging of our lower level spaces. We've started the transition to having a little more structure in our Sunday morning youth offerings as well. From creating aspirational documents and starting to map out our programming year to inventorying supplies and curriculum, a lot of less-visible work on the back end has been going into getting this program restarted and off the ground.

One significant visible thing we are bringing back in March: our Noisy Offering! Bring your loose change to church the first Sunday of the month and we will take up a collection to benefit our RE program. The money collected will go towards supplies, curriculum, and other programmatic needs.

We also are in need of some basic classroom supplies: crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, construction paper, and other craft supplies are all consumable materials that our youth will use regularly. If you would like to donate any of these or other creative materials, we will have a collection box in the Fellowship Hall where you can leave items.

We are working towards a number of fun opportunities, starting with our Sunday

morning youth offerings, that include everything from our older youth decorating their classroom to our RE Sunday (which, after talking to our kids today, is going to be a ton of fun to work with them to plan—stay tuned for updates and ways to be involved!)

In order to best understand the needs of our congregation, I have put together a needs assessment survey. This covers youth RE programming, adult RE programming, and nursery care. I would love to see a high percentage of our congregants respond to this so I can have the best idea possible of our congregational needs.

The survey can be found at the **URL:** <https://tinyurl.com/53nbk8u5> . It leads to a Google Form. If you would rather fill this out by hand, we will hopefully have printed copies available next week in the Fellowship Hall. There is also a QR code that leads to this link on the bulletin board if you would like to scan it with your device the next time you are at the church.

With my experience as a youth development professional, this program may be structured a little more formally than what we've had in quite a while, but I'm looking forward to working alongside parents, volunteers, and participants (youth to adult) to make this transition as smooth as possible. We'll undoubtedly come up against a few growing pains, but I'm sure that so long as we keep Love at the Center, we're going to build something incredibly *fun* together!

~ Anna EldenBrady  
HUUC DRE

## Needs Assessment Survey For Everyone!



<https://tinyurl.com/53nbk8u5>

## 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.*

Condolences to **Scott Roodvoets** on the loss of his father.

Condolences to family and friends of **Steve Luehrs**, who passed away on February 16.

Condolences to **Deborah Margules** on the loss of her companion Craig Lonnee.

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.

Good vibes and healing to all who are struggling right now

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

An advertisement with a green border. The background is a close-up of a woven basket filled with loose change (coins). The text is overlaid on this image.

**The Noisy Offering Is Back!**  
**Starting March 2nd**  
**The first Sunday of the month we will take a collection of loose change during the service to fund our Religious Education programs.**

## 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 a “Flaming Chalice” as a part of our worship services?*

*“We gather this hour as people of faith, with joys and sorrows, gifts and needs.*

*We light this beacon of hope, sign of our quest for truth and meaning*

*In celebration of the life we share together.”*

~Singing the Living Tradition #448 Christine Robinson

Around the world there are universal archetypes for our religions and spirituality. Some symbols are well known and understood in our culture, some not so well known, and some are just misunderstood.

The flaming chalice is the symbol of the Unitarian Universalists. A flame within a chalice (a cup with a stem and foot) is a primary symbol of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Many of our congregations kindle a flaming chalice in gatherings and worships and feature the chalice symbol prominently.

The flaming chalice symbol emerged as a Unitarian symbol with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. The image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the flaming chalice, including the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope.

Initially the image of the flaming chalice in a circle was just that: a printed, graphic, two-dimensional

image used for stationery correspondence to make the USC appear more organized and professional. After the joining of Unitarians and Universalists, the graphic evolved into two intersecting circles. Eventually the image manifested in three dimensions, becoming an actual physical chalice, flame-lit, within a circle: “A Cup of Light”

It is said it started in the 1970’s with our UU Children lighting a chalice in Sunday School, bringing it to intergenerational programming, and spreading from there... to all UU congregations, all UU meetings, all ages, across the world.

The representations of the chalice are many, varying in sizes, shapes, and colors - just like our members, the work we do, and our congregations.

At HUUC you will see the chalice we light each Sunday and at meetings to signal our coming together. You will see the chalice we light for the prayers of Peace and Justice we lift into the world. You will see our chalice of sand cradling our Joys & Sorrows. And of course, you will see it in our graphics.

*“We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.”*

~Singing the Living Tradition #456 Elizabeth Selle Jones

*Learn more about the Flaming Chalice during our Sunday morning service April 13th*



## Worship & Music Committee

**March 18 at 7:30 via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91447658076>**

All are welcome to attend. If you have any ideas for topics for our Sunday Services, or if you would like to hear a particular speaker or present a message yourself, contact Carolyn at [holmesland58@gmail.com](mailto:holmesland58@gmail.com). Our services are presented as a service to you so your feedback is appreciated!

# Welcome New Members!

On February 16, 2025, we welcomed three new members into our HUUC family:  
Lauren, Patricia, and Scott



*If you haven't met them yet, please introduce yourself to these wonderful people!*

## Meet Lauren:

I'm originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan, and have spent the past decade on the east side of the state. I moved to Ypsilanti to attend Eastern Michigan University, where I studied Behavioral Psychology and Sociology. After that, I relocated to Detroit, where I started my career as a software developer. It was in Detroit that I discovered Unitarian Universalism and became a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit. I'm especially drawn to being part of a

UU congregation because it provides a supportive environment where I can truly live out my values.

In addition to my professional life, I feel most connected to a higher power when I'm in nature. I'm an avid gardener and was a MSU Extension Master Gardener. I find peace and fulfillment in nurturing both plants and my own personal growth.

Just over a year ago, I moved to Muskegon to be closer to family, and I'm excited for what the future holds. This spring, I'm thrilled to be

expecting my first child in April. I'm also excited to be a new member of Harbor UU and look forward to what we can do together as a congregation, as well as embracing this next chapter in my life. I'm also eager to be a part of the Muskegon community and to see how I can contribute to it in meaningful ways.



## New Member Orientation

will be held on **March 23** immediately following the service. The orientation is an opportunity to learn about membership at HUUC before officially joining the congregation. It should last approximately one hour. Send your contact information to Carolyn Holmes at [holmesland58@gmail.com](mailto:holmesland58@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending. HUUC membership is open to all who are in agreement with our values and principles.

Attendance at the orientation does not require you to become a member.



# POTLUCK!

*Sunday March 16th, 2025 • Noon*

*Share in Friendship and Fellowship following  
Worship Service...*

*What's cooking in your kitchen?*

## The Great Fantabulous

(and not-so-annual)

# BOOK EXCHANGE!

(DVDs, CDs, Vinyls and other media welcome)

**Sunday, April 6th Before & After Service...**



**Back By Popular Demand!**

- Gather all those books you read over winter...  
(or the ones you know you'll never get to)
- Spring Cleaning Fairy\* says:  
*"Clear out those boxes and dust off those shelves!"*
- Bring your books you are ready to part with and exchange them with your HUUC family and friends.
- Pick up new books to stock your library with some fresh ideas and stories

Contact Jessica at [gingermajick@hotmail.com](mailto:gingermajick@hotmail.com) or 231.206.4947 with any questions.

\*A spring cleaning fairy is a figurative concept that represents the idea of a fresh start and new beginnings that comes with spring cleaning.





# HUUC Social Action Committee



**1. READING TUTORS AT BUNKER** – This project is just getting started due to several delays from the school administration. Scott Roodvoets, Nancy Stier, Don Mangione and Marcia Hovey-Wright will be tutors this year, working one or two 45 minute shifts per week. We will be working with first graders only this year til the end of the year.

**2. SUPPER HOUSE VOLUNTEERS** – Every third Friday at 3:00 HUUC has committed to supply volunteers to serve dinner to guests who show up at Temple United Methodist church. Please tell Mary VanSlooten and Kwame James if you are able to help out each month you can help out.

**3. GUN SAFETY** – The committee members are researching the state citizen initiatives that have passed resolutions to ban assault weapons. Currently we know of no state efforts in Michigan about banning assault weapons or surveys of the constituents.

**4. PLANNED PARENTHOOD** – The state CEO talked with Marcia after the election and they are needing time to figure out how to deal with the services they currently have, especially the use of Emergency Contraception (Plan B). They will have lunch in May to reevaluate.

**5. ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS** – Funds to help Bunker School students was funded at \$400 and it has been spent. \$1000 was awarded for a food truck, but some reorganization is going on with Feeding America, so a date and location has not been decided.

**6. COMMUNICATING WITH ELECTEDS** – Given the many attacks on our Democracy and slashing of programs we value many are asking what to do. The post card writing from church is not a current strategy.

a. Indivisible is having meetings on the first, third and forth Mondays at 6:00 at Samual Lutheral church on Muskegon avenue downtown. They plan demonstrations, notify citizens about Legislator Town Halls and other political activities.

b. 5calls is an ap you can download that is focused on communicating with your Congressman and Senators about federal issues. It provides a summary of the details on current issues (usually about 12-15), when you select one or more, it provides a short script and who to contact and their phone numbers. I suggest you add something to personalize your message. You will probably leave a message and sometimes talk to a staffer, but the calls are counted and It makes a difference when a congressperson gets over 1500 calls instead of the usual 40 per day.

c. Visit the facebook of Progressive Democratic Women’s Caucus and the Muskegon County Democratic Party for more information.

**7. UPCOMING EVENTS** –Peoples March 8, 12 noon, starting tba, ending in Hackley Park – protest about human rights violations of the current administration. look for location in Facebook events.

*Our meetings are changed to the 2nd Sunday after church around 12:00 at the big table in the Social hall.*

**Marcia Hovey-Wright, chair**

**Nancy Stier, co-chair**



**HELP WANTED** **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 Anna EldenBrady for information.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**

**SPRING FORWARD YOU MUST OR LATE TO CHURCH YOU WILL BE**

**SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR**

## 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

# 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!

# Muskegon Pride Transgender, Genderqueer, & Gender Non-conforming Social Group

Meetup Every Thursday 7-9pm at HUUC  
This is an open group to adults.  
You are welcome to join us



## 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>

## 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)

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

Please submit information for the **April Newsletter** by Monday, March 31st to [gingermajick@hotmail.com](mailto:gingermajick@hotmail.com)

# 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.





# March 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
23 10:30a Worship 4:00p Core Circles	24 Newsletter Deadline	25	26 6:00p Choir 7:30p Social Action Committee	27 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	28	1
2 10:30a Worship Noisy Offering *Choir Sunday*	3	4	5 6:00p Choir	6 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	7 4:30p 4H Mtg	8
9 10:30a Worship 12:00 p Social Action DST Begins	10	11	12 6:00p Choir	13 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	14	15
16 10:30a Worship 12:00p Potluck	17 6:00p Board Mtg	18 7:30p Worship Committee	19 6:00p Choir	20 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	21 3:00p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	22
23 10:30a Worship 12:00p New Member 4:00p Core Circles	24	25	26 6:00p Choir	27 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	28	29
30 10:30a Worship	31 Newsletter Deadline	1	2 6:00p Choir	3 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	4 4:30p 4H Mtg	5

*Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions*