



HARBOR

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CONGREGATION

MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

April 2025 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Services Begin at 10:30am

April 6

“Perserverence”

Rev. Mimi Bush

There comes a troublesome diagnosis, a teenager tempted with suicide, loss of a job or a marriage or a loved one. Everything hoped for seems lost, where do we turn? After trying, working, hoping, or praying so hard it seems pointless. Might as well give up - or perhaps practice the art of perseverance.

Choir Sunday

April 20

“Sacred Trees and Resurrection”

Jones

Barton

Written by Myke Johnson, this message compares the practices of the early Christian church to the church of the Middle Ages and discusses how to cope with the colonization that has occurred.

April 13

“More Than a Cup of Light”

Jessica Sheldon

The flaming chalice is the symbol of the Unitarian Universalists.... But it is so much more. Discover how this universal archetype has traveled throughout the world histories to become a living symbol of our sacred time and space together.

April 27

“Anabaptist Origins”

Bro. Tom Wagner

This year marks the 500th anniversary the beginnings of the Anabaptist movement in Zürich, Switzerland numbering among the branches of the Radical or Left Wing of the 16th century Reformation. Mennonites, Hutterites, Amish and Brethren (Dunkers) survive as spiritual descendants.

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

Dear Harbor UU Community,

Over the past two years, we have come together with generosity and dedication to raise funds for a part-time minister or congregational leader. Your support has been deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for the commitment this community has shown.

We also want to acknowledge and hear the frustrations of those who have prioritized and given generously to this effort. The reality is that our specific goals—maintaining a rotation of guest speakers while also finding a diverse UU professional to provide pastoral care and congregational guidance in a 1/3-time role—have proven to be particularly challenging.

Despite our efforts, we have not yet been successful in finding the right person for this role. The funds we have raised remain untouched, and we want to be thoughtful about our next steps. Given this, we are pausing before asking for additional contributions for a third year.

We invite you to join us in conversation about how we can best steward these resources and continue strengthening our community. Your input is valuable as we discern the right path forward. Whether through leadership models, new ways to meet our spiritual needs, or alternative ways to invest in our congregation's growth, we want to hear your thoughts.

Celebrating Our Community

We also want to take a moment to commend the Harbor UU members who showed up in strength and spirit at the **March 8th People's March for Human Rights** at Hackley Park. Your presence was a powerful statement of our values and commitment to justice.

Additionally, we are pleased to share that the **endowment-funded lighting project** has been completed, bringing new light—both literally and symbolically—to our sacred space. This improvement enhances the warmth and accessibility of our gathering place, and we are grateful to all who made it possible.

Nurturing Our Future: Religious Education

A new **Religious Education Program** is beginning to take shape! Anna Elden-Brady has done an incredible job cleaning, sorting, and organizing our RE space, and we are excited about the possibilities ahead. To make this program sustainable, we are looking for volunteers willing to contribute on a rotating basis—perhaps once a month or every other month—to lead our youth through pre-planned activities. If you are interested, we would love to hear from you!

As always, we are grateful for each of you and for the ways you show up for this community. Let's continue this journey together, with open hearts and shared purpose.

With gratitude and in fellowship,
Robin Dennany and The Harbor UU Board of Trustees

If you ever have any questions for the Board you can contact us via e mail at
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, April 21 • 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

Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Dear HUUC Members & Friends,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 HUUC Annual Pledge Drive. Each passing year we ask, “*What is Love calling me to do?*” We are people of all ages, people of many backgrounds, and many beliefs.

Time, Treasure and Talent is essential for the continued growth our of liberal religion. We will finish 2024-2025 with a budget surplus, ensuring that HUUC can set and attain lofty congregational goals in 2026 and beyond.

Your pledge ensures that HUUC maintains the resources necessary to grow and thrive in fellowship and service to each other and our greater community. Please submit your annual pledge to Kurt Troutman by April 15, 2025 by means of email at kurttroutman@hotmail.com or a sealed envelope marked **2025-2026 Pledge**, mailed to HUUC.

Your pledge can be donated by check, cash or online options which can be accessed through <https://harboruu.org/pledgedonate/>

Thank you for your consideration and contributions. ***Live Passionately!***

Sincerely,

Kurt Troutman

Treasurer, Harbor UU Congregation

*What is **Love** calling you to do?*

2025-2026 Annual Pledge Form



Name(s): _____

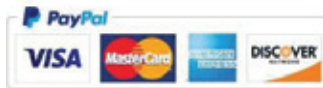
Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Annual Pledge Amount:

Method of Payment:



*What is **Love** calling you to do?*

News from the Director of Religious Education

April 2025 Religious Education Updates

Hello, Harbor UU Friends!

Our tweens and teens have determined a name for their youth class—they are the

S.H.A.R.K.s:

Super

Helpful

Active

Resourceful

Kids

In addition to choosing their name and determining that the youth under 10 are now the Baby Sharks (it was bound to happen...), the older kids have started decorating their space, determining the colors they want on the walls, and making the room their own.

Many thanks to the folks who have helped in the basement to help with this effort—from moving large furniture, installing our bulletin board, to getting the lights cleaned out and working, a lot of effort has gone into making the kids feel at home and like we are starting something new. We are all excited and grateful for the time and energies pouring into making this space what our young people need.

Our very first Noisy Offering resulted in a deposit of \$80 that will go toward building up our program, including our consumable classroom supplies. Thank you so much for your generosity!

In addition to the Noisy Offering, we also welcome donations of classroom supplies.

If you have things at home you would like to donate, we are working on finding a bin for those donations that can live in the Fellowship Hall. Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, glue, gluesticks, colored paper, stickers, gems, and other art/craft supplies are all items our youth will use regularly.

Our youth have continued learning about the UU Shared Values using JETPIG as a reminder. They have learned about Justice, Equity, and Transformation, considering how equity can look in our congregation and gaining an understanding of how we can let our learning change us. We learned two very important quotes this past month as well. From Rev. Julian Jamaica Soto, we learned “All of us need all of us to make it” as an expression of equity. We also learned Maya Angelou’s words, “Do the best you can until we know better. Then when we know better, do better.” This was one way we came to understand transformation.

The RE Survey is still active and can be found at the URL: <https://tinyurl.com/53nbk8u5> . It leads to a Google Form. The QR code linking to it is still present in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board. The more people who fill it out, the better I will be able to get a feel for the needs and wants of the congregation as we plan future youth and adult offerings.

With love at the center,
~Anna L. 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 **Tyler Newton** on the loss of his brother.

Condolences to **Jim & Nancy Stier** on the loss of Jim's brother-in-law .

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.

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



Noisy Offering Reminder!

The first Sunday of the month we will take an additional offering for our RE program. Bring loose change for this Noisy Offering!

A graphic with a purple border and a background of loose change (coins) in a woven basket. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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

April 15th at 7:30 at HUUC

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. Our services are presented as a service to you so your feedback is appreciated!

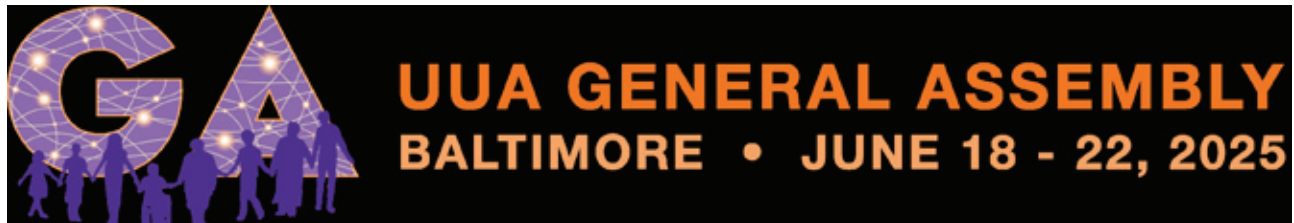
Welcome New Members!

On March 30th, 2025, we welcomed four new members into our HUUC family:

**Faith Groesbeck, Don Mangione,
Simon Hoekenga, and Jackie Nichells.**

We are excited to have you as part of our community!

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



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.



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.

Please submit information for the **May Newsletter** by Monday, April 28th to gingermajick@hotmail.com



POTLUCK!

Sunday April 13th, 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 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



As we know, UU's have always been focused on social action back to it's founding days. As we learned on March 31 service, we have a history of "stirring things up". That is why I joined this church. But not everyone is oriented the same way. Especially now, many of our members need the break from the daily onslaught of news and of course we must respect that. But for those who are looking "TO DO SOMETHING" we have a few suggestions:

1. Download the app "5 Calls". They list over 15 issues daily. You select the ones you care about. Click on one and it will give several paragraphs of accurate information about the status, the details, and information that you need to know about that issue and the senators and congresspeople to contact. Click on them, click on their a phone number. There will be a much shorter version of the issue and what you are asking them to do. Click on their phone number and leave a message or talk to a staff person. Our federal elected representatives are getting 1600 calls a day instead of 40 – this is making an impact.
2. Attend Indivisible on the Lakeshore meetings, the 1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays at 6:00 at Samuel Lutheran Church on Muskegon Avenue. They plan demonstrations, rallies, town halls, and marches and are very active. They are nationwide. It is heartening that so many people are as upset as you are and want to do something about it.
3. Attend the Muskegon "Hands Off" protest in Hackley Park on Saturday April 5 at 3:00. Bring your signs about your issue. There will also be a protest in Lansing at 12 noon at the Capitol.

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

CAPITOL DAY - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 - LANSING

Communities Over Corporations

Organized by Michigan United and partners including Michigan UU Social Justice Network

Working families are under attack -- from Lansing to D.C. -- and we must fight back. We're calling UUs from across Michigan to join together at the State Capitol to demand a government that puts people over profit. Issues we're fighting for: taxing wealth, getting big money out of politics, universal healthcare, reproductive freedom, defending voter rights.

Formal programming from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Lobby meetings with key policymakers

A youth panel

A rally to demonstrate our power and solidarity

Never been to a Capitol / Lobby day before? Here's a chance to find out what takes place and be part of the action! Join our group of UUs and experience this event together.

Bus transportation will be available from Detroit, Saginaw, Flint, and Grand Rapids.





MUSKEGON PRIDE

TRANSGENDER GENDERQUEER AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING SOCIAL GROUP!

Come join us every Thursday!

THE COFFEE FACTORY
4PM-6PM

1402 Hudson Street
All ages welcome!



**HARBOR UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION**
7PM-9PM

1296 Montgomery Ave.
Ages 18 and up



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.





APRIL 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
30 10:30a Worship 4:00p Core Circles	31 Newsletter Deadline	1	2 6:00p Choir 7:30p Social Action	3 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	4 4:30p 4H Mtg	5
6 10:00a Book Exchange 10:30a Worship Noisy Offering *Choir Sunday*	7	8	9 6:00p Choir	10 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	11	12
13 10:30a Worship 12:00p Potluck 12:00p Social Action	14	15 7:30p Worship Committee Pledges Due	16 6:00p Choir	17 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	18 3:00p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	19
20 10:30a Worship	21 6:00p Board Mtg	22 5:30p COTD mtg	23 NO Choir	24 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	25	26
27 10:30a Worship 4:00p Core Circles	28 Newsletter Deadline	29	30 6:00p Choir	1 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	2 4:30p 4H Mtg	3

Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions