



HARBOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

May 2025 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Services Begin at 10:30am

May 4

“AI and Religion”

Jeff Holmes

A Star Wars Trilogy explores the intersection of technology and faith through the lens of the beloved Star Wars saga. This message challenges us to reflect on our relationship with technology, and to find harmony between innovation and divine purpose.

May 18

“Tribe or Community”

Margi Peterson

What happens when humans band together *against* something and when they gather *for* something.

Choir Sunday

May 11

“Divine Parents”

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Rev. Matthew Cockrum returns to the pulpit on this Mother's Day for a re-reading of the original Mother's Day Proclamation by Unitarian Julia Ward Howe (1870) and an examination of the life and legacy of Father Damien of Molokai. Who are your Divine Parents? And how are you divinely parenting?

May 25

“Super Chickens and First Followers”

Kal Fox

A UU approach to Leadership

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,

Hello friends,

We have made it through the long cold winter and spring has begun. As always, we are ever grateful for Nancy Stier's busy hands as she beautifies our outside space and all those who have helped her over the years.

They are also grateful to Jim Stier for his endless work in the building and particularly in regards to the lift. It is again working and we are hopeful that a permanent solution will be found soon at this time. It is best if the lift is only used if there is someone else in the building .

We are wrapping up our pledge drive and moving into the budgeting process for the upcoming year. If you have not already done so our treasurer, Kurt Troutman is more than happy to take your pledge for the 2026 year. We will vote as a congregation on the budget at our annual meeting on June 1 at 1 PM. This is when we elect new board members get updates on all of the committees and groups and also pass an annual budget. It is important that we have a quorum so please try your best to attend.

In loving fellowship,
Rebecca

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.

Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Hello Members and Friends,

The 2025-2026 Pledge Drive is complete, and we are ready to create an annual budget for the congregation to review and approve.

We are pleased to have a total of \$38,860.00 of pledges to operate HUUC for the upcoming fiscal year. If anyone has not yet submitted their pledge, it is NOT too late. Please contact me at kurttroutman@hotmail.com.

During the past two budget years, we have operated at a small surplus. This allows our liberal religion to continue to grow and thrive. We should all be proud of answering "What is Love calling us to do?"

Cheers,
Kurt Troutman
HUUC Treasurer

Annual Congregational Meeting June 1st

Service, potluck, and annual meeting: we will have a prepared budget to vote on, officers to elect to the Board, and more. Please join us, your presence is valued.

POTLUCK!

*Sunday June 1st
After Service &
Before Annual Meeting*



Together in Spirit,
United in Love



Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, May 19th • 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

News from the Director of Religious Education

May 2025 Religious Education Updates

Hello, Harbor UU Friends!

Our youth this month have continued with their studies of the JETPIG values, continuing with Transformation and Pluralism. They thought up different symbols of transformation and created butterflies that will be used in a piece of art that can be displayed in the Fellowship Hall after the next step is finished (and we may recruit our adult friends for this—stay tuned!) For our discussions on pluralism, youth took the lessons we learned from the service on the history and importance of our UU chalice and decorated their own chalices on paper that are still being displayed in the Fellowship Hall. Our main take-aways from this and the following lesson on pluralism was that our differences make us stronger and our garden doesn't grow as well if we don't help each other bloom, celebrating what makes us different.



We learned that we can bloom wherever we're planted and that there are things we can do to help others bloom, with a reading of the story, "Julia's Home for Lost Creatures," by Ben Hatke. This theme of blooming together is where we will start our discussions on interdependence, once again going back to

one of the first quotes we learned during our JETPIG studies, "All of us need all of us to make it," (Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto).

The generosity of the congregation continues to be what makes this RE program possible—our second month's Noisy Offering was once again a significant help for our program and we also received a supply donation from Marcia Hovey Wright. We are grateful for the support of our church family as we grow.

We also now have a supply donation box in the Fellowship Hall—in your spring cleaning, if you come across craft supplies you don't have a use for, leftover classroom materials, hobbies that just didn't take off, or other items you think our RE kids could use, please feel free to drop them in the box. We are always



looking for consumables, such as markers, paints, crayons, pipe cleaner, feathers, and other supplies, as well as other nifty things our kids might enjoy using in their RE classes or for decorating their classroom spaces. We have a crafty, hands-on group of youth and donations will be well-used!

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.

I would love to start some short-term adult enrichment programming over the summer, so please make sure to fill out the survey so I know what direction folks want to go in and who is eager to lead one of these adult offerings.

With love at the center,
~Anna L. EldenBrady
HUUC DRE

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.

Congratulations to **Lauren Acton and Jacob Snover** on the birth of their daughter, **Nora Lynn Marie Snover**, born April 18th.

Condolences to **Gary Simmons** on the loss of his father.

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.

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



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



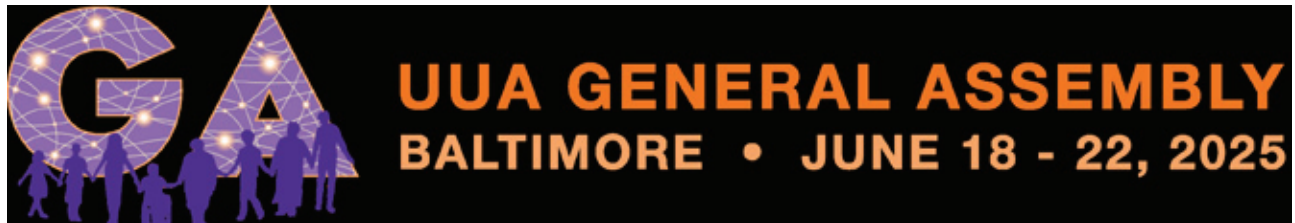
Welcome New Members!

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!

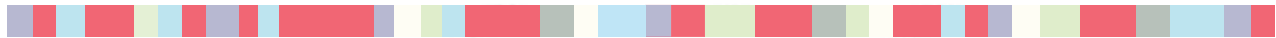
If you haven't met them yet, please introduce yourself to these wonderful people!



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 **June Newsletter** by Monday, May 26th to gingermajick@hotmail.com



You Are Invited!
Hosted by Christine:
Mark Your Calendars:
Saturday, May 31st @3pm
Hats On!
Pinkies Out!
and... Have Fun!

New Member Orientation

will be held on **May 4** 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 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.



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 Samual 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





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.





MAY 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
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
4 10:30a Worship Noisy Offering New Member Orientation	5	6	7 6:00p Choir	8 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	9	10
11 10:30a Worship 12:00p Social Action	12	13 5:30p Worship Committee	14 6:00p Choir	15 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	16 3:00p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	17 7:00p Trans/GNC Movie Night
18 10:30a Worship 12:00p Potluck *Choir Sunday*	19 6:00p Board Mtg	20 5:30 COTD Clean Up, Meet Up	21	22 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	23	24
25 10:30a Worship 4:00p Core Circles	26 Newsletter Deadline	27	28	29 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	30	31 3:00p Spring Tea

Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions