



HARBOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

June 2025 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Services Begin at 10:30am

June 1

“Living by Heart”

Rev. Fred Wooden

An old idea has new value in our current culture and politics.

Noisy Offering

June 8

“How to be a Trans Ally” **Sharon Pedersen**

offered by Sharon Pedersen, Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) LGBTQ+ Justice Organizer and a member including former Religious Education Coordinator, Board member and Treasurer from the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty near Jackson, Michigan.

MUUSJN Offering

June 15

“Stewardship or Dominion” **Kwame James**

How do we disentangle fatherhood from the legacy of empire?

June 22

Finding Beauty in Spooky Times

(Flower Communion)

Anna EldenBrady

...the start of summer, our flowers are blooming, and its...Summerween? The holiday is from a television show many of our kids are familiar with--the residents of a town like Halloween so much they decide to have a second one in the summer! A spooky holiday in a beautiful season seems apt for the times we're living with--join us to recognize our youth and the things they've achieved this year, to share the beauty of the world around us through our Flower Communion, and to celebrate whimsy, play, and joy in a time that's feeling kinda spooky for us adults, too (feel free to dress up, costumes, silly hats, and glitter are always welcome and encouraged!).

June 29

“Silence the Violence”

Faith Groesbeck

Spotlight on Suicide

July 6

“Free Speech Sunday”

Kurt Troutman

We invite participation in our annual celebration of Free Speech Sunday.

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

Hello friends,

Spring has finally arrived in Michigan, bringing sunshine, new growth, and a renewed sense of energy to our community. As we gather in the warmth of the season, it's a beautiful time to reflect on all we've accomplished together over the past year. We are deeply grateful for the countless ways our members contribute—through time, talent, care, and commitment—to keep our congregation thriving. Thank you for all the heart you bring to our shared spiritual home.

Looking ahead, our Annual Meeting is this Sunday—a vital opportunity to come together and shape the direction of our future. We encourage all voting members to attend so we can reach quorum and continue moving forward with strength and clarity. Your voice and presence make a difference. Let's show up for each other, as we always do.

Kal Fox
HUUC Board President

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, June 16th • 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,
Michelle Martin

Music Director Sue McIntire

POTLUCK!

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

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.

Tea Time

CANCELED

Unfortunately, Christine has had to postpone Tea Time at HUUC until a later date due to summer commitments.

She will be rescheduling for a date later in the year. See Christine Cleary for more details.
Have Fun!



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:

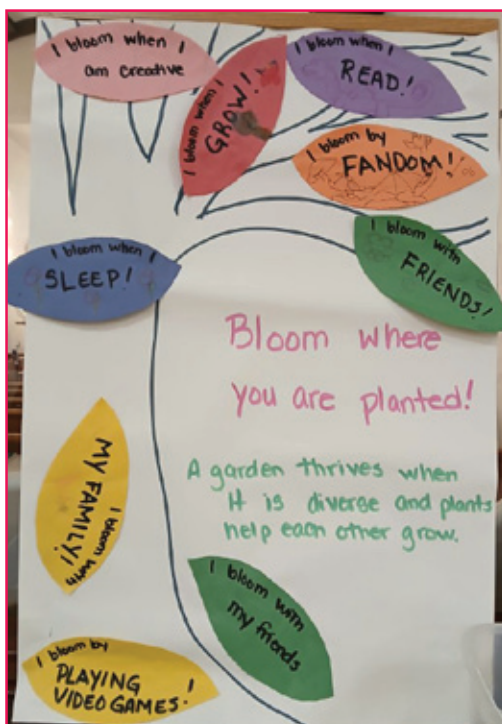
The people of Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation envision a community where connections are strengthened and deepened, where families are supported, and where diversity is celebrated.

News from the Director of Religious Education

June 2025 Religious Education Updates

Hello, Harbor UU Friends!

Our RE youth have completed their first lesson unit—we have gone through all six of our **JETPIG values**, learning about Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity. Our youth have come up with three service projects for the summer that will both capture the spirit of these values and tie in with our summer studies. Our first is a **Little Free Library** to express the value of Generosity. Many thanks to Janet and Jim for helping identify a location and getting ready for this project with us! We are also planning on a walking field trip to clean up the neighborhood as a way to express our Interdependence with the web of life and we're in the starting stage of planning to make Callaloo soup in the fall (stay tuned for the story!) as a way to share our values of Transformation, Pluralism, and Generosity.



Our youth have created pieces of art, posters, and craft items together and learned some quotations to express our values, like Maya Angelou's, *"Do the best you can, and then when you know better, do better,"* and Rev. Soto's words, *"All of us need all of us to make it."* Quotations from famous UUs, poets and thinkers from diverse lives and traditions, and even from pop media help to bring these values to life in a way that shows our kids this is **something we can all share, no matter where we're from**. If there are stories, movies, or quotes you would like to share for consideration, please feel free to leave a note in the box on the RE Coordinator office door or to send me an email.

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

This summer, our youth will be starting on an adapted version of the **World of Wonder** curriculum. Originally aimed at younger youth, I am working on creating a multi-age experience that will allow for our younger kids to explore these themes of Interdependence while our older kids take the ideas deeper while also creating some opportunities to interact with adults.

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.

Caring Thoughts to **Rebecca St. Clair** as her sister battles with a recent lung cancer diagnosis

Caring Thoughts to **Marcia Hovey-Wright** as her sister continues to battle melanoma

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 .

We have three 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

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



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 **Sing In Church** as a part of our worship services?*

Singing in church serves several meaningful purposes across different dimensions of human experience:

****Community and Connection****

For many of us singing is not our most comfortable form of expression. In fact, several of you have shared with me stories of your childhood when you were told not to sing. But singing together at church creates a powerful sense of unity and shared experience. When our voices blend in harmony, it breaks down individual barriers and fosters a feeling of belonging to something larger than ourselves. This communal aspect strengthens bonds between us and creates lasting connections.

****Emotional Expression****

Music has a unique ability to convey emotions that words alone cannot capture. Singing allows us to express devotion, gratitude, joy, or contemplation in ways that feel more complete and heartfelt. Many find it easier to connect with their faith through melody and rhythm.

****Stress Relief and Well-being****

Singing has documented psychological and physical benefits, including reduced stress, improved breathing, and the release of endorphins. In a church setting, this contributes to an overall sense of peace and well-being that many of us associate with our spiritual practice.

****Active Participation****

Rather than being passive observers, singing transforms us into active participants in the service, making the experience more engaging and personally meaningful.



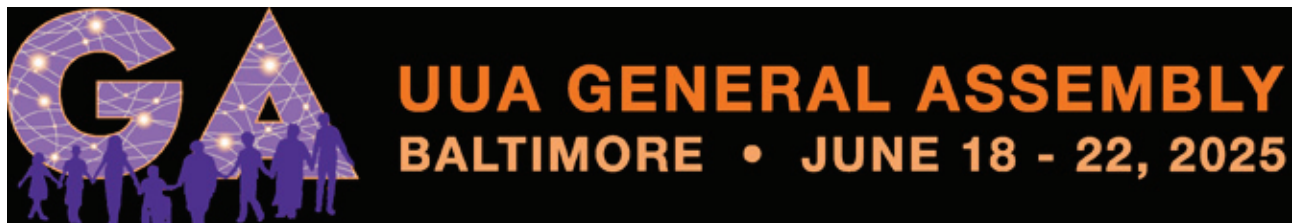
And on a lighter note, I've heard UUs are notoriously poor singers... because they're always reading two lines ahead to make sure they agree with the words.

If you're having an issue with language in our music, my motto is always, "If you can't sing it for yourself, sing it for someone else."



Choir is on Summer Break... but Music is Not!

Please contact our Music Director Sue McIntire to contribute to HUUC's vibrant music programming: sltmcintire@gmail.com



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 **July Newsletter** by Monday, June 30th to gingermajick@hotmail.com



“Kids’ Food” POTLUCK!

Sunday June 22nd, 2025 • Noon

What’s your favorite “Kids’ Food”?

Please bring your favorite Kiddie Food to share following our Intergenerational Service honoring our HUUC Youth & Families



July 6 : “Free Speech Sunday”

This unique UU holiday honors our religious and political traditions of engaging in free speech. Celebrate freedom of expression by sharing your voice. You have a maximum of 3 minutes to speak what is on your mind.

*The pulpit is open to the first six (6) respondents. Please contact **Kurt Troutman** to secure your place in the speaker’s line. Extemporaneous monologues will only be included if time permits.*

Now is our time to let freedom ring!



**Choir will be on
Summer Break
June and July!**

**Practices Resume
Late August**

It's time to Celebrate!

Lend a hand to HUUC at



Saturday June 8th

Happy Pride, HUUC!

It's time to let your rainbows and glitter shine at the Muskegon Pride Festival!

HUUC is once again marching in the **Pride parade in downtown Muskegon** and we need volunteers for both walking with our group AND to staff our booth during the Pride Festival.

Volunteers are still needed for the booth setup time starting at 9:00am and for shifts during the festival. Volunteer shifts are 2 hours each. We currently need people most during the 9-11 setup shift (these volunteers will miss the parade), from 11-1, and from 3-5, though volunteers are welcome for ALL shifts! This is a busy day and it is always best to have more than two people available for each time slot.

We welcome friends, family, community partners, and others walking with us on the parade. **Parade lineup starts at 9:30** in front of the Visitor's Depot downtown. Harbor UU folks will be walking with a truck carrying a sound system, so be ready to dance along with us and bring out your rainbows, your flags, and your glitter! It is a lively crew and we encourage a boisterous energy with our contingent.

Volunteers can either add their name to the shift list on Google Sheets or contact Anna EldenBrady.

HUUC Social Action Committee

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

1. **READING TUTORS AT BUNKER** – This project is didn't get started until March due to several delays from the school administration, but four members have been tutoring weekly until the end of school. Scott Voodvoets, Nancy Stier, Don Mangione and Marcia Hovey-Wright will be tutors this year, working one or two 45 minute shifts per week and helping 3 students each time. The students love the individual attention and work hard.
2. **ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS** – the Social Action applied for funds to help Bunker school and we received \$400 for **books** related to a musical they attended at the Frauenthall. We also were awarded \$1000 for a **food truck** at First Congregational Church. We also provided 10 volunteers to join with their volunteers to staff the food truck distribution. They were very grateful for the donation and volunteers. We are too small to do one ourselves and don't have the equipment or expertise.
3. **COMMUNICATING WITH ELECTEDS** – Given the many attacks on our Democracy and slashing of programs we value many are asking what to do.
 - a. **Indivisible** is having meetings on the first, third and forth Mondays at 6:00 at Samuel Lutheral church on Muskegon avenue downtown. They plan demonstrations, notify citizens about Legislator Town Halls and other political activities.
 - b. **5calls** is an app 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. We 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. They recruit local candidates and help them get elected.
4. **PRIDE FESTIVAL** – HUUC is again participating in Pride Festival. We will have a group in the parade and a booth with our HUUC materials and giveaways.
5. **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. We have not been successful in getting volunteers regularly so we need to reevaluate this commitment.
6. **GUN SAFETY** – we planned to do research on states that banned assault weapons, but when Trump got elected there were too many other more urgent issues to address, so we put that project on hold.
7. **PLANNED PARENTHOOD** – Planned parenthood closed several clinics statewide and is transitioning to virtual services, so it is unlikely that they will be able to fiancé opening a clinic in Muskegon. The current administration is targeting Planned Parenthood for defunding.
8. Our meetings will go back to the 4th Wednesday at 7:30 in the big room downstairs unless otherwise advertised. We welcome new members to the committee. The next meeting will be June 25, 2025 at 7:30.

Marcia Hovey-Wright, chair

Ange Barnes

Nancy Stier, co-chair

Mary VanSlouten

We are also donating to MUUSJN (part of the regular offering) on June 8. Folks can note MUUSJN in the memo area of their contribution, and any undesignated cash in the offering plate will go to them.



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.





JUNE 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
1 10:30a Worship <i>Noisy Offering</i> 11:30p Potluck 12:00p Annual Mtg	2	3	4	5 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	6 4:30p 4H Mtg	7 9:30 Pride Fest
8 10:30a Worship 12:00p Social Action	9	10 6:00p Worship Committee	11	12 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	13	14
15 10:30a Worship	16 6:00p Board Mtg	17	18	19 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	20 3:00p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	21 7:00p Trans/GNC Movie Night
22 10:30a Worship 12:00p Kid Potluck - Bring your favorite "kids' food"	23	24	25	26 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	27	28
29 10:30a Worship	30 Newsletter Deadline	1	2	3 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	4	5

Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions