



HARBOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

August 2025 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Services Begin at 10:30am

August 3

“A Modest Proposal”

Rev. Fred Wooden

“It’s a provocative proposal I am making, though not at all hard. But when I have suggested it to others, the resistance was striking.”

Noisy Offering

and worthwhile. If you would like to share/recite something you have learned by heart during this service, contact Carolyn Holmes, holmesland58@gmail.com. Let’s gather to celebrate our connections and our beautiful Summer at 10:30 a.m. at Beachwood Park.

Picnic Potluck

August 10

“Our Principles and Purposes”

Rev. Lou Yock

As opinions and politics develop and change, it is good to remind ourselves of our principles and purposes. This allows us to know where we are going based on where we have come.

August 24

“My Path to Unitarian Universalism”

Michelle Martin-Mills

August 17

“What We Have Learned By Heart”

Carolyn Holmes

Rev. Fred Wooden challenged us to learn deeply meaningful written passages by heart and be able to recite them. It is an expression of our commitment to thoughts that we deem important

August 31

Labor of Love & Love of Labor

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

on this Labor Day weekend join the Rev. Matthew Cockrum in a heartfelt and musical exploration of our relationships to the worlds of work and power. Let’s wonder together, as always, “What’s love got to do with it?” ;)

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

As Summer begins to draw to a close, I hope every one of you has made a happy memory in these warm summer months. August always makes me think of harvests: fresh veggies and fruits to enjoy and the beautiful times in nature that restore us.

This month there will be a **congregational picnic** to look forward to. Next month we will be celebrating our summer travel and happy times with our **water service**. You can bring an actual or symbolic water sample from your experiences to help form our water communion.

Personally, I relish the cooler weather that is coming and the changing of the seasons. This is a transitional point in time for many people, with children preparing for the start of school and people of all ages looking ahead to Fall and Winter plans. As the wheel of the seasons begins to turn, I look forward to spending time in this beloved community and participating in the many activities HUUC gives us as a means to connect with each other. Especially in these times of division and strife, it is a comfort to have this place where we all belong.

Blessings to each and every one of you!

Michelle Martin-Mills

HUUC Board Trustee

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, August 18th • 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

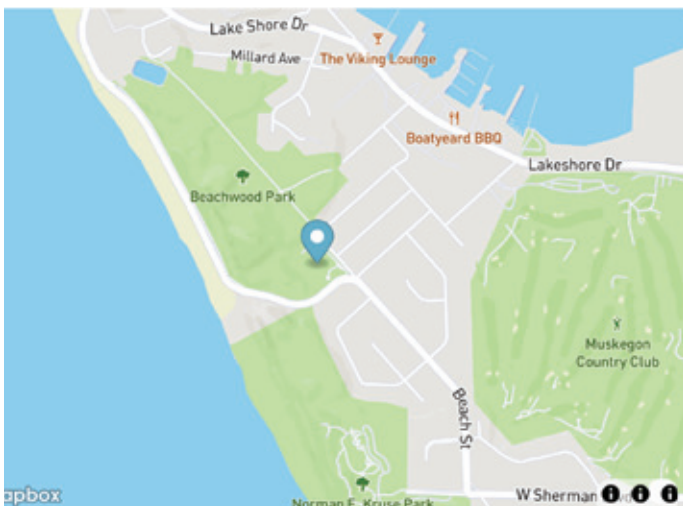


Sunday August 17th Worship Service & Potluck Picnic at Beachwood Park

3157 Dune St • Muskegon 49441

The August 17th service will be held at Beachwood Park in Muskegon with a potluck picnic after. (We have the picnic shelter reserved until 3pm.) Please bring a dish to pass, your own drinks, and your own table service.

Located in the Beachwood-Bluffton neighborhood near Lake Michigan, Beachwood Park is a 3.4-acre park that maximizes the natural beauty of the sand dunes while providing active recreational facilities for families.



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.

Healing thoughts to **Jeff Justin**, who extends his gratitude to those who have reached out to offer him help in his recent time of need.

Condolences to **Kal and Eli Fox** on the loss of their beloved cousin Ike.

Congrats to our child care provider, **Braylin Meyers**, on her graduation from high school.

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

We have three members:

Sue McIntire, Christine Cleary,

Ange Barnes, and Deborah Margules.

(If you would like to be involved in any way, please let one of us know.)

News from the Director of Religious Education

August 2025 Religious Education Updates

Hello, Harbor UU Friends!

Our RE youth have been hard at work learning about the interdependent web of life as we've started our adapted version of the World of Wonder curriculum. Originally aimed at younger youth, we have been adding activities to appeal to the full range of ages in our program. While it would be nice to be able to split the group by age, we aren't to that point with our program yet, so we are embracing multi-age learning and rolling with the challenges it can sometimes present.

Our lessons in this curriculum so far have introduced the concept of interdependence, explored how species depend on one another in nature, examined the critical role that trees play in our world, learned about ecosystems and ecosystem collapse, and thought about the habitats of the living things around us, as well as our own habitats! Our activities

have included art and coloring, touching and comparing different types of regional and exotic woods, creating ecosystem webs using critter cards, and even examining soil and natural objects under a digital microscope (we found very small bugs!)

Our supply donation box is still in the Fellowship Hall—feel free to drop craft supplies you're done with, the remains of a hobby that fizzled out, or classroom supplies there if you happen across them and don't have a place for them at home. Our crafty S.H.A.R.K.s are always grateful for things that allow them to create in the classroom.

A huge thank-you as well to those who have stepped up to substitute teach when I haven't been able to be at church. Go team RE!

With love at the center,
Anna L. EldenBrady



JETPIG

J is for Justice
E is for Equity
T is for Transformation
P is for Pluralism
I is for Interdependence
G is for Generosity

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."

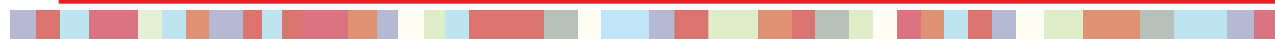


We will be resuming choir again with a get-together potluck on Wednesday, August 20 at Ty Newton's. If you are interested in singing with us—even just for the month of September—please contact Sue McIntire, music director.



Child Care Provider

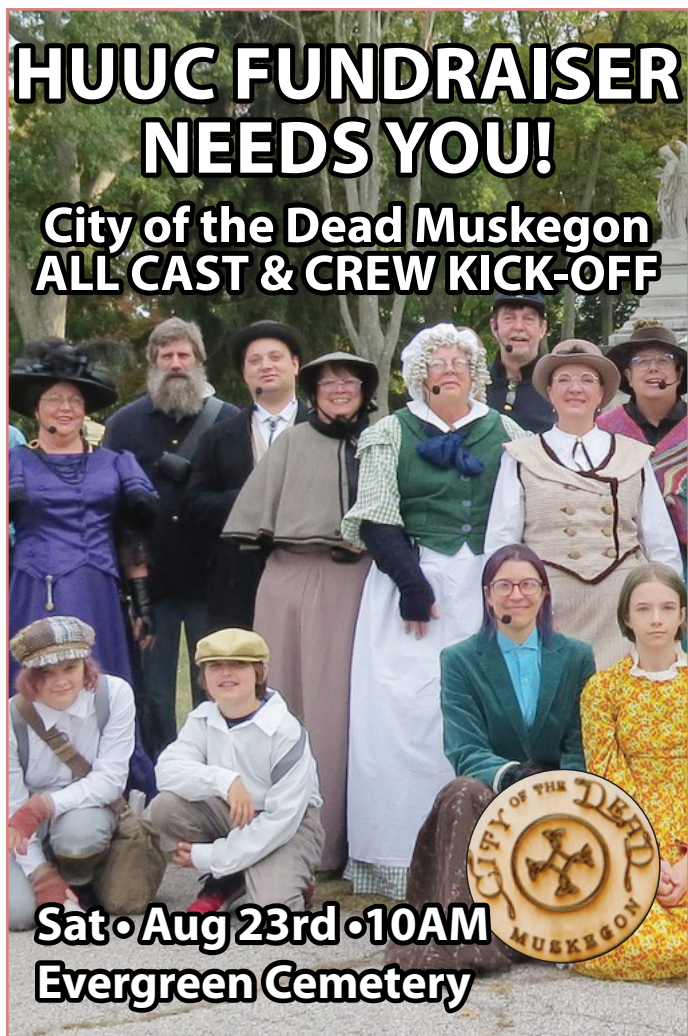
HUUC is in need of a responsible person to act as a Child Care Provider during our Sunday morning services. If you know of such a person please refer them to Anna EldenBrady for information.



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.

Please submit information for the **September Newsletter** before August 25th to gingermajick@hotmail.com



In recognition of outstanding fellowship, **Jessica Sheldon** was presented the *Ruth Berlow and Lucile Mason Award* during Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation's annual meeting. Each year, one congregation member is selected to receive this honor. Jessica has contributed to our church in many ways over the years, including VP of the Board, ministerial search committee, youth group leader, RE teacher, Co-Knittee, City Of The Dead, and Fundraiser coordinator. More recently she serves as member of Worship Committee and newsletter and social media editor.



CITY of the DEAD

*October 11th & 12th
Evergreen Cemetery*

City of the Dead is an annual, family-friendly immersive theater event featuring actors portraying the figures prominent (and not so prominent) from Muskegon history at their burial places in Evergreen Cemetery (391 Irwin Ave.). The event is sponsored by Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

The event began in 2010 when this church was looking for a fun way to raise some money to support their Religious Education program. The exploration of history and understanding those who have lived in the past are a part of the church's values as they seek to acknowledge the inherent worth and dignity of all people. History can also help to foster equity and compassion in human relations, acceptance of other people and their growth, encourage the free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and foster the concept of a world community. All these things are values held by Unitarian Universalist congregations like Harbor UU.

The event has steadily grown each year in participation and attendance, becoming popular among community residents as well as bringing guests from other locations.

Evergreen Cemetery had its beginnings in 1862, only one year after Muskegon became a village. The 10 acres on Irwin Avenue was sold to the Village of Muskegon by Mayor Chauncey Davis. It was so far removed from town center it was thought the village would never extend to the scruffy piece of real estate.

A Ladies Cemetery Association was formed to make it a fit place to bury the beloved departed, planting trees and flower beds and installing fences and gates. Each year they prepared an annual report

published in the newspaper. An article in the Chronicle (13 May 1899) called "Cities of the Dead" tells the story of the cemetery quite well including such information as how many were buried that year, how many were buried in potter's field, and what new monuments were erected.

This is an example of the stories cast members of City of the Dead-Muskegon share with their audience.

City of the Dead highlights Muskegon's industrial and entrepreneurial past and seeks to accurately portray the people who shaped this city in an informative and respectful way. Period games and traditions are also demonstrated when appropriate to the people portrayed.

Tour guides lead groups through the Victorian garden cemetery that features towering monuments and towering trees while introducing guests to some of Evergreen Cemetery's residents. The cast interpret those lives using historical documentation, time-period clothing, context, and language.

Please visit our Facebook page, City of the Dead – Muskegon for updates, more information, or if you are interested in joining our cast.



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

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.





AUGUST 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	28 Newsletter Deadline	29	30	31 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	1	2
3 10:30a Worship Noisy Offering	4	5	6	7 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	8	9
10 10:30a Worship 12:00p Social Action	11	12 6:00p Worship Committee	13	14 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	15 3:00p Supper House	16 7:00p Trans/GNC Movie Night
17 Outside: 10:30a Worship 12:00p Picnic	18 6:00p Board Mtg	19	20 6:00p Choir	21 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	22 4:30p 4H Mtg	23 10a COTD Kick-Off
24 10:30a Worship	25 Newsletter Deadline	26	27 6:00p Choir 7:30p Social Action	28 7:00p Trans/GNC Group	29	30
31 10:30a Worship	1	2 5:30p COTD 7:00p Trans/GNC	3 6:00p Choir	4	5 4:30p 4H Mtg	6

Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions