



HARBOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

February 2026 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Services Begin at 10:30am

February 1

“The Seeds We Sow, the Garden We Grow”

Margi Peterson

Attention is called to the increasingly difficult events we face and ask us to dig deep for the resources to grow through and beyond them ****Noisy Offering****

February 8

“Crouch Like A Tiger”

Jackie Nicholls

Taoist thought and comfort in stressful times

February 15

“Love and Chocolate”

Diane Thole

Dianne Thole is a former resident of Muskegon and member of Harbor UU. She and her husband Doug now live in Grand Rapids. She is retired from years of working in many different secretarial roles in the religious, law and medical fields. These diverse work experiences plus a passion for learning and exploring the world, especially through travel, has led to a longing to understand her fellow travelers in the journey of life. With 68 years of life experience on this earth Dianne is sure that understanding can be found around the next bend in the road. ****Potluck Sunday****

February 22

“Buddhism”

Jeff Justin

HUUC Member shares mindfulness, compassion, and ethical living of Buddhist religion and philosophy - often utilizing meditation to gain inner peace.

March 1

“Holi”

Fred Stella

Holi, the vibrant Hindu “Festival of Colors” and “Festival of Love,” celebrates spring’s arrival, rejuvenation, and the triumph of good over evil. ****Noisy Offering****

March 8

“Music Sunday”

Sue McIntire

HUUC Music Director, Sue McIntire and the HUUC choir lead us to explore the power of music and how it touches us all.

March 15

“Ob-la-di, Ob-la-da, Life Goes On...”

Margi Peterson

How our culture views aging and the affects on its older citizens. How do we behave differently towards our “elders”? At what age do our older friends struggle with policies that affect the way they are able to live their lives?

Meet With Us In-person at 1296 Montgomery, Muskegon, MI 49441

Zoom With Us at <https://zoom.us/j/91447658076>

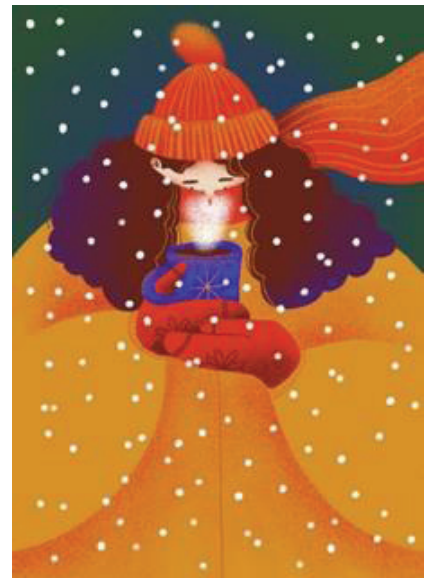
HUUC SERVICE AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026 5PM TO 8PM

HUUC SOCIAL HALL

GET HYGGE WITH US!!!

COZINESS, CONVIVIALITY AND CONTENTMENT



Wear your comfiest clothes, jammies and slippers encouraged. Drinks and snacks will be served. Games will be played. **Fun will be had!** Bid on cool things and offer things for others to bid on. This is a fund-raiser for HUUC and an opportunity to celebrate our community. Bring your friends!



Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Hello Members & Friends,

2026 is fully upon us and I am eager to share the many good things that encompass HUUC.

Our congregation is growing! Each week our pews are filled with inquiring minds.

We are all pleased at the increased number of children in our midst. The goodness of our liberal religion is gallantly being shared in West Michigan.

I am excited for **Carolyn's** new member class supporting the many who are interested in learning about Unitarian Universalism and consider joining us as a member at HUUC. Under **Jeffrey's** leadership, the Endowment fund is aggressively supporting numerous community outreach opportunities. **Blake's** Thursday yoga classes have resumed, and **Angie** continues to organize and facilitate core circles.

Michelle and others are supervising a service auction that promises to be a fun evening of fellowship as we dress in loungewear. **Christine** is our official UU Ambassador of Fun. Thanks to **Dan** for helping is all stay

connected with www.YourLocalEvents.org. So many good things are taking place at HUUC.

The Board of Trustees are eager to continue the work of HUUC in 2026. We are grateful to **Kal** for leading us. **Robin** is steadfast in her enduring support of the congregation. **Jones** keeps us on track as Board Secretary. **Rebecca, Michelle & Christine** all have a large contribution as Trustees.

Fiscally, we enter 2026 in a strong financial position-thank you to all members for contributing Time, Talent and Treasure. In late March we will begin the 2026-2027. Annual Pledge Campaign. Be sure to check out the new HUUC **Legacy Gift** Program. This allows each one of us an opportunity to leave something behind that still speaks long after we are gone. Gifts carry our values, memories and stories into the future. We all need to plan ahead- it was not raining when Noah built an ark.

"Winter forms our character and brings out our best!"

Cheers, Kurt Troutman
HUUC Treasurer



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, February 16 • 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

Director of Religious Education Anna EldenBrady



A **legacy gift** is a donation made by an individual through formal and informal methods. A designated dollar amount is by far the most common type of legacy gift. Other gifts include investment stocks, bonds and personal property. Any gift in any form is welcome.

Your gift ensures that Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation maintains the resources necessary to grow and thrive in fellowship and service to each other and our greater community. We have proudly advanced our liberal religious values in the Muskegon area for over 70 years and with

your help we can continue for another 70 years.

A legacy gift is not about luxury or price. It is about meaning and impact. And most of all, it allows each one of us an opportunity to leave something behind that still speaks long after we are gone. Gifts carry our values, memories, and stories into the future.

If you have any questions, contact Kurt Troutman, HUUC Treasurer, to ensure that your gift serves to maintain HUUC for our posterity.

Endowment Committee

The congregation's Endowment Committee is pleased to announce our congregation's board approved a total of \$8,757.71 in December to fund 10 grant requests for various causes. (The total awarded is higher than usual because some grants approved in prior years were never spent.)

2025 GRANT APPLICATIONS TO ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

APPLICANT	FUNDING CATEGORY	PROJECT	Approved
UUC's Social Action Com. Marcia Hovey-Wright	Community Outreach	To fund a food truck we will help staff June 4, 2026 with First Congregational Church	\$592
Anna Eldenbrady	Educational opportunities	A color laser printer for our new RE program	\$284.99
Michelle Martin-Mills	To benefit all four categories with fundraising	Refreshments for HUUC's Feb. 7 service auction	\$200
Christine Cleary	Congregation's physical plant	A new stove for the upstairs church kitchen	\$1,000
Abigail Dennany	Educational opportunities	Funding to attend Camp Miniwanca's Four Trails camping program	\$1461.24
Olivia Dennany	Educational opportunities	Attending a week-long summer session of Camp Miniwanca for the first time	\$1461.24
Jim Stier	Congregation's physical plant	Emergency repair of church boiler which heats the building	\$1000
Arionna Huffman	Educational opportunities	A year's subscription to an APP which teaches the Ojibwe language	\$240
Kaleb Lam	Educational opportunities	Partial funding for a five-week study abroad program in Namibia	\$1461.24
Maresa Sheldon	Educational opportunities	Half the funding for a visual arts program at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp	\$1057



News from **CARING 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 **Sue and David McIntire, Kate and Jamie Huizinga** on the passing of Sue's mother.

Healing thoughts to **Carolyn Holmes** and **Tim Hamlin** as they both recover from surgeries this month.

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

Caring Thoughts to **Rebecca St. Clair** as her sister enters hospice care.

Healing thoughts to **John Dietrick** after his snowmobile accident.

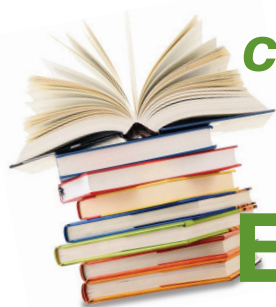
Condolences to family and friends of **Tyler Newton**, HUUC member since 2009. He passed away December 20th, 2025

Condolences to **Jackie Nicholls** on the loss of her mother.

We have four members:

Sue McIntire, Christine Cleary, Deborah Margules, 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

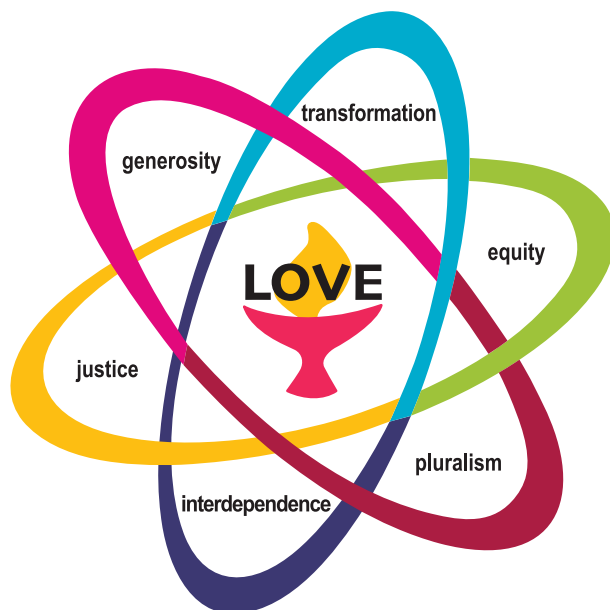


coming in April

Media Exchange!

**Books • Magazines • DVDs
CDs • Vinyls • Games • Etc**

Bring your books you are ready to
part with and exchange them with
your HUUC family and friends



News from the Director of Religious Education

February 2026 Religious Education Updates

Hello, Harbor UU Friends!

Our elementary school youth are continuing through their adventure curriculum titled **The Undivided Isle**. Through an imaginative story, youth “meet” different characters as they learn life skills, such as teamwork, listening, and problem solving. I’ve had a lot of fun prepping lessons and I hope the kids are enjoying them, too (it’s not every day I get to turn a snake plush into a sea serpent and then voice it on Sunday for a lesson!)

Our middle school youth are exploring world religions and different beliefs through the videos in **Crash Course’s Religions** series. We are still fairly early on in the series and will be starting this week on the first of our major world religions with a video looking at Hinduism and the incredible variety of stories and beliefs it encompasses.

All our lessons are being posted to our **Google Classroom** so folks can revisit them at home, with links to videos, lesson plans,

and supplemental material. Youth, parents, curious congregants, and volunteer teachers are all welcome to join. The join code for our class is 4zbimzms.

We have had some wonderful guest teachers coming in to help support the RE program and to allow for our youth to learn from different people. A huge thanks to **Nancy Stier, Brittany Franz, Tom Wagner, Scott Roodvoets, Jessica Sheldon, Don Mangione, Kal Fox, Kwame James, Eli Fox, Robin Denanny**. We have opportunities for a teachers to join us in February and March, if you might be interested, please be in touch!

Thank you for being a part of HUUC’s RE community,

With love at the center,
Anna L. EldenBrady

Personal Care Items Needed

Our RE youth have decided to act on the value of Generosity by asking our congregation to help get the personal care pantry started through a donation drive.

For those unfamiliar with the Health Project, it is the community health partner of Trinity Health and has been helping connect community members to resources for over 20 years. In just the past four months, the Health Project’s Community Health Workers (CHWs) successfully connected with 2015 community members, offering assistance in finding the resources and services they needed.

Some commonly needed items are:

- ☐ Laundry detergent (multiple sizes, include “free and clear” options)
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Toothbrushes
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Bath soap
- ☐ Dish soap
- ☐ Cleaning supplies
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Paper towels

There is a basket in the social hall for all donations.

Staying Connected at HUUC

A Note from Dan Martin-Mills

Over the past few months, you may have noticed email and text reminders about HUUC events and announcements coming from **YourLocalEvents.org**. I wanted to take a moment to explain what this is, why we're using it, and how it supports our shared life together as a community.

Helping People Stay Informed and Included

Our goal with these notifications is simple: **to help people stay connected**. HUUC offers meaningful worship, music, social justice work, learning opportunities, and fellowship — and we want it to be easy for people to know what's happening and when.

The reminders you receive are meant to be **helpful, not overwhelming** — a gentle nudge so nobody misses something they care about. Many members have shared that the reminders make participating easier in the midst of busy lives.

Clear and Timely Updates When Plans Change

Another way this system has proved helpful is **when unexpected things happen**. From time to time, weather or other circumstances mean an event must be canceled — or leave people uncertain about whether something is still happening. These notifications allow us to **quickly reach everyone who planned to attend**, so folks don't make unnecessary trips in bad conditions, and so you'll know when something is still on even if the weather looks doubtful. It's simply another way to look out for one another.

Why YourLocalEvents.org?

YourLocalEvents.org is a **communication tool I built to support small community-based organizations** like HUUC. Think of it as something similar to Mailchimp or Constant Contact, but more personal and flexible. It allows us to:

- send newsletters and event reminders
- share special announcements when needed
- keep communication organized in one place
- reduce workload for volunteers
- adapt the system as our needs grow

YourLocalEvents.org is **not a business selling services or advertising** — it is simply a tool designed to help our community communicate more smoothly.

Privacy, Ownership, and Choice

I know it's important to many of us that personal information is handled carefully and respectfully.

Here's how we approach that:

- HUUC owns its information. The contact lists and message content belong to HUUC — not to me personally and not to any outside organization.
- Your information is not sold or shared. It is used only for HUUC communications.
- Participation is always your choice. If you ever wish to stop receiving notifications or change how you're contacted, that can be done easily.
- Security matters. Safeguarding information is a priority and is taken seriously.

If you ever have questions about how your information is used or stored, I am always happy to help explain.

About the Technology — and About Me

Some members have asked what happens if something breaks or needs to change, since I am currently the one maintaining the system. That's a fair and reasonable question.

The system is built using **widely-used, well-supported technologies**, and it is **documented so others can step in if needed**. I'm also glad to help HUUC think about long-term continuity, so this remains a sustainable resource for the community.

For anyone who doesn't know me: my name is **Dan Martin-Mills**, and I've worked in software development for about **17 years**, including work on secure systems for organizations such as **CU*Answers** (supporting credit unions and card processing), as well as **Alcoa-Howmet** and **Betz Industries**. In those roles, I was trusted with sensitive financial and business data, and **protecting privacy and security has always been central to my work**. Even more than that, I care deeply about people and community — and this project is simply a way I can offer my skills in service.

A Shared Effort

My hope is that these tools help us stay connected, strengthen our sense of belonging, and support the important work HUUC is doing in the world. Nothing about this replaces human relationships, care, or conversation — it simply helps make communication a little easier.

I'm always committed to being transparent about how this tool supports HUUC, and I'm grateful for the trust you place in me and in one another as we care for our community.

Warmly, Dan



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