



HARBOR

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CONGREGATION

MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

March 2026 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Services Begin at 10:30am

March 1

“Keeping Holi Holy:

The Power Of Myth And Mirth”

Fred Stella

We will discuss the auspicious day of Holi, which falls on March 4, and also explore the depth of Hindu myth and how it has kept this tradition alive longer than any other indigenous faith on earth in the face of imperialism and conquest. **Noisy Offering**

March 8

“Music Sunday”

Sue McIntire

Why is music so meaningful? Come join Sue and the choir in an exploration of the power of music.

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?

March 22

“Core Value, Compassion and Coping”

Michelle Martin

Longtime member, Michelle Martin-Mills delivers a message based on skills from her therapist toolkit. In a world where so much is beyond our ability to control, we can feel out of control on a personal level. She will offer insight into how connecting with our own sense of core value can help us cope and have compassion for ourselves and others.

March 29

“Passover”

Deborah Margules

The meanings of seder and how it is observed

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

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

Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, March 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

If you ever have any questions for the Board you can contact us via e mail at
trustees@harboruu.org



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 **Rebecca St. Clair and family** on the loss of her sister.

Thoughts and prayers for comfort to **Shirley and Dick Hoffstedt**. Dick is currently at at Heartwood Hospice.

Healing thoughts to **Nancy Johnson**, who is recovering from a broken hip.

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.

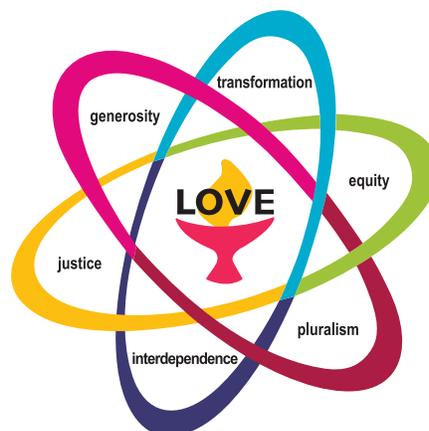
Healing thoughts to **John Dietrick** after his snowmobile accident.

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

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



News from the Director of Religious Education

March 2026 Religious Education Updates

Hello, Harbor UU Friends!

We are a year into my time as the HUUC RE Coordinator and wow, have we seen growth in our program! We started off with a one-room schoolhouse model and have now moved into having two regularly occurring RE classes divided by age with a rotating cast of 10 volunteers that just keeps growing.

Not only is our program hitting this first milestone, but our 1st-5th grade class is completing their first formal curriculum the first Sunday in March. They have been on an imaginative adventure, travelling through the Undivided Isle to bring Harmony Village back to thriving as they learn life-skills and “meet” animal characters. The next curriculum we’re going to take on is the **LEGO ValUUs** curriculum published by the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge. If you are interested in helping our elementary school youth learn through LEGO, the sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Our middle school youth are working their way through the **Crash Course: Religion** videos. They have been introduced to the basics of a number of world religions and will be thinking about questions like, “who

speaks for a religion?” and “how do religious texts work?” in the coming months as they work through the rest of the series. If you’d like to explore these kinds of topics with our older youth, the sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like more information before volunteering to teach, please get in touch—you’re welcome to come down to my office after service if I’m still wrapping up after classes.

We are continuing the **personal care drive** and the box is in the Fellowship Hall. If you’d like to contribute, but need some ideas, there is a check sheet attached to the box.

Our youth will be **participating in the Earth Day service on April 26th**. I hope to talk to the kids about a possible theme one of the next few weeks.

Thank you all for the support of our RE program!

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.

Build Accessible & Inclusive Communities

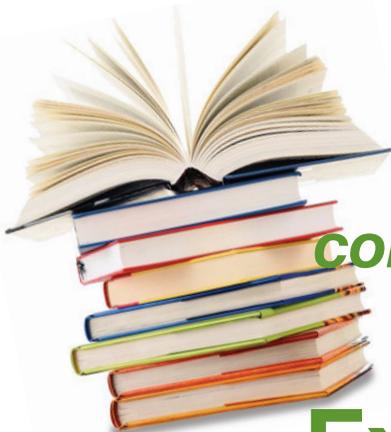
Protect Earth & All Beings

Dismantle Racism & All Oppressions

Share Our Faith, Presence & Resources

Embrace Our Differences With Love & Respect

Grow Together Spiritually & Ethically



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

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



March 2026 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 *Noisy Offering	2	3 7:00p Trans GNC Group	4 6:00p Choir	5 5:30p Yoga	6 4:30p 4H Mtg	7
8 10:30a Worship DST Begins	9	10 6:00p Worship Committee 7:00p Trans GNC Group	11 6:00p Choir	12 5:30p Yoga	13	14
15 10:30a Worship *Choir Sunday	16 6:00p Board Mtg	17 7:00p Trans GNC Group	18 6:00p Choir	19	20 3:00p Supper House 4:30p 4H Mtg	21 7:00p Trans GNC Movie Night
22 10:30a Worship 12:00p Potluck 4:00p Core Circles	23	24 7:00p Trans GNC Group	25 6:00p Choir	26	27	28
29 10:30a Worship	30 Newsletter Deadline	31 7:00p Trans GNC Group	1 6:00p Choir	2	3 4:30p 4H Mtg	4

Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions