



HARBOR

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CONGREGATION

MUSKEGON • MICHIGAN

April 2026 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Services Begin at 10:30am

April 5

“Easter Sunday”

Kurt Troutman

The central message of Easter is *love, hope, and resurrection*. The message builds upon Unitarian Minister Rev. James Luther Adam’s parable of the 5 smooth stones and jagged rocks of David. Like David with his stones, bending his sling towards Goliath, we UU’s aim our smooth and jagged rocks to bend the arc of the universe towards justice.

Choir Sunday

Noisy Offering

April 12

“People Who SHOW UP!”

Scott Roodvoets & Social Action Committee

UUs have a long history of social justice activism. We will present our history and highlight some of the significant contributions that a few lesser-known UUs have made to progressive change. We will also discuss our current activities and opportunities for all of us to make a positive difference.

April 19

“Mantra and Rasa:

That which can be juiced”

Blake Daughtery

Potluck

April 26

“Earth Day: Let’s Play”

Anna EldenBrady

Happy Birthday to the Earth! Even though we don’t know when the planet was actually “born,” we’re going to celebrate this beautiful speck we call home with whimsy, storytelling, and play! Play is important for all creatures, not just the young. YOU are invited to join us for a multigenerational service in celebration of our planet and to take some time to notice the beauty and joy around us in the natural world.

May 3

“Becoming: 40 years In”

Robin Denanny

May 10

“What’s So Radical About Hospitality?”

Ted Jauw

Using two words that we have forgotten the meaning of, Baba Teddy invites us to ponder why we use words we no longer understand, why we don’t understand them and why it’s all Greek to him. Using stories, myths, music and even a few lies, he uncovers what may or may not be the Truth. Or, at least, ‘a’ truth.

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

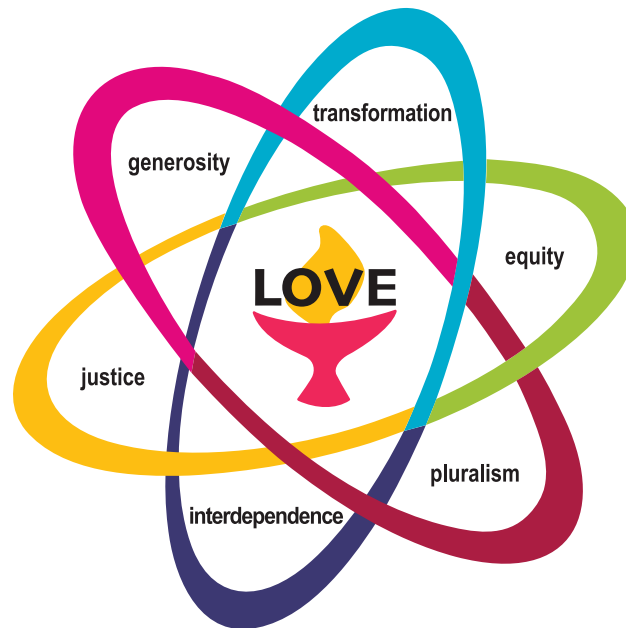
Zoom With Us at <https://zoom.us/j/91447658076>

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.



Next HUUC Board Meeting: Monday, April 20 • 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

Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Dear HUUC Members & Friends,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 HUUC Annual Pledge Drive. Each passing year we challenge ourselves to ask, “*What is Possible*” Together, we can continue to explore and expand all possibilities of our liberal religion in West Michigan.

Time, Treasure and Talent is essential for the continued growth of our Congregational mission. We will finish 2025-2026 with a small budget surplus, ensuring that HUUC we set and attain lofty goals in 2027 and beyond.

Your pledge ensures that HUUC maintains the resources necessary to grow and thrive in fellowship and service to each other and our greater community. Please submit your annual pledge to Kurt Troutman by April 30, 2026 by means of email at kurttroutman@hotmail.com or a sealed envelope marked **2026-2027 Pledge**, mailed to HUUC.

Your pledge can be donated by check, cash or online options which can be accessed through <https://harboruu.org/pledgedonate/>



Thank you for your consideration. *Together we will achieve Mission Possible!*

Sincerely,

Kurt Troutman

Treasurer, Harbor UU Congregation

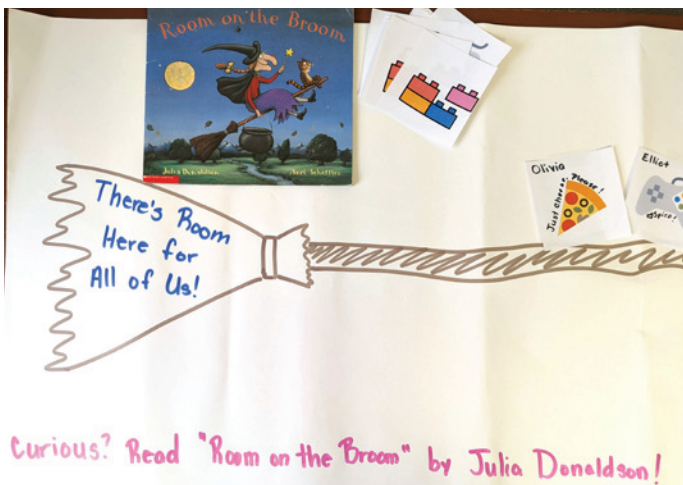


News from the Director of Religious Education

April 2026 Religious Education Updates

Hello, Harbor UU Friends!

We are so excited for the upcoming spring and summer seasons in our RE program! With opportunities for **community service, learning, and outdoor activities** coming in with the warmer weather, our program is feeling as sunny as the skies outdoors.

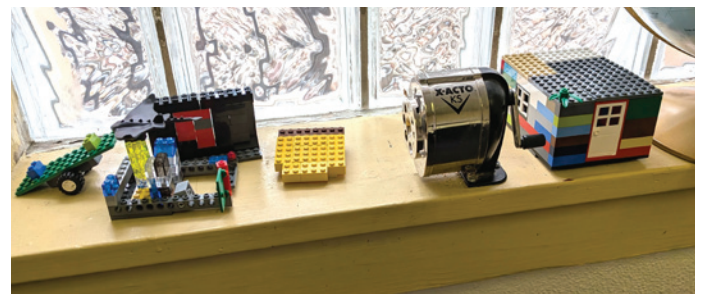


One exciting piece of news: we are restarting the **Religious Education Committee!** The committee will meet once a month after church in the lower level for an hour to support the RE program. Many years ago, this committee helped with activities for our youth, assisted with space needs, and helped coordinate the RE calendar for all ages. With the movement in the UUA towards whole church faith formation activities and opportunities, this is a great (and exciting!) time to be involved in **lifespan RE and faith formation**. From coordinating adult faith exploration to supporting youth in developing a UU identity, this committee can have a huge impact on our HUUC community.

This fall, we will have a majority of our youth in our high school and middle school age group within the 7th-9th grade range for an **OWL (Our Whole Lives) class**. This comprehensive and affirming lifespan sexuality education program is a valuable tool for our youth as they navigate growing up, relationships, and bodies. Because this program is such a heavy lift, it would be an excellent opportunity for RE Committee involvement!

So that's what we're aspiring towards, but what have our youth been up to this past month?

Our elementary school youth have been working on the **LEGO ValUUs** curriculum published by the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge. This curriculum walks kids through the six **JETPIG values** (Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity) with LEGO activities each week that relate to their learning.



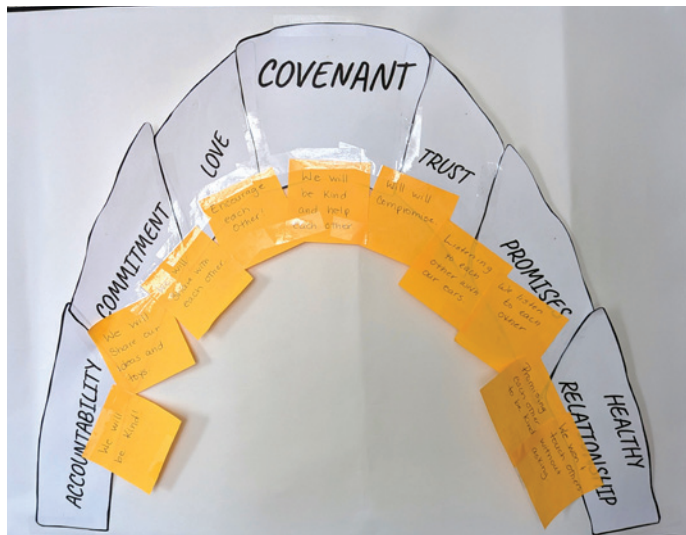
Our middle school and high school youth are continuing to work through **Crash Course: Religions** and have tackled some big ideas in March. In addition to learning about Religions of the African Diaspora

and Confucianism, Buddhism, and Daoism: Chinese Popular Religion, they have also pondered the questions:

Is Atheism a Religion?

How Do Religious Texts Work?

What Does Ritual Have to Do with Religion?



These videos are fantastic because often, they don't have concrete answers to lead the viewer to—instead, author John Green (The Fault in Our Stars, Paper Towns, The Anthropocene Review) shows his audience different perspectives and points of view, offering a range of answers and thoughts on his topics.

In addition to all this, April brings **Earth Day** (Happy Birthday to the Earth!) and we will be hosting a **multigenerational service on April 26th** and an **Earth Day service project on April 19th**. Our planet is beautiful and we want to celebrate the incredible interdependent web of life of which we are all a part!

Thank you for supporting our RE program!
Anna L. EldenBrady

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.

Condolences to **Michelle Martin** on the loss of her aunt.

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 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.

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Lynn Armentrout, Sondra Burnham, and Barb Termaat

On March 22, 2026, we welcomed three new members into our HUUC family—
If you haven't met them yet, please introduce yourself to these wonderful people!



Lynn

I come to Muskegon after having spent most of my life in New York City, where I had a career as a social justice lawyer and spent a lot of time dancing. Covid upended my life and I find myself building a new one here, in a new place, in my third act. I moved to Muskegon three years ago but it wasn't until I showed up at Harbour Unitarian that I felt I found my tribe, which is ironic since I've always been opposed to church. Even though the community is new to me, its members' choice to live intentionally, honoring the values of acceptance, compassion and social justice, makes it a safe and fulfilling place to be, and to continue to explore what it means to be alive.

Sondra

I am absolutely delighted to be a member of HUUC! My first experience with Unitarianism began when I met a Unitarian minister (who became a good friend). She opened my heart, mind and soul to like-minded beliefs. I look forward to

establishing new friendships, attain enlightening conversations, take part in programs and be a part of stimulating activities. I'm very happy to be a part of this community.

Muskegon is my hometown, but I've traveled and landed in many different areas of the world and this country.

I attended Muskegon Community College, majoring in music. Then off I went to Sacramento where I attended their city college for a short period, majoring in music. Then found myself headed to Santa Barbara with my two dogs, residing there while my (then) husband took classes at UCSB. It was a gorgeous area, probably one of my favorite cities in the US.

Presently, I live in a great area of Muskegon, that being Glenside. I have a wonderful daughter and a super son-in-law who live one block from me. My life is simple, yet full! I volunteer at the Muskegon Museum of Art, as well as for the West Michigan Symphony.

I'm so very grateful to now include being a part of HUUC. I believe more good things are yet to come...

Barb

Two lifelong practices connect me to my creative source and release anxiety: nature and dance/movement. I am an educator and connector, supporting people of all ages to achieve their full expression. I enjoy working together to make things happen! I'm from Michigan, and have lived on both coasts, Chicago and Munich, and explored far beyond. My family joined UU 25 years ago for liberal community while living in conservative places (AZ and northern MI), especially for our young daughter. I stayed because I continue to heal and grow. John and I moved to Muskegon last spring, and I'm thrilled to be able to walk to HUUC after long drives for years! My wish for HUUC/UU is to grow as a nurturing community where we refill our cups, so we can give from our overflow wherever we do good works and make good trouble in the world.

YOGA with Blake

Yoga is a science of the self, and it is more than just a stretch. Easiest place to start with that study is observing how we move and how we hold ourselves, and the physical side of Hatha yoga invites us on a journey inward. The postures we use open our awareness into our bodies, and the more consciousness of our body we can hold, the better we can heal and grow.

Yoga will be held in the basement at **12 p.m. on Thursdays**. Class will be a slower flow, incorporating Hatha yoga and Qigong. This is an all levels session, where both the beginner and seasoned yogi can find something beneficial. Come as you are. Donations are welcomed.

*"Grab A Treat...
Take A Seat!"*

POTLUCK!
Sunday 4/19/26
Noon

*Bring a dish to share in
fellowship and fun!*



Transgender, Genderqueer and Nonconforming social group

Come join us every Tuesday!

at Harbor Unitarian
Universalist Congregation
7:00pm - 9:00pm

Ages 18 & Up

HARBOR

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION

1296 Montgomery Ave, Muskegon, MI 49441

"Clear out those boxes and dust off those shelves!"



The Great Fantabulous (and not-so-annual)



Back By Popular Demand!

BOOK EXCHANGE!

(DVDs, CDs, Vinyls, Games, Puzzles
and other media welcome)

Sunday, April 12th

Before & After Service...

- Gather all those books you read over winter...
(or the ones you know you'll never get to)
- Bring your books you are ready to part with and
exchange them with your HUUC family and friends.
- Pick up new books to stock your library with some fresh
ideas and stories

Contact Jessica at gingermajick@hotmail.com or 231.206.4947 with any questions.

Noisy Offering Reminder!

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

SONG CIRCLE

Come join us for
an evening of communal
singing and chanting; simple,
repetitive melodies that are easy to
learn and inviting to the heart. Together
we'll sing songs that connect us to one
another, to Mother Earth, and to the Sacred
within.

Bring your voices, instruments, and
a song if you'd like to share. Songs
from all traditions—as well as
songs you've written—are
welcome here.

MONDAY 4/27 @ 6:30

H U U C S O C I A L H A L L

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



MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

"Muskegon History"

Presented by cast members from City of the Dead - Muskegon

Since 2010, City of the Dead has been conducting living history tours in Evergreen Cemetery about people who made Muskegon thrive, presented by volunteer cast members using historical sources. Evergreen Cemetery serves as the eternal resting place for numerous prominent figures from Muskegon's past. Among these notable residents are Charles Hackley, Thomas Hume, and the valiant Captain Jonathan Walker. Who will visit the Muskegon County Genealogical Society to share their stories? Come to the meeting and find out!



WHERE: Hackley Public Library

316 W. Webster Ave.
Muskegon, MI

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, 2026

TIME: Program starts at 10:30 A.M.

A handicap ramp is available to the front door!

Use the stairs or elevator to the lower level.

E-Mail 1972mcgs@gmail.com

Website genealogymuskegon.org



ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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.





APRIL 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
29 10:30a Worship	30 Newsletter Deadline	31 5:30p Meditation 7:00p Trans GNC Group	1 6:00p Choir	2 12p Yoga	3 4:30p 4H Mtg	4
5 10:30a Worship *Noisy Offering *Choir	6	7 5:30p Meditation 7:00p Trans GNC Group	8 6:00p Choir	9 12p Yoga	10	11
12 10:00a Book Exchange 10:30a Worship 2-8 Private Event	13	14 5:30p Meditation 6:00p Worship Com. 7:00p Trans GNC Group	15 6:00p Choir Pledges Due	16 12p Yoga 6p 3rd Space	17 3:00p Supper House	18 10:30a COTD presentation 7:00p Trans GNC Movie Night
19 10:30a Worship 12:00p Potluck 2:30p Study Group	20 6:00p Board Mtg	21 5:30p Meditation 7:00p Trans GNC Group	22 6:00p Choir	23 12p Yoga	24	25 1-5p Private Event
26 10:30a Worship 2:30p Study Group 4:00p Core Circles	27 Newsletter Deadline 6:30p Song Circle	28 5:30p Meditation 7:00p Trans GNC Group	29 NO Choir	30 12p Yoga	1 4:30p 4H Mtg	2

Check Facebook and Social Hall for Updates and Additions