

May 2016
Newsletter
of the
Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1296 Montgomery Avenue at McGraft
Muskegon MI 49441-1719
231-755-2932
www.harboruu.org

Sue McIntire – Music Director
Tim Hamlin – Director of Religious Education

Sunday Services at 11:00 AM
Religious Education for Children and Childcare Provided

Sunday Worship Services

- May 1 “In the Shadow of the King: Bayard Rustin's influence on the Civil Rights Movement” – Brother Tom Wagner
- May 8 “Laundry Day and Mom” – Peggy Humphreys
- May 15 “Problems of Democracy” – Carolyn Holmes
** Annual Meeting to follow the Service **
* Choir Sings *
* Community Connection Collection – Pay It Forward Veterinary Services *
*Soup Luncheon following the service –
\$5.00 donation suggested to support Social Justice activities *
- May 22 “Courageous Community Making Update” – Rev Kristen Klein Cecchettini
- May 29 TBA – Rev Miriam Bush

Please submit information for the June Newsletter by noon Tuesday May 24
to dmargules1951@gmail.co

Please submit information for the Order of Service to dlimcintire@comcast.net
by 10 AM Friday morning prior to the service

Caring Ministry Contact for May: Margot Haynes
231-894-0651 or margot.haynes@gmail.com

President's Letter

Greetings,

The Annual Meeting of the Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday May 15, 2016 at 1:00 PM. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Active Members in particular are encouraged to attend since according to our Bylaws, 33% of our Active Members must be present in order for agenda items to be voted on. Since we reported 55 members to the UUA on February 1st, we will need to have at least 19 members in attendance. Our bylaws also dictate that only those attendees who became members of the Congregation prior to March 16, 2016 (60 days prior to the meeting) are eligible voting members.

The agenda for the annual meeting will include reports from elected officers of the congregation, employees, and committee chairs. The Budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 has been approved by the Board and will be voted on by the Membership. Copies of the proposed Budget will be posted at HUUC and available on the counter outside the Sanctuary.

The agenda will also include Election of President and Vice President, one (1) Board Member at Large, and one (1) member of the Leadership Development Committee. The Leadership Development Committee will have prepared a list of nominees. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Remember, because we are a democratic community, members are collectively vested with responsibility for the congregation. Responsible participation includes imagining the needs of the entire congregation, rather than focusing only on one's own needs or desires. I strongly urge you to participate in the Annual Meeting.

Peace, David

Hot Topics

9:30-10:45 in the Nursery on the Lower Level

Sunday May 22 – Food and Faith discussion begun in April will continue with Jim DeGroot.

Everyone is welcome even if you did not attend the earlier discussions. We have only just touched the surface of many factors, including health considerations, economic changes, social reorganization needed and our personal concerns for the future of Earth's environment.

There may be follow-up study and possibly even shared food preparation as part of a longer term focus on food and faith. (*We used to have monthly Fast Food potlucks – any interest in doing that again? – Ed.*)

Hot Topics features timely issues of significance, which are introduced by the presenter and then discussed by all in attendance. The purpose is to familiarize the participants with the topics and to give everyone a chance to express her/his opinion, toward a greater understanding of the issue. There is no attempt at consensus.

If you have questions, need more information, would like to suggest a topic or would like to lead a discussion, please contact Margot Haynes at 231 894-0651 or at margot.haynes@gmail.com.

All are welcome to come and participate, or just listen in, if you prefer.

Please Wear Your Name Tag on Sunday

Interfaith Reproductive Justice Conference
Friday May 20, 2016 ~ 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM ~ Flint MI
Contact: Randy Block, 248-549-5170

The public is invited attend an Interfaith Reproductive Justice Conference on Friday May 20th at the Woodside Church, United Church of Christ at 1509 E Court Street, Flint. The conference offers workshops to strengthen the knowledge and skills needed to amplify the voices of activists as an alternative to Michigan's "religious right".

Organized by the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition, the conference is co-sponsored by groups from seven faiths: United Church of Christ, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Unitarian Universalist, with funding from the Unitarian Universalist Association, Institute for Public Leadership, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Buck Dinner, Temple Israel and Planned Parenthood of Michigan.

To register for this full day event, go to: www.ujustice.org. The \$20 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and child care (if reserved in advance). For more information, contact Randy Block at 248-549-5170.

Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry (Margot Haynes, Kurt Troutman, Darlene VanderKolk and new member Eli Fox) invites members and friends of HUUC who suddenly find themselves in need of assistance to contact one of us. We cannot promise emergency availability, but will do our best to find someone to help with your need.

Contact for May: Margot Haynes at 231-894-0651 or margot.haynes@gmail.com

Some of the situations the caring team can help with are:

- Rides to medical appointments and errands, meals or other support.
- Respite for caregivers – we will sit with your loved one while you take a breather.
- Prepared meals for new parents in their first month of parenthood.
- Nonjudgmental listening.

The Caring Ministry affirms our connection and our interdependence. We encourage each other to live fully and love generously by both giving and receiving acts of kindness and service. Sharing our vulnerabilities and helping each other when we are in need nurtures our spiritual growth.

Discretionary Funds are now being administered by the Caring Ministry. Please submit requests to Margot Haynes at 231-894-6051 or margot.haynes@gmail.com if you have need of temporary/emergency funds.

RE Needs You!

Tim Hamlin

The Religious Education Program is in need of people for various volunteer activities including standby teacher assistant, RE Committee members, help with Adult RE programs and, later, a wide range of exciting activities connected with the 2016 City of the Dead event. We are beginning to receive families with school-age children. Our ability to provide an RE program for them is an essential ingredient to our future growth as a congregation. The RE program already has many great resources in place and we have a great tradition of providing progressive, inclusive and important RE for both children and adults. Come join and be a part of an important and gratifying area of our ministry. Please see Anna EldenBrady or Tim Hamlin in the social hall after the service, or contact Tim at timhamlin@comcast.net or 231-282-0571.

Adult RE
Tim Hamlin

Interested in Adult RE? Interested in doing some Adult RE? If you would like to teach a class, contact Tim Hamlin at timhamlin@comcast.net for support in coordinating, research, selection of topic, etc.

A Message from the Membership Committee
Carolyn Holmes

One of the most important things we can do to keep Harbor UU active, is to greet each other warmly on Sunday mornings before the service and during the coffee hour. It's free! It's practically painless! It pays back in smiles and sometimes hugs or handshakes, and everyone can participate! (Visitors and members who feel neglected tend to lose interest and feel rejected... None of us **wants** to be *that kind of church!*) The Membership Committee will hold a brief meeting on Sunday May 1 at 10:30 on the lower level of the building to share information on how each of us can help create an atmosphere that is welcoming to visitors and members alike. All are welcome to attend. If you are able to attend come to the service half an hour early on Sunday May 1. The coffee will be hot and there will be muffins! If you can't attend but are willing to commit to acting as an official HUUC greeter one Sunday a month, contact Carolyn Holmes at holmesland@juno.com or 231-744-4099. If you prefer to work quietly behind the scenes or have limited time to spare, there are also small ways you can help the membership committee. Contact Carolyn for more info!

PEOPLE

Thank you

to new member **Eli Fox** who has to join the Caring Ministry, filling the place vacated by Deborah Margules who served on the committee for many years

Congratulations

to **Amy Wilkinson** who won Best in Show at the Lakeland Art Show in Grand Haven
to **Carlos Hernandez** who has made it to the regional Olympic Development Team for soccer

We share in the Joy

of **Darlene VanderKolk** whose reunion with her son and his child has given her great joy

Caring thoughts

to **Gwen Williams** whose mother recently entered hospice care
to **Eli Fox** and her mother who is being treated for cancer on her face – we wish her mother rapid healing

to **Eric Stark** who continues his recovery and rehabilitation at Heartland in Whitehall. He would love to receive a letter, and especially enjoys having visitors. He is making good progress recovering from a stroke, and is looking forward to returning home in a couple of months. It looks like he will remain at Heartland, so please consider a visit to him at 916 E Lewis St, Whitehall.

Comfort and peace

to all who have lost a beloved family member or friend,
whose grief remains or has resurged with an anniversary or birthday.
We hold gently in our thoughts all who consider HUUC their home
and are coping with on-going concerns.

Help Needed to Produce Sunday Order of Service

David will no longer be creating the Order of Service every Sunday once he steps down as president. This is not a presidential task, he just took it on because it needed to be done. HUUC needs a volunteer to come forward and assume this important task of producing and printing the Order of Service for use on Sundays. Please see David McIntire for details. *Ed.*

COMMITTEES & GROUPS

Board Meeting: Next meeting: **Wednesday May 11th 7:00 PM at HUUC**. If you have a concern to bring before the board or an item to be placed on the agenda, please contact David McIntire at dlimcintire@comcast.net by Sunday April 10th.

Caring Ministry – Next meeting May 1st at 12:20 after the service. This is a closed meeting.

Choir Practice – after Thursday May 12th, choir will begin its summer recess

Finance – meetings occur regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month one hour before the Board Meeting at HUUC. Next meeting: **Wednesday May 11th at 6:00 PM**.

Liberal Voice – HUUC television ministry created by Jeff Holmes and hosted by Kwame James.
Muskegon Comcast Cable Channel 7: Sunday 2 PM, Wednesday 7 PM, Saturday 3:30 PM
Grand Haven Charter Communications Cable Channel 96: Monday 9:30 AM

Noisy Offering – This collection is taken the first Sunday of each month to support the education of a student in Nepal and other special youth projects. Please collect your loose change to make a **big noise** to support them.

Religious Education Committee – now meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 5 PM HUUC. Next meeting is **Thursday May 5th at 5 PM** (this is a change from the 1st Monday at 6 PM).

Refreshments – Do you like to have a little nibble as you enjoy coffee and conversation with others after the service? If so, please do your part by signing up to make coffee, bring light refreshments and clean up afterward. If we each take our turn, we'll each only have to do this 2 or 3 times a year. Sign-up sheet is in the Social Hall. If you would like to help, but need assistance with funds to purchase treats, please call Margot, or the Caring Ministry Contact for the current month.

Social Action – Soup luncheons follow the service on the 3rd Sunday of the month; a \$5 donation is suggested to support the committee's work. Meetings follow the service at 12:30 in the sanctuary on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Next meeting **Sunday May 8th**.

Supper House – HUUC serves Mission for Area People (MAP) on the **3rd Friday of each month 3:45 - 5:00 PM** at Temple United Methodist Church on Hume St between Sanford and Jefferson across from Muskegon Hts High School. Sign up in the Social Hall for **Friday May 20th**. For more information, contact Kwame James at kwamekamau@yahoo.com.

Non-perishable goods for people and pets are collected on behalf of MAP on the first Sunday of the month, but can be left anytime – look for the large-ish clear plastic bins in the Social Hall.

Worship & Music – **Tuesday May 17th at 6:00 PM** at HUUC – 3rd Tuesday of every month.

REMINDERS

If you have a joy or sorrow to express, but wish to do so privately, place your feather or stone in the joys and sorrows bowl before or during the Prelude.

N.B.: Participating publicly in Joys and Sorrows is intended as a time for sharing joys and concerns of a personal nature and not to be used to express one's reactions to recent political events.

HUUC has a transmitter that broadcasts the services throughout the church building on frequency 98.0 FM. Portable FM radios and earphones are available from the sound personnel on duty at the back of the sanctuary. The service also is broadcast on the radio in the Nursery on the lower level.

HUUC Board of Trustees

Rebecca StClair – Vice President

Bruce Froelich – Treasurer

Tim Hamlin – Secretary

Deborah Margules, Jeff Ochsner and John Wilkinson – Members at Large

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.*

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*** We are a welcoming congregation ***

Scan QR Code to access HUUC website

