

# February 2016

## Newsletter of the Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1296 Montgomery Avenue at McGraft  
Muskegon MI 49441-1719  
231-755-2932  
[www.harboruu.org](http://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

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### Sunday Worship Services

- February 7      "The Three Poisons: Passion, Aggression and Innocence" – Jim Johnson  
                      \*\* *Choir Sings* \*\*
- February 14     "God and Cancer: The #TeamTinyDancerStory" – atheists Jeremiah Bannister and daughter Samantha, age 11, discuss thoughts and experiences with faith and religion after learning that Sami has a rare and deadly form of childhood cancer; with a focus on prayer, miracles, death, the afterlife, and demonstrating that all people may live, love and hope with or without God.
- February 21     "Love" – Arielle Perreault  
                      \* *Community Connection Collection – READ Muskegon Exit Program* \*  
                      \* *Social Action Soup Luncheon – \$5 donation suggested* \*
- February 28     "Life Loves Life – The Natural Law for Living" – Scott Braspeninx

Caring Ministry Contact for February: Kurt Troutman  
231 286-3075 or [kurttroutman@hotmail.com](mailto:kurttroutman@hotmail.com)

Please submit information for the March Newsletter by noon Tuesday February 23  
to [dmargules1951@gmail.com](mailto:dmargules1951@gmail.com)

Please submit information for the Order of Service by email to [dlmcintire@comcast.net](mailto:dlmcintire@comcast.net)  
by 10 AM Friday morning prior to the service

## President's Letter

Greetings:

I have a few things for you to consider about **Active Membership** at HUUC.

First of all, our Bylaws define an “**Active Member**” as “One who has signed the membership book AND (emphasis mine) contributed to the congregation within the past year by attendance, service, and/or financial contribution.”

With that in mind, I offer the following:

1. At our January meeting, the HUUC’s Board of Directors reviewed our **Active Membership** list and determined that we report a current total of 55 **Active Members** to the UUA as part of our annual Certification of Membership. The number submitted is used to calculate the amount (Dues) HUUC will contribute for each **Active Member** to the Annual Program Fund for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. On behalf of the Board and the Congregation, I completed that certification well in advance of the February 1st deadline.
2. Each year, your Board budgets for and the Congregation approves a line item for income generated from the longstanding HUUC tradition of a “Service Auction.” This year’s budget calls for net income of \$1,200. The date of this year’s Service Auction is Saturday February 27th in the Social Hall at HUUC, starting at 6:30 PM. You will find more information in this newsletter. **Active Members** - please give serious thought to supporting this event in any way possible – through “Attendance, service, and/or financial contribution.” Oh, and it doesn’t hurt to let your friends know either!
3. The “Space and Grace” team met January 24th and decided the time has come to start sprucing up HUUC’s front entryway and Social Hall. Two Saturdays – February 13th and February 20th, from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM – have been set aside for the group to work on drywall and paint. Willing hands of **Active Members** are invited to help! Again, more information is contained within the newsletter. Any help you can offer will expedite the task.
4. The Religious Education Program is in need of **Active Members** to volunteer for various activities including standby teacher assistant, RE committee members, help with Adult RE programs and a wide range of exciting activities connected with the 2016 City of the Dead event. Our ability to provide an RE program is an essential ingredient to our future growth as a congregation. We have many great resources in place coupled with a long tradition of providing progressive, inclusive and relevant RE for both children and adults. **Active Members** – please see Tim Hamlin ([timhamlin@comcast.net](mailto:timhamlin@comcast.net) or 231-282-0571) for more information.
5. Finally, we are not far off from beginning the annual process of formulating the fiscal year budget and conducting our annual pledge drive. **Active Members** who chair committees should begin thinking about your budgetary needs for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Oh, lest they think I’ve neglected them... I am of the opinion we need a category defined called “**Active Friends**.” There are plenty of you who grace HUUC with your presence, your service, and your financial contributions every week. We are grateful for you and for what you do! Right, **Active Members?**

Peace,  
David

## Hot Topics

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

February 14 Canceled

February 28 Understanding Flint's Water Poisoning and What it Means – Margot Haynes

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.

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

## Service Auction

Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup>

6:30 PM at HUUC

### Theme: “Another Chance Prom”

Put on your dancing shoes and prom attire and join us!

Everyone, please be thinking about items you would like to donate –

a service item, gift item, etc. Tangible gifts are art work and crafts, gifts that bring us together to share a meal, host a game night, or provide a service such as childcare, dog-sitting or handyman abilities.

A “wish list” has been started with desired items. Bid sheets are available in the social hall and you can start the bidding now!

Please see Sue McIntire for more information.

## Social Action

Gwen Williams

The February Community Connection Collection is to help HUUC fund a READ Muskegon EXIT (Empowering Ex-Offenders in Transition) Program Literacy dinner for inmates and family members. READ Muskegon offers this program once a month, and the sponsoring church prepares and serves meals for 30-50 people. The focus of the program is to get inmates and their family members together to read, and there is a story time as part of the program. HUUC Social Action provided a spaghetti dinner in October for the literacy night, and is looking to sponsor this meal again in March. We still need 2-3 people to help with the meal. If you're interested, please contact Gwen Williams.

Thanks to all who made the January Community Connection Collection so successful. We raised \$350 for the Fountain Street Church Choice Fund!

A new rainbow flag is flying proudly high in front of HUUC. Thanks to all who made it happen, especially **Arielle Perreault** and **Jim Stier**.

## Spring Cleaning

The time has come to start sprucing up our space. We will be working on drywall and paint for the entrance hall and preparing to paint the social hall. You don't need any particular skill, just willing hands. We will be working on Saturday February 13 and 20 from 10 AM to 3 PM. If manual labor is not your thing, you can still contribute by providing snacks to fuel the work party.

Questions? Contact John Wilkinson at [jdwhistle@gmail.com](mailto:jdwhistle@gmail.com) .

## 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](mailto:timhamlin@comcast.net) or 231-282-0571.

## Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry (Margot Haynes, Deborah Margules, Kurt Troutman & Darlene VanderKolk) 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.

February's Caring Contact: Kurt Troutman at 231-286-3075 or [kurttroutman@hotmail.com](mailto:kurttroutman@hotmail.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 231-894-6051 or [margot.haynes@gmail.com](mailto:margot.haynes@gmail.com) if you have need of temporary/emergency funds. While Margot is out of town February 7-21, please submit your requests to Deborah Margules at 231-563-6451 or [dmargules1951@gmail.com](mailto:dmargules1951@gmail.com).

## PEOPLE

### *Congratulations*

to **Angelo (The Amazing) Hernandez** who continues to garner accolades and has received offers of full room and board from Telluride House and full tuition from the University of Michigan

### *Caring thoughts*

to **Suzanne and Leo Szost** whose father/father-in-law is in declining health at the age of 92  
to **Janet Perreault** whose sister's breast cancer has recurred and spread

to **Ona Margules** who fractured her ankle after falling, and to her devoted husband, **Phil**, who continues to care for her in their home at the Oaks

to **Eric Stark** who continues his recovery and rehabilitation at Heartland in Whitehall. He would love to receive a letter or visit. He is due to be transferred to another facility, so please contact Margot Haynes for more information before making the trip to 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.

## COMMITTEES & GROUPS

Board Meeting: Next meeting: **Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM at HUUC**. If you have a concern you wish to bring before the board or an item to be placed on the agenda, please contact David McIntire at [dlmcintire@comcast.net](mailto:dlmcintire@comcast.net) by Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Caring Ministry – No meeting in February. Next meeting March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Finance – meetings occur regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month one hour before the Board Meeting at HUUC. Next meeting: **Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> 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*

MomCom – temporarily suspended as some of the little ones are no longer so little, and now are in preschool!

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 – will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at HUUC. Next meeting is **Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 happen following the service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month; a \$5 donation is suggested to support the committee's work. Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Service.

Supper House – HUUC serves Mission for Area People (MAP) at the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 February 19<sup>th</sup>**. For more information, contact Kwame James at [kwamekamau@yahoo.com](mailto: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 February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM** at HUUC – *please note new day and time (3rd Tuesday of every month)*.

## The Unitarian Fellowship of Huntington WV

is trying to raise \$8000 for building repair and replacement following a fire. If you would like to help, visit their UU crowdfunding site at [www.faithify.org/projects/rebuilding-and-outreach-in-appalachia/](http://www.faithify.org/projects/rebuilding-and-outreach-in-appalachia/). All donations will go toward the building repair, children's ministries, office supplies and outreach. The Fellowship is a member of UUA and all contributions are tax-deductible.

## Persecution of Unitarians in Burundi

On October 22 the Unitarian Church of Burundi was attacked and ransacked, with bullets fired into walls and doors, and money stolen. On November 16 the minister, Rev Fulgence Ndagiijimana, was arrested at gunpoint at the church, and taken into police custody where he underwent severe interrogation regarding the activities of his church. The *International Council of Unitarians and Universalists* is calling upon the government of Burundi to immediately cease and desist the persecution of the Unitarian Church of Burundi, and for the immediate release of its minister from police custody. More information and the opportunity to help this cause can be found on the ICUU website at <http://www.icuu.net>.

## 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.

## *Please Wear Your Name Tag on Sunday*

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

David McIntire – President

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

