

March 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

- March 6 “A Beloved Community” – Rev Mimi Bush
*** Choir Sings ***
- March 13 “Our Sandbox at the Harbor: Celebrating our New Members” –
Carolyn Holmes
- March 20 “Being and Becoming: My Experiences on the Margins of a
Marginalized Community” – Rhian Williams
** Community Connection Collection – Read Early, Read Often (MAISD) **
** Social Action Soup Luncheon – \$5 donation suggested **
- March 27 “Spirit of Life” – Rev Bud Murphy

Caring Ministry Contact for March: Deborah Margules at 231-563-6451
or dmargules1951@gmail.com

Please submit information for the April Newsletter by 5 PM Wednesday March 23
to dmargules1951@gmail.com

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

President's Letter

Greetings:

It is time to take note of the positive energy currently prevailing at HUUC.

The last three weeks in February had more than a handful of members and friends turn out in support of the "Space and Grace" team's efforts to refresh our entryway and social hall. The front entryway is well on its way to completion with walls and ceiling patched and replaced. The cracks in the walls of the social hall are being repaired and a new coat of paint is in the works. It's amazing what many hands can accomplish in a short time. There is still plenty to do but the project is well underway, boosted by the profoundly cooperative spirit exhibited by those involved.

Speaking of positive energy, the response to donations and participation in the Service Auction was overwhelming. The quality and variety of donated items far surpassed expectations. Of course, the success is due to the sense of commitment from an active group of organizers determined to provide a quality experience for one of our major fund-raising activities. When the final tally is in, we will likely far surpass the budgeted \$1,200 net income for the event. Kudos to those who contributed and participated!

Finally, the undercurrent of "positive energy" is reflected deeply in the coming forth of congregants wanting to become members. This month we will welcome the signing of at least 5 new members to Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation! A New Member Ceremony will be part of the March 13th Worship Service.

The nice part about "positive energy" is that it can continue to swell if we make it happen!

Peace,
David

Social Action Forum Water as a Human Right: the Detroit and Flint Stories Wednesday March 30th 7-9 PM at HUUC featuring Jennifer Teed, MUUSJN Justice Coordinator

Jennifer Teed has been working on water issues for the past two years, since the United Nations declared concern about Detroit in 2014. She has been involved in protest efforts since then, and will report in detail on the human struggles involved in both of these Michigan cities.

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

- March 13 UUA Statement of Conscience on Reproductive Justice passed at General Assembly 2015 will be reviewed and discussed. What follow-up is appropriate for our congregation?
- March 27 Video of the students at Virginia Tech presenting their research on the Flint water crisis will be viewed (broadcast in January 2016), and we will discuss whether it is appropriate to ask our governor to step down, given the evidence presented by these students. (This viewing will be a good foundation for the forum on Water as a Human Right to be presented 3 days later on Wednesday March 30.)

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.

Family Promise

Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSLC) will be hosting families through Family Promise from **Sunday supper March 20th through Sunday breakfast March 27th.**

Family Promise is a program that helps to keep families in need together, rather than separating men and boys from women and children, as they seek stable housing. The center provides a place during the day where people can get assistance finding a job, and where they can shower and do their laundry. Local religious organizations take turns providing breakfast and supper to the families.

HUUC formerly hosted families, until realizing we are unable to provide satisfactory temporary housing in our own building. However we take part in the program by partnering with OSLC to assist when they take their turn hosting. There are many opportunities for helping.

Volunteers from OSLC have already filled most positions, but still need drivers to provide morning transportation from the church to the center; and they especially need overnight hosts (2 people, 1 man, 1 woman) for all seven nights, and help with supper on Saturday evening.

If you are able to help in any of these positions, please call **Michelle Pridnia**, the Family Promise director at OSLC, on her cell phone at **231-766-1918**.

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.

March Caring Contact: Deborah Margules at 231-563-6451 or dmargules1951@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.

Summer Home Rental Desired

Friend and former member **Barb Conn** would like to rent a home in Muskegon for several weeks during the summer and will be bringing her medium-size dog. She will gladly pay reasonable rent. Please contact her at 231-343-9223 or send an email or text to bconn378@yahoo.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 or 231-282-0571.

PEOPLE

Caring thoughts

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

COMMITTEES & GROUPS

Board Meeting: Next meeting: **Wednesday March 9th 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 March 6th.

Caring Ministry – Next meeting March 6th at 12:20 after the service. This is a closed meeting.

Finance – meetings occur regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month one hour before the Board Meeting at HUUC. Next meeting: **Wednesday March 9th 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 – We will gather Friday March 4th at 10 AM at Frederik Meijer Gardens for an outing. If you need to car pool or wish to follow another driver, please contact Jessica Sheldon at gingermajick@hotmail.com or Anna EldenBrady at aeldenbrady@gmail.com. Kids of all ages are welcome to join us.

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 Monday of the month at 5 PM HUUC. Next meeting is **Monday March 7th at 5 PM** (this is a change from the 4th 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.

Supper House – HUUC serves Mission for Area People (MAP) at 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 March 18th**. 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 March 15th 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.

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

