



# CommUUunity Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

July 2024



## Spiritual Theme for July: REST

*Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgment will be surer.*—Leonardo da Vinci

In order to provide ourselves a time of rest and rejuvenation for body, mind, and spirit, we will be operating at reduced hours during the month of July. There will be no regular Sunday Services, Religious Exploration for Kids, or Thoughtful Thursdays during the month of July. Most of our small groups will also take a break.

Our regular Sunday Services will resume at 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 4. In August we will unveil a new theme for the year and consider how we can prepare for the work ahead.

Consider being intentional about this time of rest. Take time in July to ponder these questions:

- ◆ *What brings more joy, balance, centering, peace, relaxation, recreation, renewal to your life?*
- ◆ *What external and internal factors influence the amount of time you have or take for rest and renewal?*
- ◆ *If you had more time for rest, what would you do?*

For those who find taking time “to seek, to sustain, and, to share” with others an important part of their self-care routine, there will still be many opportunities to gather with UCC friends during July. Keep reading this newsletter to learn more.

If you are in need of help or pastoral care during the July break, please do not hesitate to reach out to Miriam or one of our Caring Community point people. Your church community is always here for you!



# SUNDAYS IN JULY

## SUMMER SUNDAY FORUMS



**JULY 7: WHAT IS FEAR?**

**JULY 14: WHAT ARE WE MAKE OF JESUS?**

**JULY 21: WHO CAN WE TRUST?**

**JULY 28: IS EVERY PERSON INHERENTLY WORTHY?**



WITH REV. HAROLD BEU

In place of our regular Sunday services, Rev. Harold Beu will present sermons on various topics at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings in July. Please note that our Summer Sunday Forums are onsite-only gatherings. There will NOT be an option to join via Zoom or YouTube. Childcare is available on request.

### **July 7: *What is Fear?***

The following quote is from the Book "Understanding Fear in Ourselves and Others" by Bonaro Overstreet, author, poet, psychologist, lecturer, and the wife of Harry Allen Overstreet, writer, lecturer, and popular author on modern psychology and sociology: *Of all the emotional forces that pattern our individual and interpersonal behaviors, fear has that most insidious power to make us do what we ought not to do, and leave undone what we ought to do. Under its influence and trying to escape its influence, we seemed fated to give it a stronger hold upon us.* Harold will use Ms Overstreet's book as a text to reflect on our current crises and our personal fears that prevent us from a full life, one with joy, love, and meaning.

### **July 14: *What are we to make of Jesus?***

Most Unitarian Universalists were born into the Christian tradition and some left it with pretty hard feelings. But, Christianity is the dominant religion of our nation and the Western World. It makes sense for UUs to look at Jesus' teachings and model as our predecessors did. This Sunday, Harold will explore the approach taken by 19th-century abolitionist Unitarian minister Theodore Parker, who had an interesting view of Jesus.

### **July 21: *Who Can We Trust?***

At 78 years old, Harold has seen a good bit of our nation's turmoil from the Vietnam War, the assassinations of prominent leaders, to riots involving the police, and the rise of various movements, beginning with the Civil Rights movement, which was a model for others, such the Feminist Movement, Environmental Movement, LBGTQ+ Rights Movement, and others. But today he senses a crisis in our land unlike those that have come before. At such times, we need to know we can trust to help us guide us through this difficult time in our lives.

### **July 28: *Is Every Person Inherently Worthy?***

All religions have the element of the nonrational, including our own. Affirming the inherent worthiness of every person is a core UU principle. Can we truly believe this? For example, one could point to Adolph Hitler, who seems to be the poster child of evil, and ask whether he had inherent worth and dignity. Good question. Let's attempt to answer it.

# LEADERSHIP

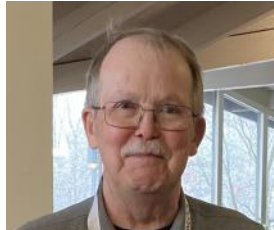
## Our 2024-2025 Board of Trustees



Steve Tasko



Eric Nelson



Mike Graham



Pat Fuehr



Kathryn Ragains-Wilson

At the Annual Meeting in June, Pat Fuehr and Kathryn Ragains-Wilson were unanimously elected to serve on the Board of Trustees. They will join Mike Graham, Eric Nelson, and Steve Tasko in providing leadership for the congregation during the 2024/2025 program year.

The new board members attended the Board meeting in June to become familiar (or reacquaint themselves) with how things work. Click [HERE](#) to read the minutes from that meeting.

The first meeting of the new board will be on **Wednesday, July 31** at **6:30 PM** via Zoom. Board meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. Visit the UCC Calendar on our website for login details.

We are grateful to the outgoing board members Marsha Laya and Pat Timm for their excellent service and to the new board for their willingness to take on the responsibilities of leadership for our community.



## ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

In accordance with the bylaws, an Annual Meeting of the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan was held on June 9, 2024. Twenty-eight voting members attended onsite and two attended via Zoom.

All items of business put before the congregation passed with no nay votes:

- ◆ Approval for an Annual Budget for 2024-25 in the amount of \$144,465
- ◆ The election of two board members Pat Fuehr and Kathryn Ragains-Wilson to two-year terms
- ◆ The election of Pat Timm to a two-year term on the Nominating Committee.

The congregation also took time to honor UCC members Linsey Furry, Herb Gross, and John Folz, remember their contributions, and reflect on how we all shape the lives of one another.

# GRATITUDE

During the service on June 9, we recognized a few of the many generous and dedicated people who help our church community thrive.



Michael Graham

We are grateful for the quiet way **Michael Graham** steps up to help. Since joining our community in 2022, he has jumped in to volunteer in many places. He is a greeter, a coffee host, and a member of the board. He cheerfully assists the Building and Grounds Team, helping to install new fixtures in the restrooms, putting up curtains in the foyer, and painting the frame of our rainbow sign, to name a few. He even leads the team that is working to make new UCC T-shirts this year. Mike is also a faithful supporter of our outreach efforts, showing up to represent UCC at many community events from the Drag Show and NAACP Baby Shower Drive to the Suicide Prevention Walk and the Rally to Prevent Gun Violence. Thank you, Mike, for all you do!



Darby Fetzer

**Darby Fetzer** has been a member of UCC for over five years. During that time, she has volunteered on various committees and teams as well as served on the board. She has recently headed up some noteworthy projects that we are especially grateful for. She leads the Civil Conversations Group and has inspired many UCC folks to strive to build bridges of greater understanding through dialogue. She also chairs the Growth Team and has been a driving force behind our outreach and marketing efforts. She also serves as a greeter, organizes our after-service coffee hosts, and sings in the choir. Thank you, Darby, for all that you do!



Ken VanEseltine

**Ken VanEseltine's** commitment to Social Justice is a gift to UCC. He provides information to the community on a wide range of issues from gun violence prevention and criminal justice reform to nuclear disarmament. He is a key communicator for Michigan UU Social Justice Network and helps keep us informed about justice issues on the state level. He is a dedicated "Get Out the Vote" volunteer writing hundreds of postcards each year to voters all over the country. He is committed to LGBTQIA+ equity and volunteers at Pride and our Drag Show every year. He also is our Greeter Team Coordinator and a Caring Community Point Person. Thank you, Ken, for all that you do!

Our church community and the broader community to which we belong wouldn't be possible without the commitment of dedicated people. We are grateful for ALL of our amazing volunteers who contribute their time, energy, talent, and gifts to keep our community going strong! Thank YOU for all that you do.

# WELCOME

We welcomed six new members into our community in June! We are so glad to have Dawn, Dave, Teri, Justin, Kaitlin, and Sherrie with us and are honored they have chosen to make UUCC part of their lives.



**Dawn Renner** grew up in Marshall but has lived in many places, most recently in Madison, Florida where she was active with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta and served as their Membership Chair. Dawn returned to

Michigan in December 2023 to be closer to her children and grandkids. She visited UUCC for the first time during our annual Solstice service and has quickly gotten involved in many activities including the Women's Book and Qigong groups. Dawn has a Master of Library & Information Science and loves working in archives. She also enjoys the theatre. She has been actively involved in community theatre since her high school days and recently performed in Open House Theatre Company's production of *Continuum of Care*.

**Justin Wojciak and Kaitlin Koch Wojciak** make their home in Schoolcraft where they keep bees and chickens. They have six-year-



old twins, Declan and Theo, who keep them very busy. Justin is a professional painter and Kaitlin works for the USDA. An article in the South County News prompted their first visit to UUCC. They have found UUCC to be a welcoming space where you don't have to wear armor. You can simply show up and be who you are. They are glad to have found a community where they can travel their spiritual journeys while being both supported and challenged.



**Dave Uttermohlen and Teri Sunderman Uttermohlen** found UUCC online and began attending services last August. They are both retired—Teri from an accounting firm and

Dave from the construction business—and live in Scotts. They have a daughter and a granddog living in the area. At UUCC they have found a non-judgmental community filled with friendly people who share their values. They have enjoyed good conversations with UUCC folks during coffee, the recent presentation on Native Plants, and Euchre Night. Dave has also gotten roped in to joining the Building and Grounds Team and can sometimes be found making repairs around the building.

**Sherrie VandePutte** is

originally from the Detroit area. She has been in sales all of her life. She sold potholders she made door-to-door when she was in elementary school. She has sold cameras, wine, ladders and scaffolding, motorhomes, optical, MRO electronics, and for over 30 years she and her partner had a hardwood flooring business. Sherrie considers herself a news-aholic; she was the newsroom secretary at the MSU State Journal while in college. She has two lovely daughters and an ex-husband. In her spare time, she loves to read about psychology and science and she likes working around the house. She has always purchased fixer-uppers that keep her busy. She is happy to have found UUCC and met so many lovely people.



# CONNECTION



At the Service Auction last October, our friend Kathy Hays offered a relaxing afternoon on her porch overlooking Eagle Lake with tasty appetizers, cool beverages,

and good conversation. The opportunity to "Chat and Chill" with Kathy will take place on **Friday, July 19 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.** If you didn't purchase this opportunity at the Service Auction and would like to join the fun, you are more than welcome to come. The suggested donation is \$15 but any amount will do. You can send a check to UUCC with Auction in the memo line or use our online giving option. Kids and Newcomers to UUCC are FREE. Please feel free to bring your suits for swimming, and toys such as kayaks or paddleboards if you want to spend some time on the water. Or, just come and sit a spell with kind and caring folks from UU Community Church.

Use 536 Aquaview, Kalamazoo, 49004 in your GPS for the best directions to Kathy's home. If you have any questions, give Kathy a call at 269-598-6132.

## Qigong at UUCC

Our twice-weekly Qigong sessions are still going strong and will continue all summer long!



### 5 Reasons to try Qigong at UUCC

- ◆ Qigong is a low-impact exercise that doesn't require fancy equipment or special clothes.
- ◆ Qigong helps to loosen your muscles and relax your body.
- ◆ Qigong provides an opportunity for intentional deep breathing that clears your mind.
- ◆ Our sessions are on Zoom so you can try it in the privacy of your own home with your camera off.
- ◆ Our Qigong 'regulars' are a great bunch of people who will welcome YOU warmly.

Click [HERE](#) for the **TUESDAY** Zoom link. Meeting ID: 697 338 090 Passcode: 138550

Click [HERE](#) for the **SATURDAY** Zoom link. Meeting ID: 977 5286 6838 Passcode: 383810

If you have any questions about the group, contact [Freya Lake](#).

## 3rd Saturday Breakfast Group

The UUCC Breakfast Group will meet for breakfast on **July 20 at 9:00 AM.** The group has voted to try a different restaurant this month. They will meet at the **Colonial Kitchen** at 7617 S. Westnedge in Portage (next to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore).

Everyone is welcome to join the breakfast group. It is a wonderful opportunity for conversation and connection!

Please RSVP to Ron ([ronald.crowell@wmich.edu](mailto:ronald.crowell@wmich.edu)) if you plan to attend the 3rd Saturday Breakfast Group. An RSVP is not required but sometimes plans change at the last minute and checking in with Ron will ensure you aren't having breakfast alone.



# CLIMATE CHANGE



*UUCC member Nicky Leigh believes Climate Change is an existential threat to life on planet Earth. She works to raise awareness about the problem through the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition and is active with the Kalamazoo Township Climate Action Planning Committee. In the coming months, she plans to provide UUCC with a series of newsletter articles about Climate Change covering what it is, the possible ramifications, and what can be done. She is also willing to answer any questions our newsletter readers might have.*

## Climate Crisis - This is an Emergency!

In less than 10 years, Pope Francis's thoughts on Climate Change went from "All is not lost", to "Unfortunately, we've gotten to a point of no return. It's sad, but that's what it is."

In the last two months, Kalamazoo County has experienced a tornado, a wind shear, floods, power outages, and almost a week in the 90's. We are lucky it's not July 13, 1936, that was Kalamazoo's all time high of 109 F.

In the first six months of 2024, in the US, we have experienced 11 climate and weather related billion dollar emergencies for a total of \$25 Billion. These include fires, floods, drought, and tornados.

For the last 10 years the world has experienced the 10 warmest recorded years. That means each year is warmer than the one before it. The first 19 days of June were the hottest ever recorded for Phoenix and Flagstaff. Over 1,000 people have died from the heat during the Hajj in Mecca. Pakistan is recording temperatures above 125F, with hundreds being treated for heatstroke. New Delhi, India has recorded 127F, with birds, bats and monkeys falling to the ground dead. India reports at least 25,000 heatstroke victims. Temperatures are rising twice as fast in Europe as the rest of the world, and it is experiencing heat waves especially in Germany, Hungary, Greece and Turkey. West Africa recorded 119F and at least 100 people have died.

Heat is causing the world's ice to melt. Slovenia and Venezuela have lost their glaciers. The permafrost is melting causing the ice roads in Alaska to become mush, anthrax was released in Siberia from previously frozen reindeer, and all of this is releasing huge amounts of methane. And of course, Greenland, Antarctica and the Arctic are losing ice at increasingly alarming speed and amounts.

Heat fuels evaporation. This is causing the clouds to become waterlogged but it also is drying the ground and leading to drought. The dry ground plus heat is causing crop failure. France and Spain are starting to lose their vineyards, which will seriously affect their economies and some of our pleasures. We, globally, are using more water from our aquifers than can be refilled.

From evaporation we go to precipitation and flooding. It seems everyday there are additional floods. North to South, East to West there is flooding. Maine, Florida, Iowa, Texas, California, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, Spain, Germany, Kenya, Uganda, Pakistan. There is nowhere safe.

All of this has affected our weather patterns leading to droughts, floods, heat domes, and increased cyclone and hurricane activity. (*More on [page 8](#)*)

# SUSTAINABILITY

The Asian monsoon patterns are becoming more erratic. The heating of the Arctic is causing the polar jet stream in North America to become more erratic which may cause colder winters and heat domes but will definitely give us unusual weather conditions

Panama has relocated 300 Indigenous families (the entire population) from the island of Gardi Sugdug to the mainland due to sea level rise.

All of this is just the beginning. No one can truly predict what will happen. The speed of our climate change is unprecedented. The sheer number of people that will be affected is unprecedented. We have had five mass extinctions, separated by millions of years. Most scientists believe we are in the sixth mass extinction now.

So far, nothing happens overnight. Extinctions take millions of years. We may feel, why bother? We have time to reverse our course but not to dawdle. In order to solve a problem, we need to admit there is a problem. Then we need to consider and accept the ramifications of the problem. And only then can we truly face the problem and look for plausible solutions.

This is an emergency. It is time to face the problem and start demanding solutions.

Sincerely,

Nicky

[nickyleigh1226@gmail.com](mailto:nickyleigh1226@gmail.com)



## Reimagine Together From An Extractive Age To A New Era

### UU Climate Justice Revival | September 28-29, 2024

For the first time ever, the entire UU ecosystem will be organizing for climate justice action - TOGETHER! We all know how desperate the situation is, but even those of us who have been climate and environmental activists for a long time feel powerless. But, **there's power in numbers** and thousands of UUs around the world are getting ready to join hands in September for a denominational Climate Justice Revival. Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, the UU Ministry for Earth, the UU Service Committee, and a whole lot of other UU organizations—this Revival is designed to kick-start our activism and ongoing engagement in climate justice work.

The Revival will feature a **Workshop Day** on September 28 with activities and discussions for people of all ages and **Sunday Service** on September 29 followed by an **Advocacy and Action Hour!**

Climate change is an Emergency! We need **everyone to get involved** in solving the crisis. Please save these dates (**September 28 and 29**) and plan to participate in the UU Climate Justice Revival!



# STEWARDSHIP



## BACKYARD BASH BBQ & FOLK CONCERT

Saturday, August 10 | 5:00 - 8:00 PM

### LIVE MUSIC



Folk Artists:  
LVNMUZIQ

### THE BACKYARD

Rev Gy's Backyard  
5126 Meadowlark Lane,  
Portage. Limited parking.  
Consider carpooling..

### WHAT'S COOKIN'

Burgers (Vegan option),  
Hotdogs, Summer sides,  
Dessert, BYOB.

### WHAT TO BRING

Tables will be set up for  
eating. But bring a lawn chair  
or blanket and  
your favorite drink.



### RSVP

RSVP by August 4 to  
[tinyurl.com/UUCCAugBBQ](https://tinyurl.com/UUCCAugBBQ)

**SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20**

## Save the Date for the UUCC Summer FUNdraiser!



**What:** Backyard Barbecue

**Where:** Rev. Gy and Patti's home  
5126 Meadowlark Lane  
Portage, MI 49024

**When:** Saturday, August 10, 2024



Join us at 5 PM for dinner! We will be serving up grilled burgers and hotdogs (vegetarian options available) with delicious side dishes, and dessert.

At 6:00 PM get ready to enjoy a musical performance by LVNMUZIQ, the Three Rivers-based urban folk duo featuring Liz and Kristi Montgomery. LVNMUZIQ performs original music written by Liz, as well as covers by some of their musical heroes like Patty Griffin, Joy Oladokun, Chris Stapleton, Miranda Lambert, and more. Liz's playful acoustic guitar and unique vocals, combined with Kristi's harmonies and supportive bass, weave together to create LVNMUZIQ.

Suggested fundraiser donation at the door is \$20 per person or love offering of whatever works for your budget. (Kids and newcomers are free!) We always pass the hat for the performers so please bring a little extra cash if you can.

Please click [HERE](#) to RSVP by Sunday, August 4 so we know how much food to make. Guests are welcome! The backyard is shaded. We'll have tables set up for eating. Please bring your favorite beverage and a chair.

# 8TH PRINCIPLE

## Putting Our 8th UU Principle into Action

In June 2022, the congregation formally adopted the following resolution:

*WHEREAS our seven Unitarian Universalist principles uphold the inherent worth and dignity of all people; demand justice, equity and compassion; foster acceptance of one another; seek justice for all; and require respect for the interdependent web of all existence; AND*

*WHEREAS pervasive racism, deeply embedded in the dominant culture, sometimes obstructs Unitarian Universalists from fully living into these principles,*

*THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of SW Michigan, shall also covenant to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.*

As we come to the end of the church program year, let's take a moment to see what progress we have made on our commitment to dismantle racism about build a Beloved Community that benefits us all.

In 2022, we launched our **Exploring Anti-Racism Group** to give congregants a place to learn more about systemic racism and how to counteract it. In 2023-2024, 16 UUCF folks participated in one or more of the monthly meetings. The group also hosted a watch party for the **ISAAC Fireside Chat with Layla Saad**, author of *Me and White Supremacy*. Nine UUCF folks joined that event and several more took copies of the book (generously provided to us by ISAAC) to read and study. Also thanks to ISAAC, our board member Mike Graham and our Director of Religious Education Miriam attended a 2.5-day **ERACCE Anti-Racism Training** and have brought the things they learned back to our community. Miriam also attended an **ISAAC Basic Organizing Leadership Training** led by Rev. Catoya Roberts. She was joined at the training by UUCF folks Regena and Eric Nelson and Barb and Ken VanEseltine.

We dedicated four **Sunday Services** to exploring aspects of race and racism. Three of these were led by people of color. In July 2024, **Rev. Harold** explored the legacy of the Civil War. In October **Ebony Peace** reflected on her personal experiences with the Black Lives Matter movement. In March, **Pamela Chapman** shared her beautiful quilts and spoke about the Underground Railroad. In June, **Levi Rickert** joined us to discuss Native American issues and history.

We continued to develop supportive relationships with BIPOC-led organizations in the community. We were enthusiastic supporters of the **ISAAC Walk, Run, and Roll** Fundraiser in September. We sent a team to participate in the walk and purchased an ad in the souvenir booklet. We supported the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP's **Freedom Fund Banquet** Fundraiser in November by purchasing an ad in the souvenir booklet. We also hosted the **MKB-NAACP Community Baby Shower Drive** to help combat Black maternal and infant mortality.

These are but a few small steps on a longer journey as we strive to live up to the 8th Principle promises we have made. May 2024-2025 bring us more opportunities to learn, grow, and change!

BUILD a  
diverse  
BELOVED  
COMMUNITY



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY



## General Assembly 2024

General Assembly (GA), the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles, met from June 20-23. GA 2024 was attended by 2,757 credentialed delegates from 734 congregations in fifty states; Washington, D.C.; Canada; the U.S. Virgin Islands; Mexico, France, and the Philippines.

This year's GA provided ample opportunities to explore our faith and lean fully into our mission. Our delegates Dawn Renner and Marsha Laya were asked to vote on several items including a significant Bylaw change, three Actions of Immediate Witness, one Business Resolution, and one Responsive Resolution. (Whew!) They met on Zoom with Rev. Gy and Miriam to watch over *ten hours* of business meetings and discuss the issues before voting. Here are the results:

**Business Resolution:** Business Resolutions at GA are significant. They have the power to set the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) core commitments. This year's Business Resolution ***Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex, and Gender Diverse People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values*** was overwhelmingly supported with 91.8% of delegates voting to adopt it. This was the first-ever Business Resolution in support of transgender equity for the UUA (although other statements of support have passed in prior assemblies.)

**Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW):** Delegates were asked to vote on three Actions of Immediate Witness. AIWs are statements about a significant action, event, or development in the world that necessitates immediate engagement and action among UU congregations and affiliated groups. Each of the AIW's ***Solidarity with Palestinians; World on Fire: Humanitarian Work and Climate Change;*** and ***Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of Covid-19*** passed with greater than the required 2/3 votes. Each AIW contains actions that the UUA, congregations, and affiliate organizations can take.

**Responsive Resolution:** Responsive resolutions are brief, advisory statements that express the sentiment of the delegates. They must be in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to a regular General Assembly. They are not binding and do not set policy for the Association. A group of Jewish Unitarian Universalists submitted ***UUA General Assembly Support for October 7 Hostages*** in response to the UUA President's Report which referenced the conflict in Gaza. The resolution called for the immediate release of all Hamas-held hostages and acknowledged "the real suffering of Jews within our Association and beyond." It passed with 77% of votes in favor.

**Article II:** Changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws have been discussed, examined, and debated for several years by UUs all over the country. In the final vote, delegates decisively voted to adopt a new statement of shared UU values. With 80% of voting delegates in favor of the changes, the stated values of our UU faith are now ***Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, and Transformation***, centered around ***Love***.

Many thanks to Dawn and Marsha for faithfully executing their duties as delegates and for representing UUCC well in the wider UU world. If you want to read more about GA 2024 visit [uua.org/ga](https://uua.org/ga)

# OPEN HOUSE THEATRE

AGES  
6-12



OPEN HOUSE THEATRE COMPANY

## KIDS THEATRE CAMP

.....  
JULY 29 - AUG 2  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
.....

Registration is going on now!

[tinyurl.com/OHTCKidsTheatreCamp](https://tinyurl.com/OHTCKidsTheatreCamp)



## Open House Theatre Company Needs YOU!

Open House Theatre Company is excited to be partnering with UUCC for our very first **Kids Theatre Camp**. The start of camp is only weeks away and we have three asks for our supporters at UUCC:

- 1) **Help send a kid to camp** with a \$35.00 donation to help cover our costs. To donate, you can send a check made out to UUCC with Kids Theatre Camp in the memo line to our building or click [HERE](#) to give online.
- 2) **Help us spread the word** about the camp by joining the "Flyer Brigade" to post camp info around town. Contact Mary at [lizoflynn@gmail.com](mailto:lizoflynn@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer.
- 3) **Share our posts** about the camp on social media! Visit our [Facebook page](#) and share our posts about the camp with all of your contacts on Facebook so that we can reach a larger audience. If you like our posts on social media, you will help generate interest in Open House Theatre Company, the Theatre Kids Camp, and UUCC! It is easy to do and benefits us all!

**Thank you, as always, for supporting Open House Theatre Company and UUCC.**

*Open House Theatre Company*

# OPPORTUNITIES

## A Brief History of Gaza with Rev. Harold Beu Thursday, July 11

### Onsite and on Zoom

Any discussion concerning the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is fraught with strong emotion and even disagreements about the facts. This brief session on the history of Gaza will attempt to shed some light on a subject that mostly generates heat.



Rev. Harold W. Beu is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister and high school teacher who taught history and civics. He has also taught the history of Israel/Palestine among other subjects at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU.

For the Zoom link visit

[tinyurl.com/uucchistoryofgaza](https://tinyurl.com/uucchistoryofgaza)

Co- Sponsored by Kalamazoo Interfaith Coalition for Peace and Justice and Kalamazoo Non-violent Opponents of War



## ISAAC Annual Meeting

Our justice partners at ISAAC ([Interfaith Strategies for Advocacy and Action in the Community](#)) will hold their Annual Meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 PM.

All are welcome to come to hear about and celebrate the Beloved Community Work of ISAAC!

To Join Zoom Meeting

[us02web.zoom.us/j/85275839669](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85275839669)



## Water Communion 2024

[Water Communion](#) is a unique Unitarian Universalist ritual traditionally held at the beginning of the church year that serves to remind us of our interconnectedness and celebrate our gathering together as a community. If you would like to participate in our 2024 Water Communion, please plan to collect a small sample of water from a special place you visit over the summer to add to a communal bowl in September. If you are lucky enough to be able to travel, the water can be from a lake, river, or ocean you pass along the way. If you are staying close to home, bring water from a pond, a fountain, or a backyard hose. The important part is that the water represents a place or experience that gives meaning to your life or provides sustenance for your soul.



# OPPORTUNITIES

SOUNDS OF THE ZOO THE XPERIENCE & HOPE THRU NAVIGATION

CONTACT  
OFFICEOFHOPEINFO@  
GMAIL.COM  
269/775.1221

PRESENT

## A TINY ZOO XPERIENCE JULY 11, 2024



Raising

# H O P E

For the Future

## MINGLE4SHINGLES

TO BENEFIT THE TINY HOUSES OF HOPE DEVELOPMENT

HOSTED BY:

THE TINY HOUSES OF HOPE COMMITTEE

### 5:01PM

### THE XPERIENCE

### 145 FARMERS ALLEY



Helping Other People Exceed





# JULY 2024



DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Tuesday	July 2	Qigong	9:00 AM
Saturday	July 6	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	July 7	Summer Sunday Forum: <i>What is Fear?</i>	10:00 AM
Tuesday	July 9	Qigong ISAAC Annual Meeting	9:00 AM 6:30 PM
Wednesday	July 10	Growth Team Retreat	1:00 PM
Friday	July 12	Women's Book Group Annual Meeting	12:00 PM
Saturday	July 13	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	July 14	Summer Sunday Forum: <i>What Are We to Make of Jesus?</i>	10:00 AM
Tuesday	July 16	Qigong	9:00 AM
Friday	July 19	Chat and Chill on Eagle Lake	5:00 PM
Saturday	July 20	Qigong 3rd Saturday Breakfast Group	9:00 AM 9:00 AM
Sunday	July 21	Summer Sunday Forum: <i>Who Can We Trust?</i>	10:00 AM
Tuesday	July 23	Qigong	9:00 AM
Wednesday	July 24	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Spiritual Growth Group	12:00 PM 6:30 PM
Saturday	July 27	Qigong	9:00 AM
Sunday	July 28	Summer Sunday Forum: <i>Is Every Person Inherently Worthy?</i> Tech Crew Meeting	10:00 AM 12:00 PM
Monday	July 29	OHTC Kids Theatre Camp	9 AM-4 PM
Tuesday	July 30	Qigong OHTC Kids Theatre Camp	9:00 AM 9 AM-4 PM
Wednesday	July 31	OHTC Kids Theatre Camp	9 AM- 4 PM

**Rest is sacred soul care.**

**We intentionally step away  
from the chaos of life.**

**We unplug from noise and distractions.**

**We relish moments of tranquility**

**- Dana Arcuri**



**UU Community Church  
is served by:**

Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney M.Div., M.A.  
Consulting Minister  
By Appointment Only  
[gyludvig@gmail.com](mailto:gyludvig@gmail.com)  
Cell: 269-352-2412

Miriam Epskamp  
Office Administrator and  
Director of Religious Education  
[uucommunity@gmail.com](mailto:uucommunity@gmail.com)  
Church office: 269-324-7262  
Cell phone: 269-993-8758

Chris Petersmark  
Music Director  
[christopherpetersmark@gmail.com](mailto:christopherpetersmark@gmail.com)  
Cell phone: 248-535-4197

**2024-2025 Board of Trustees**

**Steve Tasko**

**Eric Nelson**

**Mike Graham**

**Pat Fuehr**

**Kathryn Ragains-Wilson**

**The next Newsletter Deadline is  
Wednesday, July 24 at NOON**

Please send submissions to:

**[uuccnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uuccnewsletter@gmail.com)**

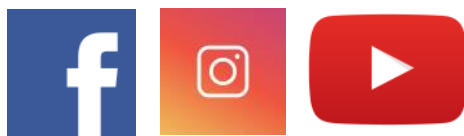
*CommUUnity Matters*

**Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
of Southwest Michigan**

10441 Shaver Rd.  
Portage, MI 49024  
269-324-7262



**CONNECT WITH US!**



[uucommunity@gmail.com](mailto:uucommunity@gmail.com)  
[www.uucommunitychurch.org](http://www.uucommunitychurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/uuccswmi](https://www.facebook.com/uuccswmi)  
[www.instagram.com/uuccswmi/](https://www.instagram.com/uuccswmi/)

