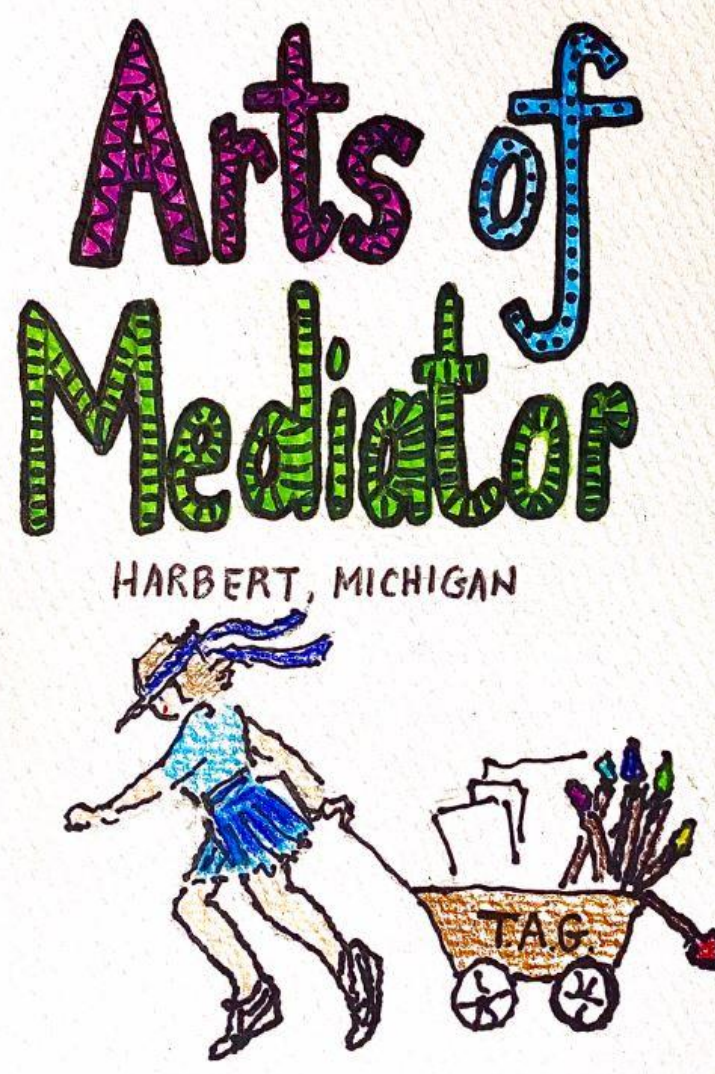


## History

In the summer of 2021 and within the community of [Episcopal Church of the Mediator](#), Jan Anderson, Julie Bender, and Phyllis Norris began an active ministry through visual art. Using the vision of Phyllis Norris, long time educator and Episcopalian who realized art was a natural spiritual connection for people, *Arts of Mediator* began with the creation of the [Tiny Art Gallery of Mediator](#). Similar in structure to a Little Library, the Tiny Art Gallery was built by Bill Card with help and support from Julie Bender, Phyllis Norris and Jan Anderson.

Using the Tiny Art Gallery as a venue, artists, including some of our own parishioners, are represented throughout the year. With the intent of displaying and offering art to anyone that passes by the tiny gallery, we are proud to say someone has visited and/or taken a piece of art every week since the gallery opened in Summer 2021. *Note: Julie Bender co-led a spring 2022 online session of [The Artist's Way](#)\* with the Reverend Cynthia Caruso, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Benton Harbor, MI. One of the participants was drawn to the course due to their knowledge and understanding of our Tiny Art Gallery.*

With the Tiny Art Gallery launched, we began to expand our vision; to promote awareness of our congregation through art activities. To help underwrite our vision, we applied for and received a Whittemore Foundation grant through the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan in July 2022. With the help of this grant, we are organizing art shows for our parish, and then opening the shows up to the community by inviting artists to submit work and the public to enjoy the art and our beautiful church building.



## History Continued

\*[The Artist's Way](#) is a deeply spiritual program that helps participants to become co-creators with the Creator. It is founded on the premise that all people are creative because they are made in the image of God, the Creator. It is also a great tool for discerning next steps. To learn more about The Artist's Way, click [here](#).

## Mission

To coordinate with the other Episcopal parishes of Southwest Michigan (South Haven, Saint Joseph, and Benton Harbor) and share display materials as well as works of art encouraging them to mount an exhibit or borrow an exhibition. The project includes the following:

- Community Art Shows
- Inclusion in Harbor Country's "Art Attack"
- Trainings for other churches / how to curate an exhibit
- Traveling visual art exhibit
- Arts of Mediator is an affiliation of artists who are passionate about their work as a way to enhance spiritual experience.

In examining our works of art, we try to discern how it resonates or illuminates some aspect of our faith; how it causes us to see the world and God's people in new ways; and how it nourishes our hearts and minds. We try to make meaningful connections among our faith, the works of art, and the artist. Visual art, music, drama and dance can help us to "see traces or hear echoes of God's far-reaching presence in the world." (*Relationship between Faith and Art*).

Arts of Mediator: [www.mediatorharbert.com/arts-of-mediator](http://www.mediatorharbert.com/arts-of-mediator)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TAGofM>

Instagram: [@thetinyartgalleryofmediator](https://www.instagram.com/thetinyartgalleryofmediator)