

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PETOSKEY

NEWSLETTER - October and November, 2021

Hello UU Friends!

How are you doing this late Autumn season? We have a lot of news to share. We are busy!

By now, you know about our new part time Minister Amy Brooks. We are happy to have her and look forward to her services and religious explorations in the coming year. She will be doing some of the triangle services on occasion too. Rev Alice is on board for continuing with us once a month and that is also good news. Things are looking up for our brave little congregation.

Your board has been working diligently on figuring out an in-person meeting space. We have permission to use the Presbyterian Church, but we are now struggling through the zoom technology. We want to be able to seamlessly zoom between our in-person and zoom attendees. It's tricky, to say the least. We will be taking an informal poll to figure out how many members may want to attend in person vs. staying on zoom. For some of us, the zoom platform has been a godsend (can I use that word in a UU newsletter?!) Please be patient with us as we work our way through these issues. I did not use the term "struggling" above lightly!

Remember when our quarterly giving was for Rev. Alice's prison ministry? Rev Alice wrote to thank us for our donation and showed one of the bags that our funds will support for women returning home from prison. The duffle bags contain toiletries and personal care items, towel and washcloth, shoes, socks and underwear, and two simble changes of clothing. We want to thank Rev Alice for all the good work she does with the prison ministry and Circles of Spirit.



Would you be interested in serving on a pastoral care committee for UUCOP? Minister Amy has skills in this area and has offered to help lead a pastoral care committee of sorts. I know there is a need for this on occasion and I, for one, feel woefully inadequate when I wish I could offer better help to our members and friends. Think about whether you can help with this, and we will keep pursuing it.

As we move into our Thanksgiving holiday time, I feel compelled to include a native American acknowledgement. We had a wonderful service recently where we learned about Indian boarding schools among other injustices. I will end with information about a National Day of Mourning for Native Americans that coincides with the Thanksgiving holiday. As we are enjoying our gatherings, turkey and fixings, we should spend some time with the entire concept of Thanksgiving and acknowledge the bigger picture.

The town of Plymouth, Massachusetts has erected a plaque for National Day of Mourning. The plaque reads:

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native Americans do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers. To them, Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of their people, the theft of their lands, and the relentless assault on their cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience.

Erected by the Town of Plymouth on behalf of the United American Indians of New England

See you in (zoom) church, Kim Nowack, your UUCOP Board President

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