



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PETOSKEY

NEWSLETTER - January 2022

Happy New Year UU Friends!

I'm writing this on the last day of 2021 and reflecting on our exciting year of achievements at UUCOP. Here are a few things we should all be proud of:

- Two new ministers! – we have Amy and Alice, each doing services and religious explorations for us now. Our already good services have become stellar in my opinion and the good reviews are being expressed at every service.

-We have a service or program four Sundays a month now instead of our usual three. This was a long-term goal of ours that moved front and center when we tapped into Amy and Alice's abilities to lead spiritual explorations and discussions.

-We have joined with our UU brothers and sisters in the Upper Peninsula for a "triangle service" each month, where we share the load of programming and the load of financing a good service. So far, we are all very happy with this arrangement and enjoy meeting our friends in the great white north.

-We became an official welcoming congregation this year! This was another long-term goal of ours that was pushed forward by our enthusiastic welcoming committee. This is an important designation for us and one we need to keep active and up to date as we remain alert for challenges to LGBTQ+ people in our communities.

-We have a meeting place reserved for the time when we can meet in person. This is a work in progress and if Covid would quit rearing its ugly head, we might actually start getting together in person again.

-We are fairly proficient zoomers. I think we do great, and our zoom

troubles are minor and certainly excusable. We have conquered the zoom tool and are using it to great advantage with wonderful music videos and connecting us together from all over the globe for UUCOP services. Amazing if you think about it. We have even been gifted a “zoom fund” from a generous member so we are well prepared financially for whatever equipment needs and expert assistance lie ahead for us.

-We are participating in our local community by being members of the Interfaith Common Ground group. We have a UUCOP representative at every meeting of this group and we contribute to the activities and decisions that are affecting our area.

These are some wonderful things we’ve accomplished in 2021 and there are more things to be proud of like our quarterly charity donations (*next quarter the UUA Social Justice fund for Immigration) and enriching our minds with our book club (next Jan 23, 1:30 p.m., zoom only). We keep up on justice issues in our area and share these with our membership.

We've added some wonderful new members this year and connected with former members as well. We continue in care and concern for the wellbeing of all our members. You should all be proud of our accomplishments, and I hope it makes you enthused for our future. We would love some help on our committees. Most of our committees are made up of board members now. Please consider joining the board or a committee. It’s fun and it gives you another opportunity to meet with your UUCOP family members and work on something good for our congregation.

A quote to inspire your 2022 from Michael Altshuler, “*The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot.*” Let us all pilot ourselves into a better 2022 by making good decisions with our health and boldly contributing to the betterment of our planet and our society to the best of our abilities.

Onward, my friends! See you in (zoom) church, Kim Nowack, your UUCOP Board President

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