

**Zoom Gatherings:**

[http://unitarianpetoskey.org/?page\\_id=6071](http://unitarianpetoskey.org/?page_id=6071)

Here comes the Solstice! the day when the year turns!

**Congregational Update**

**Our Upcoming services**

- December 18 our Winter Solstice night sky service with Mary Stewart Adams.
- December 25 We will not be holding services on Christmas Day. Enjoy your day off!
- And then, we will begin the New Year, January 1st, with virtual coffee and conversation at our regular service time (11:00 a.m.) Be thinking about sharing your experiences around making and breaking New Years Resolutions.
- Beginning in January, our "Fifth Sunday Surprise" outings will become a "Fifth Sunday Fellowship" -- a shared pulpit experience with other Mid-America UU Congregations. Kim is participating for UUCOP in planning these services, and in return everybody gets four Sunday programs "free." The first "Fifth Sunday" program will be on January 29, when the East Suburban UU church of Murrysville, PA, will discuss the First and Second Principles. UUCOP is up to bat for the Jul 30 service on Principles Five and Six. Be thinking of related content to contribute to Kim.

We are inviting all of you to take part in suggesting readings and hymns relating to the themes of our services. We know you read -- if you see something that moves you, jot it down and send it in to [audreyvcmullen@gmail.com](mailto:audreyvcmullen@gmail.com).

For example, Nancy is doing a service about Charles Darwin on Feb. 12. You could contribute stories about Darwin or quotes from his works. In January, some sermon themes are Religious Freedom Day, and Non-violence. Also for Amy Brooks fans, she will be preaching at the Jan. 8 triangle service, and prefers to choose her own service content.

**Planning for a Summer Retreat!**

**FLASH!** Let's have a R E T R E A T this coming spring or summer! In the past there have been several UUCOP retreats, but not recently. Those programs drew a lot of people, had just-for-fun activities, generated a number of ideas to improve how we get things done, and enhanced a sense of community so critical for small congregations such as ours.

There's a lot to do to make this happen. We need your input, and we invite you to help out with the planning. To start, how long a retreat should we have: a single day? A full weekend? Something else?

So... before you forget please let us know what we should do to make this a pleasurable, meaningful, and productive event. And please consider volunteering some of your time to help put the retreat together -- everything from choosing a great venue for the retreat, suggesting discussion topics, drafting handouts, whatever you'd like to do.

Respond to our congregational email, [petoskeyunitarians@gmail.com](mailto:petoskeyunitarians@gmail.com), or you might refer to your Vice-President, Tom Beukema, who has volunteered to kick-start the planning, at [tforb@core.com](mailto:tforb@core.com) or 231.347.3802

**Recent Happenings**

**UUCOP successfully completes Welcoming Congregation renewal**

UUCOP recently received a nice letter telling us that the renewal application which Joe and others provided to the UUA has led to the successful re-affirmation of our congregation as a Welcoming Congregation. A portion of the letter said:

Dear Members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey, Congratulations! You have successfully completed the Five Practices of Welcome Renewal for 2022. Sincere congratulations on your ongoing commitment to LGBTQ+ welcome and inclusion in and beyond Petoskey, MI. It was a pleasure to read about all you have accomplished and the powerful work you have done to ensure that UUCOP is meeting the needs of queer and trans congregants and the wider community.

**Special Service on Svalbard**

We had a wonderful service by Ron Vargason and Barb Sugden about their recent trip to the arctic at Svalbard with many wonderful pictures included.



**Co-Presidents' Report**

As we head into the holiday season, we can tell you that your UUCOP Board is continuing to carry needs of the congregation forward with energy and insight. During the past month, we have finalized our contract with Alice Diebel that calls for her to be very active with us through leading services, working with the program committee, and helping us have an effective representation at GA, among other actions.

We have created an ad hoc finance committee which has recommended several adjustments in how our actively-used funds are invested and have accomplished those changes. That committee is now actively researching how we might benefit from different long term investment strategies. One idea which is being researched is whether we should place funds in what are called ESG funds -- funds which focus on screening investments toward companies which consider Environmental, Social, and Governance outcomes of their policies.

Finance is one small effort of the board. In addition we have evolved our program committee into a highly dynamic and effective group which is sparking a high level of participation in each of our services. We've got some exciting services planned in the near future.

The congregation participated in the Petoskey Friendsgiving Thanksgiving dinner through a cash contribution.

Recently the board gathered in Onaway to sign holiday cards and discuss board actions. A good meal and lots of good work was accomplished.

We enjoy seeing you on Sunday mornings. Tell your friends to join us!

Mark and Nancy Kinney

**Fall Quarter Social Giving Focus**

**Planned Parenthood of Michigan**

The board has selected the Planned Parenthood of Michigan as our charity focus for the fall quarter. If you choose them as your special cause, make your final quarterly support for this agency before the end of the year.

**Winter Quarter Social Giving Focus**

**Anti-Defamation League**

The board has selected the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai Brith as our charity focus for the winter quarter. Take a little time and visit the Library's "Americans and the Holocaust" Exhibit. See below for details.

**Program Committee News**

The Board and particularly the Program Committee look for and joyously welcome your suggestions for planning and conducting our services. For you, which features of a service are most important? Spiritual content? More reverence? New ideas, knowledge, and ways of thinking? More music? Social and convivial atmosphere? More reference to and compatibility with the Seven Principles? Something else? Please keep in mind that UUCOP services are for you, for all of us. So, please speak out. Send an email to [petoskeyunitarians@gmail.com](mailto:petoskeyunitarians@gmail.com).

**Current UUA Action Efforts and News**

**UUA President Seasons Greetings**

Dr. Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, shares a blessing for the holiday season in the final year of her administration. A new president will be chosen at GA. The link below give further details.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgtwhaFFRS>

**GA Announcement**

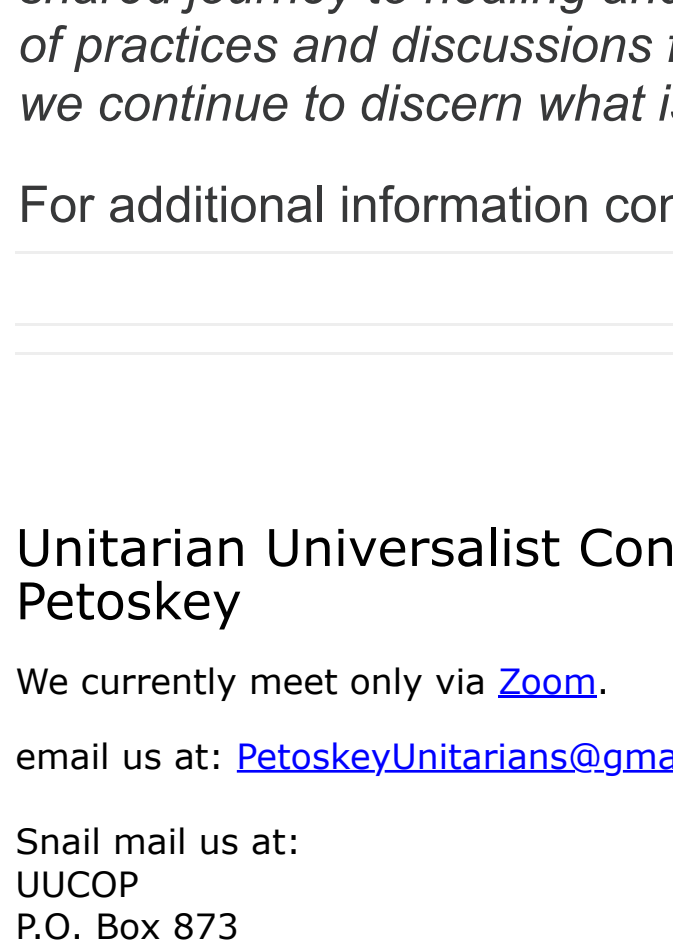


Join the UUA June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. If interested, please know that UUCOP is very interested in having at least 2 representatives attending. Contact UUCOP at [petoskeyunitarians@gmail.com](mailto:petoskeyunitarians@gmail.com).

General Assembly 2023 will be a multiplatform event, with registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation. In-person registration includes access to events scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh, as well as everything available to virtual registrants. Full virtual registration includes access to the GA app, as well as all on-demand programming, live webinars, and live-streamed events.

This month the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), our national organization, is promoting the actions planned for GA, and having congregations plan how they are going to participate whether in person, remotely, or not at all. This particular GA has a special interest for local congregations and UU's since there is deliberation through the spring about whether to move beyond the 7 principles we have lived with for many years, into a new focus which will be presented and discussed beginning in February. Stay tuned!! This is also the year for the election of a new UUA president.

**Election of New UUA President**



The UUA Presidential Search Committee (PSC) has nominated the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt as one of an unknown number of candidates for UUA President, for the 2022-2025 term. Rev. Dr. Betancourt is an experienced leader and theologian in Unitarian Universalism, including formerly serving as a professor at Starr King School for the Ministry, and as Interim Co-President of the UUA in 2017. The President of the Unitarian Universalist Association is the primary public and spiritual leader of Unitarian Universalism, as well as the UUA's Chief Executive Officer. They are tasked with helping to lead our Association on a path to Beloved Community, in which people of diverse backgrounds, identities and theological beliefs can thrive. The UUA Board of Trustees issued this statement in support of the PSC's nomination.

**Local Events of Interest**

**Longest Night Event: December 21, 7pm**

Northern Michigan Interfaith Common Ground will host a "Longest Night" Winter Solstice service at the Carnegie Building on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. You are also invited to other festivities taking place at Poetess and Stranger (445 E. Mitchell) beginning at 5 p.m. Dec. 21.

Typically, those who wish to participate offer what they would like to do; a poem, reading, bit of music, etc. Since this is my high holiday, Audrey writes, I usually participate but am otherwise committed that night.

Would anyone else like to represent UUCOP? Contact Ryan Donohue at the Presbyterian Church, [pastor@petoskeypress.org](mailto:pastor@petoskeypress.org). The service is in person only at 7 p.m. There will be a pre-service gathering at Poetess and Stranger beginning at 5 p.m.



The NMICG (Northern Michigan Interfaith Common Ground, a name change) is sponsoring a series of in-person gatherings in January. They are hoping to interest "marginalized people" -- whatever that means. UU's? People without a faith community?

Don't know, but sounds interesting. For more information, [contact](mailto:contact)

**Petoskey District Library - "Americans and the Holocaust" Exhibit**

January 5 - February 14



The Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association will be at the Petoskey District Library from Jan. 5 to Feb. 14. Joel Mason-Gaines, United States Holocaust Memorial

Docents are needed for the *Americans and the Holocaust* exhibition coming to Petoskey in January 5-14. If you are interested, reach out to Ann Ingles, at [abingles@hotmail.com](mailto:abingles@hotmail.com) or (231) 347-4425.

**The My Oasis Center**

The My Oasis Center is planning on offering a series of events on 2023 which may be of interest, beginning with.

beginning in January 2023

## The Gathering

2nd & 4th Tuesday each Month

7-8p The Carnegie Building

Creating an inter-spiritual space:

- for our stories to be shared
- our beliefs to be explored
- and community to be nurtured

[info@myoasiscenter.org](mailto:info@myoasiscenter.org)

On their website the Oasis Center describes themselves as,

*"We are birthing a center for spirituality for Northern Michigan. We are a diverse group of sojourners, whose paths have connected. We invite you to join us on this shared journey to healing and wholeness. My Oasis Center will offer a wide variety of practices and discussions from a variety of traditions. These are early days and we continue to discern what is needed and what each of us can offer."*

For additional information contact [info@myoasiscenter.org](mailto:info@myoasiscenter.org).

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey

We currently meet only via [Zoom](https://zoom.us).

email us at: [PetoskeyUnitarians@gmail.com](mailto:PetoskeyUnitarians@gmail.com)

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