



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PETOSKEY

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2020



Greetings from my desk in isolation!

How are you all doing in your own isolation? Have you discovered ways to keep yourself entertained, connected and sane? I've seen many of you at our weekly zoom sessions, Sunday's at 1pm, so I know that some of you are embracing the technology and connecting with your UUCOP family. Others of you, I have been missing and wondering about. If you have a computer, you can zoom with us. If you have a tablet, you can zoom with us and if you have a phone, any kind of phone, you can call into the zoom meeting and connect with us by voice. Many people are zooming on their smart phones for video and voice. It works great! If you need help zooming in, just let us know, and we can walk you through it. We'd love to see you, or just hear you.

We are anticipating staying away from the chapel through May at least. We are trying to think about ways to maintain our social distancing while we are there. That is one item to conquer, but we also have the fact that the chapel shares use with several groups and how do we deal with that? Meanwhile, I encourage you to look at our website for links to other online services around Michigan. We've been attending them together as a group since mid-March but now we are attending freestyle and each going where we choose. We will gather for our own UUCOP mini-service at 1pm each Sunday to light a chalice, share joys and concerns, sing a song or two, and have a chat to keep up on the news. The link and phone number for our UUCOP mini-service is also on our website.

http://unitarianpetoskey.org/?page_id=6071

The isolation, or at least social distancing will be continuing into our future. This might

cause our June annual meeting to be a virtual meeting. We don't know for sure, but your board is thinking through all the aspects of how to accomplish that. Speaking of the annual meeting, we've been working on the slate of officers. We have openings for secretary, program chair (an assistant has already volunteered), and a minister search committee member. We are forming that committee since it takes a congregational vote to do so and we may want to see some action towards hiring a minister in the coming year. Just thinking ahead. Your board asks that you PLEASE consider joining us in one of those roles. Simply put, we need your help.

Our charity for this quarter is the Manna Food Pantry. Due to their great need during the pandemic, we are sending them our donation before collecting the money. That means we need to collect the money! We are still checking our mailbox regularly, so you are safe to send in your check for the food pantry and for our church functions. We are still paying rent, etc. – UUCOP, P.O.Box 873, Petoskey, MI 49770

Did you celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day? I think the entire Earth got a great gift this year of cleaner air, clearer waters, less consumption of natural resources and a general calming of our globe that came with the isolation. We do not have to run around, multi-tasking to the nth degree in order to thrive. We can calm ourselves, stay put, and contribute to the healing of our planet and help lessen the virus spread all in the process. Pretty amazing, to heal the planet and ourselves by our inaction. There is a lot to think about, for another time, though, or for your contemplative times at home.

I'll leave you with a quote that was shared recently by our UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray. She said, "We pull through this by pulling together." Let's all pull together by supporting our UUCOP community, staying connected with each other, staying put, and being mindful of how we can make our new habits of social distancing work for us going forward into our new future.

Stay healthy and see you in (zoom) church, Kim

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