



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PETOSKEY

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2020

Greetings to my fellow Pandemic Warriors,

We are all warriors fighting this pandemic and our weapons are calmness, endurance and perseverance. Doing nothing is our most effective weapon against this foe. Sounds easy, right?



Well, it is actually not easy, as we are finding out. There is something elusively difficult about it. I can't quite put my finger on it, but it is creeping in on me, causing sleepless nights and a general sense of unease. It could be a fear of the unknown and a fear of the known that we see on our evening news. I do find comfort as I look out my window at all the wildlife in the woods and on the lake. The critters and vegetation don't know about a pandemic and they are carrying on normally as Mother Nature intended. While the rest of us will be negotiating a "new normal" in our future, the natural world will be carrying on, business as usual. Yay for our Mother Nature!

Our weekly Zoom sessions, Sundays at 1pm, have been getting more sophisticated and I hope you will join us to see what is going on with UUCOP. We are starting to have fuller services now with sermons, hymns and everything. It is so nice to see our UUCOP family on Zoom and hear all the news. It really helps maintain important connections. You can Zoom with us on any kind of device including just a smart phone. 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. The link and phone number for our UUCOP Zoom services is always on our website and in the email you receive a few days prior to the service. If possible join the meeting a few minutes early so we can begin promptly at 1 pm. You can join as early as 12:45.

Hope you can join us for our June 7 service called "New Faces, New Opportunities: India 2020" led by the Kinneys, and on June 14 for a small group discussion on the topic of curiosity led by the Palms. And, get your reading glasses polished up to read the next UU book group selection of "*An Indigenous Peoples' History of the*

United States”, which is also the UUA common read for 2020. You can order the book from the UUA’s bookstore. My own copy is on the way.

We will be staying away from the chapel through June at least. I know we keep extending it, but that is our reality now. The isolation will turn our June 21st Annual Meeting into a virtual 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. I will say it again, we need your help.

Our charity for this quarter is the Manna Food Pantry. We are still checking our mailbox regularly, so please send in your check for the food pantry and for our other church obligations to UUCOP at PO Box 823, Petoskey MI 49770. We are still paying rent, etc.

Have you always wanted to go to the UUA’s General Assembly? I have. This year is a good opportunity to do just that. The 2020 GA will be virtual, registration is reduced down to \$150, and you will attend from the comfort of your own home. We have money in our budget for two people to attend so you could have an all expenses paid trip! Some of us have already signed up and we can all have a virtual carpool where we compare notes and split up to cover the breakout sessions. If you are interested, just send in an email to any board member or to the uucop@icloud.com address.

I’ll leave you with a prayer from the UUA web site’s weekly inspiration area.

Great Silence which holds us all, help us to rest in you now. In the quiet, may our healing begin.

Let us view the quiet as healing and embrace the silence as a comforting blanket. This is our way forward.

See you in (Zoom) church, Kim

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey
P.O. Box 873
Petoskey, Michigan 49770
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