



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PETOSKEY

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2021

Hi Friends,

Happy 2021! We have made it, and our future is looking up. As I'm writing this, our new President is being inaugurated on "democracy's front porch" in our nation's capital. I have such high hopes when I watch the Biden cabinet taking shape and hear all the great plans they have. All the diversity in the cabinet is so wonderful to see. And a new cabinet member from the Office of Science and Technology!? What!? We must be in a dream. Or rather, we are waking up from a nightmare. Feels great to have things to look forward to again. The evening news should be a bit less stressful to watch.

Have you gotten your vaccines yet? Many of our members are getting theirs. More hopeful news! Good luck to you all in getting your appointments and getting your shots quickly.

We have promising news to report from our Wildwood sale effort. Roger is fielding a serious offer on the property and if all goes well, we will have more money in our building fund and good news to report. We are following the congregation's directions from the special meeting we had regarding the sale and staying within those parameters. Keep your fingers crossed.

Our current quarterly giving is for food insecurity. We are splitting our quarterly collection evenly between Manna Food and the North Central Michigan College Campus Cupboard. The NCMC Campus Cupboard is a food pantry for students. All walks of life are experiencing food insecurity during the pandemic, some for the first times in their lives. The numbers of meals that have been given out by Manna during the pandemic is staggering. If you visit their website, they show just where our money will be going.

Your Welcoming Committee has been attending online webinars about how to achieve official UU Welcoming status. It seems we are nearly there! A take-away from these seminars: even in a community where there seems not to be much interaction between the LGBTQ and straight communities, it is in our best interest to educate ourselves. When our "skills" are up to date (and this is a fast-evolving culture), we can be prepared to

interact in appropriate and constructive ways. This is how bridges are built to replace walls.

Check out the great programs coming up in our zoom services. To finish out January, this Sunday we will have a coffee hour at 1pm followed by a book club meeting at 2:30pm. Just use the normal zoom link on our website for the book discussion (the one you use to come to church on Sundays). In February we will hear about MLK and learn about "Building a Beloved Community", we will hear Rev. Alice Diebel tell us about "Siding with Love" and we will learn about "Living the UU Legacy". More info is listed on our website. Hope you can join us at 1pm on each of those Sundays.

In closing, I leave you with two quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr, "*Let no man pull you low enough to hate him.*" This seems like hard advice when we look at what has happened in the past few weeks. Another of MLK's quotes is "*Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.*" Keep love for your fellow man (all of them!) at the front of your heart as you look forward towards our bright future. It's so bright, you're gonna need shades!



See you in (zoom) church,

Kim Nowack, your UUCOP Board President

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