



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PETOSKEY

NEWSLETTER - Aug. & Sept., 2021

Hello everyone!

Boy, what a lot of news to share with you. I've been so busy; the news has built up on me. Sorry about that!

We have hired a part time minister!! This has been a long process preceded by a very long time of "should we?, or shouldn't we?". We finally had members willing to tackle the daunting process of hiring a minister and we were lucky enough to get interest in the profile we posted online through the UUA website. Starting in October, Rev Amy Brooks will be our part time minister. She will be doing a service a month and an adult RE each month. I hope you've had a chance to review some of Rev Amy's services online. I'm very excited about this and look forward to having her join our brave little congregation.

We also have Rev Alice filling our pulpit once a month and we are all happy about that. Her services are very well received, and they always prompt good discussions. UUCOP is looking up in the programming area lately. Yay for us!

Did you attend the potluck at Audrey and Ray's home? What a beautiful place on Pickerel Lake to enjoy each other's company and share some good food. The weather was blazing hot, so we were huddled in the shade trying to cool off. There was even a drumming session, thanks to Audrey for providing the instruments for that! We had a well-rounded meal and even had drinks choices from around the world, thanks to Gary. Fun!

In some news from our interfaith community, Roger Srigley, the ex officio representative for UUCoP, and Gary Sydow, attended the 13th September monthly meeting of the Interfaith Council Common Ground with the representatives of the United Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The Council expressed appreciation for UUCoP support for the Northwest Michigan Public Health authorities who had recently been challenged by a number of Emmet County Supervisors for their opinion on mask mandates in school. Discussions were held about further actions on this subject, and they also entertained Roger's proposal that the Council solicit a briefing by the Director of the Habitat for Humanity ongoing project (UUCoP's Q3 Outreach Target). This group is becoming a value to our community, and we are happy that UUCOP has a part in it! Thanks to those that are helping to keep us involved.

Our current quarterly giving is for Rev. Alice's prison ministry that supports formerly incarcerated women in their re-entry process. To learn more about this charity, visit: <http://circlesofspirit.org/> Rev Alice spoke about her prison ministry at our last Sunday service. It was recorded if you couldn't attend. It was another great service and discussion. **We will be collecting for Habitat for Humanity starting in October.** If you have a charity you would like to suggest for our future giving, we would love to learn about it.

UUCOP Book club meets on Oct 24th at the Petoskey library at 1:30 pm. We are reading *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain. It seems like this book fits many of us who identify as introverts. Read the book and find out! You will be getting an email from Tom with details of the meeting which will be both in person and by zoom.

Your board has had some success with finding a meeting place. Another informal visit was made to the proposed in-person meeting venue at the First Presbyterian Church on Mitchell Street. Roger Srigley facilitated the visit by our Joe and Betty Palm who examined the possible Zoom hook-up to a service in the room, and were advised by the Methodist Churches technical advisor, and the technical coordinator of the First Presbyterian. Gary Sydow attended as an observer. The room and facility seem compatible with possible future UUCoP In-Person services that will also have a zoom component. Keep your fingers crossed!

Emily Bronte said that *"Every leaf speaks to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."* What are the autumn leaves saying to you as you watch them change color and fall to the ground? For me, it means taking a deep breath after the hectic pace of summer and taking some time for reflection and peace. I'm wishing you peace as we move into the glorious fall season in our beautiful northern Michigan home.

See you in (zoom) church, Kim Nowack, your UUCOP Board President

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