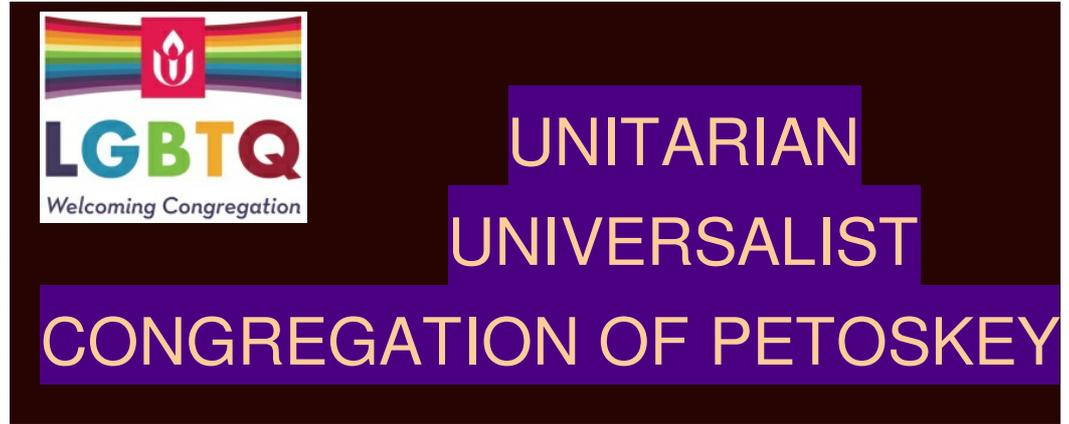




November 2022

Newsletter



Zoom Gatherings:

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

The first full month of Autumn is past. A time when we watch the leaves turn, begin to fall. Octoberfests, Devils' Night and Halloween, Yom Kippur, United Nations Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day, and for those who still care, Columbus Day. Crisp, sunny days, starlight nights.

Between raking leaves and starting to prepare for winter, Some of us are soon to leave or even have left for the annual "snowbird" migrations, even at we watch the start of similar avian species doing the same. Even if hundreds of miles away, some continue to participate in UUCOP services.

Presidents' Report and Congregational Update

We, Nancy Kinney and I, were elected presidents in June and have been settling into our role with the very dynamic group of leaders from last year, and the new ones who have come on at the same time. Our team now includes Tom Beukema, Vice President, Kim Nowack, Secretary, and Judy Clock, Treasurer, as well as some trusted advisors, Audrey McMullen and Gary Sydow.

Whew, the number of efforts which are on-going within this little congregation is amazing! With a membership in the low 20's and associate members of

about 30, this group certainly gets involved in a myriad of actions!

Since we joined the Board, we have responded to a woman who was seeking overnight accommodations for a few nights. In that case we referred her to appropriate agencies. We authorized payments for several of our leaders, we transitioned our treasurership, and we continued our partnership with our Triangle associates in the U.P.

We have adjusted to the ending of our year-long ministerial relationship with Amy Brooks because of her no longer being available for that kind of service until she moves along to the next step in the UUA ministerial appointment process. We have a continuing and deepening relationship with Alice Diebel and are finalizing an expanded role for her during this coming year. We are excited by Alice's apparent interest in so doing.

With the help of Kim Nowack, who has been active in a cooperative small congregations initiative, we will help coordinate leadership for a series of fifth Sunday programs in 2023 which will highlight the 7 principles of the UUA and help us learn more about each one.

The congregation's next special effort will be to help the Northern Michigan Interfaith Common Ground provide a Thanksgiving Dinner for the Community Friendsgiving Meal on November 20th. Stay tuned to see how you can help.

As we move into the winter months, attendance at our services often dwindles a bit, even with Zoom. Your UUCOP Board is grateful for and proud of the many ways you assist and participate in our services. Now that Amy Brooks has moved on to other challenges and adventures, your involvement becomes even more important. Please let us know how you want to serve.

Mark and Nancy Kinney

Fall Quarter Social Giving Focus -- ACLU Michigan

As The board has selected the ACLU of Michigan as our charity focus for the fall quarter. As past president Kim Nowack recently said,



"Hi, here is an article about the ACLU of Michigan and book bans. There are links in the article to the actual letter the ACLU wrote to all the schools. We can be thankful that we've supported the ACLU and we might be able to scoop some language from the article and link for our own purposes." Kim

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2022/11/01/aclu-of-michigan-urges-schools-to-reject-book-bans/69611378007/>

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.

Current UUA Action Efforts

This month the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), our national organization, is promoting two important initiatives. One addresses the worldwide climate crisis – some say climate emergency. UUA has been working with several other organizations to plan and carry out various activities this month – actually on an ongoing basis.

The Environment

As you surely know, the crisis is caused by excessive use of fossil fuels (primarily) and other sources of carbon in our atmosphere. A scientific consensus posits that current levels of atmospheric carbon are already a major cause of weather-related extremes such as more major forest fires, extended droughts, major hurricanes, temperature extremes, floods, etc. Many adverse health, nutrition, economic, and other changes are already

impacting a huge proportion of the world's population.

While actions such as installing solar panels and switching to allelectric vehicles can have a positive impact on the climate crisis, advocacy and other political action is continuously imperative. Political and business decisionmakers must prioritize climate issues in their planning and implementation of major policies and strategies. Too many minimize or totally ignore what's right in front of them. Re-directing their gazes is a daunting, but needed, effort.

UU the Vote

The second UUA initiative is called "UU the Vote", <https://www.uuthevote.org/>, which is guided by state UUA networks to stimulate voters' interest in certain political issues. Federal regulations prohibit private nonprofit organizations such as UUCOP from supporting or opposing political candidates, but we are allowed to support or oppose political issues. The key issues in this initiative are (1) to maintain or improve voting procedures in order to assure equality in voters' rights and election procedures; and (2) to advocate for laws or (state) constitutional amendments which guarantee the rights of women to make their own healthcare decisions, notably re reproductive rights. As you surely know, Supreme Court decisions (as well as other poltical actions) have led to often controversial actions by state and even substate governments.

Michigan-Specific Efforts

<https://www.facebook.com/MUUSJN/>

<https://www.uujustice.org/>

You should be aware that Proposal 2 in the November ballot concerns voting rights, and Proposal 3 concerns women's reproductive rights. The UUA in Michigan, MUUSJN, is also supporting approval of Proposal 1, which mandates legislators and government officials to submit financial disclosure reports, and which would require overall term limits for legislators. We are all urged publicly to support passage of all three proposals in any ways we can, from letters in newspapers to knocking on neighbors' doors

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Sue Schulze

UUCOP member passed away September 12, 2022



Longtime UUCOP members are saddened by the recent death (at 100 years old) of Sue Schulze. After a long and rich career as archivist, historian, activist, and other pursuits, she retired to a lakefront home near Good Hart.

Many of us recall the wonderful picnics she and her companion Bob Stern organized around Independence Day. A celebration of Sue's life was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley, Colorado (and simultaneously over Zoom) on October 15, 2022. Receptions

followed in Greeley and Sherman, Colorado.

Among her designated charities are the League of Women Voters and the Petoskey/Harbor Springs Community Foundation. There will be a memorial service in Good Hart this coming August.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey

We currently meet only via [Zoom](#).

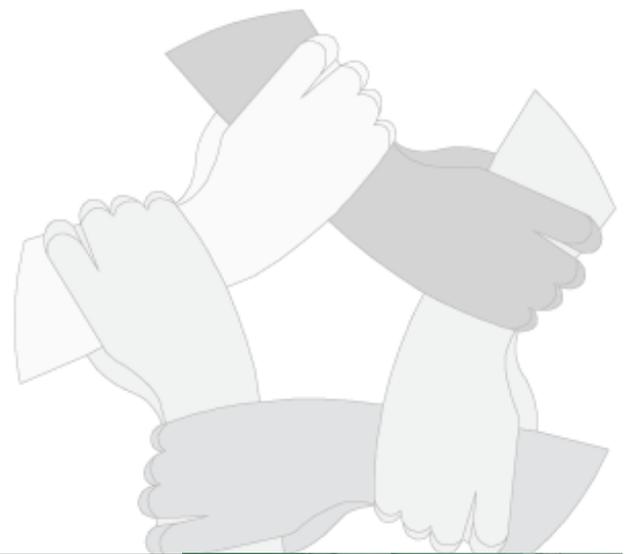
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