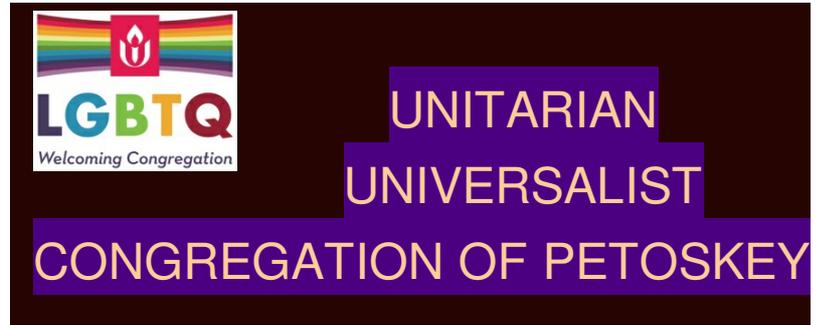


November 2023
Newsletter



Zoom Gatherings:

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

Congregational Update

Our Upcoming services (all virtual except November 26)

- November 26, Thanksgiving Dinner pot luck at Carnegie Building 11 AM. Turkey and fixings provided.
- December 3, Advent/Expectation and Hope with Rev Alice
- December 10, Triangle service, The gift of water
- December 17, Solstice with Kim Nowack
- December 24, Coffee hour, discussion and short video

Musings from the Minister

Musings from the Minister

Season of Gratitude^[1], Rev. Alice Diebel

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be upon us, a holiday that, taken at its basis of “thanks” offers an opportunity to change the world. Gratitude is a spiritual practice that softens our hearts, moves us towards reciprocity, and builds relationships. Joanna Macy says that gratitude is the first part of the spiral that turns the world towards justice and sustainability.

And then there is the complicated history of Thanksgiving as a story misremembered. The image we were taught of the table where American Indians (Wampanoag people) and the Pilgrims sat together and shared turkey is nice to tell! But we all know well that the new settlers quickly became colonizers, doing their best to take from the Wampanoag people. Was there a relationship? Yes. Was it idyllic? Far from it.

But let us take Macy’s^[2] advice and develop a spirit of gratitude this season in the hope that we can turn the world. I invite you to take her seven sentence starters and go around your kitchen table finishing them.

By Rev. Alice Diebel

[1] Artist unknown

[2] Macy, Joanna & Chris Johnstone (2012) *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in with Unexpected Resilience & Creative Power*. Revised Edition. Novato, CA: New World Library, pp 41-42.

1. I love...
2. I'd like to thank...
3. Looking at the future we're heading into, my concerns include...
4. Facing these concerns, what inspires me is...
5. Looking at the future we're heading into, what I deeply hope for is...
6. A part I'd like to play in support of this is...
7. A step I'll take toward this in the next week is...

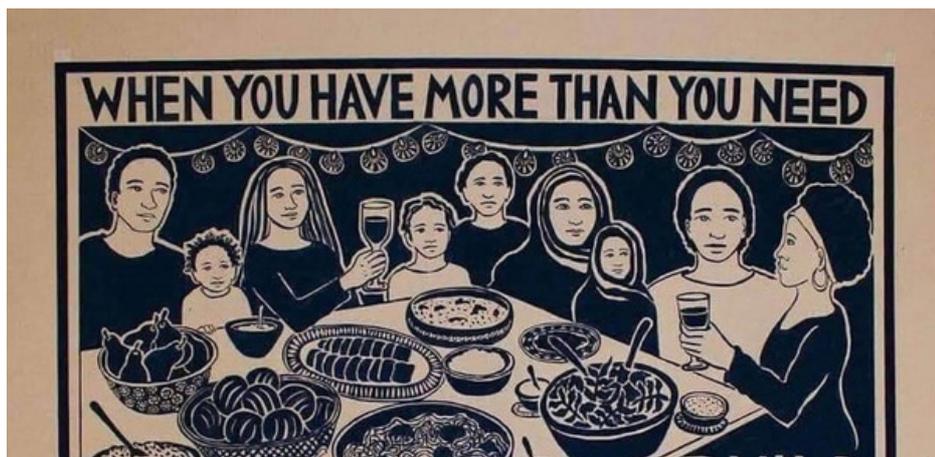
Blessings to you all during this season of gratitude. May the gifts we share be abundant.



Join us at the Carnegie Building,

Sunday November 23, 11am

for a potluck dinner focused on Turkey and the trimmings (supplied by congregation).





One approach to giving during this season is through the Guest at your Table giving of the UUSC's.

[Guest at Your Table](#)

UUSC's longest-established fundraising and educational program for congregations.



Come Join in the Service Planning

We are inviting all of you to take part in suggesting readings and hymns relating to the themes of our services. We know you read -- if you see something that moves you, jot it down and send it in to audreymcmullen@gmail.com.

We welcome the pleasure of your attendance at the **virtual** letter writing campaign together with the UU congregation in Traverse City. The effort is to send supportive letters to those UU's who are currently incarcerated to bring hope and caring messages. See the announcement below.

What will I do, you say? To join in, you will need a printer, paper, envelopes and stamps, enough for 5 - 10 letters. We will be given directions as to how to physically create the letters on the day of the event if not before.



HOLIDAY CARD WRITING
FOR INCARCERATED UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
SAT. DEC 2ND 11 AM TO 1 PM VIA ZOOM

MEET SOME OTHER UUS IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN &
DO SOME GOOD AS WE WRITE HOLIDAY CARDS
& SEND JOY TO UUS.

BRING SOME STAMPS. PRINTED GREETINGS (TEMPLATES). A PEN.
AND YOURSELF! AN ONLINE COLLABORATION BETWEEN
UU GRAND TRAVERSE & UU PETOSKEY!

LINK: [TINY.CC/UUCARDS](https://tiny.cc/uucards)

 uucgt.org | unitarianpetoskey.org

The flyer features a light green background with illustrations of envelopes, houses, and Christmas trees. A decorative border of colorful squares is at the bottom.

Co-Presidents' Report, What's "Trending" at UUCOP?

Dear Friends,

As we head into the holiday season it is such a joy to have such a tremendous core group of friends who continue to make UUCOP a vibrant and loving community. Thanks to all. We continue to produce interesting and stimulating services, led by our minister Rev Alice, while mindful of the challenges of the technology we use. Our participation in the "triangle" services once a month, and our 5th Sunday collaborations both invigorate us. Many thanks go to Kim for nurturing both of those ventures. We even have one of the members from there participating in the study group this fall, which, by the way, is allowing the

participants to deepen our relationship with each other and understand ourselves even better. Thanks are due to Rev Alice for suggesting this and leading us. This fall, our quarterly giving was very robust as we were able to contribute over \$1000 each to libraries in St Ignace and Presque Isle. Joe Palm provided us with a nice graphic to be used in each donated book noting that UUCOP had donated it. The UUA's "Article 2" discussion progresses and you will hear more as time goes on till 2024 General Assembly.

All that said, we still do have our challenges. Our core is strong, but our gathering in of new people is pretty limited recently

in or how people is pretty limited recently.

We have a couple of nice upcoming events planned. The soonest is our Thanksgiving pot luck on November 26. We are providing the turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry-orange relish, coffee and tea, others will be bringing everything else. We know one member is bringing hors d'oeuvres and a dessert, but we can use more of either, as well as Thanksgiving side dishes, such as potatoes, vegetables, etc.

We look to see you there if you want great company and food!! We'll be meeting at the Carnegie building at 11?

Let's re-focus on the question that we have considered so many times: How can we grow our congregation? For those of you who attend now and then, a question - what would have you want to participate more often?

Are all members receiving UU World? Ours showed up with lots of information and encouragement for those we "welcome" as a welcoming congregation. If something strikes you in a special way, let us know and we can start a conversation about it.

Recently the board discussed the need for a second sandwich board sign announcing that we are meeting on Sunday morning. We see a need for one more similar sign, one for the front and one for the rear of the Carnegie building entrances. Can you build a sign for us? email Mark at mark.kinney@emeritus.utoledo.edu if you can help.

Mark and Nancy Kinney



Fall Quarter Social Giving Focus

The giving focus for the quarter from October to January is Big Brothers and Sisters of NW Michigan



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.

Send an email to petoskeyunitarians@gmail.com.



Dear Leader,

Every year, each congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association is asked to give a financial contribution to support the wider movement and sibling congregations across our Association. This contribution supports the Annual Program Fund, which is the single largest source of income for the work of our UUA. Our support of one another strengthens the covenant among us.

Your congregation gave the **full requested amount** to the Annual Program Fund during this fiscal year 2024. **This means you are an Honor Congregation, honoring the covenant between and among our congregations.** THANK YOU!

Your giving is a concrete expression of our congregations' covenant with one another, and is a recognition that we are not alone, but are part of an Association of Congregations. This support allows the UUA to serve the diverse needs of the 1,002 member congregations across five regions. **Congregational giving through the Annual Program Fund (APF) makes the work of the UUA possible.**

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Extends our appreciation to the

UU Congregation of Petoskey

In

Petoskey, Michigan

WITH RECOGNITION AS A

2024

10+ Honor Congregation

For Participation in the Annual Program Fund

Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Ph.D.
President
Unitarian Universalist Association

Norrie Gall
Congregational Giving Administrative Director
Unitarian Universalist Association



Local Events of Interest



The Gathering

2nd & 4th
Tuesday each
Month

7-8p
The Carnegie
Building

Creating an
inter-spiritual space:

- for our stories to be shared
- our beliefs to be explored
- and community to be nurtured

Dismantling White Supremacy Culture Resource of the Month

Rev. Phillip Lund, Congregational Life Consultant



The UUA has introduced a new online hub of connection, resources, and support for UUs dismantling racism and oppression. Dubbed [The Mosaic](#), this website fosters belonging and liberation within Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities through resources, programs, training, groups, and gatherings.

Link: https://www.uua.org/mosaic?mc_cid=0f7e8a19e6&mc_eid=95bf025729



Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 4 pm PT/ 5 pm MT/ 6 pm CT/ 7 pm ET

The Winter Solstice occurs when Earth's axis tilts away from the sun, making it the shortest day and longest night of the year for those living in the Northern Hemisphere.

Join us the evening BEFORE the Winter Solstice for music, reflection, meditation, and spiritual grounding.

On this longest night, we will be featuring the work of the [Energy Democracy](#)

Project and sharing a portion of our offering with them. Let's work for light for all on the longest night of the year. Our service is part of the larger arc of Clean Energy as a Human Right being led by Side with Love.

Register Here For. the Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcumurzgvGNfGw4IsyIL9eG3tGfc3ZGaL#/registration>



Current UUA Action Efforts and News



Join Us for GivingTuesday – the Global Day of Giving on **Nov 28, 2023**

Supporters like you make it possible for us to provide spiritual care for activists and advocates—we couldn't do it without you. I hope you'll join us!



Love Unites, Stories Ignite

In a world filled with division and challenges, the theme for this year's General Assembly is a powerful reminder of the core principles that unite us as Unitarian Universalists. "Love Unites, Stories Ignite" celebrates the profound impact of love as a binding force that transcends boundaries and fosters connections within our faith community and beyond.

Our faith has always been rooted in the power of storytelling, and this year we'll explore how our stories can ignite

change, inspire compassion, and help us build a more just and equitable world. Through storytelling, we share our experiences, our dreams, our struggles, and our triumphs. It is through these stories that we can find common ground, deepening our understanding of one another and the world around us.

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024.

Public Videos from GA 2023



Regardless of registration status, everyone can view and share the [Public Videos from GA 2023](#). Public Videos include all General Sessions, plus three mainstage worship services: Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Service, and Sunday Worship.

Link to the Public videos from GA: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2023>

Join UU Ministry for Earth on the Full Moon so we may all find time to ground, recenter, and imagine what is possible in a world in need of repair. There are readings, a short reflection, time for individual contemplation, and sharing in small groups. Together, we nourish our spirits for the work of environmental justice. To draw us more closely into alignment with Earth-based philosophies, we follow the [Lunar Calendar](#) and gather, via Zoom, on (or near) the Full Moon.



7:00-8:00 pm ET

6:00-7:00 pm CT

5:00-6:00 pm MT

4:00-5:00 pm PT

Zoom link is always the same

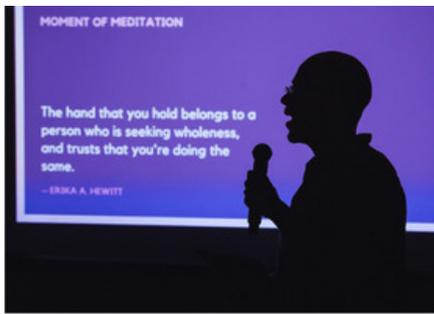
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3248332840?pwd=SXVScWlESzJlY9PMWkTXVkJnpjZz09>

Active link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3248332840?pwd=SXVScWlESzJlY9PMWkTXVkJnpjZz09>

Call for GA Program Proposals





We are excited to invite program proposals for the 2024 Virtual General Assembly's on-demand library. We welcome submissions from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, with a special emphasis on historically marginalized communities, people of color, and the voices of our youth.

Your proposed programs should offer enriching learning and skill-building experiences, all while aligning with our designated focus areas. Let's collaborate in creating an inclusive and impactful virtual experience for all. The program proposal deadline is Friday, January 12, 2024. Join us in shaping the future of General Assembly!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey

We currently meet via [Zoom](#) and the occasionally in person.

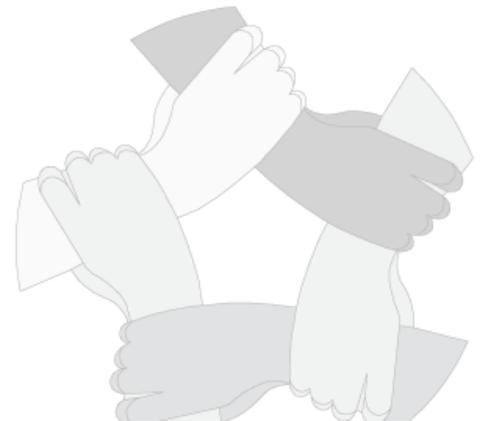
email us at: PetoskeyUnitarians@gmail.com

Snail mail us at:

UUCOP

P.O. Box 873

Petoskey, MI 49770



[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

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US

vertical DELIVERED BY
response
Try It Free Today!