



Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation  
of  
Petoskey

## NEWSLETTER July 2025

**Let's get together!** *There's a lot going on this summer. Pick what appeals to you. Let's get to know each other better and enjoy some quality time together. Bring your family and friends!*

**Coffee and Conversation--Wednesday, July 23, 10:00 a.m. at Roast & Toast, 560 W. Mitchell Street, Petoskey**

Buy yourself a beverage, and maybe some food. Join your fellow UUs and UU friends in informal, friendly conversation. Look for our blue t-shirts.

**Sunday Sunset Sound Bath--Sunday, July 27, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Offield Family Viewlands, 995 Hideaway Valley Drive, Harbor Springs, MI 49740--Weather Permitting**

This is a public event hosted by Yoga Roots of Petoskey. A donation of \$10.00--or homegrown produce or flowers--is requested at the site. Please register to attend at <https://www.yogarootspetoskey.com/events-and-retreats>. Bring anything you need to be cozy resting on the earth: yoga mats, blankets, pillows, bug spray. If you can't make it to the ground, bring a lawn chair. Prepare to immerse yourself in the soothing sound of bowls, gongs, and chimes as the sun goes down over Little Traverse Bay. This is the ultimate relaxing meditation! Consider coming early to walk the labyrinth for even more of an opportunity to slow down.

**Interfaith Service: Honoring the Waters--Friday, August 8, 1:00 p.m., Pennsylvania Park**

Sponsored by Northern Michigan Interfaith Common Ground. UUCOP is a Common Ground member. Let's wear our blue t-shirts and show our support while enjoying a meaningful outdoor service.

**Odawa Homecoming Pow Wow--Saturday, August 9, 1:00 p.m. Grand Entry, LTBB Pow Wow Grounds, 7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, 49740 (Rain Site: Petoskey High School)**

This is a free, public event. Let's get to know our native American neighbors while we enjoy an afternoon of colorful dancing and powerful drumming. Wander the food and craft vendors for interesting finds.

Before you come, check out the Odawa pow wow webpage at <https://odawahomecoming.weebly.com/> to learn about the dances that you will see and proper etiquette for attending a pow wow, as well as the latest updates to the schedule.

***Brunch at the Bakery--Saturday, August 16, 10:00 a.m. at the Dutch Oven Bakery, 7611 US-31, Alanson 49706***

Join Rev. Alice and host Gary Sydow for coffee and conversation at this tiny, much-loved bakery, in business for 90 years. You'll find a menu offering a selection of coffee and other beverages, doughnuts, French pastries, and even a full breakfast. Knitters and crocheters, note that a yarn shop is attached!

***Planning Session--Sunday, August 17, Carnegie Building, Petoskey***

Let's spend the day together: worship with Rev. Alice in-person at 11:00 a.m., potluck lunch at 12:00 noon, planning beginning at 1:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your best ideas for UUCOP's future. Please try to attend in person if at all possible. Zoom will be available for those who require it.

***Book Group--Sunday, August 23, 2:00 p.m. Charlevoix home of Ron & Barbara. In-person & Zoom.*** We'll discuss The Power of Ideals: The Real Story of Moral Choice by William Damon & Anne Colby.

**Sunday Services** *Some special services are planned. Come to nourish your spirit, to learn something new, to be in community, and to be inspired to live our UU values.*

**July 20, 11:00 a.m. In-person & Zoom.** A Quaker-ish service of quiet meditation.

**July 27, 11:00 a.m. In-person & Zoom. *Live in the Pulpit.*** Putting Down the Rose-colored Glasses. Amy G.S.A. Brooks describes herself as a fat, cisgender, queer, Australian-born poet and pastor who loves a good cup of hot tea and hates mornings. She is also the beloved former minister of UUCOP. She returns to Petoskey to read her powerful poetry from her brand new book, *Burnt Offerings: Wilderness Readings for Lectionary Year A*.





**August 3, 11:00 a.m. In-person & Zoom. *Live in the Pulpit.*** Grief.

Hilary Lake, a local healing arts community minister, touches tenderly on the blessings of transformation that, in their own time, can emerge from grief.



**August 10, 11:00 a.m. In-person & Zoom.** Meet the Moment--How Our Association is Helping Us Do Just That. Rev. Alice Diebel, Kim Nowack, & Audrey McMullen attended the UUA General Assembly this year, and they will discuss how UUs are preparing to "meet the moment," armed with the powerful inspiration of our faith lived loud.



**August 17, 11:00 a.m. In-person & Zoom. *Live in the Pulpit.*** Future thinking: How do we create and catch an inspiring vision of UUCOP? Join our own Rev. Alice Diebel for a look at how we "meet the moment" right here in northern Michigan. Stay after the service for a potluck lunch and afternoon planning session.

## **Fall Retreat Registration Deadline: JULY 15**

### **September 19-21**

Please register to attend by July 15 at <https://forms.gle/VwH3LJBWc2hfMmb57>. . Plan to meet UUs from Petoskey, Marquette, and Bay de Noc for a weekend of fun and fellowship at Garden Grove Retreat and Lodging, 6411 State Street, Garden, MI, 49836 in the Upper Peninsula.

To receive a 15% discount on lodging, please reserve your room [here](#) or call 231-622-5026.

Delicious meals are available for \$65: Friday supper, veggie lasagna, \$25; Saturday lunch, build your own slider & potato salad, \$15; Saturday supper, chicken alfredo (or vegetarian), \$25. Meals include beverages, salad, & dessert. Complimentary breakfasts

are provided, or you may purchase a hot breakfast from the Grove Coffee & Cafe. (For dietary concerns, please contact Garden Grove at least two weeks in advance.)



## Musings from the Minister, Rev. Alice Diebel

Your Unitarian Universalist faith is making its values known! If you have been concerned about the way immigrants are being treated, the way trans people are being treated, and the erosion of our democracy, then you are not alone. UUs all over the world are also concerned.

Your UUCOP Vice President Kim Nowack and I attended the UUA General Assembly (GA) as your delegates this year in Baltimore, Maryland. The theme this year was, “Meet the Moment” and we are! The delegates at the assembly passed several public statements that we can use to take action in our own communities. These Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) provide the imprimatur to speak with the authority and backing of the entire association. The votes were overwhelmingly in favor of these AIWs.

We supported, “Declare and Affirm: Immigrants are People Who Have Inherent Worth and Inalienable Rights.” Our congregational members are encouraged to learn more, support, speak out, amplify, show up, and document incidents of the use of force or other action by ICE (Immigration, Customs Enforcement). What immigrant-led organization might we partner with to support individuals affected by these excessive government actions?[\[1\]](#)

We supported, “Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism: Reaffirming Our Covenants for Democracy and Freedom.” In the current assault on our institutions and defiance of Congress and the Judiciary, our nation is teetering on the edge of Authoritarianism. UUs are being called on to build the infrastructure for democracy in our communities. Our UUCOP presence at the No Kings rally and the Pride Parade are examples of actions that reaffirm our commitment. What democracy-oriented organizations might we partner with to protect and assist people who have been disenfranchised?[\[2\]](#)

We supported, “Defending LGBTIQ Freedom Amid Funding Crisis: A Call for Global Solidarity.” Many of us have watched with dismay as the LGBTIQ community is being oppressed and erased. Trans people are particularly at risk. The government aid to other nations is at risk of being completely eliminated, rescinded. This aid includes HIV prevention and treatment programs. In the US, cuts will affect the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline used by many LGBTIQ youth. We are being asked to learn, organize and advocate for the support for a community that has been too-long oppressed.[\[3\]](#)

---

[1] <https://www.uua.org/action/process/2025-proposed-aiw-all-people-have-inherent-worth-and-inalienable-rights>

[2] <https://www.uua.org/action/process/2025-proposed-aiw-faithful-defiance-authoritarianism>

[3] <https://www.uua.org/action/process/2025-proposed-aiw-funding-global-lgbtq-freedom-amid-crisis>

## June Recap

A congenial group of 5 met for Coffee and Conversation at Roast & Toast on Tuesday, June 24. We had a fun conversation and yummy coffee and food! Don't miss our second Coffee of the summer on Wednesday, July 23.



A small group represented UUCOP at the Petoskey Flag Party and Pride March on Sunday, June 29. Our t-shirts were noticed! We were thanked for our support of the LGBTIQ+ community, and we were able to answer a few questions about Unitarian Universalism.



**The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey**

*An open-minded, welcoming spiritual community*