



NEWSLETTER Fall 2025

Sunday Services

Autumn has arrived, and we have a few special in-person/zoom (hybrid) services for you before we curl up to participate in our Sunday services on Zoom only from the comfort of our own homes during the winter. In-person services are held at the Carnegie Building, 451 E. Mitchell Street, Petoskey, MI 49770. Or, you can join on zoom [here](#).

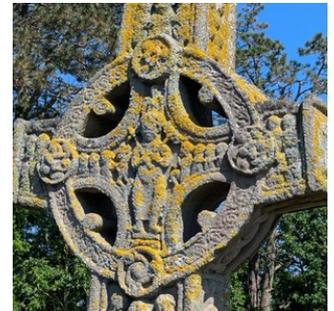


Sunday, September 28--InvestMitt

An InvestMitt founding board member, Derek Shiels explains how you can invest in your own community instead of far-away Wall Street. A dedicated group has been studying for two years to find a way to underwrite desperately needed housing while providing return on investment. Hybrid.

Sunday, October 5--Ireland: Its Unique Story

A secular travel talk to transport you to this little green island of lush landscapes, rolling hills, barren rocky fields, dramatic coastlines, vibrant cities, and age-old historic sites that were home to Celts, Vikings, and Normans before they became today's Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Presented with lots of pictures, stories, and information by Barbara Sugden and Ron Vargason. Hybrid.



Sunday, October 12--Transforming Hearts

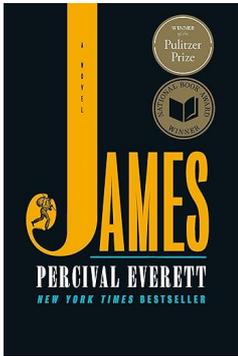
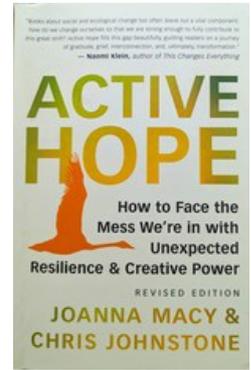
A "triangle" service shared with our partners at Marquette and Bay de Noc UU churches. Rev. Alice Diebel will tell us what we need to know about the anti-trans movement. Zoom only.

Sunday, October 19--Transcendentalist Movement

This movement originated in the early 19th century by a group of free-thinking Unitarians. Their writings were influential in the American struggle for racial, gender, and social justice and shaped progressive religion. Our guest speaker, Dr. Kathrine Lovell, will teach us all about it. Hybrid.

Sunday, October 26--Active Hope

Rev. Alice Diebel will explore "how to face the mess we're in with unexpected resilience & creative power," from the book *Active Hope* by Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone, recently completed by a small UUCOP study group. Zoom only.



Book Group

Sunday, October 19, 1:30 p.m.

Petoskey Public Library

Basement Class Room

or on Zoom [here](#)

The Book Group will discuss the 2025 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, novel *James* by Percival Everett. It's the story of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* told from enslaved Jim's perspective. It's a fast-paced emotional

roller coaster of a read that will leave you crying for justice, freedom, and the right for each one of us to be our authentic selves. Everyone is welcome! Hybrid.

Task Force Appointed

As a follow-up to our planning session in August, the UUCOP board has appointed a Task Force to hire a part-time assistant minister or similar. Gary, Alice, Nancy, and Larry will comprise the group that will work closely with the board to survey the congregation, write a job description, and interview candidates for this new position. We're moving forward to better share our UU values in our community!

Beloved Community

We had a great time this summer gathering for Coffee and Conversation at Roast and Toast and for Brunch at the Bakery at the Dutch Oven Bakery in Alanson. We got to know each other a little better, and we had fun laughing and learning together.



Audited Financial Statements

The Finance Committee audited the financial statements for 2024-25.

Here are the balances in our accounts at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2025:

Credit Union	
Checking Account	\$ 20,484.32
Prime Share	100.14
Money Market	7,911.77
Oxford Annuity	\$ 21,791.00
Fifth/Third Bank	
BF Certificate 1 yr 7/30/2025	\$ 44,552.48
Certificate 6 mo 7/13/2025 C	75,000.00
Certificate 6 mo 7/13/2025 D	30,520.31
TOTAL	\$ 200,360.02



Musings from the Minister

Rev. Alice Diebel

Unitarian Universalism has a message that centers love among values such as justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence, and generosity. These values provide guideposts for how we live in the world. In this era of division and brutality, our values need to shine brightly as beacons of change. UUs can counter the oppression that surrounds us by being who we are, loud and proud!

The connections UU Congregation of Petoskey is cultivating with other congregations is one way we can make a louder, joyful noise. This past weekend, the three congregations of the "Triangle" - Marquette, Bay de Noc and UUCOP came together for a retreat. It was an opportunity to rest, to meditate, to talk, to send postcards to Congress, to make crafts, to worship, and to learn. If you missed it, consider joining us next year, the third weekend of September.

This kind of gathering encourages me to think of energizing gatherings outside of Sunday morning services. Would you join other UUCOPers for a local Saturday retreat? Let us continue to get to know one another and support one another. Let us grow our voice for justice and equity. Let us deepen our spiritual connection with the divine. Thank you for being part of the vibrant future we envision.



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey

An open-minded, welcoming spiritual community

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