



Coming up this Sunday, February 15, 11:00 a.m. Zoom only



Triangle Service with Bay de Noc, Marquette, and Petoskey UU congregations

30 Days of Love

Rev. Alice will talk about love, the center of UU values. What does it mean to have 30 days of love, or 64 days of love, when we need 365 days of love.



World Central Kitchen is one of the major organizations fighting hunger in Gaza. This week, it announced a milestone: It is now serving one million meals in Gaza every day.



UUCOP supports World Central Kitchen!

We take a special offering each week to support social justice work. The recipient of the special offerings in January - March is the **World Central Kitchen**, which serves chef-prepared meals to communities impacted by natural disasters and during humanitarian crises.



UUCOP shares Fifth Sunday Fellowship creds in UU World publication

“Wholesome, collaborative, and good”—that’s how Lisa Napier describes the Fifth Sunday Fellowship, a joint worship team of five women representing small UU congregations in the mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

The group plans and leads a live-streamed virtual worship service shared by their congregations about four times a year, in months that have five Sundays—hence the name. One member coordinates planning and leading the service, but they all brainstorm in monthly virtual meetings.

For the women involved, it’s been a touchstone and a support. “These women have become very important to me,” Resh said. “We talk about hard things, and the world is hard right now, but when we come together, we are among women with very compatible and similar beliefs and values.”

“Congregations don’t have to do everything all of the time,” Petoskey UU member Kim Nowack said. “There is so much help for small congregations, and partnering is a wonderful thing.”

In 2021, many congregations were just beginning to resume in-person worship after the height of the pandemic. UU staff from the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions encouraged Napier to put out a call seeking UUs who wanted to work together to lead worship. The result was Fifth Sunday Fellowship, which debuted its first collaborative worship in 2023.

The current group consists of Napier, a UU in Maryland; Shannon Resh, a member of UU of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Kim Nowack of the UU Congregation of Petoskey, Michigan; Susan Weber of the UU Church of the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania; and Marie Laberge of the UU Fellowship of Newark, Delaware. The East Suburban UU Church in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, was also involved for a time.

What started as a "way to fill Sundays" for small congregations is now much more. It was becoming a burden for lay leaders to plan and lead worship every Sunday so this experimental model began to provide a bit of relief.

"The first thing we did was to make our covenant, which was to bring our best to worship, to show up, and to tell the truth in a collaborative way," said Napier. "It's special to be in a place where everyone is dedicated to bringing their best, with the understanding that sometimes on a bad day your best isn't very good."

Napier believes the group could be a model for other collaborative worship efforts but stressed that it requires commitment and a willingness to be flexible. For instance, the congregations have different technical abilities and worship times, so the person coordinating the service determines both the time and the technical details.

Petoskey, a congregation of twenty members on Lake Michigan, has integrated the collaborative model even further. In addition to Fifth Sunday, it also works with Marquette UU Congregation and the UU Bay de Noc Fellowship, both on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, to offer a joint virtual worship service once a month. The Triangle Congregations, as they refer to themselves, have also held joint retreats.

"There's so much help if you reach out, and you don't have to do this alone," Napier said.

-- CHRISTIAN

SCHMIDT 2/10/2026



You and your friends are invited to join us on Zoom!
Have a watch party and meet with us every Sunday via Zoom.
(Bring your own coffee and donuts)

To join us, please click the link below to go to our website Zoom gatherings tab:

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

and then click on the red "here" to join.



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

Your offerings are gratefully received as they support the work of this congregation in our community, our state, our nation, and the world.

Please send your contributions to

UUCOP
P.O. Box 873

Petoskey, MI 49770

We also take a separate contribution for a charitable organization. Our quarterly giving recipient January - March is the **World Central Kitchen**, which immediately serves chef-prepared meals to communities impacted by natural disasters and during humanitarian crises.



Letter to the Editor

Rev. Alice and your UUCOP board has sent the following letter to editors of local newspapers for publication:

Respect and Justice for Immigrants

Speaking on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey, we applaud the statement put forth by the Petoskey City Council that the City does not have a memorandum of understanding with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and does not participate in the federal government's 287(g) program. We join others in encouraging City Council to strengthen that stance by passing a resolution to that effect, stating clearly the City WILL NOT participate with ICE beyond local law enforcement responsibilities. We encourage your continued leadership in this direction.

ICE has not been engaged, as they claim, in lawful actions to apprehend dangerous immigrant individuals who have committed crimes and are a threat to public safety. Rather, they have conducted a lawless campaign of terror and brutality on American citizens and non-citizens alike.

Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth, dignity and inalienable rights of every person. Immigrants, and those suspected of being immigrants, being persecuted by ICE are our fellow human beings. They are our neighbors. They contribute to our society and economy, enrich our culture and they deserve respect, dignity and justice. Those seeking asylum or permanent residency deserve to have their cases justly heard.

We thank City Council for taking a step to make Petoskey a safe and welcoming community, and we encourage the Emmet County Board of Commissioners to take similar action.

Respectfully,

Reverend Alice Diebel, Larry Dyer, Barbara Sugden, Kim Nowack, Diane Lake and Audrey McMullen,
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey Board of Directors

Know Your Rights

The American Civil Liberties Union provides [this list](#) of your rights and how to react effectively when they are under threat. You always can find this list on our home page too.

Coming Up

February 7 - Tip of the Mitt Collaborative 1-3:00 p.m. at Carnegie building.

February 12 - Committee on Shared Ministry meets on zoom at 3:00 p.m.

February 15 - Book Group. 1:30 p.m. Zoom only. The book: Wounds: A Collaborative Memoir in Stories is about the triumphs and the pains experienced in Razel Jones' (African American) and Daniel Abbott's (Caucasian) collective journey toward cross-cultural navigation. Jones and Abbott explore the concepts of Race, Difference, and Cross-Cultural navigation through stories beginning with their youthful experiences in rural northwestern Michigan. (Book is printed only when ordered, so give yourself at least 10 days to get the order through McLean & Eakins booksellers in Petoskey.)

February 15 - Valentine's Day was yesterday -- hope you didn't miss it! Rev. Alice believes wholeHEARTedly that it's never too late to create valentines in our lives. UUs to everybody: will you be mine? ❤️

February 18 - UUCOP Board meets on zoom at 7:00 p.m.

February 22 - How to love the world? We ask, and Bob Lewis explores some of the possibilities. We may look at our ripped and bleeding earthly home with its deep visible wounds and even deeper hidden wounds, and feel overwhelmed by sorrow and shame. Bob says this is no time to give up. This is time for grace and renewal.

Planning Ahead



June 14-21 - UUA General Assembly: *Meeting the Moment: Together Everywhere*. Registration is open at <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>, and you can choose how you want to participate this year. Join from home, gather with your congregation, attend a Satellite Site, or be part of the live audience at the Studio Site in Louisville, KY. Read more [here](#).

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey
An open-minded, welcoming spiritual community



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