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UUCOP This Week

Wednesday, March 11, 2026



Image Credit: Mark M (Pexels) "Ice Formations on Lake Michigan in Winter"

With Love from Rev. Alice Diebel

Dear friends,

At times when it seems the world is on fire, it can help to look for the glimmers of hope that come with spring: warming temperatures, buds forming, and flowers and plants beginning to push through the earth. Mary Oliver asks us in her poem, *Spring*, "There is only one question: how to love this world." May you find the space to do just that.

In the spirit,

Upcoming UUCOP Services

March 15: *The Vernal Equinox: A Time of Balance.*

We observe the Vernal Equinox, a time when dark and light are in perfect balance -- for a flash of time. UUs do not strive for perfection, but are always striving for balance. In a Zoom circle today we will discuss the things that throw us off balance and the practices that help bring us back.

March 22: *Transgender Rights and Politics.*

Imara Jones was the honored Ware Lecturer at last year's UU general assembly. We will share a video of her compelling comments this week. Jones has won both Emmy and Peabody awards for her work as a political journalist and transgender rights advocate.

March 29: *Paying Attention Mindfulness in Trying Times*

Rev. Alice Diebel

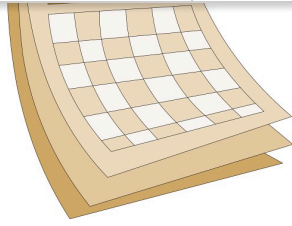
Fifth Sunday Fellowship

Join us on Zoom for Sunday Services at 11:00 am

To join, click [here](#) for or follow the "Join the Service" button below for Zoom gathering information. Once you have accessed the webpage, click on the red "here" to join.

[Join the Service](#)

2026 Triangle Congregations Retreat



Triangle Congregations Retreat!

Dates: Friday, October 16 (evening) to Sunday, October 18, 2026

Registration information coming soon!

UU Webinar Series

The UUA Is Working For Us: It's Small Congregations Month!

Time for us to strengthen our strengths. [Register](#) on the UUA website for one or all of the online workshops that are being offered in March and we'll share notes in April.

Dates & Times:

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm EDT

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm EDT

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm EDT

[Register for the Webinars](#)

UU the VOTE 
Ignite Solidarity, Reimagine Democracy ★★ ★

MARCH 12, 2026 CONVERSATION WITH UU

the Vote Staff

Amid the rubble of collapsing systems and trampled norms, we find the strongest and most essential elements of democracy — people showing up for one another, building belonging, and refusing to abandon hope.

As we approach Election Day 2026, let's not only build democracy, but cultivate the trust, relationships, and shared values that sustain it.

You're invited to **join UU the Vote 2026 staff on [March 12 at 4pm PT / 7pm ET](#) for a 90-minute Zoom conversation on safety, security, and spiritual grounding and how it connects with the moment we are in.** We'll explore how to enhance our community safety and transform the exercise into a spiritual practice that nurtures and sustains, rather than stresses and exhausts.

[Register for UU the Vote](#)

Meeting

The Petoskey UU book group will be discussing [What if We Get it Right](#) by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson.

Time: 1:30-3:00 pm

Location: Petoskey Public Library, Lower Level Classroom



McLean & Eakin Bookstore is ordering several copies of the April featured volume, with expected delivery of 7-10 days. Tom will alert you all when they've arrived. Keep in mind that it's 400 pp. long. Questions, invitations, etc., call Tom Beukema at 231.550.1403. *Place, date, and time are subject to change.*

Petoskey Community Events

March 15: Stitched Together

Something to help you expand your community, organized by the new Tip of The Mitt Collective (TOTMC). Bring your mending and meet others with needles and patches every third Sunday at the Petoskey Public Library, Lower Level Classroom.

March 28: NO KINGS! Protest Rally

Hosted by NoMiIndivisible
 11:30am-11:50am: Congregate at the Bayfront Park clock tower. Bring flags, signs, costumes, noisy things, etc.
 11:50am: Words of encouragement, inspiration, and motivation.

April 7: NoMiIndivisible Candidate Forum

Details TBA

Fundraiser: Immigration Law & Justice

Join us for **music, song, and fellowship** as we raise our spirits and funds to support the legal fund for our immigrant neighbors!

We are fund-raising for the Immigration Law & Justice Michigan Traverse City Branch. ILJ Michigan provides free and low-cost immigration legal services in Michigan. All proceeds to benefit ILJ Michigan! For more information, please visit <https://www.iljmi.org>

March 15th
Chapel of Our Guardian Angels
812 Petoskey St.
(corner of Fulton and Petoskey St.)
1:30 PM - 4 PM
Music starts at 2 PM

Donate to the Traverse City Immigrant Justice Fund here

Hosted by The Chapel of Our Guardian Angels

Immigration Law & Justice Michigan

Thank you!

On **Sunday, March 15**, you are invited to join the fundraiser for the Immigration Law & Justice Michigan (TC Branch).

Location: Chapel of Our Guardian Angels, 812 Petoskey Street, Traverse City

Time: 1:30-4:00 PM with music starting at 2:00 PM



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