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*We are a welcoming congregation that celebrates diversity,
strives to advance equity, and is all about inclusion.*

UUCOP This Week

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

**With Love from Rev.
Alice Diebel**

Dear Friends,

In these difficult times it is hard to turn away from the world and take time for yourself. At least it is for me! I am reminded of E.B. White, who said, "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve (or save) the world and a desire to enjoy (or savor) the world. This makes it hard to plan the day." We all need to take time to savor the world.



you all soon!

In the spirit,
Rev. Alice

Image: E.B. White and his dog, Minnie.
Courtesy: White Literary LLC.

Upcoming UUCOP Services

Regular services are held by Zoom
and in-person on **Sundays at 11:00
AM.**

Our physical meeting location is **North
Coast Works Building, 417 Howard
Street, Petoskey.** Come in-person and
stay for coffee and conversation



Image above: 417 Howard Street, Petoskey



August 23: Action of Immediate Witness: Defend Against the Assault on Environmental Protections.

Continuing our summer series focusing on environmental topics, Caitlin Donnelly of the **Little Traverse Conservancy** will join us to share the work of the Conservancy—keeping large tracts of land out of the development pool and caring for smaller gems that need protection from climate change. Caitlin will offer ideas we can take home, plus she will let us know more about Conservancy volunteer opportunities. Together, we will maintain the land we love.

August 30: Fifth Sunday: Choosing Hope in the Time of Chaos.

In chaotic times, choosing hope is a vital spiritual practice. Maria LeBerge explores Joanna Macy's concept of "active hope" and how UU congregations are uniquely equipped to lean into this tradition today. **Service begins at 10:30 AM with this special Zoom link.** PW: Joyful. You are invited to attend in-person.

In-person attendees are invited to join the Labyrinth Walk at the Petoskey District Library at 12:30 PM.

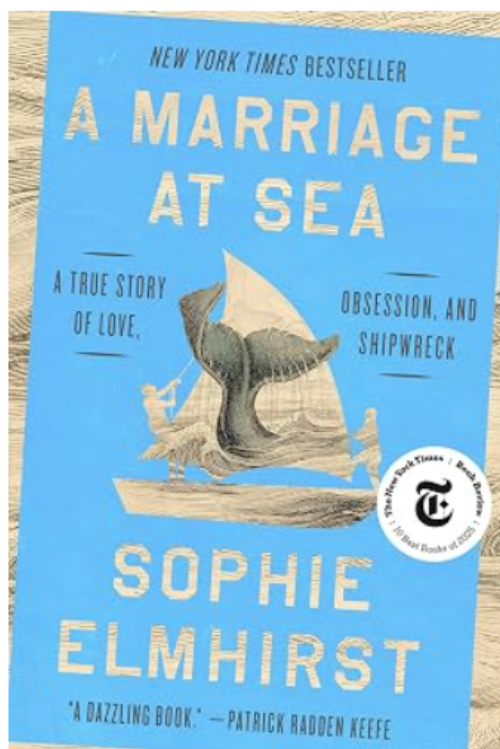
September 6: Labor Day.

No service scheduled.

Joining Sunday Services by Zoom

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.

UUCOP Book Club Briefing



September Book Club Selection

The September Book Club selection is [A Marriage at Sea: A True Story of Love, Obsession and Shipwreck](#) by Sophie Elmhirst. Our winning nomination was suggested by Marla Houghteling, who will be hosting our next meeting at **1:30 PM (updated time!) on Sunday, September 20.**

Tom Beukema has asked McLean & Eakin to order several copies of the September pick.

November Book Club Nominations Are Open!

It's time to submit your recommendations for our November read. The September runner-up, *Abundance: A Roadmap towards a Brighter Future for America* (Klein & Thompson, 2025), is already on the ballot. Have a title in mind? Please send your nomination to **Tom by Saturday, September 12.**

- Complete book title
- Author name(s) and/or editor(s)
- Publication date
- Number of pages (excluding end-notes, index, etc.)
- Brief summary of the volume.

Questions, suggestions, complaints, etc? Call (231.387.3166) or email Tom directly.



UUCOP Request for Proposals

DEADLINE EXTENDED: September 30, 2026

Please share!

UUCOP is accepting proposals for projects intended to improve and enrich the lives of people in the Petoskey and surrounding areas, especially addressing the needs of:

- Children and families
- Youth

That said, we will consider other ideas that address environmental or social justice concerns. We are interested in meaningful engagement, and not simply charity.

Initially we are seeking initiatives with a projected 1-year timeline, with the potential for something longer term. **Any proposed project should be consistent with the UU values.**

You are invited to share this RFP widely with your personal and/or community networks.

Send your initial proposal (up to 2 pages) to petoskeyunitarians@gmail.com or to PO Box 873, Petoskey, MI 49770, by **September 30, 2026**. We will review all proposals received by that date.

Please see the **revised** [request for proposals](#) for more information about this UUCOP community initiative. We are looking forward hearing your ideas!



**September 17: UUCOP Coffee &
Conversation @ Julienne Tomatoes**

*Ranked the #1 restaurant in Petoskey with a 4.7/5 rating on TripAdvisor, **Julienne Tomatoes** is a destination deli known for fresh, locally sourced ingredients and outstanding service. From their famous Tomato Bisque to inventive takes on classic fare, they offer something delicious for every diet."*

Calling & Connection: Invitation from Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)



Details: This gathering is a chance to join with other Michigan UUs and friends who care about justice and want to do something tangible. Together, we will:

- Share information and practical strategies
- Build supportive relationships across our congregations and communities
- Practice how to communicate clearly and effectively with elected officials
- Take action together—right then and there.
- More information is [available here](#).

Date: Wednesday, August 26 (Regular meetings held on the 4th Wednesday)

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom; register using the button below to obtain the link.

Register

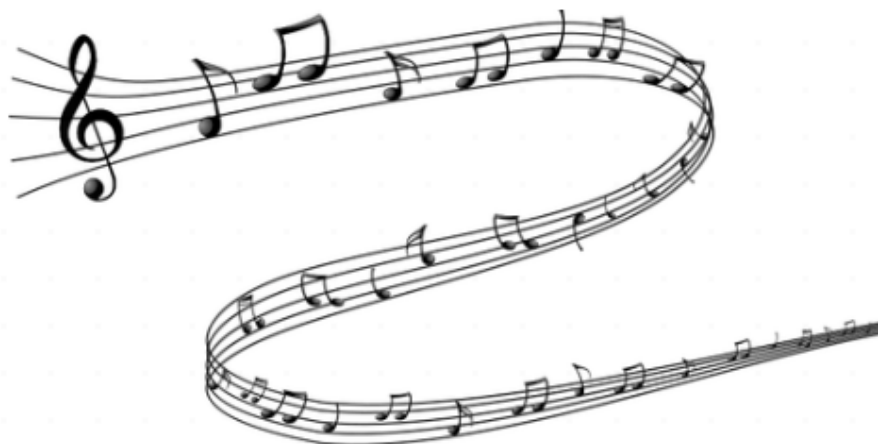
August 30: Labyrinth Walk



Join us after the service for a guided Labyrinth Walk on August 30 at 12:30 PM at the Petoskey District Library (500 E. Mitchell Street). The library is about 3 blocks from our UUCOP Howard Street location and we can walk over together after the service. Parking is available near the library.

Labyrinth walking is a form of active meditation and contemplative practice where an individual follows a single, continuous, and non-branching path (unicursal) to the center of the structure and then back out again.

Petoskey Events



Soul Song Circle

Details: Join in a circle in community to sing simple songs that invite your soul to lovingly resonate with others and the sacred Earth. The theme is “Harvesting Wholeness.” No experience with singing is necessary.

Where: N Division Road, Petoskey, MI

Park next to the rocks along Division Road as it turns into Bayside Road along the shore.

Donations accepted!



Water Is Life Festival

The 8th annual **Water Is Life Festival** celebrates our connection to the water and builds power through community so we can work towards living in a holistic way with the water and protect it from those who seek to exploit or endanger it. The festival, featuring eclectic music, art, and food, is held the Saturday before Labor Day in Petoskey.

When: Saturday, September 5

Where: 200 Wachtel Ave, Petoskey

Open to the public!

***The Water Is Life Festival is our designated partner
for First Quarter Giving.***

Coming Soon!

Congregations Retreat

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

Location: Garden Grove Retreat, 6411 State Street, Garden, Michigan 49835.

If you haven't already, please complete the [Triangle Retreat Registration](#) (red button). This link will ask about your preferences for retreat sessions and take you directly to the site to book your room and choose your meal options.

For more information about the retreat, click on [Event Information](#) (black button) for details about the meal plan. The Triangle Retreat Registration form can also be accessed via this page.

Remember to book your room and choose the meal options for each member of your party.

How to book your room and meals for the October retreat

Follow the registration link <https://form.jotform.com/261135146307046> and register for the retreat. Once you submit your registration you will be taken to the site to book your room.

Select your room and click "check out"

ren more memorable!

Add the quantity of Unitarian Universalist Retreat meal packages you need (one per person) and continue checking out!

If you are having trouble registering you can call Tracey at 231-622-5026 to book and pay for both your room and meal package

Click on the above image to view or download it as a PDF.

Registration Form

Event Information

Eco-Action: Making an Impact



Free Webinar: Wild Ones Presents: The Ecology of Home: Creating Habitat That Works

Details: Join landscape ecologist, Certified Wildlife Biologist, and author **Shaun McCoshum**, PhD, for an exploration of how natural ecosystems function and how those same ecological principles can be applied in home landscapes. Drawing on more than 20 years of conservation, restoration, and research experience, Shaun will share practical, evidence-based strategies for creating habitat that works for pollinators, birds, amphibians, and other wildlife.

Date: Wednesday, August 19

Time: 7:00 PM ET

Location: Online

Register using the button below.

Register



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