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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 26, 2026

With Love from Rev. Alice Diebel



When we come together for our Sunday services we do more than listen to a sermon. We have an opportunity to connect with one another. Sometimes people who join us are feeling tender with loss or grief. We can be of support to them. We also have the opportunity to have lively conversation about the affairs of the world.

For those of you who can attend in person, thank you! If you are an on-line attendee, as I am, you are equally important to the connection and conversation. Our community is vast and diverse. Isn't it wonderful?

In the spirit,
Rev. Alice

Upcoming UUCOP Services

Regular services are held by Zoom and in-person on **Sundays at 11:00 AM**. The August 30 service will start at 10:30 AM.

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

Important: Note the time change of the August 30 service to 10:30 AM. Connect to the service online using this **special Zoom link**.



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 can join the Labyrinth Walk at the Petoskey District Library at 12:30 PM following our after-service social gathering.

Aug 30 Zoom link

September 6: Labor Day.

No service scheduled.

September 13: Triangle Service: Suffrage Today: History, Access, and the Future of the Vote with Rev. Alice Diebel.

It is hard to imagine that woman's suffrage remains an issue today. What is our history? What is at risk now?

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. This is our regular Zoom link! It is not for special services.

Join the Service

Take Action Now: Protect Michigan's National Forests

The administration has proposed repealing the **2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule**. This would roll back protections on 45 million acres nationwide, including 16,000 acres across Michigan's Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee National Forests that safeguard clean drinking water and native trout habitats.

Why It Matters:

- **Clean Water:** Roadless areas provide clean drinking water to 60 million people nationwide.
- **Wildlife & Habitat:** 64% of Michigan's roadless areas protect native trout, salmon, and threatened species.
- **Proven Protections:** The historic 2001 rule protected 58.5 million acres after receiving record-breaking public support (90%+ in favor across 1.6 million comments).

More information:

Trout Unlimited 2001 Report on the "Roadless Rule":

https://www.tu.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/TU-ROADLESS-REPORT_0401_web.pdf

2026 Letter of Support of the "Roadless Rule" Submitted by Former Forest Chiefs:

<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/5706837-roadless-conservation-rule-repeal/>

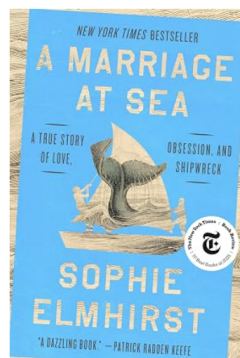
Deadline: September 21, 2026 (Time sensitive; the comment window is only open for 30 days).

Submit your comment opposing the repeal here:

<https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/FS-2025-0001-223869>



Image: Government Roadless Area Hiawatha National Forest.



September 20: UUCOP Book Club Meeting

The September Book Club selection is *A Marriage at Sea: A True Story of Love, Obsession and Shipwreck* by Sophie Elmhirst. McLean & Eakin Booksellers has the volume in stock. The Book Club meets **1:30 PM on Sunday, September 20 at the home of Marla Houghteling in Harbor Springs**. Details to follow.

November Book Club Nominations

Send your book recommendations for November to Tom Beukema by Saturday, September 12 @ tforb@core.com. If you would like to receive the periodic UUCOP Book Club email, let Tom know. His direct line is 231.387.3166 for questions or comments.



UUCOP Request for Proposals

DEADLINE EXTENDED: September 30, 2026

Please share this RFP widely!

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
- Community.

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.

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

Our last summer “Coffee & Conversation” is scheduled for **Thursday, September 17 at 10:00 AM**. We will meet at [Julienne Tomatoes](#), 421 Howard St, Petoskey.

*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



Details: This gathering, typically scheduled on the 4th Wednesday, 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

Time: 7:00 PM

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

Register

August 30: Labyrinth Walk



Following our August 30 after-service coffee hour join us for a guided Labyrinth Walk 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

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.

August 30: Full Moon Gathering



Details: Join [UU Ministry for Earth](#) to ground, re-center, and sustain ourselves for the work of climate justice. Full Moon Gatherings offer readings, a short reflection, time for individual contemplation, and sharing in small groups.

Date: August 30 (Sturgeon Moon; Partial lunar eclipse)

Time: 8:00 PM Eastern

Location: Zoom; Register using the link below.

Register: Full Moon

climate grief support group



September 4: UUMFE Climate Grief Support Group

When: Fridays; September sessions: 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th

Location: Online Drop-In Sessions

Time: 1:00-2:00 PM

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/9K2XT3A9JgEtDayZ8>

Details: If you are concerned about the state of our world, worry about how current events are intersecting with climate disturbance, are a parent or grandparent concerned about the coming generations, or a young adult with anxiety about the future our living world, the **Climate Grief Support Group** will provide a space for you to process your experiences with others in a ritualized, trauma-informed, and mindful way. We recommend that you bring a stone or similar grounding object for our time together. Please [register](#) beforehand if you would like to participate. **UUMFE website:** <https://www.uumfe.org/#>.

Register

September 5: TOTMC Meeting

Come and build community with the Top of the Mitt Collective.

September 5: Meeting: Tip of the Mitt Collective (TOTMC)

Location: Carnegie Building

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

Details: Regular meeting of TOTMC. Open to interested community members. TOTMC meetings provide a sharing table. Bring used and clean articles for give-away. Members are invited to use the TOTMC bulletin board to post notices of local activities or share community brochures.



September 5: 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, 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Where: 200 Wachtel Ave, Petoskey

Open to the public!

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

October 16-18, 2026

**Register for the 2026 Triangle
Congregations Retreat**

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.

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"

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: From Lawn to Meadow

Details: Join Wild Ones and **Sara Weaner Cooper** for a candid look at her family's ongoing lawn-to-meadow project. Sara will share the decisions, methods, successes, surprises, and challenges that have shaped the landscape over multiple growing seasons.

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM ET

Location: Online

Register using the button below.

Register: Wild Ones



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