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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, September 2, 2026

With Love from Rev. Alice Diebel

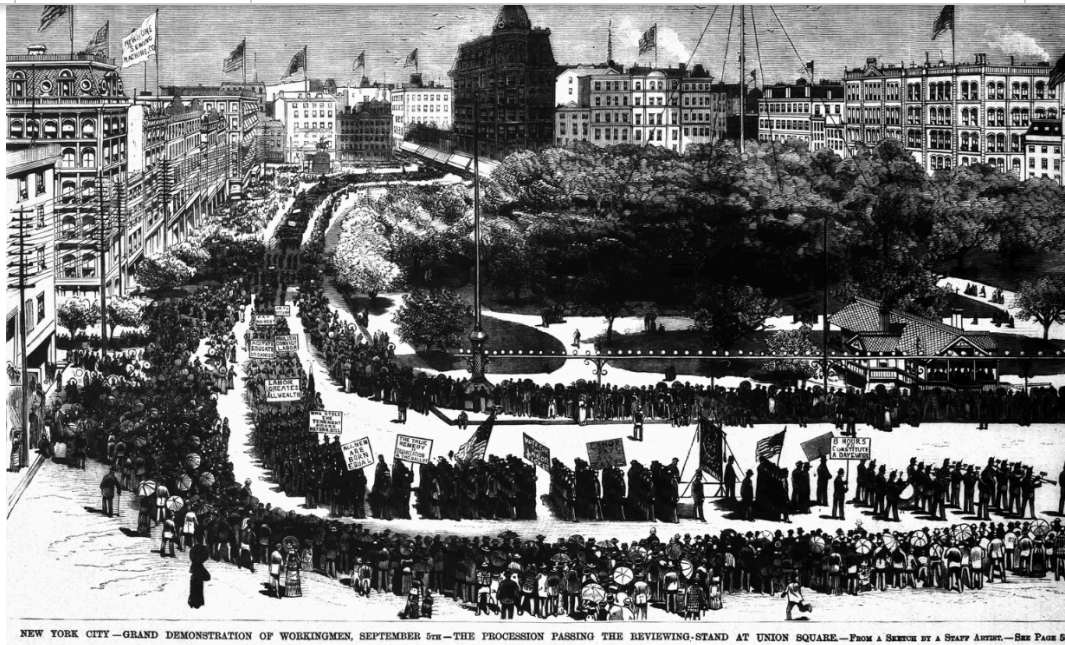


Image: "Grand Demonstration of Workingmen" parade held in Union Square, New York City, on September 5, 1882.

Dear Friends,

On this Labor Day weekend, we will all observe the value of labor to us. As we have labored, we honor our own efforts. Let us support the laborers among us and around us that make the world go around. Enjoy a Sunday off!

In the spirit,
Rev. Alice

Upcoming UUCOP Services

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

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? Zoom and in-person service.

September 20: Defend Against the Assault on Environmental Protections.

Our UUA encourages us to take immediate action. Learn about what we can do as a congregation and as citizens. Zoom and in-person service.

September 27: Meet the Moment with Rev. Alice Diebel.

“Meet the Moment” is an ongoing theme of our UUA GA and has much to say about where we are going. What moment are we in? Zoom and in-person service.

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.

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

Congregations Retreat

We are counting down forty-four days until our 2026 Triangle Congregations Retreat!

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.

The [Event Information](#) link (black button) provides details about registering for sessions, reserving lodging, choosing your meal plan, and contacting the Garden Grove Retreat directly.

When booking your room remember to choose meal options for each member of your party.

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

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

Registration

Event Infomation

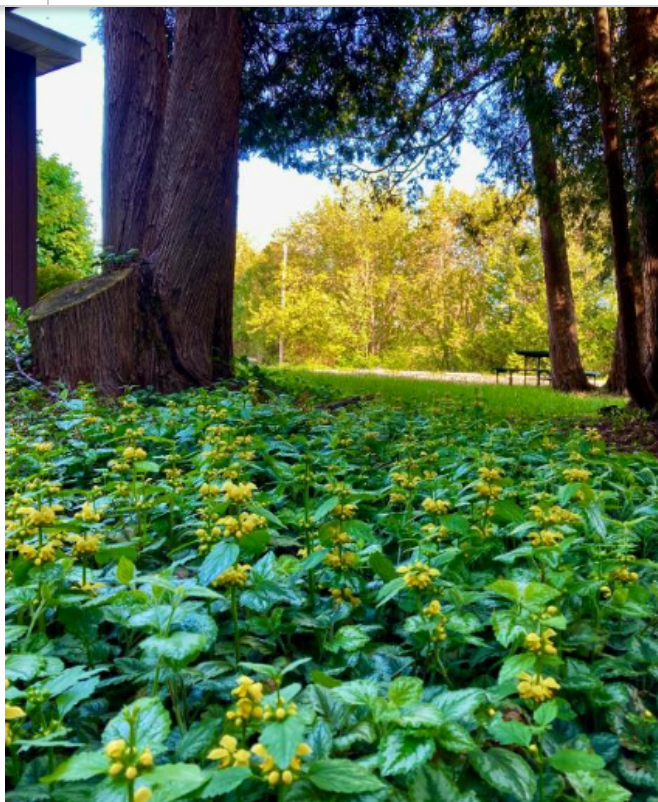


Image: Grounds of the Garden Grove Retreat.

Deadline Approaching: Protect Michigan's National Forests

In line with our 7th UU Principle—respect for the interdependent web of life—we need your voice to protect Michigan's wild, roadless 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.

- **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>

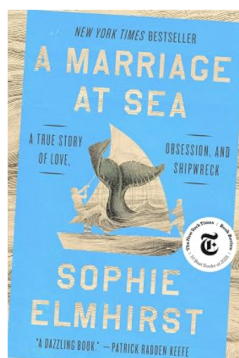


Image: Government Roadless Area Hiawatha National Forest.

Thank You: Labyrinth Walk



Thank you to everyone who participated in the August 30th Labyrinth Walk at the Petoskey District Library. We extend our sincere thanks to Gwen Wyatt for organizing this wonderful guided tour. If you haven't had a chance to experience the Labyrinth Walk at the library, consider adding it to your list of things to do.



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.**

Please 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 “Coffee & Conversation” of the season 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.*

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.

Eco-Action: Making an Impact



September 16: 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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