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People's Church is a Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association



# News & Views

Volume 71, Issue 13

March 8, 2010

## Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

### March 14th “The Undiscovered Country” Jill McAllister

Long ago, the scholar Tung-Shan noted, “If you look for the truth outside yourself, it gets farther and farther away.” This doesn't mean, of course, that each of us knows everything. I think it means that whatever we truly know, we know because we have met it in ourselves. There is within each of us a vast country and it is all of life, it is our whole life—far deeper and broader than our conscious minds can comprehend. Exploring and navigating this country within is “the inner life.” We are there, whether we know it or not.



*At the end of the service we'll vote to accept our recently worded Mission and Vision, followed by pizza and salad and the presentation of the 2010-2011 budget projection from the Finance Committee.*

### March 21st “This Is the Work of Love” Jill McAllister

What better day than the first day of spring to renew our commitments to People's Church? What better day to stand again on the side of love? As we do each year, we'll shake off the tiredness of winter, and we'll shake off little pieces of disdain and discomfort which may still be attached to money, and focus instead on how our time, talent, and treasures can be joined to build our power to make the world, and our church, a place of health, and freedom, and justice. Please read the information about stewardship in this newsletter (page 5), and come prepared to make your annual pledge. We will see again what we can accomplish together, because we know it matters!

### **Vote on Mission and Vision Statements, and Budget Hearing**

All members are encouraged to stay after the Sunday service on **March 14th** for a Special Meeting of the Congregation in which we will vote on whether to accept our recently proposed Mission and Vision Statements. Comments and questions are welcomed; however, there will be no opportunity to amend the statements. The vote will be a straight up or down vote (yes or no) on the statements as they are written. Following the vote, we will have our Annual Budget Hearing to discuss the church's financial outlook in 2010-2011. Pizza and salad will be provided.

#### Inside this issue:

Between Us	2
Forum Notes	3
Service Auction Information	3
New Member Biographies	4-5
Stewardship Kickoff	5
Usher Responsibilities	5
Religious Growth and Learning	6
Calendar	8
Mission Statement	9

## Between Us...



A church or religious congregation is many things for many people. It is a place for learning, a place for healing from some of life's pain, a place to

belong when we feel too alone, a place to share in the work of building justice and peace, a place to be with others who can both comfort and inspire us, and more.

All these are true of People's Church. Sometimes, to know what activities are most suited for you here, you need to understand what you most need. What have you come looking for, or what do you need most now, at this time in your life? Is it to understand religion more broadly and deeply, to find comfort and healing, to be more effective in addressing the needs of the world, to have a place to be with friends? All of these things matter, and that is why all are part of the mission of this congregation.

Over the past three years we have talked often with each other about our congregational priorities. Last month, we met again to clarify our mission and goals. Our understanding of our vision and priorities is quite strong now: we know and we value that we are a free church, that

we embrace difference and diversity, that we need the strong center provided by our togetherness and our commitments to each other in order to live lives that make a positive difference in the world. With the goal of staying focused on and effective in these priorities, we strive every week, through worship and companionship, to deepen the practice of our highest values. These things matter to us.

Knowing these priorities, having them clearly in mind, we are ready to begin moving forward. There is work we know we need and want to do – to renovate our facilities, to grow in depth and maturity and to be effective agents for peace, for love, and for sustainable living. That work begins with our annual stewardship campaign, another opportunity to see ourselves "Standing on the Side of Love." Each year, I welcome this time. Gone are the days when the annual gathering of pledges to support the church was seen as a necessary but tainted undertaking – not wanting to admit the deep relationships between our money and our values. We understand that whatever is most important to us as a congregation, it is by our own efforts and our own sharing that we achieve our goals. And we know from experi-

ence that together, we can achieve incredible things.

The goal of every Stewardship campaign is 100% participation, which means a response from every People's person. The minimum financial pledge contribution for a supporting member of the church is \$100 a year, or a little less than \$2 per week. If your circumstances are such that you truly cannot afford this amount, we ask you to request a waiver, which is included on the pledge form. The average pledge needed to sustain the church is around \$1200 a year, or \$100 a month. Every pledge made, of both time and money, is a personal decision about values and resources, and every pledge made is needed and welcomed.

In the end, these things truly matter because our life as a church comes from and is addressed to our lives in the world—this world, with all its beauty and all its pain. I share again words written by UUA Moderator, Gini Courter (page 4), which remind me of why what we do matters.

See you Sunday —

*Jill*

### Celebrate the Beginning of Spring

Sunday, March 21, 6 p.m.

Join with families and friends to celebrate the Vernal Equinox, on Sunday, March 21. Come to share in a potluck supper beginning at 6 p.m. Stay if you wish for a ceremony of calling the directions, singing and drumming, storytelling, and more. Contact Tomme Maile if you have questions.

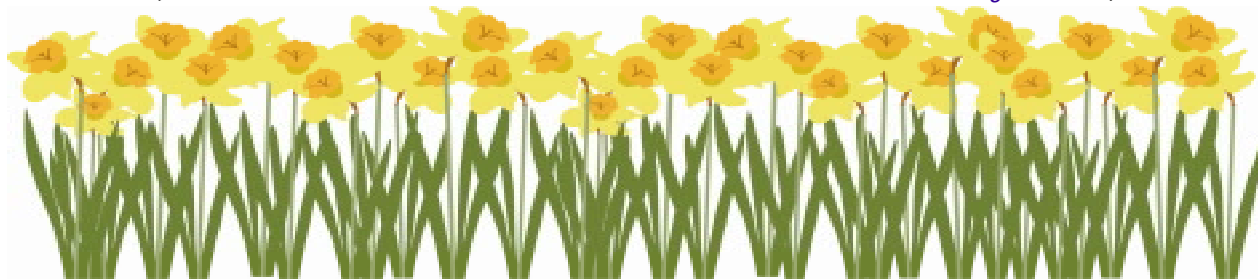
Then mark on your calendar a full year of Four-Quarter Celebrations at People's:  
 Spring Equinox – Sunday, March 21      Fall Equinox – Thursday, September 23  
 Summer Solstice – Monday, June 21      Winter Solstice – Tuesday, December 21

Spring into Action  
for the Service Auction

**Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** promises to be a fun-filled evening of socializing, snacking and "Auction Action." We start at 6 pm with a social hour, hearty hot and cold appetizers, wine and soft drinks.  
**Please bring an appetizer to share.**

Bidding begins at 7 with our favorite auctioneer, Bill. Childcare will be provided. Come for the fun! For a list of this year's donations, go to the Member Area on our website.

*(Last call for donations is March 8<sup>th</sup> - email Leslie at [thecronenwetts@gmail.com](mailto:thecronenwetts@gmail.com))*



**ISAAC Banquet—Saturday, March 20th**

**"Streets of Hope"**

*Sign-Up in Foyer*

**6:00p.m.—Seating 6:30p.m.—Program**

WMU Bernhard Center Ballroom

**Keynote Speaker  
Che Madyum**

Inspiring Community Organizer featured in *Streets of Hope: The Fall and Rise of an Urban Neighborhood*



Tickets \$35,  
\$70 for Banquet & 5p.m. Reception

Call ISAAC at 341-4213 for more information.

**Truth Tone Records  
& Megan McNeal**



Using music, spoken word and dance to strengthen our community and the world

**Forum Notes**

**March 14 and 21 "A New American Dream?"—Diane Melvin**

At the Forum on March 14th and 21st, we will be showing the documentary *Consuming Kids* which explores the effects of commercials on our children. In 1984, the Federal Communications Commission deregulated children's television. It has been legal since then to sell toys through TV programs which often promote violence, have a focus on sexy behavior and appearance, and encourage consumer spending. Could this action from 1984

be in any way related to recent findings that our young people now suffer a greater rate of anxiety and depression than was found during The Great Depression? Should we, as a society, promote a different American Dream? The documentary will explore these issues which reach to the core of our value system.

Director of Religious Education Diane Melvin will participate in the discussion period following the film.

*Forum is held at 9:30am on Sundays in Room 6.*

## **STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF—MARCH 21**

We completed our February visioning weekend with exciting dreams for the future. At the visioning, we heard calls for an expanded and varied music program with the organ played more regularly; for more social events to build deeper relationships amongst members; for more community involvement to build relations and awareness in our surrounding community; to target issues for social action; and to expand our vibrant RE program to serve all ages.

Our Board of Trustees will be setting action priorities for reaching our vision. Now is the time to let them know what resources will be available to them next year in terms of donations of time, talent and treasure. **OUR STEWARDSHIP DRIVE WILL KICK OFF OFFICIALLY SUNDAY, MARCH 21. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND, AND PICK UP YOUR PLEDGE PACKET.**

Growing your spiritual self in this beloved community requires active participation. The services are inspiring, but every extra moment you can devote to our community will pay you back many fold in new and deeper friendships, and the development of life skills you never knew you had. **We ask that you pledge a higher level of participation this year.** Pledge to help plan and lead a new activity that inspires you.

Giving of your wealth will also help this community grow by supporting our hard-working staff, the programming, and maintaining our building and grounds. At the visioning session, there was support for new construction to create a more flexible and inspiring facility. Any lender will look for evidence of increasing financial support by church members. Any money raised beyond what is needed for our basic budget, will go towards our future dreams. A table with suggested giving levels is provided. **Isn't it time you SIGNIFICANTLY increase your monetary pledge by at least 1% more of your gross income?**

The process is simple: fill out your pledge of money and of time and talent. There will be a suggested giving guide. If circumstances change in your life, these pledges can be modified with a phone call. Don't let fear of the future limit what you pledge to help our vision come true. **THERE WILL BE A \$50 DRAWING FROM PLEDGES RETURNED BY MARCH 28 AND A T-SHIRT DRAWING APRIL 4!** It is an expectation of church membership that all pledge forms will be returned within 4 weeks.

Please join with us to make our community vision come true!  
—Bob Davis, Stewardship Chair

## **WORDS FOR REFLECTION**

### ***Why It Matters***

Somewhere earlier today a woman lost her partner of fifty years.  
Somewhere today a man retired – it was not his choice – and has decided to dedicate his life to a noble purpose.  
Somewhere today a teenager was beaten for daring to love a person of another race.  
Somewhere today a family is grieving the loss of a child.  
Somewhere today another family lost their home.  
Somewhere today a child decided to reach out to girls in Kenya.  
Somewhere today a young man was hazed for defending a queer teammate.  
Somewhere tonight a woman falls asleep crying, realizing her spiritual life is vacant, her soul is empty.

This Sunday, each of these beloveds will walk into a Unitarian Universalist Church.  
Some are long-term members.  
Some are newer; some will visit for the first time,  
But all will find a Unitarian Universalist congregation somewhere.

Every Unitarian Universalist congregation is somewhere  
Every day is this day.  
Every Sunday is this Sunday.  
I pray you, beloveds,  
Do not ever forget even for a moment  
how much this faith, our faith, matters.

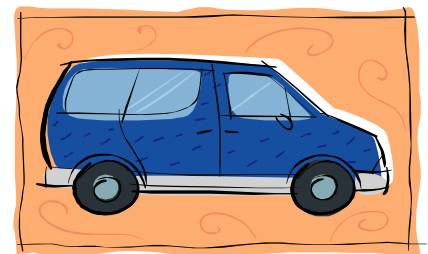
—Gini Courter, UUA Moderator, Feb. 28, 2009

### **Usher Responsibilities**

1. Arrive one-half hour before service (10:15 a. m. during the regular church year, 9:30 a. m. during the summer). Two ushers are needed at the front entrance and at least one at the back. If a third usher isn't available for the back entrance, one of the front-entrance ushers needs to be prepared to assist people at the back. Back-entrance ushers are especially needed to assist disabled people in getting into the building and finding seats.
2. Distribute song books on every other chair and check that chairs are orderly and properly configured, and that the floor under the chairs is generally clean and tidy.
3. Distribute the order of service and act as greeters at the main commons entry. Ensure a supply of order of service handouts is available at each commons entrance. Encourage people to move toward the front, and into the middle of the sections. If needed, try to introduce a visitor to a non-visitor, to sit with.
4. Ring bell about two minutes before the service begins, to remind people to find a seat.
5. After the service begins, close the main entrance doors and assist latecomers to find seats, through the side doors.
6. Assist with taking up the offering. Make sure the offering baskets are collected in one place and taken back to the church office after the service.
7. After the service, assist with storing song books and tidy up the commons area.
8. One usher each week should be designated to be responsible for calling 911 if an emergency occurs.

### **Get a Ride to Church**

Sunday morning rides to church will be available beginning on March 14, using our recently-donated church van. There will be two pick-up points each Sunday Morning: Friendship Village, and a spot near K-College/WMU. If this is something you would be interested in, please let Chris know, in the church office, by Thursday, March 11th.



### **Religious Perspectives Survey**



A link to our Religious Perspectives Survey is still available online at [www.peopleschurch.net](http://www.peopleschurch.net). We are hoping to get as close to full participation from the congregation as possible. Thank you to all who have taken the survey. For those who would prefer a hardcopy, they are available in the foyer.

## UU Parenting

Just when you thought that being a Unitarian Universalist parent is something that you have to figure out all on your own, a new resource has been developed just for you! Be sure to check out the new UU Parenting Blog, with author and UU Religious Educator, Michelle Richards.

Our "UU World" is hosting this blog and the link is: <http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting/>. Here is a description from that site:

"**UU Parenting**" will be a weekly discussion about parenting and liberal religion with Michelle

Richards, author of *Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting*.

"Parents need resources and information to create and share meaningful religious experiences with their children at home and meet the unique challenges of raising children as Unitarian Universalists. This is why I wrote the book, *Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting*, and will be keeping this blog over the next few weeks.

In the book I have written, and through this blog, we will address how parents and children can live their Unitarian Uni-

versalist faith everyday - from engaging in social action projects as a family, to exploring the natural world and the feelings of awe it evokes, to appreciating the interdependent web of life, to searching for truth. Please share your questions, thoughts, and ideas as well as we address what it means to raise children as Unitarian Universalists. Because whether a family chooses to light a chalice as they share meaningful words, engage in a regular meditation practice, pray together, or walk a labyrinth, they are choosing to give their children a special gift for the future, the gift of a faith tradition. And in doing so, parents are also giving something special to themselves, the gift of a close, connected family drawn together by religious faith." —Michelle Richards



### Consuming Kids:

#### The Commercialization of Childhood

This enlightening film will be shown during Forum March 14 and 21 from 9:30-10:30 am.

This film is an eye-opening account of the pervasive effects of children's advertising on the health and well-being of kids today.

You won't want to miss it! The two-hour film will be shown in two parts with discussion to follow. Childcare available.

### SAVE THE DATE!

People's Church

### Peace and Nature Camp

will be held June

21-24, 2010

All 1st-6th-graders are

invited!

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to Raina Cook, Jeme Baker and all the parents who helped to make the elementary sleepover a memorable and fun experience for the 20 kids who participated!!

**Thank you to Suzanne DeGraves** for organizing the high-school youth group to lead an afternoon of Bingo for the members of Ministry with Community!

## Memorial Service for Frank Braje

People's member Frank Braje died on Monday, February 22. A memorial service will take place at People's on **Sunday, March 21, at 1 p.m.**

## The Study Group

The Study Group meets on **Monday evening, March 22 at 7:30**, in Jill's office. Since we were snowed out last month, we'll continue with Chapter 7, on *Reason*, in Moral Clarity: A Guide for Grown-Up Idealists, by Susan Nieman. All are welcome to join.

## Fourth-Monday Lunch

The Fourth-Monday Lunch will meet at noon on **March 22 in Room 6**. We were snowed out last month, so this will still be the first of a new series of monthly day-time potluck lunches, especially for those hoping to make closer connections and friends at People's and especially for those who don't like to drive at night. Soup and bread will be provided this month – bring something else to share. All are welcome.

## Green Spot

### **Say NO to Cypress Mulch**

As gardeners, we know organic mulch is a good thing, right? Well, here is something you may not have heard about cypress mulch. In the past cypress mulch used to be a by-product of lumber mills. This is no longer true. The mulch purchased today comes from widespread clear cutting of the cypress forests in wetlands in Louisiana and the rest of the Gulf Coast.

By choosing other types of organic mulch (such as composted manure, pine needles or cedar chips), we can save these trees, which take nearly one hundred years to mature. We may also be saving lives because cypress forests not only provide natural habitat for animals, but also serve as a reservoir for storm-water surges and thus help to protect humans living in coastal areas.

You can learn more by going to:  
[www.saveourcypress.org](http://www.saveourcypress.org)

## KUULS/ Young Adult Potluck

Join us **Sunday, March 14 at 6:30pm** for food and fellowship. Meet other young people at People's Church and from the community. Ages 18-35 are welcome to attend. Call Raina Cook if you have questions, or need a ride to the event.

## Reading Together



The Library Committee is sponsoring our participation in the Community Reading Together Program once again. The book to be read by all is: Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson.

"Winner of the 1996 American Booksellers' Association Award and the 1995 FEN/Faulkner Award for fiction, this enthralling novel is at once a murder mystery, a courtroom drama, a story of young love, and a stirring, lush meditation on place, prejudice, and justice."

**Discussion Group:** Sunday March 14, 2010  
in Room 6, 1:00-2:30 pm

**Program & Book Signing with David Guterson**  
Wednesday March 17, 2010, 7:00 pm  
Kalamazoo Central High School

Books are available at the library table in the Foyer.

Exercise for  
Mind and Body Health



***Diligent practice improves balance, circulation, immune system and flexibility • realigns vertebrae and skeletal structure • strengthens muscles and tendons • releases stress and tension***

Three Separate Beginning Classes Starting on:  
**March 22<sup>nd</sup> Monday evenings** 6:30 to 8:30 PM  
At Haven Church 5350 N Sprinkle Rd. Kalamazoo  
(N of Gull Road)

**New Classes at People's Church:**  
**March 23<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday evenings** 6:30 to 8:30 PM.  
**March 24<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evenings** 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

For more information, call Tony Fung **324-0116**  
or Kimberly Ginn **382-1873**.

Date	Event	Day	Time	Place
March 8	Facing Life, Facing Death Religious Education Committee	Monday	12:00p.m. 6:30pm	Library Room 5
March 9	Building & Grounds Work Group Book Club	Tuesday	9:30a.m. 3:00p.m.	Meet at Church Christensen's Home
March 10	Board Meeting Bell Choir	Wednesday	6:30p.m. 6:30p.m.	Room 6 Room 4
March 11	Charity Fiber Group Choir Rehearsal	Thursday	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m.	Library Room 6
March 13	Chalice Circle (Facilitator—Lightner) Band Rehearsal Service Auction	Saturday	10:00a.m. 1:00p.m. 6:00p.m.	Library Commons Commons
March 14	Forum O.W.L. Sunday Service Mission and Vision Statement Vote Sunday Lunch Budget Hearing Scrabble Kalamazoo Public Library Book Discussion KUULS Potluck	Sunday	9:30a.m. 10:30a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:15p.m. 12:15p.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m. 1:00p.m. 6:30p.m.	Room 6 Room 6 Commons Commons Commons Commons Room 5 Room 6 Room 6 & Kitchen
March 15	Newsletter Deadline Study Group	Monday	12:00p.m. 7:30p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Jill's Office
March 16	Building & Grounds Work Group Library Committee	Tuesday	9:30a.m. 9:30p.m.	Whole Church Library
March 17	OFFICE CLOSED Bell Choir	Wednesday	6:30p.m.	Room 6
March 18	Charity Fiber Group Choir Rehearsal	Thursday	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m.	Library Room 6
March 19	Newsletter Mailing	Friday	9:00a.m.	Room 5
March 20	Men's Discussion Group Coming of Age Band Rehearsal ISAAC Banquet	Saturday	10:00a.m. 12:00p.m. 1:00p.m. 6:00p.m.	Library Room 6 Commons WMU Bernhard Center
March 21	Forum O.W.L. Stewardship Sunday Memorial Service for Frank Braje Spring Equinox Celebration	Sunday	9:30a.m. 10:30p.m. 10:45a.m. 1:00p.m. 6:00p.m.	Room 6 Room 6 Commons Commons Commons

For the most up-to-date list of events at People's Church, please visit: <http://www.peopleschurch.net>

### **Rise Up and Call Her Name Cancelled**

The remaining sessions of the adult education class Rise Up and Call Her Name have been cancelled.

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Check us out on the web!  
[www.peopleschurch.net](http://www.peopleschurch.net)



## People's Church Mission Statement

"People's Church strives to inspire intellectual, spiritual and religious growth, to encourage freedom of thought, and to promote personal quests for meaning and religious challenge.

Wishing to provide opportunities for fellowship and community involvement for all people, in a nurturing and supportive environment, we will continue to function as a role model of diversity for the community and to serve as a base for active outreach to benefit the world around us."