



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



# News & Views

Volume 74, Issue 9

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Church Office Hours:

M-Th 9:00am-4:00pm

## Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

### January 20 “The Strength to Love, Part 2” Jill McAllister

The second part of a two-part sermon, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., considering how love is both the foundation and the movement of courage and compassion, and why it is stronger than fear.



### January 27 “Stone Soup: A Story for All Ages” Jill McAllister, Diane Melvin and all

We'll send Jill off on her two-month sabbatical with this service for all ages. Together we'll explore how timeless stories can have many interpretations, and we'll focus on our shared commitments to each other and to People's during this special time for us all. We will also be recognizing our newest members during this service.

## New to People's Church or Considering Membership?

### Meet & Greet Reception - Sunday, January 20, 12:30 PM

Join Rev. Jill McAllister and others after the service for refreshments and casual conversation. This event is a great opportunity to meet the minister, talk to folks you haven't met before, and enjoy some food.

### Recognition Ceremony - Sunday, January 27, 10:45 AM

During the Sunday service the church will recognize its newest members. If you're interested in joining People's Church or being a part of this service, please pick up a membership folder at the Information Desk in the lobby or reception area. Formal membership is accomplished by signing the Bond of Union, and supporting the church through service and/or financial contribution.

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## Between Us...



These beautiful words from Howard Thurman are still very much in my mind these days:

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and the princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, The work of Christmas begins: to find the lost....to heal the broken....to feed the hungry.....to release the prisoner...to rebuild the nations...to bring peace among the people... to make music in the heart.*

The work of Christmas always continues, and we belong to this work every day. This is a good way to think about the new year: beginning again to attend to what is needed. Something new for the new year is to consider how we might become more effective in any of this work we do. Is it time to learn new skills, try new approaches, give up habitual perspectives or tasks?

There are several opportunities to start anew at People's this month. To begin with, at a hospital-ity visioning session held on Monday, Jan. 7 a consensus emerged that we have a real and present need to broaden and deepen the culture of welcoming and inclusion at People's. We are a welcoming congregation, but we have a ways to go toward *everyone* having a stake in and some skills in greeting newcomers and helping them become connected through participation and membership. What will it take for us to all share in this work? I hope you will choose to enter into this conversation, and think about increasing your involvement.

Also, for all who are interested in what multiculturalism really means, and in gaining skills to work effectively in any and all multicultural settings (such as home, family, work, community groups, church—almost everywhere!) I'll be leading a one-day workshop on Saturday, January 26 at People's. New approaches are possible! Come find out more. A \$10 cost will cover re-

freshments, lunch and supplies.

Meanwhile, plans for my sabbatical are shaping up. In our tradition, a ministerial sabbatical is a two-way undertaking—it provides a chance for both minister and congregation to re-group, re-energize, and renew. For my part, I'll be taking time to rest, reflect, meditate, read, and contemplate where I am at this stage in my vocation and calling to ministry, looking and listening for places where I've gotten stuck or tired, and for sources of new insight and energy.

For your part, you have a chance to hear other perspectives from the pulpit, to discover new bonds of cooperation and collaboration, to grow into new areas of interest and responsibility, to see more about what makes this congregation so vital, and to discover new ways to continue to make our ideals real. I hope you will take this time and these opportunities seriously and take them to heart. This time will be rich with chances for religious growth and learning, for all.

During a sabbatical, the minister is generally unavailable, except in the case of extreme emergencies. Our sabbatical brochure, available at the end of this month, will give details of whom to call for what, while I'm gone.

But we are not there yet, and I still hope to meet many of you who are new, and visit with many of you who are both new and not new, before the sabbatical begins.

See you Sunday – *Jill*

P.S. Are you relatively new to People's—a new member, newcomer, of a few months or more, and are you wondering what steps to take now to become more connected and more invested in the church? If so, please let me know, or let Chris Schleuder in the office know. We'll be glad to help!

## Multi-Culturalism Workshop Saturday, January 26, 9 AM - 5 PM

Are you committed to working across borders and boundaries? Have you already made a commitment to anti-racism and anti-oppression? Are you ready to take further steps to become more effective in this work? Or are you simply ready to really understand what multiculturalism involves and requires? Join



us for a 1-day workshop and training in multicultural competency, led by Jill McAllister. The Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) says about this work: "Growing and deepening our capacity for successful multicultural ministries and strong intercultural relationships...is critical to the fulfillment of our vision for the UUMA, for Unitarian Universalism, and for our world." The skills and insights of this training will be useful at home, at work, at church, in the community—wherever you live and whatever you do.

Sign-up in the foyer at church or call the office to sign up. Cost of the workshop is \$10 per person, to cover the costs of lunch and other refreshments.

## Picture Directory—Feb. 13th-16th Sign-Up For Available Times Now

Members and friends of People's Church are encouraged to sign up for a time to have their picture taken



for the upcoming church picture directory. Photographers from Lifetouch Photography will be here from 2-8:30 PM on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and will be here from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM on Saturday. Please sign up at:

<https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/peopleschurch1/index.php?page=10>

or go to the People's Church website and click the Picture Directory link. If you'd prefer not to sign up online, please call the office at 375-3262, and Chris Schleuder will be able to set up an appointment time for you. Every few years, we make a picture directory and invite all to have their pictures taken.

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

These are some of the wishes written in the paper chains we put on the Christmas Tree on Sunday, Dec. 23:

*May we think of others and act on their behalf over our own desires.*

*We wish people would stop fighting.*

*Reverse climate change.*

*May love be the guiding force in the world.*

*May all children be fed, safely sheltered and feel loved.*

*Peace in our hearts. Peace in our homes. Peace in the world.*

May we live in ways that make these wishes become realities, step by step.

## Social Justice Coordinating Committee Update

On January 20, the Art Wall at People's will display a photographic journal by Tracy Klinesteker depicting tutors who volunteer their time each week to help students with their classroom work at Kalamazoo's Lincoln International Studies School. This project began as a request for a venue of Tracy's photography which was then extended by a wonderful suggestion from Dave Curl to illustrate the Lincoln School Project sponsored by the Social Justice Coordinating Committee. It took a collaboration with Tracy, the tutors, Kalamazoo Community in Schools and Lincoln School teachers to complete the project. Stop by and view the interaction between tutors and children and to appreciate the artistry of a wonderful photographer.



Our collections on behalf of our local Loaves and Fishes has become a wonderful success story of its own. Our December tally of food equaled \$376. Loaves and Fishes greatly appreciates our loyal support. They want our church members to know that our grand total of donations so far is 6,257 pounds of food, with an estimated value of \$3,000. All of this food has been given to needy families in the Kalamazoo area.

## No Sunday Lunch in January

Rather than hosting two after-service food events, the Social Justice Coordinating Committee will just be hosting the artist's reception in January. People should not plan on Sunday lunch on January 13th.

## Note to Chairs of Committees

By now all committees should have received their Budget Request forms for the 2013-2014 Church year. Please complete them and return to either myself, the Treasurer or the church office by **Sunday, January 27th, 2013**.

Just a reminder that **the Budget Hearing is scheduled for Sunday, March 17th, 2013**.

Thank you for your assistance in compiling next year's church budget. We couldn't do it without your help.

Michelle Clark  
Finance Chair

## \$MONEY MATTERS\$

The fire at People's Church is roaring again! We received nearly \$50,000 in Feeding Our Flame pledge payments in December! Stay tuned for a new Challenge Grant opportunity for FOF donations in 2013.



Much to my surprise, the *American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012* included the IRA Charitable Rollover provision through the end of 2013. This means that if you are over 70 and ½ years of age, you can donate up to \$100,000 to a 501(c)(3) charity from an IRA without incurring a tax liability for the capital gain on the IRA. In addition, they made the provision retroactive for 2012 provided it is completed by the end of January, 2013. Talk to your tax advisor about this unique opportunity. If you need more information, contact Treasurer Allan Hunt.



## Green Spot

by Julia Kirkwood

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If you have not made your final decision on a New Year's Resolution, the

Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC) encourages you to add a "Green Challenge." It could be something small such as not using paper plates or paper napkins, even if you have a party, or more challenging—eliminating all processed food. The great thing is there is a plethora of options available to make it easy to personalize within your lifestyle.

Over the next two years, the GSC will be planning and implementing the *Action and Communication Plans* necessary to achieve the Green Sanctuary certification. The GS certification process has four topic areas and requires a total of 12 new projects over the course of two years. We have completed a couple of the tasks already and have been planning and initiating our 2012-2013 projects.

The four topic areas are: *Worship and Celebration*, *Religious Education*, *Environmental Justice* and *Sustainable Living*. For the *Worship and Celebration* and *Religious Education* fulfillments look for environmental ethics, and right relations topics to be integrated into upcoming programs. To support efforts towards *Sustainable Living* look for an Environmental Film Series in the spring, revisions to composting and recycling within the kitchen to improve resource conservation, and the Adopt-a-Highway program. Also, with help from others a Green Burial option in Kalamazoo is being researched and explored.

And finally to improve our communication to help you stay informed, watch as we create and update the "Kiosk" in the front lobby area, create a GSC space on the church website and hopefully a list-serve that you will be able to subscribe to if you want updates on political activity and local events.

**Additional Support:** We are also looking for anyone interested in becoming a "**GSC Member**." We typically meet about once a month, sometimes less depending on what is going on. Lately the meetings have been on Fridays either at lunch time or later in the afternoon. We are pretty efficient in our discus-

sions and also have fun. If you would like to help, but would prefer a shorter term commitment, we also have plenty of opportunities as a "**GSC Ambassador**" to utilize your energy and skills. Here are some immediate options:

**Adopt-a-Highway Ambassador:** We are in need of an "Adopt-a-Highway" Coordinator. You will be responsible for coordinating clean-ups. There are three dates and two of the three are to be completed to continue with the program (in April, June, and September). You will get to coordinate advertising of dates, the equipment and volunteers to join in the fun. The GSC will provide the "Training Materials"/necessary information to get you started. For younger people just starting their careers, this is a great skill and resumé-building opportunity. (*Note: if a coordinator is not found the GSC will make the decision to drop this as an activity due to time commitments for other projects.*)

**Composting/Recycling Ambassador:** One of the tasks is to create a better composting/recycling system in place in the kitchen and during "Second-Sunday Lunches." Don't worry you won't be on your own but will be working with Connie Ferguson and Bob Swicker to develop and initiate this task. One specific task they will need help with is an "Ambassador" at "Second Sunday Lunches" to be the "compost traffic director."

**Green Spot Ambassador:** Like to write? Here is a great way to improve your skills in a low-key manner. Have something to say? Well, we have opportunities abounding for you. Even better we already have the topics picked out for each of the newsletters through the end of April. After that you would have the opportunity to provide ideas you would like to write about though they would need to be consistent with the "Action Plan" concepts. And it gets better—one member of the GSC would finalize the article. Yep—another resumé and skill-builder opportunity!

Interested in any of these opportunities? Contact Julia Kirkwood, Cybelle Shattuck or Connie Ferguson.

## Youth and Young Adult Conference Month

People's Church is hosting three weekend district conferences in January this year. This is the 11th year, we have hosted the young adult CON over MLK weekend. We are also hosting middle-school and high-school conferences this month.

These conferences create an opportunity for young people to gather with their UU peers from other churches around the region to enjoy workshops, UU worship and fun activities together.

I am grateful we have this beautiful new space in which to host these conferences to help our young people deepen their faith and relationships with other Unitarian Universalists.

### Jan. 11-12 - High School CONcord

### Jan. 18-20 - InCommon CON for young adults between 18 and 35

### Jan. 25-27 - Middle School CONnections

All 6-8th-graders are still invited to register for this weekend at [www.midamericauua.org](http://www.midamericauua.org)

### InCommon CON - January 18-20

#### Young Adults, 18-35 Invited

Come enjoy a rejuvenating weekend with wonderful people at People's Church. Inspiring worship, invigorating workshops, arts, crafts, games, laughter and play. Our goal is to emphasize what we have in common without ignoring the ways in which we are different.

All young adults, 18-35 are invited to participate. Child care can be available if needed. For more info contact Cassie Howe at [casandrahowe@gmail.com](mailto:casandrahowe@gmail.com) or check out InCommonCon Kalamazoo on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/events/338504766248708/?fref=ts>

## WELCOME NEW FAMILIES!

We have many new families who are joining us at People's Church this fall and winter. If you've been coming for a while and see someone you don't know on a Sunday morning, I encourage you to introduce yourself and say "Hello!" As Jill often says, this can be one of the most radical religious acts we can do.

Unitarian Universalism and People's Church has so much to offer the people in Kalamazoo and the world, that I am grateful to have the opportunity to grow our church both in depth as well as breadth.

Let's help new folks find a fit with our congregation!



### Guest at Your Table Wrap-up

It is time to return the proceeds from the Guest at Your Table collections for this year. You are welcome to drop off your box to the Religious Education Office or even better write a check made out to UUSC for the amount you collected and drop that off in the RE Office. To ensure your membership in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, be sure to either complete the name and address section at the bottom of your box and paper clip it to your check or pick up a UUSC envelope and complete your information on that.



Thank you to all those who participated in this valuable program this year! You can check out the programs your proceeds support at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

## Pastoral Care Training Sunday, January 20, 12:45 – 3 p.m.

Pastoral care and concern takes many forms at People's, from giving rides to sending cards, delivering meals and helping with home repairs and respite care. Sometimes, the help needed requires skills and insight which go beyond the usual—such as crisis companionship, medical knowledge, and trained listening.

On January 20, following the service, Jill will offer a 2.5-hour training in Pastoral Care-Giving, to address these needs in our congregation, and deepen our capacity to provide help when it is needed. If you are interested in being part of this training, please contact Jill for more information, or sign up in the foyer.

## Sunday Morning Meditation



A new meditation group is starting up at the church on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. The facilitators welcome anyone who would like to sit in silence for thirty to forty-five minutes before the hospitality hour begins at 10:00 AM. This group is

meant to be welcoming to anyone in our church community, regardless of meditation experience.

The first sitting of the group will be on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. The location in church has yet to be determined, but will be posted on the door to the church as you enter in the front.

We hope you will join us for this sitting!

## Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural Committee to Show Film

**Friday, January 18th** the ARAOMC Committee will be showing the video "What Makes Me White?" from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. There will also be discussion after showing the video. Food is not planned for this event so please eat before, or bring a meal with you.

## Full-Moon Drum Circle

**WHO:** Everyone is welcome at the Full-Moon Drum—all ages and abilities. Children under 17 should be accompanied by an adult.

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 26th from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

**WHERE:** At the fire pit in back of the church if weather permits, otherwise we are in Room 9 in the rear of the church.



**WHAT TO BRING:** Some drums and other percussion instruments are provided, but bring your own if you have them. Other instruments are also welcome, such as guitar, flute, etc. You are welcome to bring poetry, stories, songs, or other creative ideas to share (although dim lighting often makes it difficult to read written material). Bring an open mind, a friendly smile, and a kind heart.

**WHAT NOT TO BRING:** No drugs or alcohol. No pets. No preconceptions.

**DONATION:** We request a few dollars of donation from participants to offset our costs including rental of the space and promotional materials.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	January 15	Building & Grounds Work Group Library Committee Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural Committee	9:30a.m. 9:30a.m. 5:30p.m.	Meet at Church Foyer/Room 1 Room 18
Thursday	January 17	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	5:45p.m. 7:00p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	January 18	Film: "What Makes Me White?" show by the Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural Committee	6:00p.m.	Commons
Fri.-Sun	Jan 18-20	Young Adult CON	7:00p.m.	Whole Church
Saturday	January 19	Men's Discussion Group	10:00a.m.	Room L2
Sunday	January 20	Meditation Time Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Art Wall Reception for Tracy Klinestecker Meet & Greet Reception Pastoral Care Training	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:15p.m. 12:30p.m. 12:45p.m.	TBD Foyer Commons Commons Commons Room 19
Monday	January 21	Newsletter Deadline Facing Life, Facing Death	12:00p.m. 12:00p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Room L1
Tuesday	January 22	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Thursday	January 24	Bell Choir Choir	5:45p.m. 7:00p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	January 25	Newsletter Mailing	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Fri.-Sun.	January 25-27	Heartland District Junior High CON	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Saturday	January 26	Multi-Cultural Competency Workshop  Full-Moon Drum Circle	9:00a.m.- 5:00p.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 9  Room 9
Sunday	January 27	Meditation Time Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Recognition Sunday	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m.	TBD Foyer Commons

To subscribe to an electronic version of this newsletter, please email [office@peopleschurch.net](mailto:office@peopleschurch.net), with the word 'subscribe' in the subject box. An electronic version can also be found on our website at [www.peopleschurch.net](http://www.peopleschurch.net).

### Yoga Class?

Is there any interest in having a once-a-week yoga class at the church? Please call Barbara Hasan for more details and to let her know if you might be interested.

### Singles Group?

Are you single? Widowed or divorced? Would you like to meet other singles? If so, please let the church know. If there's enough interest, the church might start a singles group.

### Beige Coat?

A brown coat from L.L. Bean went missing after the service on January 6. If you accidentally took it home by mistake, please return it to the church, or call the office, 375-3262.

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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 is a welcoming religious community drawing on wisdom and inspiration from many sources to discover and live out our highest values.”**

