



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



News & Views

1758 North Tenth Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Phone: 269-375-3262
Fax: 269-375-3270
Email: office@peopleschurch.net
Church Office Hours:
M-Th 9:00am-4:00pm

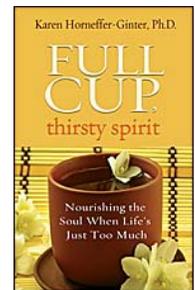
Volume 74, Issue 11

February 11, 2013

Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

February 17 "Behind Full Cup, Thirsty Spirit: One Woman's Trip Around the World Religions" Karen Horneffer-Ginter

Karen discusses her new book about our yearning to live vibrant and meaningful lives amidst life's busyness and the soul ache that can arise when our cup gets too full. She also describes her own spiritual search in seeking wisdom and comfort from a variety of world religions, and how the ideas she has encountered have both complemented and contradicted each other.



February 24 "Awakening to Our Own Epistemology: Sociology and Right Relationships" Sue Caulfield

How we come to our beliefs has important implications for how we view ourselves, others and the world at large. How, then, might such beliefs impact how we live in right relationship—to ourselves, others and the larger community?

Sunday Meditation Room 19, 9:00 A.M.

A new meditation group has started up at the church on Sunday mornings at 9:00. The facilitators welcome any-



one who would like to sit in silence for thirty to forty-five minutes before the hospitality hour begins at 10:00 A.M. This group is welcome to anyone, regardless of meditation experience. All interested people can gather in Room 19. If you have questions, please contact Matthew Morris McCormick.

Mindfulness Meditation Retreat Saturday, February 16, 9 a.m. to noon

The church will be having a Mindfulness Meditation Retreat on **Saturday, February 16** from 9 A.M. to noon. See peopleschurch.net, under *Classes and Groups* for more details, or call Carolyn Heineman at (269) 547-7113.

Inside this issue:

Between Us	2
Women's Retreat Information	3
Newcomer FAQ	4
Social Justice Committee Update	5
RE Notes	6
People's Camping Trip	7
Calendar	8
Mission Statement	9

Between Us—The Leading Edge

While our minister, Jill McAllister, is on a short sabbatical, her usual newsletter column, "Between Us" will be expanded to include reports and descriptions of work at People's which is on "The Leading Edge" of moving us forward toward our goals and aspirations. Many thanks to the members and staff who have agreed to provide these pieces.



Anna Shade

I came to People's Church in the fall of 2010 with my kindergarten daughter in tow. This was for Genevieve—for her religious education. Growing up Catholic, I knew the value that religious education provided in my formative years. And I quickly found not just support and fullness for my daughter, but also for myself. Unitarian Universalism was a warm, rich salve applied to my healing journey. I signed our historic Bond of Union (written by Caroline Bartlett Crane no-less) in March 2011. I felt at home in a way I hadn't in a long time. It had been a "big deal" to walk through the door, but I had arrived.

In the back of my mind, I wondered why I hadn't "heard" about People's before. This gem in the Kalamazoo community was sitting a few miles from my house! My husband and I had done a quick drive-by when we were engaged—should we get married there? We drove on by.... I stalked People's silently via PeoplesChurch.net for a few years after Genevieve was born—listening to services, reading and contemplating. So, why did it take me so long? How could I help to get the word out so more could experience the healing salve that I had needed so much but was slow to be discovered?

Last fall, conversations with Diane Melvin and others, led to a meeting which brought my spark of service into a flame. Jill asked that I lead a task-force to take a hard look at our Media, Public Relations and Communications. We were challenged with such missions as: reviewing and recommending social media policy changes, cataloging communications technology, media and public relations practices. We were asked to consider creating a new internet outreach strategy including starting a

church blog, updating photography, website content and improving website infrastructure.

I have never felt such personal investment in an effort I've been associated with. From my perspective, this work is the work of religious life—and it has certainly fed my flame. We've assembled a stellar team—Tim Bartik, Bob Wallis, Chris Schleuder, Megan Reynolds, Kristi Montgomery, Ben Jones with consultation from Diane Melvin, Connie Ferguson and Sonja Dean—each individual contributing her important piece to the evolution of People's and Unitarian Universalism. In working through these topics, we are answering the key questions. How do we stretch and grow and change? How do we expose People's to a broader audience? How do we leverage the rich heritage, history and legacy of our religious community into the "now"—to help and serve more people who are looking and will find People's is just what they needed?

What is getting better already? Our Facebook page is being updated more regularly—offering an event for each Sunday Service, an opportunity to promote our public outreach such as the Concert Series and the Holiday Bazaar. Just this week we started promoting sermons from other UU ministers along with our regular updates from the UUA. Please come *like* our page at www.facebook.com/peopleschurch and get in on the conversation. We are also offering iTunes podcasts of the sermons from Sunday Service. We've created a press kit and held a press conference to announce our Bennett Award to the community. Through each of these efforts we are learning the art of holding out our hand to the greater community and saying, "Come in! Come in! We welcome you." I look forward to warmly greeting those faces that take us up on our offer each Sunday. I hope you'll join me in embracing this transformation for the depth that it holds for each of us who walk through those beautiful new doors each week to find healing salve or whatever it is we are looking for.

—Anna Shade

P.S. For more details on the work of the PR/Media Task-Force, and ways to help, check out page 8.

HEART and SOUL: 2013 Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat



It is time once again for the annual Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat, organized by the women of People's Church. The theme for this year's retreat is "Heart & Soul." The Women's Retreat has been in existence for over 13 years and is an important opportunity for UU women to connect and get to know each other. Women will have the time and space to nurture their hearts, souls and spirits and take time away from daily life in community with other UU women from around the state.

WHEN: Friday, March 15 (check-in 5:30-6:30pm) **through Sunday, March 17, 10am.** Commuters for Saturday only will attend from 8:30am-the end of the evening

WHERE: Kellogg Biological Station, Hickory Corners, MI

PRESENTERS: The Rev. Cassandra Howe (Unitarian Universalist Community Church of SW Michigan), Kat VanHammen, Pam Poley and Diane Melvin will lead large group sessions Friday evening and Saturday, and several small workshop presenters will teach us new skills and ways of thinking as well.

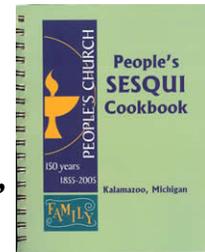
ACTIVITIES: Crafts, games, singing, nature hikes, yoga, massage and reflection will all be part of this retreat. More details can be found in the flier found in the foyer or at peopleschurch.net.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions or would like to donate money towards the retreat scholarship fund, please contact Stephanie Measzros or Anna Shade.

We encourage longtime members and newcomers to spend the weekend with us in retreat!

Sesquicentennial Cookbook Available in Early March

Another printing of the church's Sesqui Cookbook is being made. It contains hundreds of recipes provided by members and is spiral bound. The book costs \$15. Prepaid orders are due by **Sunday, February, 24th.** Checks can be written to People's Church with "cookbook" in the memo line.



Also, if you've noticed any typos in the cookbook, this is an opportunity to correct them. Please let Diane Worden know the page and mistake to fix.

Cash for People's—Meijer Community Rewards



You can earn cash rewards for People's Church by shopping at Meijer with a Meijer Community Rewards account. Purchases paid in cash or with a debit card earn 0.5%. Sign up online at <http://www.meijer.com/rewards> to receive a Meijer I Card (to be used with cash purchases or debit card purchases), or apply for a Meijer Credit Card at your local store or at <http://www.Meijer.com/creditcard>. The People's Church code is **933045**.

Budget Hearing—Sunday, March 17



The annual Budget Hearing for the Church will be **Sunday, March 17th** immediately following the service. This meeting is not only open to the entire congregation—we encourage you to attend. At this gathering, the Finance Committee and Treasurer present to the congregation the proposed upcoming budget for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013.

As a gentle reminder to all committee chairs, the Finance Committee should have all budget requests returned by now.

As an added incentive, there will be lunch provided at the gathering for a small donation. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Thank you.

—Michelle Clark, Finance Committee Chair

How Does One Become More Involved in People's?



Church Groups and Events That May Interest You

If you're new to People's Church, it may be difficult to figure out how to go about doing certain things, or how to become more involved in the church. Here are a few frequently-asked questions:

How do I get a permanent nametag?

Nametags can be requested at either the Information Desk in the lobby (near the front entrance) or the one in the Reception Area (up the stairs). They can be picked up the following Sunday at the Information Desk upstairs.

Where do my kids go on Sunday?

Childcare for babies and toddlers is available in the nursery (Room 11) each week from 9:30-12:30. All other kids join their parents in the service for the first 15 minutes, then all the children and teachers leave to go to their Religious Education classes. After the Sunday service, parents are asked to pick up their children at their classes.

How does one become a member of People's Church?

Membership is formally accomplished by signing the Bond of Union, a document that outlines the church's principles and what it means to be a part of this community. Members are expected to support the church with their time and a financial contribution. People are also encouraged to attend a Membership Orientation (the next one is on Sunday, April 7) before joining. A folder of membership materials (which includes the Bond of Union) is available at both Information Desks. New members are recognized during a Sunday service, a few times a year.

How do I subscribe to the church newsletter?

When you become a member of the church, you are automatically subscribed to the regular mailing of the church newsletter. Anyone can subscribe to the emailed version of the newsletter by emailing office@peopleschurch.net with 'Subscribe' in the subject heading.

I've been coming for awhile now, but still don't feel as involved as I'd like to be. Any suggestions?

Depending on what aspects of the church you're interested in, there are many opportunities to be more involved in the church community. Listed to the right are a few groups and upcoming events that may appeal to you.

Chalice Circles

A chalice circle is formed when enough people show interest in getting together once a month to talk about a spiritual topic. These are generally small groups, organized and led by one individual, that keep the same members month to month. Contact the church office if interested, office@peopleschurch.net.

Facing Life, Facing Death—Mon., Feb. 18, noon

Typically run by the minister, this group gathers on the 3rd Monday of the month to discuss issues relating to grief, aging, and loss. Feel free to bring your own lunch.

Connections Dinner—Friday, March 29, 6 p.m.

This dinner, sponsored by the Membership Committee, is just a get-together to converse, enjoy food, and talk about the church. All are invited to attend. RSVP at office@peopleschurch.net.

Building & Grounds Work Group

This group, mostly made up of retirees, gets together at the church every Tuesday from 9:30a.m. to noon to do odd jobs around the building. At noon, the group generally meets at Panera for lunch.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural Events

The church's ARAOMC Committee is sponsoring many events this year. Please see Page 6 for a list of upcoming ones, and contact information.

The Green Sanctuary Committee

This group informs members and encourages them to live in ways that are more sustainable for the earth. Please contact Connie Ferguson, if you might be interested in helping out, or joining the committee.

Martha's Table

Martha's Table provides food and a worship service to those in need every Sunday at 4 p.m. at First Congregational Church. People's is one of multiple churches who participate. We will next host the service and food preparations on March 31st.



ISAAC 2013 Banquet

Saturday, March 23rd
 WMU Bernhard Center
 5:30 p.m.

The Keynote Speaker will be Harvey Hollins III, Director of the Michigan Office of Urban and Metropolitan Initiatives, a new state office responsible for finding ways to revitalize the economies of Michigan's major cities.



Tickets are \$35 per person, or \$30 each if you sign up as a table of 8. Call 341-4213 or purchase tickets online by March 17.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural Committee Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, February 10, 12:30 PM**—Sunday Lunch, all are welcome to stay after the service!
- **Friday, February 15, 6-8 PM**—Film and Discussion: "Free Indeed"
- **Friday-Sunday, March 15-17**—ERAC/Ce's 2 1/2-Day Anti-Racism Training
 At the Douglass Community Center; ARAOMC Committee may be able to help with some of cost if you're interested.
- **Sunday, March 24, 1-3 PM**—Anti-Racism Workshop Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Bill Gardiner
 The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA).
- **Friday-Saturday, April 5-6**—Beloved Conversations Retreat with Dr. Mark Hicks
 Cost of retreat will be around \$25. Please let the ARAOMC Committee know if you're interested.
- **March 8, 6 PM**—UUA Book Discussion—The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

Please contact Nadine Godin-Nassaney, for more information about the ARAOMC Committee or any of its events.

Social Justice Coordinating Committee Update

In addition to our continuing Lincoln School Project, People's Church has an investment in another educational enterprise. At the October, 2008 ISAAC Issues Convention, a number of our members were extensively involved in encouraging Kalamazoo County to move toward universal access to high-quality preschool education. From an initiative presented by the Early Childhood Education Task-Force (and with broad support from the community and various area school and political leaders) came the *Kalamazoo County Ready 4s*, now in its second year of operation.

During the pilot year (2011-2012), a \$1 million grant was obtained through the Learning Network, then an Executive Director and Administrative Assistant were hired. Tuition assistance was provided to 65 children following a sliding-fee scale. Kindergarten readiness assessments were conducted and a partnership established with WMU's Department of Speech Pathology to provide screening for children and training for teachers. *KC Ready 4s* developed active cooperation with other local preschool programs, such as the local Head Start program (federally-funded) and the Great Start Readiness Program (state-funded) including developing a common application for families applying to any of the three programs. Professional development opportunities were offered to preschool teachers and directors. *KC Ready 4s* applied for and received non-profit 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. Successful efforts to raise additional funds allowed for doubling the number of children served from 65 in Year 1 to 135 in Year 2. The goal for Year 3 is 225. Parents are engaged through a newsletter, social media and monthly Parent/Provider community meetings. The long-run goal of *KC Ready 4s* is universal access for all Kalamazoo County 4-year-olds to high quality preschool. By working with both public and private providers, *KC Ready 4s* is able to offer "braided" classrooms, which means that children from all income levels have the opportunity to learn together, play together, and succeed together in the same learning environment. This important effort towards community improvement would not have occurred but for ISAAC, to which members of People's Church made an important contribution.

—Sandra Standish, Executive Director, *KC Ready 4s*



OWL Season Begins

One of the important aspects of our religious education program at People's Church is our commitment to offering **Our Whole Lives** sexuality education classes on a rotating basis for every age group for which there is curriculum. These include Kindergarten/1st Grade, 4-6th Grades, 7-8th Grades, 10-12th Grades, young adult and adult.

This year, our 10-12th-graders have just begun their 12-week unit. They will be meeting downstairs in the YRUU room from 10:30-12:30 each Sunday morning to participate in this valuable class.

The Kindergarten/1st grade class will be beginning soon and will meet before church for 8 weeks. Obviously the information taught about our bodies and relationships will vary widely between the 1st graders and the 12th graders. But in age-appropriate ways, the values of honesty, respect, responsibility and open communication flow throughout the curriculum at every age level.

By learning about the importance of being true to themselves at each developmental stage, we are creating the opportunity for our children and youth to live out their highest values in healthy relationships with others.

Special thanks to those from our congregation who have attended the trainings and agreed to teach OWL to our children and youth this year: Mackenzie Hatfield-Johnson, Zoe Valette, Mark Gernsback, Tomme Maile, Kelly Henderson and Megan Reynolds. We couldn't do it without your dedication and commitment!

Save the Date Peace and Nature Camp June 24 -28

Peace and Nature Camp is a one-week day-camp open to all children 6-12 years old. It is held at People's Church and will be M-F, 9am-4pm. More information will soon be forthcoming.

Need Help Shoveling?

Our teens are seeking fundraising opportunities to attend the UUA General Assembly in Louisville, KY in June.

Schedule a teen to come and shovel at your home and make a donation to the YRUU trip fund in return.



To schedule a teen, contact Diane Melvin at re@peopleschurch.net

Specialty Classes

Each month we are seeking people who are willing to donate an hour of their time and energy to help with the Specialty Classes which are usually held the first Sunday of the month. This past Sunday the elementary-aged children enjoyed sledding, making their own laundry soap, tai chi and a winter hike and campfire, complete with hot chocolate.

Do you have a hobby children would enjoy learning? Would you be willing to simply assist with a class, one Sunday this year? The kids love games, crafts, baking and learning new things. Please contact Dawn Chamberlain to offer help.

ELEMENTARY-AGED SLEEPOVER

Friday, March 8th

All 1st-6th-graders are invited to participate in this popular twice-annual sleepover at church. Enjoy a potluck dinner for families before a fun evening full of activities.

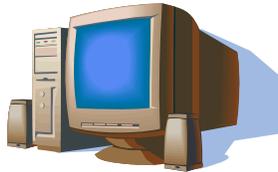
A night hike in the woods, games, movies and activities along with time to hang out with church friends make this a super fun event. This is a great opportunity for newer children to deepen connections with others at church.

Parents are welcome to stay the night too! Registration forms will soon be available.



PR & Media Task-Force— Call to Contribute

The PR & Media Task-Force is undertaking many tasks which are helping to work towards the common goal of creating a richer, more complete, and more accessible outward presence for the church. The immediate tasks include activities that will get us to our first goal—re-launching the PeoplesChurch.net website. The task-force has realized however, this is a **BIG** job and we've only brushed the surface. Here are some jobs we could use help with.



- Web designers with WordPress experience
- Photoshop experts / designers to create graphical elements for the site
- Editors to go over our website content and review it for grammatical and accuracy errors
- Photographers and videographers for pictures and scripted online video content
- Typists to enter content

If there is a skill you could offer to aid in this important project, please contact Anna Shade or the church office (office@peopleschurch.net, 375-3262). Thanks.

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 the link on the People's Church homepage (peopleschurch.net). 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.



People's Camping Trip August 2-4, 2013

People's Annual Camping trip to VanBuren State Park will be **August 2-4, 2013**. Last year we had 17 families who camped and many others who joined us for the day on Saturday. The reservations are for Friday night and Saturday night and the cost will be \$50-54 per site. Some people share sites either by staying together, or, if you can only stay one night, someone else may use the site the other night. The campgrounds do not allow reservations for only one night on a weekend.

It is a great time to see other People's people in a casual atmosphere and create new bonds. Most people arrive Friday evening to set up camp. Saturday



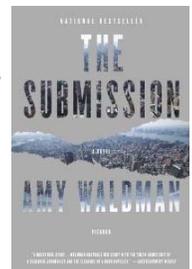
day afternoon we usually meet as a group at the beach on Lake Michigan, which is a short walk from the campground. Saturday night we all get together for a potluck, with grilled burgers and hot dogs, and a wide variety of home made dishes. After dinner, a bonfire is used for s'mores and as a gathering place for conversation. Last year, we had a wonderful service Sunday morning before heading out.

If you want a site, or just want more information, contact Lori Hughes, or sign up on the clipboard in the foyer.

If you are interested in being involved in the planning of the potluck, please state that also. There may be a small fee for the potluck this year to cover the cost of supplies, drinks and meat.

Book Group

We will be discussing The Submission by Amy Waldman at our next meeting on **Wednesday, February 13th**. We will meet at Donna Treloar's condo at **1:30**. Call Donna for directions. Newcomers are always welcome.



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	February 12	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	February 13	Book Club Board Meeting	1:30p.m. 6:30p.m.	Donna Treloar's Home Room L1
Wed.-Sat.	Feb. 13-16	Picture Directory (sign up for an appointment at http://peopleschurch.net)		Rooms 8 & 9
Thursday	February 14	<i>Valentine's Day</i> Religious Education Committee Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal UU Young Adult Group	6:00p.m. 6:15p.m. 7:15p.m. 8:00p.m.	TBD TBD Commons #208, Park Trades Center
Friday	February 15	Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural Committee presents the film " <i>Free Indeed</i> "	6:00p.m.	Room 19 (or Commons)
Saturday	February 16	Mindfulness Retreat Men's Discussion Group	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m.	Room 19 Room L2
Sunday	February 17	Zen Meditation Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Roasted Peanuts (children's music group)	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m.	Room 19 Foyer Commons Room 9
Monday	February 18	Newsletter Deadline Facing Life, Facing Death The Study Group	12:00p.m. 12:00p.m. 7:30p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Room L1 The Fountains at Bronson
Tuesday	February 19	Building & Grounds Work Group Library Committee	9:30a.m. 9:30a.m.	Meet at Church Room 1
Thursday	February 21	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	February 22	Newsletter Mailing	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Sunday	February 24	Zen Meditation Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Roasted Peanuts (children's music group)	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m.	Room 9 Foyer Commons Room 9

To subscribe to an electronic version of this newsletter, please email 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.

Rachel Corrie Day

On **Saturday, March 16**, church member Ben Quiffa will be handing out cards on the Kalamazoo Mall in honor of the 10th anniversary of Rachel Corrie's death. Rachel Corrie was an American activist who was killed while standing in front of a bulldozer in Palestine. Ben is looking for youth and others who promote peace who might be interested in helping him hand out cards.

Please contact him at 269-385-4602, or by email at Brquifa@gmail.com.

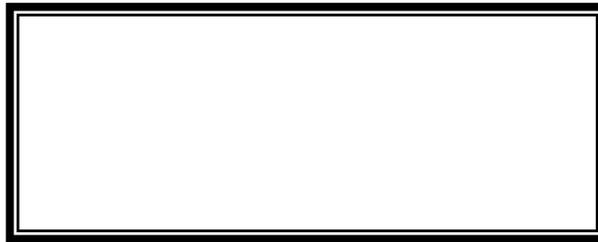
*Rachel Corrie Stood For Peace
10 years ago!*



People's Church
News & Views
1758 N. 10th St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit No. 921

Check us out on the web!
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.”

