



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



News & Views

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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

Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

March 17 "Lessons From The Buddha and Herman Hesse" Sally Padley

Buddhism has become the fourth largest religion in the world and at People's Church is often referred to as a source of wisdom for right living. Today's sermon will explore the origin and expansion of this important faith and will offer the non-Buddhist lessons from the religion and from Herman Hesse, author of the novel *Siddhartha*.



March 24 "Building the Beloved Community" Rev. Bill Gardiner

Over the past four decades Unitarian Universalists have been organizing to build a more inclusive and just *Beloved Community* in our congregations, our work places, our communities, and our families. *Beloved Community* embodies the values of inclusion, justice making, power sharing, and affection. To build more *Beloved Community* we have had to struggle with the isms of sex, race, sexual identity, class, age, and physical ability. It has often been a difficult and painful journey. There are successes to celebrate and defeats to learn from. We are on the way but we aren't fully there yet. Bill Gardiner will reflect on where we go from here in building *Beloved Community*.



Rev. Bill Gardiner

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Budget Hearing—Sunday, March 17

The annual Budget Hearing for the church will be held **Sunday, March 17th** immediately following the service. This meeting is 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 an added incentive, for a small donation there will be lunch provided at the gathering. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Thank you.



—Michelle Clark, Finance Committee Chair

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.



Nadine Godin-Nassaney

One of our "leading edges" as a congregation is our work in anti-racism. Officially, the committee goes by the name ARAOMC (anti-racism, anti-oppression, multi-culturalism), which is the acronym used within the Unitarian Universalist Association to stand for all the work and learning we do in the areas of racism, oppression and multi-culturalism. "Guided by our principles, Unitarian Universalists (UUs) are called to work for racial justice; to nurture religious communities that are inclusive of people of all races, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds; and to dismantle racism and other oppressions at home and in our larger society." Three of our UUA principles are "The inherent worth and dignity of every person," "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations," and "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all," which directly relate to this work. Crossroads Anti-Racism Training and Organizing (crossroadsantiracism.org) recognizes that racism goes beyond personal prejudice and defines racism as "Race prejudice + the misuse of power by systems and institutions = Racism." Since the time of first contact, every system and every institution in the U.S. that was created by Europeans and European Americans was structured legally and intentionally to serve the white society exclusively or in superior ways. So even though we might not be personally racist, we all are a part of the institutions with which we engage. With this in mind, the mission statement of People's Church Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural (ARAOMC) Committee is "We aim to apply anti-racist, anti-oppression, multi-cultural knowledge and principles to transform our congregation and to further the work of striving for justice and equality for all."

In the past the ARAOMC Committee has hosted many events including a 6-hour anti-racism introductory workshop, video showings with reflective discussion, guided tours of the AAA Race Exhibit, multicultural training, a visit and lecture by the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed of the UUA, and a study group using the UUA curriculum entitled "Examining Whiteness" developed by the Rev. Dr. William Gardiner. The aims of these events were to: 1) help us gain an appreciation for the way whiteness privileges some at the expense of others; 2) examine how white privilege diminishes our collective humanity; 3) raise consciousness of our role in a society marked by racial hierarchy; and 4) act to transform the conditions that perpetuate racial hierarchy and keep us apart from one another.

Upcoming ARAOMC events include a visit by the Rev. Dr. William Gardiner, who currently works as an anti-racism consultant in the UUA and is also a member of the Board of Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training. He will give a sermon entitled "**Building Beloved Community**" on **March 24th at 10:45 a.m.** Rev. Gardiner will also lead a workshop entitled "**Constructing A New White Identity In The Twenty-First Century**" on **March 24th 1-3 p.m.** See Page 5 or talk with an ARAOMC Committee member for more information. Sign up in the foyer for this free workshop.

On **April 5-6** Dr. Mark Hicks, the Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education at Meadville-Lombard Theological School and Director of The Fahs Collaborative Laboratory for Leaders in Faith and Learning, will facilitate a day and a half retreat entitled "**Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity.**" This is an experiential and evocative curriculum that provides a container for exploring the spiritual and intellectual dimensions of racism in our lives. With six to eight two-hour follow-up seminars, the group encounters ways in which issues of race and ethnicity shape individual and group assumptions, and also considers the spiritual dimensions of what is learned. Sign up in the foyer for this retreat. The cost is approximately \$25 and the space is limited to 25 people.

Our last ARAOMC event of the year will be the UUA

...Continued on Page 3



Social Justice Update ISAAC Banquet

A wonderful evening of food and entertainment is the annual ISAAC Banquet coming **Saturday, March 23** at WMU's Bernhard Center. People's has been in attendance every year since its inception.

The Keynote Speaker will be Harvey Hollins III, director of the Michigan Office of Urban and Metropolitan Initiatives, a new state office for finding ways to revitalize the economies of Michigan cities. Musical enjoyment will include performances by the Muslim-Jewish Children's Choir and pianist Marques Ware, a Kalamazoo Central High School senior.



Awards to be presented at this year's banquet are: Ally of the Year—Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety; Founder's Award—Youth Violence Prevention Task-Force; Leader of the Year—Dr. Charles Warfield, NAACP.

Seating begins at 5 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in the foyer of People's Church—\$35.

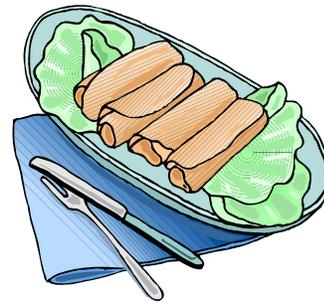
This is a unique opportunity for fellowship with our diverse community along with the inspiring speakers, shared meal and wonderful entertainment.

At last year's Annual ISAAC Banquet the Keynote Speaker, David Kennedy, explained the Ceasefire Program, which had been implemented in several communities to combat youth violence. This inspired a significant effort to implement a similar program in Kalamazoo. Recently Police Chief Jeff Hadley reported that he had received the updated proposal from David Kennedy to be sent through the proper channels within the department. It is now expected that Ceasefire will begin to be implemented in Kalamazoo in about 30 days. This is a great example of how ISAAC impacts the community in positive ways and why our commitment to it is so important.

Reminder: *This month's need at Loaves and Fishes is CANNED FRUIT.*

Connections Dinner **Friday, March 29, 6:00 p.m.**

The first People's Connections Dinner was such a hit that we decided to hold another. The second People's Connections dinner will be on **Friday, March 29.**



These dinners are co-hosted by the Membership and Religious Education Committees to give newcomers, including parents of young children, a chance to get to know each other and to meet other People's people. Child care will be provided.

Please RSVP to Linda Gentry Bennett so we know how many to plan for.

The Leading Edge...continued from Page 2

Common Read book discussion: **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness** by Michelle Alexander: time and date to be determined. Racial profiling, criminalization, and mass incarceration of African Americans and other people of color constitute today's legal system for institutionalized racism, discrimination, and exclusion. Dr. Michelle Alexander, civil rights advocate, litigator, and scholar exposes today's racial caste system and how to resist it.

In 2014 the Art Wall is planning to co-sponsor an exhibit with us on the Archaeology of the Michigan Underground Railroad. The exhibit will demonstrate the ways in which people worked together across the color line to challenge racism and dismantle the institution of slavery in the 19th century and how that work can serve as a model for anti-racists in the 21st century.

Members of the ARAOMC Committee hope that you can join us for one or more of these exciting events.

In alliance, *Nadine Godin-Nassaney*



An Invitation to Join a Chalice Circle

Chalice Circles are a form of small-group ministry. They are opportunities to meet with others around a commitment to practice listening and sharing in ways that allow us to be real and honest. In chalice circles, we focus on topics from our life experience—success and failure, grief and joy, love and loss, loneliness and alienation, growth and forgiveness, happiness and contentment—all of life is our focus. A chalice circle is typically a group of 6 or 7 people, meeting regularly for 1-2 hours. The discussion and sharing follow an order of service which encourages moving beyond opinions to the sharing of experience. Group members make a commitment to the group and to the process, for a specified amount of time. Facilitation is shared. If you'd like to be part of a Chalice Circle, please email office@peopleschurch.net, or call 375-3262.

Coat Rack Too Full?

If you've noticed the upstairs coat rack being full on Sunday, you're welcome to use the one downstairs. It's located straight ahead of the entrance, in front of Room L2.



\$MONEY MATTERS\$

Through the end of January, the fiscal year at People's Church is going well. Our operating income is five percent ahead of plan for the year to date. Pledge income is about \$12,000 above last year. Our operating expenses are 12 percent below budget, resulting in a nice surplus in the operating budget so far. Since January and February are our "lean" months in terms of pledge income, this is basically very good news. We will see what February results show once all returns are in.

Now we are moving into the stage where we will be looking forward to next year. Our Budget Hearing is **Sunday, March 17** after church. This is where the budget plans for next year (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) will be presented. Then we will launch the Annual Stewardship drive on **Sunday, March 24**. Please be prepared to participate and make your pledge of financial support for People's Church. Our goal is 100 percent participation!

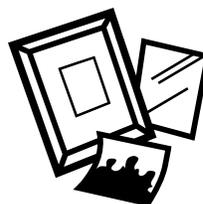
—Allan Hunt, Treasurer

"CONSTRUCTING A NEW WHITE IDENTITY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY"

Sunday, March 24, 1-3 p.m.

President Obama, a man of color, has been elected President of the United States for the second time, and a new generation of people of color leaders is emerging. White people are reacting to these changes in problematic and predictable ways. Progressive coalitions for human rights, women's rights, and environmental sustainability are divided by race. Diversity strategies in major institutions are found wanting. How do we address the resistance of racially conservative whites? How do we address internalized racial superiority? How do whites make alliances with leaders in people-of-color communities to make anti-racist change? Join us for this free workshop.

8 X 10 Photos Available for Pickup



If you had your picture taken for the photo directory and did not receive an 8X10 photo at home, there's a good chance there is one waiting for you to pick up in the volunteer office in the reception area. Please look near the mailboxes and take your free photo home.

Dear Friends,

As some of you already know, I recently took the initiative to act as a back-door greeter because I felt this was something the church is in need of. However, choir commitments often make it impossible for me to act as such. Are there others willing and interested in helping our People's people with limited mobility negotiate the backdoor's icy walkway? If so, please sign up on the kiosk in the foyer.

Sincerely,
David Greenquist



Green Spot

By Connie Ferguson

Turning Our Kitchen Green—without turning it into a Big Deal!

Our decisions about how to adapt so we have fewer negative effects on our environment involve a balance among what's possible, what's practical and what we're willing to do. Here are some things we're doing at the church.

Dishes, etc.: Several years ago, we decided to minimize our use of disposable dishes by investing in reusable tableware and a dish sterilizer. The sterilizer is not a dishwasher, so it's still necessary to scrape and rinse the dishes. It's a bit more work, but we get to use "real" plates and cups while generating less waste.

Recycling: It's impossible to eliminate waste when preparing and serving a meal, so we do the best we can to reuse, recycle and compost. In the area where food and drinks are served, we place a trash can, a recycling container, and a compost bin. Uneaten food, other than animal products and oils, can be composted. Metals, many plastics and cardboard can be recycled. There also are labeled containers for recyclables and compost in the kitchen. Compost should be emptied into the bin outside, following each event.



Tablecloths, towels, etc.: For when we want to "dress up" the tables we have a supply of cloths that fit our large tables to minimize our use of disposable tablecloths. The group hosting the event takes them home to launder, along with used dish towels. Of course, there are times when cloth table covers really aren't practical, so we use plastic. The point is to think about it first.

Food and drink: We try to serve healthful foods using fresh, locally produced foods when available. We do have desserts, but try not to overload on sweets. Pop and other sweet drinks are served only rarely. There are plenty of containers for water and a good supply of ice. We try to respect each other's

dietary restrictions and preferences by having vegan and gluten-free items available. Please package leftovers to take home, when possible using the reusable containers found in the cupboard. Any items left in the refrigerator must be labeled with date and whether they are available for others to consume.

Energy use, safety and health: The usual energy conservation principles apply. Turn it on when you need it; turn it off when you're done. Recently, in order to meet fire codes, an automatic fire-extinguishing hood was installed over the stoves. There also is a new vent system. We're working with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to make sure all controls and emergency shut-offs are clearly labeled.

All this soon becomes a matter of habit for those who use the kitchen frequently. For the rest of us, instructions for the kitchen are being revised and a series of small signs will be placed at the "point of experience" as a reminder of what we're trying to do. And "trying" is the key word. Perfection is neither anticipated nor expected, but we will gradually improve as we learn and practice.

Thanks for joining us on this journey!

The Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC) column, "Green Spot," provides updates on GSC activities, information on environmental topics and links to relevant resources on topics that may interest you. More information will be on the church website soon. If you have any questions please talk with a GSC member (Julia Kirkwood, Cybelle Shattuck, Connie Ferguson, Allan Hunt, Aliisa Lahti, Bob Swicker).

Arms Around Update

Volunteers are needed to help our members living in Friendship Village get to services on Sundays.

Please contact Dana Kubinski (dbmchurch@peopleschurch.net) or Marcy Ohs, if you can help.



Religious Growth and Learning

Several times in the past month I have had people from other religious institutions inquire as to how we have built such a growing and successful religious education program for children and youth at People's Church.

Each time I have replied with the importance of fun activities designed to build relationships among the youth. The value of youth conferences, sleepovers, specialty classes, and youth group activities cannot be underrated. Most children and youth enjoy coming to church, not specifically to learn about the curriculum topic that day, but rather to enjoy interaction with the community of other children and youth in their classes.

I am a strong believer that any way we can help build and strengthen these relationships will facilitate positive experiences at church and the desire for regular attendance and involvement.

One of the ways that parents can help is to make consistent attendance a priority for your family. As always, our actions speak louder than our words. If an active spiritual life is important to your family, regular attendance at church communicates that to your children. The more consistently children and youth are at church, the stronger the relationships they are able to build and nurture, thus helping them to feel deeply connected as a valuable part of this church community.

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Director of Religious Education



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.



Dear Children of the Future

My hopes for you are these:

May you be Powerfully Loving and Lovingly Powerful. May Love be your Guide with family, friends and colleagues. Remember to listen carefully to your own Heart and to the hearts of Others.

May you have the Strength to overcome Fear and Pride and instead follow what has Heart and Meaning for you. Take an Action every day to support your Life Dream, your Love Nature, and your Integrity.

May you care for Mother Nature and the Wilderness and help all living things keep their Dignity.

May you be an active, committed Positive Force in your community. May you show respect to People of All Ages and Races and help make a better world for the Poor, the Sick, the Elderly, and the Youth.

May you respect all the ways human beings access their own Spirituality.

May you constantly bring your Gifts and Talents forward every day without hesitation or reservation.

With deep gratitude and respect for all that you will do to make the Earth a better place in which to live.

~ Angeles Arrien

Men's Discussion Group Changes Name

Participants in the Men's Discussion Group sponsored by People's Church for the past 15 years have decided to remove the gender distinction from the group title. Those present at the March 2 gathering voted to change the name to *The Discussion Group*.

The Men's Discussion Group was started by Oren "Pete" Peterson, the interim minister who served before Jill McAllister was named minister at People's. At the time, the church sponsored a parallel organization—The Women's Discussion Group.

Despite its name, the Men's Discussion Group for many years has welcomed all who wished to participate. Several women have attended meetings and contributed to discussions. There is no requirement that participants be members of People's Church or other UU congregations, and several current participants are not.

Dick Klade, the group coordinator, said those who supported the name change believed having "men" in the title at least implied a preference for male participants and could not help but make others somewhat uncomfortable, no matter how unbiased actual practice has been. Klade thinks the new name better reflects reality. "We are a welcoming group," he said, "and dropping the gender term from the traditional title should remove any doubt anyone may have about that."

The Discussion Group meets in Room L2 at People's Church from 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturdays of each month from mid-September through mid-June. Each participant is expected to choose a topic and prepare brief reading material for it once or twice during an 18-meeting season. Participants also are expected to provide snacks for meetings once or twice during each season.

Recent discussions have addressed inequality in U.S. society, UU membership declines, causes that group participants support, global climate change, overpopulation, the implications of President Obama's reelection, public education problems, and values vs. realism in international politics.

The next meeting is **March 16**. The topic is "**The Roots of Muslim Rage Revisited.**"

Corn Fed Girls in Concert Saturday, March 30, 8:00pm

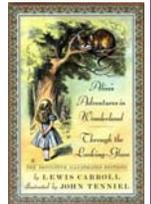


Join us the last weekend in March for the next in our People's Church Concert Series. Tickets are \$12 if signed up for in advance, \$15 at the door.

Book Group

Wednesday, March 13, 1:30pm

Drusie Rosegrant always chooses a classic for us to read. This year it is [Alice in Wonderland](#) by Lewis Carroll. We will meet at **1:30** on **March 13th** at Drusie's apartment in Friendship Village. Call her for directions. Join us for a lively discussion.



The Study Group

Monday, March 18, 7:30pm

The People's Church Study Group's next book will be Karen Armstrong's [12 Steps to a Compassionate Life](#). We will be meeting on **Monday, March 18, at 7:30**, in "The Den" meeting room at The Fountains at Bronson Place. New participants welcome! For directions or more information on the group, please contact Tim Bartik.



Reading Together Book Discussion

The annual Reading Together selection for 2013, sponsored by the Kalamazoo Public Library, is [The Submission](#), by Amy Waldman. Ten copies are circulating. Check at the table in the foyer to see if a copy is available. People's Church will have a discussion of this book on **Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 2:00** in Room 9. This event is open to the general public.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Monday	March 11	Financial Affairs Committee	7:15p.m.	Room 18
Tuesday	March 12	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	March 13	Book Group Board Meeting	1:30 p.m. 6:30p.m.	Drusie Rosegrant's Home Room L1
Thursday	March 14	Religious Education Committee Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal Young Adult Group (ages 18-35)	6:00p.m. 6:15p.m. 7:15p.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 8 Room 9 Commons Park Trades Ctr., #208
Fri-Sun	March 15-17	Women's Retreat	5:30p.m.	Kellogg Biological Center
Saturday	March 16	The Discussion Group	10:00a.m.	Room L2
Sunday	March 17	Meditation Session Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service <i>Special Collection for Women's Specialty Services</i> Budget Hearing / Sunday Lunch Roasted Peanuts (children's music group) Environmental Film Series: <i>Dirt: The Movie</i> Reading Together Book Discussion	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m. 2:00p.m. 2:00p.m.	Room 19 Foyer Commons Commons Room 9 Room 8 Room 9
Monday	March 18	Newsletter Deadline Facing Life, Facing Death	12:00p.m. 12:00p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Room L1
Tuesday	March 19	Building & Grounds Work Group Library Committee	9:30a.m. 9:30a.m.	Meet at Church Foyer / Room 1
Thursday	March 21	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	March 22	Newsletter Mailing Green Sanctuary Committee	9:00a.m. 4:00p.m.	Room 8 Room 18
Saturday	March 23	ISAAC Banquet	5:00p.m.	WMU Bernhard Center
Sunday	March 24	Meditation Session Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Roasted Peanuts (children's music group) <i>"Constructing a New White Identity in the 21st-Century,"</i> a workshop w/ Rev. Bill Gardiner Environmental Film Series: <i>Carbon Nation</i>	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 1:00p.m. 2:00p.m.	Room 19 Foyer Commons Room 9 Room 19 Room 8

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.

Help Wanted

Someone to help with household tasks for a couple of hours each week. Mostly floors—we have 3 cats who think nothing of leaving their fur strewn about. We can discuss whatever payment you think is fair.

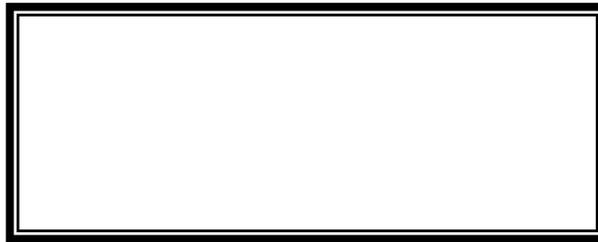
Be forewarned...work could lead to friendly discussions of how it has been going for the last week.

Please send an e-mail or call Kim Gheen.

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News & Views
1758 N. 10th St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

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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.”

