



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



News & Views

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Church Office Hours:

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

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Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

March 31 "Lo, The Earth Awakes Again: Easter, UU and You" Kevin Tarsa, Jill McAllister

What's a UU to do with Easter? Reflect upon and celebrate the turn of the year, drawing upon the religious heritage of our tradition, the cyclical rhythms of the earth, and the seasons of our lives. UU minister Kevin Tarsa, long-time Minister of Music at the UU congregation of Traverse City before entering Meadville Lombard Theological School a few years ago, returns to People's Church to once again share his extraordinary talents for weaving music and stories into worship.



April 7 "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.



(Rescheduled from March 17, when Sally graciously postponed this service for Jill's "Change of Plans.")

People's Church Membership Orientation Sunday, April 7th, 12:30-2:30p.m.

We encourage everyone interested in learning more about us to attend our Membership Orientation. This class allows participants to get to know other people who are exploring membership, as well as the minister and other lay leaders. Topics include the history of Unitarian Universalism and People's Church, our work in the wider community, and the rights and responsibilities of membership.

Formal membership is accomplished by signing our Bond of Union, adopted in 1892. If you are interested in signing a Bond of Union, they can be picked up at the Information Desk in the Reception Area or in the Lobby.



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Between Us



Thank-you, thank-you for your generous, gracious, and honest responses to the news of my “change of plans.” Here are the details: I have been invited to be the candidate for ministry at the UU Fellowship of Corvallis, Oregon. This means that the search committee there has chosen me to be the candidate they present to the congregation. I will spend two Sundays and the week in between in Corvallis, April 7-14, during which I will preach twice and get to know the congregation. On the final Sunday, the congregation will vote to decide whether or not to call me to be their next minister.

Many of you will recognize a unique element to this offer: Corvallis is the congregation I served, as Associate Minister, from 1992-98, and is the congregation I came from when I moved to Kalamazoo and People’s. It is not usual, or common, to return to a congregation one has served before. It was a great surprise to me to be invited to consider this. Life is full of surprises, to say the least. As I mentioned in my letter last week, considering this opportunity was very much about the place and its geography for both Walter and me, as well as about being close to family. I am excited to go in this direction, even while at the same time now, I am very sad to leave here, and to leave People’s.

If all goes as hoped, I will begin in Corvallis in September. There are months between now and then, and in these months we have lots to do together here at People’s. I hope to meet and visit with as many of you as possible—all of you, in fact! So please, invite me to visit you if you are interested. I also hope to put

together a collection of sermons I’ve given here, which all grew between us, literally. And I’ll do my best to help the leadership here and all of you take the needed next steps to keep moving forward.

Many of you have asked about Calvin, who is this year a Junior at Loy Norrix. He definitely plans to graduate from KPS, to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise, and to go to college in Michigan. He has his own plans in mind, which we are supporting.

Meanwhile, life at People’s Church does not slow down. We have plenty to do together in the coming months. First, and most important, is to begin and complete our annual stewardship campaign, with all members and friends participating. Each of us has a chance to have a one-to-one conversation with a canvasser—all of whom are simply other members of People’s Church, eager to talk with you. This is a chance to talk about the new possibilities ahead, and how we each hope to help maintain the strength and vigor of this congregation. Many of you are new here since our Feeding the Flame campaign, and I urge you to consider becoming part of it by adding a pledge or contribution to it if you are able. If you have questions, the Finance team members, board members and I are more than happy to talk with you—please contact one of us.

There is so much between us—beauty, wisdom, courage, and more—let’s stay on this journey together in the best ways we can.

See you Sunday—*Jill*

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

Things to Think

Think in ways you've never thought before.
If the phone rings, think of it as carrying a message
Larger than anything you've ever heard,
Vaster than a hundred lines of Yeats.

Think that someone may bring a bear to your door,
Maybe wounded and deranged; or think that a moose
Has risen out of the lake, and he's carrying on his antlers
A child of your own whom you've never seen.

When someone knocks on the door,
Think that he's about
To give you something large: tell you you're forgiven,
Or that it's not necessary to work all the time,
Or that it's been decided
that if you lie down no one will die.

—Robert Bly, *Morning Poems*

Corn Fed Girls in Concert Saturday, March 30, 8:00p.m.



The next concert in the People's Church Concert Series is **Saturday, March 30, 2013**. What a great way to welcome the spring and enjoy good company.

Our performers are The Corn Fed Girls—a local favorite. Two of their members, Phil Barry and John Campos, opened for last year's Carrie Newcomer concert. You can learn more about the group at thecornfedgirls.com.

While you may have seen them perform elsewhere, please note that People's Church is a fabulous venue—small and intimate and with no barroom chatter! Families are welcome.

The concert begins at 8:00 p.m.. **Tickets are \$12 in advance** (can be reserved by calling the church at 269-375-3262) **or \$15 at the door** (children 5-12 are half price). We hope you can join us for another great concert at People's Church. Please bring a friend or two and arrive early for our pre-concert soiree time—meet and greet each other. Hope to see you there.

More Upcoming Concerts at People's Church

April 13 - Bruce Molsky (sponsored by Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association)

April 20 - emma's revolution (People's Church Concert Series)

World Religions and Ecology Class Sundays 9:30-10:30AM March 31-April 21

This Education Series led by Cybelle Shattuck combines an introduction to some of the world's major religions with information about current environmental activities being undertaken by people of faith. We'll explore beliefs, values, stories, rituals, and community structures and look at how faith communities draw on these resources to motivate efforts to live more sustainably.



March 31: Judaism: An Ethical Path



And God said to Adam: "See my works, how lovely they are, how fine they are. All I have created, I created for you. Take care not to corrupt and destroy my universe, for if you destroy it, no one will come after you to put it right." (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7)

April 7: Christianity: Stewardship of God's Creation

"If you love your neighbor, you don't pollute your neighbor's air." (Rev. Sally Bingham)

April 14: Hinduism: Karma in a Divine World

"Dharanath dharma ucya— that which sustains all species of life and helps to maintain harmonious relationship among them is dharma [moral action]." (Swami Vibudhesha Teertha)

April 21 (Earth Day Sunday): Buddhism: Compassion for All Living Beings

"We should deal with nature the way we should deal with ourselves!...Harming nature is harming ourselves, and vice versa." (Thich Nhat Hanh)

Beloved Conversations

Meditations on Race and Ethnicity

A 1 1/2 day retreat with Dr. Mark A. Hicks

Friday, April 5, 6-9pm Saturday, April 6, 9am-4:30pm

In the spirit of small-group ministry (or what many call "covenant groups"), *Beloved Conversations* is an experiential and evocative curriculum that provides a container for exploring the spiritual and intellectual dimensions of racism in our lives. Over the course of 8 sessions in a one and a half day period, 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.



Dr. Mark Hicks

Each session uses the evocative power of the arts, posing questions that connect with both the sources of inspiration as well as the challenges of race/ethnicity that slow our human journey toward wholeness. As such, the curriculum differs from many approaches to anti-racism/multicultural work in that it does not frame the discussion only in terms of demographic urgency or cultural critiques (both of which are useful to understand!). Rather, it focuses on developing skills and the habits of an anti-racist mind that helps everyone—those in dominant groups as well as those who are targets of oppression—heal from the wounds of racism.

Topics:

- The Footprint of Racial & Ethnic History in Your Community
- Exploring the Dynamic of Racism and Privilege
- Racism Today: Micro-Aggressions
- Congregational Audit: What's in Your Backpack?
- Community Audit: The Experience of Race & Ethnicity in your Community
- Building Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Skills and Competency
- Toward a New Identity: How Can We Be-in-the-World?
- Collecting our Wisdom: A Celebration of Learning and Commitment

The cost of this retreat is \$25, and participation is limited to 25 people. Please sign up in the foyer or call the church office, if you are interested.



Social Justice Update

April Special Collection

The special collection on **April 14** will be taken to benefit The Recovery Institute of Southwest Michigan, an independent nonprofit organization located in the Park Trades Center. The Recovery Institute is an organization where recipients of services for mental health and/or substance abuse can pool their resources to advance their wellness and recovery. The Recovery Institute is funded by Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services—but they are not fully funded so our contributions are greatly needed.

The Recovery Institute is a peer-run, peer-delivered organization in which most of the staff and all board members are people in recovery from mental health and or substance abuse. Volunteers meet with other peers out in the community (KCMHSAS Access Center, Borgess, and Recovery Institute). They offer support and information about community services that are intended to empower individuals and encourage personal responsibility. They also offer advocacy services to help people navigate the mental health system.

Recovery classes and activities address topics related to health, budgeting, crisis planning, strength-based learning, higher education, recreation, leisure, creativity, computer instruction, and community education. The Recovery Institute aims to foster recovery through their work and personal example. They aim to give hope where there is little or none by spreading the word that recovery is not merely a matter of surviving one's illness, but rather a dynamic and active movement that brings about a meaningful change in lifestyle and habits. Recovery is transformational and it is valued by the community and individuals. It brings completeness, happiness and fulfillment, thus satisfying both the needs of the individual and the community.

Loaves and Fishes Donations to be Taken

On **April 7 and 14** Rick Johnson's truck will be prominently parked to receive whatever you can give to Loaves and Fishes. Remember—watch for sales, buy and leave goods in your trunk, involve your kids, unload to the truck before or after church. Your help means so much. Thank you!

Greatest need for April: canned tuna



Green Spot

By Aliisa Lahti

Community Supported Agriculture

Southwest Michigan is full of small farms and hard-working farmers growing food for our community. CSAs are a great way to connect with and support small growers.

Joining a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) project means you pay at the beginning of the season for food you will pick up on a weekly basis from one of the local farmer's markets throughout the growing season. When you join a CSA it means that you are sharing in the bounty of harvest and also in the economic risk with the farmer(s).

I participated as a farmer in the CSA movement for the last four years. It was a rare and special opportunity to share the joys and challenges of my work with the folks who received the food I produced. This year I am taking a break from commercial growing, but I want to share my excitement with you about this unique way to buy food and support your local farmer.

Top 4 Reasons to Join a CSA

1. Know where your food comes from: connect with your farmer.
2. Have fun: some farms offer farm visits, potlucks and recipes.
3. Ecological support: small farms are more likely to use organic methods.
4. Economic support: an infusion of capital up front helps small operations stay afloat.

If you are ready to take the next step in your food journey, contact one of the following farms or any other in our area and ask about joining their CSA.

Chanterelle and Matt
Understory Farm, Bangor, MI
 understoryFarm@gmail.com
 269.808.7773 or 810.701.6522

Heather
Elder Fire Farm Arts, Dowling, MI
 Elderfirefarmarts@gmail.com
 269.352.4711

Trent and Ruthie
Green Gardens, Battle Creek, MI
 trent@greengardensfarm.com
 ruthie@greengardensfarm.com

Dennis and Shawna
Blue Dog Family Farm, Bangor, MI
 farmers@bluedogfamilyfarm.com
 616.745.2741

Lee and Laurie
Eater's Guild Farm, Bangor, MI
 contact@eatersguild.com
 269.427.0423

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).

Environmental Film Series

Sundays, 2-4 p.m.

March 31st—"Renewal"

*People of faith building a sustainable future working on behalf of future generations.
 Discussion Leader: Cybelle Shattuck*

April 7th—"What the Frac?" and "Germany's Progress on Renewable Energy"

Short films with various commentators and extra time for discussion.

CHANGES

The only thing inevitable in life is change. Unexpected change effect us all in different ways though most of us experience some fear of the unknown. When Jill told me she was leaving People's Church and Kalamazoo, I was definitely surprised and deeply saddened. I also feel a little afraid of what the coming changes will be for myself and for our congregation.

Interestingly enough at the same time that I am holding the sorrow, grief and fear, I also feel some hope and excitement for the new possibilities that the future may hold. We are so fortunate at People's Church that Jill has been so skillful in leading and guiding our congregation so that our success does not revolve around her. While the countless gifts she brings will be sorely missed, we are in a position to continue on a track of continued growth and health.

We have so many positives going for us at People's right now. The energy is palpable in the building on Sunday mornings. The number of children and youth registered in RE this year exceeds 160, which indicates much growth. The many programs currently happening at church indicate an active and engaged congregation focused on both the health of the individual as well as working to improve the community through active engagement and outreach.

I believe we are in a great position to band together to positively confront the challenges and changes ahead of us and I'm confident that we can do it with grace.

~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.



Kindergarten/1st Grade

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education

- April 7 - Parent Orientation
 - April 14 - Parent & Child Orientation
 - April 21-Jun 9 - Sessions 1-8 at 9:00-10:15 AM
- Please RSVP to re@peopleschurch.net ASAP

Islam

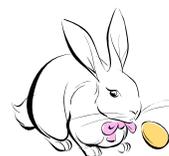
Greetings from the Religious Education Office and Happy Spring! Our religious education classes have begun learning about Islam. This is a good time to teach our children and young people about this beautiful faith. So much of what is covered about Islam in the media and popular culture is negative. This was true historically and has been made worse by the events of September 11th and the wars that followed. We are trying to counter this one-sided view with positive information.



Our 7th and 8th grade students will be visiting the Kalamazoo Islamic Center on March 24th and spending time with the youth group there. Our younger children are learning about the beliefs and rituals of Islam.

We hope that by the end of the unit our students will understand the tenants of the faith-that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves, something that is more important than individual power or wealth and that we should act as the Prophet did and show all others kindness, mercy and compassion. This is the true Islam, the Islam we do not hear so very much about in the news.

In the midst of these lessons, we also have Easter at the end of the month, with the most eggs-cellent Easter Egg Hunt on March 31st. Good, fun, learning times ahead. I wish you all the best.



~Cary Betz Williams, RE Volunteer

YRUU Youth Group - April 7th 6-8pm

Martha's Table

People's Church will be hosting Martha's Table—a church service and dinner for people who are homeless—on **Sunday, March 31st**. This event is hosted at First Congregational Church downtown. Volunteers are needed for the following tasks:



- 2:30-4:30p.m. Cook and Food Preparation
- 3:30-5:30p.m. Serve Meal and Clean Up
- 3:30-5:30p.m. Help with Service
- 3:30-5:30p.m. Door Security & Information
- 3:30-5:30p.m. Welcome Desk

Please sign up on the table in foyer if you're interested in helping, or contact Cynthia Pietras. Thank you!!!



Don't forget to put Saturday evening, **April 27** on your calendar so that you won't miss our annual People's Church Services

Auction. What could be more fun than buying and selling beautiful events and things to each other and supporting the church at the same time? Boat rides, dinners, yard work, babysitting, home repair, singing lessons, home made bread and pies...the sky is the limit. What? You've never been to the services auction? Do yourself a favor—join us this time! What do you need—what would you like to bid on? If you ask, someone will probably offer it. There is something for everyone and for every budget. We'll see you there!



Office Hours

Due to Spring Break, please note the following time changes for church office hours.

Tues., March 26th - Office open from 9am to 12:30pm
Mon., April 1- Office CLOSED until 3 p.m.

—Chris Schleuder, Office Administrator



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.

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.

Also, all are welcome to join us for a **Meet & Greet Reception on Sunday, March 31** in Room 19 following the service. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Come make a new friend!

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU



Service opportunities in Kalamazoo run the gamut from serious to fun, and both types need committed volunteers who seek balance in their lives. Maintaining a form of low-cost urban recreation is the goal for a core crew

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Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	March 26	Building & Grounds Work Group OFFICE open today until 12:30pm	9:30a.m. 12:30p.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	March 27	Archives Group Full-Moon Drum Circle	1:00 p.m. 8:00p.m.	Archives Room Fire Pit (or Room 9)
Thursday	March 28	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	March 29	Connections Dinner	6:00p.m.	Room 19
Saturday	March 30	Pre-Concert Food and Refreshments Corn Fed Girls in Concert	7:00p.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 19 or Foyer Commons
Sunday	March 31	Meditation Session World Religions and Ecology Class Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Meet & Greet Reception Roasted Peanuts (children's music group) Environmental Film Series: <i>Renewal</i> Martha's Table	9:00a.m. 9:30a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m. 2-4p.m. 2:30p.m.	Room 19 Room 9 Foyer Commons Room 19 Commons Commons First Congregational Church
Monday	April 1	Newsletter Deadline	12:00p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net
Tuesday	April 2	Building & Grounds Work Group Talking Pots	9:30a.m. 3:30p.m.	Meet at Church Kitchen
Thursday	April 4	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	April 5	Newsletter Mailing	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Friday & Saturday	April 5 April 6	Beloved Community— Anti-Racism Workshop with Dr. Mark Hicks	5-9p.m. 9a.m.- 4:30p.m.	Room 19 Room 19
Saturday	April 6	The Discussion Group	10:00a.m.	Room L2
Sunday	April 7	<i>Loaves & Fishes Special Collection</i> Meditation Session World Religions and Ecology Class Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Membership Orientation O.W.L. Parent Meeting (K-1st Grade) Roasted Peanuts (children's music group) Environmental Film Series: <i>2 Short Films</i> High School Youth Group	9:00a.m. 9:30a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m. 2-4p.m. 6:00p.m.	Room 19 Room 9 Foyer Commons Room L1 Room 19 Room 9 Commons Room L2

of clubhouse attendants at Red Arrow Golf Course between the Kalamazoo River and King Highway. The season runs from April 13 through October 15 with simple tasks to do (operating cash register, credit card machine, and indoor broom) in either 4-hour or 5-hour shifts once a week. Volunteers can sign-up for 4 to 30 weeks, in time slots convenient to their usual schedules. Training sessions will occur on Monday (10am), Thurs-

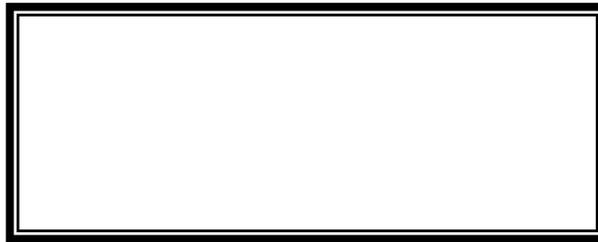


day (1pm), and Sunday (4pm) during the first week of April. At least one session is mandatory, but you may attend as many as you need to feel comfortable about your indoor clubhouse role where summer air conditioning is a prime benefit (there are others too). Talk with Diane Worden about the slot most attractive to you.

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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.”

