



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



News & Views

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Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

April 14 "Of Sunrise and Sunsets" Rev. Fred Campbell

A consideration of change and transitions, and how reverence will see us through, if we will use it. Fred Campbell served as Interim Minister at People's Church for 2 years from 1995 to 1997, during which he did a superb job of helping the congregation navigate a transition following a long ministry. Since then, he has remained a friend of and frequent visitor at People's, and we look forward to welcoming him again this morning.

April 21 "Earth Day, Every Day" Jill McAllister, Diane Melvin, and all

In this intergenerational service (all ages together) we'll consider wisdom from world religions which encourage us to live sustainably on our home the earth. And, we'll celebrate the completion of our annual Stewardship Drive, giving thanks for the participation of ALL our members and friends. AND, we'll welcome emma's revolution and their beautiful music to round out the service. A beautiful day!

Upcoming Music Events at People's Church

emma's revolution in Concert

Saturday, April 20, 8:00p.m.

Pat Humphries and Sandy O. will be joining us again in concert. **Tickets are \$12 in advance** (please call the church at 269-375-3262) **or \$15 at the door** (children 5-12 are half price).



Bruce Molsky Concert and Fiddle & Banjo Workshop

Saturday, April 13 (Sponsored by Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association)



3-5p.m. Group Fiddle & Banjo Workshop with Bruce Molsky
(Cost \$30; \$25 for GLAMA members)

5:30-7p.m. GLAMA Annual Meeting & Potluck

8p.m. Bruce Molsky in Concert (\$15 or \$12 for GLAMA members)

Please join us for the these music events. Hope to see you there!

Between Us



The annual stewardship drive is in full swing at People's. Have you met with your canvasser yet? Stewardship means the ways we take care of what belongs to us and what we belong to—how we nurture and share our resources.

At People's that means how we pool our time, talents, and money to maintain and strengthen this church and our shared work. Since there are many of us working together, it is always possible to meet our goals—that's the beauty of a congregation. The most important thing is that everyone participate, in whatever ways work for them. A face-to-face canvass, where we each have a one-to-one conversation with a canvasser, takes time and commitment, but is very worthwhile in giving us a clear picture of our common ideals and shared goals. Given that we are now in a ministerial transition, this sharing one-to-one couldn't be more important. I urge you to do your part—meet with your canvasser, seriously and thoughtfully consider your pledge to People's Church this year, and return your pledge form by April 21.

If you are new to People's and have never been part of a Stewardship campaign before, I hope you will join us in this effort. You can ask me, or contact our Treasurer, Allan Hunt or Board President, Sue

Caulfield to find out how to participate. Contributions are always welcome in support of our shared work, even though we depend upon pledges. Pledges go beyond contributions in that they signify a commitment to helping meet our budget and mission goals each year. In this important work, we need each other, and we need all to join in.

As the stewardship drive continues, the board has also jumped right in to the details of organizing for a ministerial transition, following my news that I am being considered for a ministerial position at a congregation in Oregon. (The vote in that congregation, to finalize this offer, will take place on April 14.) Sue Caulfield has provided details elsewhere in this newsletter so that you can keep up with what this transition will be made of here at People's, beginning with engaging an Interim Minister for the next church year.

And I am in the midst of this change, looking forward to what it offers, while at the same time feeling great sadness at leaving here. Thank-you to all who have already made plans to get together with me. Before I leave, probably at the end of July, I hope to meet with all of you at least once! So please do call or e-mail me at minister@peopleschurch.net.

See you soon—*Jill*

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Find life experiences
and swallow them whole.
Travel. Meet many people.
Go down some dead ends
and explore dark alleys.
Try everything. Exhaust yourself
in the glorious pursuit of life.”

—*Lawrence K. Fish*

“Life begins at the end
of your comfort zone.”

—*Neale Donald Walsch*

A Letter From the Board President



Dear People's People,

In case you did not hear, Jill has been called to ministry with another congregation, so she will be leaving us toward the end of the summer. Thankfully, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has plenty of information on what to do when a minister leaves. The church's Board of Trustees is already engaged in the process of working with this transition.

We will do what we can to keep everyone up to date on the processes and timelines related to securing an Interim Minister and searching for a Minister called to ministry at People's Church. Please consider this letter the first of such updates that will be coming to you from the Board...

This article is continued on next page

A Letter from the Board President—continued from Page 2

We are working with the District Executive, Lisa Presley, and are in the process of completing our application for an Interim Minister. This has to be at the UUA office no later than April 11, 2013 and we will meet that deadline. This is followed, in rapid succession, by the following dates and activities:

April 22 or 23 – congregations receive names of interested ministers [in this first round, only Accredited Interim Ministers (AIM) or AIMs in training will be considered]

May 3, noon EDT – congregations in this first round may make an offer

May 6 or 7 – congregations without a match from Round I receive names of interested ministers

May 17, noon EDT – congregations in this second round may make an offer

May 20 or 21 – congregations still without a match receive names of interested ministers

Offers may be made at any time after this date

Given we are a dynamic, growing church—the Board anticipates that we will have several AIMs interested in serving as our Interim Minister. Interim Ministers are trained to help congregations transition from one settled minister to the next and serve no more than two years in any congregation. Regardless of the reason for a minister leaving a congregation, there is transition work to be done, including grieving the change, assessing strengths and building the future. We may need an Interim Minister for two years, as the UUA Transitional Ministry Handbook notes that a ministerial search committee should be formed a year in advance of candidating week, which occurs in April/May of the following year. This provides us with plenty of time to discern what we want in a minister and to fully engage the process and utilize the available resources.

So then, let us prepare for a flurry of activity in the next few weeks. Please let the Board know if you have any questions or concerns about the transition process.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and in peace,
Sue Caulfield, Board President



My husband (Don Miller) and I have attended the Service Auction on and off for the past thirteen years. We've decorated our home with framed pieces like the photo of a beautiful, bright red maple tree and a great "What Do UUs Believe" poster.

I've decorated my body with purchased jewelry. We've made close friends through attending hosted meals, shared a boat ride on Lake Michigan and joined a "Cook's Tour" to Grand Rapids. Our son took piano lessons—and loved them. Some years I've stretched our budget, while also supporting the church, by purchasing things I would normally buy in a store. As Mother's Day gifts, I took my mother to a wonderful afternoon tea; another year we had brunch with a guided wildflower walk at the Nature Center.

We've also offered things to be auctioned—Poetry

Brunches, and perennials from my garden. I gardened for someone else who needed help. Don built a custom shelf. When we haven't had as much to spend, we've participated by giving of ourselves.

The first time we attended, I had never been to a "real" auction with a professional auctioneer. It is such fun to see him work. Great food and drinks (yes, wine, beer, and sometimes champagne punch), make it a truly fun night out. Come to the Auction on **April 27**; offer something for purchase, bid on items or both.

Donation forms are available in the church foyer on Sundays through April 21 (last day to donate) or online at www.peopleschurch.net. If you have questions about donating or about items to be offered, please contact Jeme Baker at jemaileen@yahoo.com.

—Wendy Dawson

Quilt Raffle Tickets

A beautiful quilt, made this year by Barb Davis, bound by Donna Grath, and on display in the Commons, is once again being raffled as part of the auction. Tickets are on sale for the next three Sundays, April 7-21, at \$25 each. Only 32 tickets will be sold.

Nominees for the Board of Trustees, 2013-14

The Board of Trustees at People's Church is comprised of 9 members, each serving a 3-year term. Three trustees rotate off the board each year and three new trustees go on the board. This keeps a consistent balance of first, second, and third-year trustees. The Nominating Committee is tasked with identifying and soliciting members of the church who have demonstrated interest and ability to be leaders within our congregation.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce this year's nominees for the Board of Trustees; they are: **David Isaacson** (who is currently completing a partial term), **Megan Reynolds**, and **Mary Kate Webster**. You can find more information about each of these nominees on the next page.

Per the church Constitution, after publication of the Nominating Committee recommendations for board appointment, other candidates may be nominated by petition containing the signatures of at least five supporting members, (the candidate having consented). The petitions must be received by the Church Administrator at least four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

Nominees are voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting, which this year will be held on Sunday, May 19 following the service.



ISAAC Open House—Thurs., April 18

Think you might be interested in ISAAC or want to know more about what it does in our community? Join us for an open house at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

6:50p.m. - Refreshments and Sign-in

7:00-8:30p.m. - Program



Green Spot

By Cybelle Shattuck
& Marj Lightner

Your Own Personal Earth Day

Earth Day began as a communal event, with outdoor gatherings and college teach-ins, to raise awareness of environmental problems. Joining activities with like-minded people is a powerful antidote to fear and despair—we are not alone and together our efficacy is multiplied. Knowing that Earth Day is celebrated around the world, across classes and cultures, we see that we are truly part of an interdependent web of life.

Sometimes, however, the “personal” side of Earth Day gets neglected. Busily participating in events, we forget to reflect on our experiences as children of the earth. What does Earth Day mean in your own life? How have your fears and hopes evolved over time? What sources of inspiration sustain your efforts? How might you ground the experience of Earth Day in daily routines?

This year, consider approaching Earth Day as both a personal and a communal practice. Take time to reflect on what it means to you and how you might incorporate your “Earth Day” consciousness into your everyday life. Then join one of the opportunities to celebrate Earth Day with your community, through action and fellowship.

One way to help the earth is through the People’s Church Adopt-a-Highway project.

People’s Church is responsible for cleaning up the four clover leaves at the intersection of I-94 and Hwy-131. This is a new location for us, and there will be signs recognizing People’s Church on both roads, so let’s show folks how we live up to our values. There are three designated pick-up times during the year with the first being from April 13 to April 21. If you are willing to help then (or July or September), sign up in the foyer or contact Marj Lightner at skiporie@yahoo.com. You must be 12 years old or older to participate. As it is usually less busy on weekend mornings we will be working on April 13th and 20th. The group will gather at 9:00 at the church to view the safety film and carpool to the site. We’ll need at least 12 people to do the job in a reasonable amount of time so please consider this as a way to show your love for the earth.

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).

World Religions and Ecology Class

Sundays 9:30-10:30AM

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.



April 14: Hinduism: Karma in a Divine World

“Dharanath dharma ucyate—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)

World Religions

It is very unusual for a church to offer classes about other religions and site visits to other houses of worship. Most religions focus on helping children and youth to understand the stories of their faith tradition as literal truths. Visiting other religious institutions would threaten or challenge that perspective. As I've called around to set up the site visits for our 7th, 8th & 9th graders this year, every place has been very gracious hosts but some have seemed a bit surprised.

On March 24, we had 37 People's people visit the Kalamazoo Islamic Center. Then last Sunday, the principal of their school along with three of their youth came to People's Church to answer questions and talk with our youth. It was an interesting and informative exchange. They kindly gave us a copy of the Koran for our RE library.

My hope is that by exposing our children and youth to different religious ideas and practices seeds of understanding and tolerance for others will be planted in their hearts. By having dialogue and building relationships with youth of other faiths, I hope that they will be less likely to vilify "the other" throughout their lives as well as advocate for acceptance and respect among their peers.

I also hope that as they learn about a variety of religious practices they find some that resonate within their own hearts and spirits. Whether they enjoyed Buddhist meditation, Taoist Tai Chi or gained an appreciation for the value of stopping everything to pray five times a day and honor that which has value and worth for them throughout each day. There is so much richness and variety found in the world's religious traditions, I hope this exposure and these experiences will aid our children and youth on their own religious journeys. May it be so.

~Blessed Be, Diane Melvin,
Director of Religious Education

Peace and Nature Camp

Peace and Nature Camp is a one-week day-camp at People's Church that runs **M-F, June 24-28, 9am - 4pm** and is open to all children ages 6-12 years old.

This includes an all day field trip to the Kalamazoo Nature Center on Thursday of that week. We will be mostly outside exploring the woods, ponds, and fields around People's Church. There will be times of raucous fun and quiet reflection to inspire a sense of wonder for the natural world in your child.

Camp also provides an opportunity for spiritual growth as we explore how to interact peacefully with each other and the environment. If you have a child or know someone who would like to have fun in a safe place and learn how to be comfortable in the woods as well as with their peers, then Peace and Nature Camp is for them!



Look for a short presentation and slide show about camp at the April 21st Intergenerational Service. Registration forms will be available in the foyer at the camp display board and online

at www.peopleschurch.net starting April 21st.

The cost of camp is \$110 per camper if registered by May 26th. After that, the fee is \$120 and final registration is June 9th. Scholarships are available if registered by May 26th.

If you have any questions, are interested in helping with camp or would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund please contact me. See you at camp!

Thank You,
Jeff Kirkwood, Peace and Nature Camp Director

Book Club

Wednesday, April 10, 1:30 p.m.

The book for April is The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obreht, an interesting blend of myth and reality set in an unnamed Balkan country. We'll meet on at Jan Crosby's condo in Parkview Hills. Call Jan for directions.

The Study Group

Monday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.

The Study Group will be meeting at the Fountains, to discuss David Suzuki's book, Good News for a Change. Newcomers welcome. We will also be discussing possible themes for future meetings. For more information, contact Tim Bartik or see him after church.



2013 ISAAC Banquet

Nearly 500 people attended the annual ISAAC banquet was on March 23, including 40 People's people. Speaker Harvey Hollins, director of the Michigan Office of Urban and Metropolitan Initiatives, described his work of finding ways to revitalize the economies in Michigan's major cities, including Kalamazoo.

The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety was named ISAAC Ally of the Year for their work in promoting a cease-fire program. The Youth Violence Prevention task force received the Founders Award, and Dr. Charles Warfield, President of the local NAACP chapter was honored as Leader of the Year. People's Church received a Buttress Award for outstanding leadership in ISAAC, for the third year in a row.



Wanted: Volunteer Assistant Web Administrators

Do you have a desire to help advance People's Church's presence on the internet? Do you have time to help with overflow Web Administration duties? We're looking for a few interested volunteers to aid Chris Schleuder, our Office Administrator, with these duties. If you get your name in today, you can be part of the People's Church website re-launch team. Training will be provided. Please email Chris at office@peopleschurch.net or Anna Shade.

\$MONEY MATTERS\$

The Annual Stewardship drive began on March 24. Please be prepared to receive a contact from your Canvasser to set up an appointment for a face to face meeting.

There has been some confusion because we have **two different matching grants** of \$25,000 each; one for the Feeding Our Flame capital campaign, and another for the Annual Canvass (operating budget). In both cases the grant will be exhausted when we reach \$25,000 in matching funds; and all pledges must be paid by the end of the 2013-2014 fiscal year on June 30, 2014.

FEEDING OUR FLAME - New pledges to the capital campaign will trigger a 2 for 1 match. That means that a new pledge of \$1,000 to the capital campaign will bring \$2,000 in matching funds for a total of \$3,000 for People's Church.

ANNUAL CANVASS - New pledges to our annual operating budget will trigger a 2 for 1 match. Thus a new pledge of \$1,000 will bring an additional \$2,000 from the matching grant for a total of \$3,000. In addition, **any increase** over last year's pledge will bring a 1 for 1 match. Thus an increase of \$1,000 over last year's pledge will result in \$2,000 for People's Church.

Thank you to our very generous anonymous donors. Now it is time for you to do your share. We need you to participate and make your generous pledge of financial support for People's Church by April 21. Our goal is 100 percent participation!

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	April 9	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	April 10	Book Group Board Meeting	1:30p.m. 6:30p.m.	Jan Crosby's Home Room L1
Thursday	April 11	Religious Education Committee Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal Young Adult Group	6:00p.m. 6:15p.m. 7:15p.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 8 Room 9 Room 9 #208, Park Trades Center
Saturday	April 13	GLAMA Fiddle and Banjo Workshop (\$30) Bruce Molsky Live in Concert	3-5p.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 19 Commons
Sunday	April 14	<i>Loaves & Fishes Food Donations Being Taken</i> Meditation Session World Religions and Ecology Class Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service <i>Special Collection for Recovery Institute of SW MI</i> Sunday Lunch Parent & Child O.W.L. Orientation Scrabble Roasted Peanuts (children's music group)	9:00a.m. 9:30a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m.	Room 19 Room 9 Foyer Commons Commons Room 19 Room 8 Room 9
Monday	April 15	Newsletter Deadline The Study Group	12:00p.m. 7:30p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Fountains at Bronson Place
Tuesday	April 16	Building & Grounds Work Group Library Committee	9:30a.m. 9:30a.m.	Meet at Church Library
Thursday	April 18	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	April 19	Newsletter Mailing (see note below)	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Saturday	April 20	ERAC/Ce Training Introduction The Discussion Group Emma's revolution Live in Concert	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 8:00p.m.	Douglass Community Ctr. Room L2 Commons
Sunday	April 21	Meditation Session O.W.L. Sexuality Education Class—K/1st World Religions and Ecology Class Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Intergenerational Service / Recognition Sunday Roasted Peanuts (children's music group) Pastoral Care Training Session	9:00a.m. 9:00a.m. 9:30a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 1-3p.m.	TBD TBD TBD Foyer Commons Room 9 Room 19

The newsletter mailing group is in need of one or two more people to help fold and sticker the newsletters every other Friday at 9:00 AM at the church. If you can spare 2 hours on a Friday, we'd love to have you. Please call Ellie Killinger or just show up, if you'd like to help. Thank you!

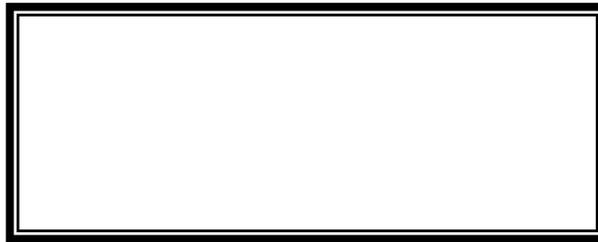


Shepherd's Center of Kalamazoo is looking for 2 volunteers to help serve a lunch from 10am-12pm, and 2 volunteers to help clean it up from 12-1:30pm on **Friday, April 12**. Please call Eunice (372-1621), if you might be willing to help.

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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.”

