



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



News & Views

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Volume 74, Issue 16

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Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

April 28 "Core Strength" Jill McAllister

Those who are interested in physical fitness are aware of the concept of "core strength" which refers to maintaining strength in the abdominal muscles, to help keep other parts of the body in balance (and literally improve our balance.) It's interesting to apply this idea to our spiritual lives as well, to consider practices, perspectives and attitudes which can help keep our minds and hearts balanced, in a world which often feels precariously un-balanced and chaotic. We will also be recognizing our newest members during this service.

May 5 "A Tradition of Social Justice Work: People's Past and Present" Jill McAllister and the Social Justice Coordinating Committee

The central values of Unitarian Universalism—freedom, reason, embracing diversity, and affirming the worth and dignity of every person—must be lived in order to be real. Truly living these values compels us to work for justice. People's people have been living in this way for close to 150 years; we have much to be proud of, and we are still called to this work, in this world, everyday. Jill and the SJCC will tell stories of how we have lived up to our ideals, and the impact we continue to make, to strengthen us for the continuing work of creating more justice and more peace.

Inside this issue:

Between Us	2
Words for Reflection	2
A Letter from the Board President	3
Social Justice Update	4
Newcomer and Membership News	5
RE Notes	6
Money Matters	7
Calendar	8
Mission Statement	9



Come to the Auction Saturday April 27, 6 pm Refreshments, 6:30 pm Bidding Starts

Join your People's friends for this annual evening of fun, where we share goods and services and support the work of the church at the same time. A professional auctioneer keeps things lively and moving. Already these items are offered for the bidding: Gardening, yard work, gourmet dinners, pies, napkins, jewelry, art prints, photography, Apple support and training, editing, bowling, plants, jams, knitting lessons, scrapbooking, mindfulness practice, and more! Still haven't decided what you can offer? Childcare is needed, local sightseeing is always popular, summer suppers, housecleaning help, these and more are always welcome. Please call the church office or e-mail Jeme Baker at jemaileen@yahoo.com to make your offer, and let her know if you can bring finger foods to share.

Check the church website next week for items being auctioned online. Everyone can participate in this wonderful community sharing—don't miss out.

Between Us



Earth Day is every day, if we remember to practice and stay focused. In the past few weeks, I've become more committed to working for awareness of climate change, toward fruitful action.

I had to really sit up and consider my role in this when a long-time friend, a marine geologist who specializes in climates of the past, told me of a study he and others just published in the journal *Science*. The study compiled more than 11,000 years worth of data on climate from around the world (yes, eleven thousand; that is roughly the time span since the origin of agriculture and the beginnings of settled human societies). Although local regions have various bouts of warming and cooling, together when averaged over the earth the data reveal a 10,000 year trend of cooling. Historical data from only the past century reversed this trend such that global average temperatures are rapidly approaching the warmest point in this long history. What's more, if projections from climate models in response to greenhouse gas pollution are correct (and the scientists think they are pretty close) Earth will in a matter of decades be warmer, perhaps much warmer, than at any time in the entire history of humanity.

Van Jones, who delivered the Ware Lecture at the 2008 UUA General Assembly, invoked Martin Luther King, Jr. in his recent article in the *Miami Herald*, to make the point that this is a moral issue and a justice issue, as much as an environmental issue. "If we don't act now, then, within decades, a large fraction of the world's 9 billion people will find themselves living in places whose once stable climate simply now can't sustain them—either because

it is too hot or arid, the land is no longer arable, their glacially fed rivers are drying up, or the seas are rising too fast. The overwhelming majority of those suffering the most—in this country and especially abroad—will be people who contributed little or nothing whatsoever to the problem. This would be the greatest injustice in human history, irreversible on a time scale of centuries."

These changes on the Earth are real. How we will respond is up to all of us. "Good," "bad," and "neutral" are not easily defined, and will require serious thinking and feeling on a global scale. As my friend says "it is time to grow up and be adults. Our lack of choice about doing nothing means that we have some choices ahead about what to do, and we must choose wisely."

How can we incorporate a keener sense of the impact of global warming on all our other projects and ideals? How can we use all our skills and tools to become more effective in taking action to make needed changes in the ways we live and work, and the industries we support and depend on? As always, every journey begins with a single step. What steps can we take together, starting now?

See you Sunday—

Jill

P.S.—I have now been officially called to the ministry at the UU Fellowship of Corvallis, Oregon, and will begin there in September. My work here at People's will continue through the end of July. I look forward to all that we still have to do together.

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

In honor of the victims of the bombing at the Boston Marathon:

May I Become

May I become at all times, both now and forever
 A protector of those without protection
 A guide for those who have lost their way
 A ship for those with oceans to cross
 A bridge for those with rivers to cross
 A sanctuary for those in danger
 A lamp for those without light

A place of refuge for those who lack shelter
 And a servant to all in need
 For as long as space endures,
 And for as long as living beings remain,
 Until then may I, too, abide
 To dispel the misery of the world.

—*Shantideva*

Moving From Knowledge and Hope, Not Anxiety

Notes on the Ministerial Transition
Sue Caulfield, Board President



From our own experiences, it can be rather unsettling to be in the midst of change and not know what is going on around you, not know what decisions are being made, or not know if anyone is listening to your ideas or concerns. This letter is the second in a series of letters from the Board of Trustees designed to keep everyone informed.

On April 10, 2013, the application for an interim minister was posted to the UUA site, so we will learn of interested interim ministers around April 22nd or 23rd. Yes, the process for interim ministers really does move that quickly! The application itself was quite extensive. Your Board of Trustees, as well as Tim Bartik, Nadine Godin-Nassaney and Anna Shade, discussed the various items included in the application and brainstormed our responses to the open-ended questions (e.g., our strengths, what we desire in an interim minister, etcetera). It was a delightful experience to review all the wonderful things that happen at People's Church and narrow our responses to no more than five, as required in the application. After much consideration, the Board has requested an interim minister to serve our congregation for a period of two years.

Interim ministers are regular ministers, in as much as they will preach, work on committees, work with the Board, visit members of the Congregation, perform weddings and funerals, and all the other job responsibilities, while also working with us on grieving loss, envisioning next steps, and helping us search for a permanent (settled) minister. An Interim Minister Task-Force was named by the Board of Trustees and will soon be reviewing the applications of interested interim ministers and making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. This task-force is comprised of five board members as well as two other members of the congregation (Sue Caulfield, Sonja Dean, Allan Hunt, Darryl Loiacano, Sally Padley, Tim Bartik and Anna Shade). The UUA has a strict timeline for all of this and People's Church hopes to secure an interim minister in the first round.

Unlike the expedited process involved in hiring an interim minister, the congregation will be very involved in the hiring of the settled minister. There is a lot of work that goes into choosing the search committee for a settled minister and interim ministers are trained to assist congregations in that process. As a congregation, we need to determine the very process by which we will select the members of this important search committee. Our goal is to have a search committee in place by early spring 2014, so that it can begin the process of accomplishing the myriad required steps and we can all do the work to bring a candidate to People's Church in spring 2015 to begin serving our congregation in August of 2015.

To help people be heard around these very important transitions, the Board of Trustees has created a transitions bulletin board, housed in the foyer. This provides a way for questions or suggestions to be raised at any time. We all can write up ideas related to the transitions, while also recognizing that we may not necessarily have an answer at any particular point in time. All items on the transitions bulletin board will be shared with the Interim Minister Task-Force as well as the Board of Trustees.

Always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call on your Board of Trustees or your minister.

*Written on behalf of the Board of Trustees,
in community and in peace.*

Annual Committee Reports Due Friday, May 3rd

It's that time of year again where the church needs to collect committee reports from all the committees for the Annual Meeting.

Reports should include names of members and chairs, the purpose of the committee, what the committee has done this year, and future goals.

Reports are due no later than **Friday, May 3**, but if you'd like to get it in early, that would certainly be welcome. Thanks so much!



Social Justice Coordinating Committee Update

Folks new to People's may not know of our association with MUUSJN—Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network, an organization that advocates for social justice issues in Michigan. Congregations from all over our state pay dues which facilitate



SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

MUUSJN's work, sending alerts to current efforts such as e-mailings, phoning, marches, gatherings of support or protest, speakers, conventions and so on. An example of a recent involvement concerns discrimination

against women and gays. After getting a call from Planned Parenthood, Rev. Jeff Liebmann and MUUSJN Director Randy Block testified against SB 136, legislation that would allow insurance companies and employers to claim "moral" or "religious" grounds as a basis for denying health services to women and LGBT people. This bill was reported out of Committee and goes to the full Senate for a vote.

Before the vote takes place, MUUSJN will be asking members to call and write their Senators to oppose this bill. MUUSJN, working with a grassroots organization called Mothering Justice, helped circulate a petition opposing HB 4249, a bill that would make it illegal to pass a local ordinance that requires employers to provide sick leave for their employees. This leave time is particularly important to women who more often are caregivers for children, their spouses and their elderly parents. On March 6th, MUUSJN offered verbal and written testimony in opposition to this bill before the House Commerce Committee. Since that date, no further action has been taken on this legislation.

A much fuller understanding of People's long history and continuing commitment to social justice will be gained from the Sunday service on May 5, including a slideshow, music and the formal presentation of the UU Bennett award.

BURUNDIAN PARTNERS— *an Update*

Soon after his visit to us last November, Cassius Shirambere, the president of the Unitarian Church in Bujumbura, Burundi, found himself in a dangerous situation at home, because as director of a human rights organization in Burundi, he had published a letter pointing out some human rights abuses by the government. In December, he brought his wife and two young sons back to the U.S. where they are now living in Portland, Maine, and applying for asylum.



Recently, due to very good social services in Maine, they have been able to get an apartment and are starting the long process of rebuilding their lives. I have been sending support as I can, and I invite you to join me in this effort. Currently they are in need of furnishings and household items. I have half a plan to gather what we can here and drive it to Portland—anyone interested in a short road trip of this sort? Let me know if you can help in any way.

—Jill McAllister

WESTNEDGE HILL GARAGE SALE to support YRUU Trip to General Assembly

Do you need to do some spring cleaning? Can you donate items for a garage sale to help support our teens on their trip to Louisville for the UUA General Assembly? Several People's families in the Westnedge Hill neighborhood will host sales, the first Saturday in May. Items for sale can be delivered to the McAllister/Balk household over the next two weeks. E-mail Calvin Balk at calvin.balk@gmail.com if you have questions.



Newcomer and Membership News

A longtime minister in a UU church once said, “there is only one reason to join a Unitarian Universalist church, and that is to support it.” You join a church because it represents the values you hold, and because you want to nurture and support those values in the wider community for yourself and for others. People’s Church, like all UU churches, is a religious community with no creed. There is no one thing that we all have to believe in order to join. If you think that you can find religious and spiritual nurture here and be challenged to grow, and if you want to help make People’s a strong voice for religious liberalism in Michigan, then we invite you to join us!

Recognition Ceremony

Sunday, April 28, 10:45 AM

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

Meet & Greet Reception

Sunday, May 5, 12:30 PM

Join Rev. Jill McAllister and others after the service for refreshments and casual conversation in Room 19. This event is a great opportunity to meet the minister, talk to folks you haven’t met before, and enjoy some food.

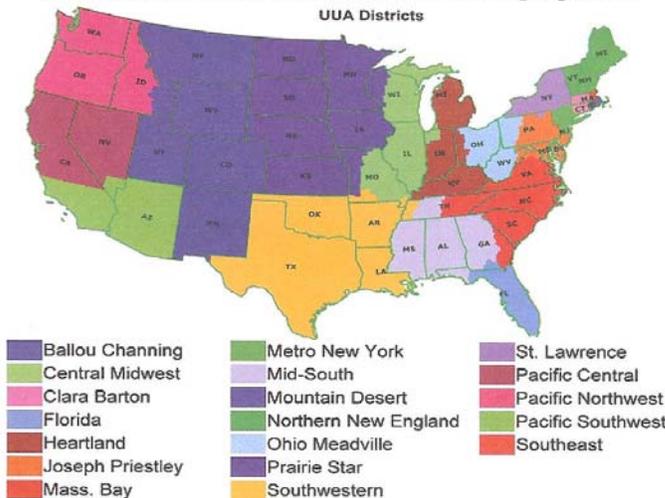
Notes from the District Meeting



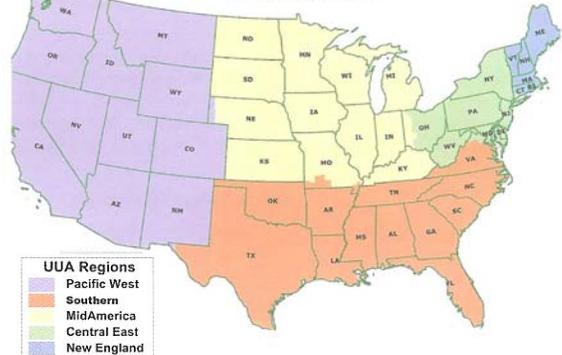
I was the People’s Church delegate for the Heartland UU District Annual Meeting last weekend in Muncie, IN. At this meeting, delegates voted overwhelmingly to support the merger of the Heartland District into the new MidAmerica UU Region. This region now includes ND, SD, KS, NE, MN, WI, IA, MO, IL, IN, KY and MI. For more information you can view the slide show on our website at www.peopleschurch.net or learn more about it at www.midamericauua.org.

Sincerely, Diane Melvin, Director of Religious Education

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations



Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations Regional Map



Greetings from the RE Office and Happy Spring!

I am writing this the day after the bombings at the Boston Marathon. I am heart sick over the loss of life and the needless harm so many have suffered. At the same time, I am in awe of the people who acted in selfless and courageous ways when the bombs went off, saving lives and offering comfort. For giving and receiving reassurance is a precious thing, something not often acknowledged in this anxious and restless world.

It is good to have a place of comfort and reassurance. This is one reason I am so involved in the RE program—to give our children a place to come where they will be safe and heard and have a chance to learn all the good that there is in humanity. As we have made our journey through the faiths of the world this year, I have been struck by so much that is good—love, hope, forgiveness, balance. And it is balance that we find as a central theme in Earth-Based Spirituality, our current focus.

Earth-Based Spirituality is just that—beliefs based around the natural world. The oldest of all the world's religions, it was practiced even before the creation of what the Western World calls “civilization.”

Adherents hold reverence for the moon, sun, stars, animals, water, the earth we walk upon and the spirits of the unseen. There are many different ways of walking in this path and we can only touch briefly on a couple of them.

Our study focuses on Paganism and Pantheism which hold the universe and all within it worthy of respect and reverence. More information can be found at www.pantheism.net or <http://www.paganfederation.org/what-is-paganism/>.

Please feel free to touch base with teachers or members of the Religious Education Committee if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks for sharing for your children with us.

I wish you all a place and time of comfort.

Cary Betz Williams, Religious Education Volunteer



Religious Education Volunteer Appreciation Party

WHO: EVERYONE IS INVITED

WHAT: A **luncheon** to recognize RE Volunteers

WHEN: Sunday, **April 28** - 12:30-2:00 pm

WHERE: People's Church Commons



WHY: We have over 100 volunteers that contribute to our growing religious education program and we need your help to honor them.

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.

We will be mostly outside exploring the woods, ponds, and fields around People's Church. There will be times of raucous fun as well as 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.

Registration forms will be available on April 21 in the foyer at the camp display board and online at www.peopleschurch.net. Be sure and register early because camp fills up fast!

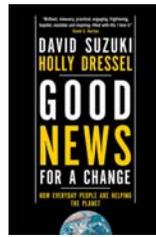
The cost of camp is \$110 per camper if registered by May 26th. After that, the fee is \$120 and final registration is June 9th. Scholarships are available if registered by May 26th.

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

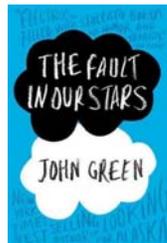
The Study Group Monday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.

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.



Book Group Wednesday, May 8, 1:30 p.m.

The book for May is John Green's The Fault in Our Stars a novel about life, death, cancer and love. Pat Nelson will lead the discussion at Donna Treloar's condo in Parkview Hills. Call Donna for directions. Newcomers are always welcome.



Newsletter Folders Needed

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!



Pastoral Care Training Session

On May 5 from 1-3p.m., Jill will lead the final session on good visiting skills, and we'll talk about how to engage each of you in some of the work of companioning" with People's people.



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\$

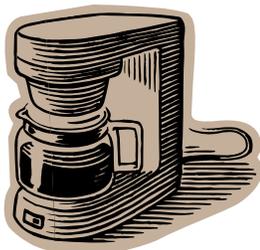
The **stewardship campaign** at People's Church is well underway. Our annual stewardship drive solicits the critical resources of time, talent, and treasure that support all the activities of People's Church. So far, we have achieved about 40 percent of our target. It is our goal to get **100 percent participation** in the annual campaign. Please return the pledge form you received from your ambassador, or in the mail. You can also request a pledge form at the church office. We need **your** pledge of support by **Sunday, April 21**. We cannot finalize our budget for next year until we have heard from you!

And do not forget the **Matching Grant for annual pledges**. If you are a new pledger, your pledge will be matched 2 for 1! If a past pledger, the increase in your pledge will be matched 1 for 1. Also, we need your help with the **Feeding Our Flame** capital campaign. Any new pledges will be matched 2 for 1 here as well. If you have questions, please contact Treasurer Allan Hunt or Assistant Treasurer Barb Davis.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Monday	April 22	Facing Life, Facing Death	12:00p.m.	Room L1
Tuesday	April 23	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	April 24	Archives Committee	1:00p.m.	Archives Room
Thursday	April 25	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal Full-Moon Drum Circle	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 9 Commons Fire pit (or Room 9)
Fri.-Sat.	April 26-27	K-1st Grade O.W.L. Sleepover	6:00p.m.	Meet at Church
Saturday	April 27	Service Auction	6:00p.m.	Commons
Sunday	April 28	Meditation Session K-1st Grade O.W.L. Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Recognition Sunday RE Volunteer Appreciation Party Roasted Peanuts (children's music group)	9:00a.m. 9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m.	Room 19 Room 9 Foyer Commons Commons Room 9
Monday	April 29	Newsletter Deadline The Study Group	12:00p.m. 7:30p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Fountains at Bronson Place
Tuesday	April 30	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Thursday	May 2	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	May 3	Newsletter Mailing	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Saturday	May 4	The Discussion Group	10:00a.m.	Room L2
Sunday	May 5	Meditation Session O.W.L. Sexuality Education Class—K/1st Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Art Wall Reception for Alec Hall Meet & Greet Reception Roasted Peanuts (children's music group) Pastoral Care Training Session High School Youth Group	9:00a.m. 9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:15p.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m. 1-3p.m. 6:00p.m.	Room 19 Room 9 Foyer Commons Commons Room 19 Room 9 Room 19 Room 19 Room L2

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.

Coffee Maker Needed for Sunday, May 5th



We will be in need of someone to make coffee on Sunday, May 5th, as our Church Administrator, Chris, will be out of town. If you'd be willing to make coffee on this Sunday (or any Sunday for that matter), please sign up on the church website under the *Volunteer Opportunities* link or at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-sunday>. Thank you!

Have (or Know Someone Who Has) a Feeding Tube?

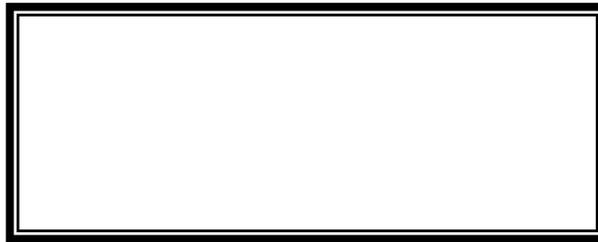
We have over a month's worth of feeding tube formula we would be happy to give to anybody who needs it. Please call if you can use it.

—Pat Nelson

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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.”

