



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



# News & Views

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**Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.**

**June 9 “Blessings All Around” Jill McAllister and all**

The last service of the “regular” church year, and Jill’s last regular service with us. All ages will meet together, to share in the Czech Flower Ceremony (please bring a flower to add to the bouquet), with songs and stories and pictures from this year of growing together. Following the service, our new ‘tradition’—a pie and ice-cream social! Please sign up to bring a pie or two to share.

**Summer Services—10:00 a.m.**

**June 16 “When Change Happens to You!” Jill McAllister and Cassius Shirambere**

Our summer Sundays begin with a focus on change and transition—well-timed for People’s Church. In a modified format, the shorter services aim for more participation by attendees, as we explore our experiences around change. This week, Cassius Shirambere from our Burundi partner congregation will tell about the huge change in his life due to having to leave Burundi a few months ago for his safety and that of his family.

*Summer Services begin at 10 am, meeting in Room 19 (in the new building.) Activities for elementary-aged children K-6th, and baby/toddler care are provided.*

**June 23 “When Changes Happened at People’s – A History”**

People’s Church has been through many changes in it’s nearly 160 years—changes of fortune, of focus, of ministers, of buildings. We’re still here and going strong! Long-timers will speak from experience about the difficulties and the benefits of change.

**June 30 “Life Stages” Jill McAllister**

As we live and grow, life changes within us and around us, almost constantly. Sometimes we can’t wait to move on, and other times we are shocked and surprised to find we have arrived at a new stage. Remembering how we’ve approached changes before may give us insight for working more effectively with the changes to come.

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## Between Us



Summer is nearly here—hard to believe, once again. That’s the thing about seasons—it seems we’d become accustomed to the changes, but somehow there is always a small surprise. That’s the thing about changes in general, I suppose—you’d think we’d get accustomed to them, given that most of our life is made of change—but we seem to always react with surprise. What, a change? Are you kidding? (Why this, why me, why now?)

Summer Services begin at People’s on June 16. The format of the service changes, and the starting time is 45 minutes earlier, at 10 a.m. This summer, the Sunday Services Committee offers a series of programs on transition, because, well, we’re in it! Since I’m here and working most of June and July, I’ll facilitate many of the services in these months, with help from others. Our plan is to meet in Room 19, the big upstairs room in the new building. Unless we get too crowded there; if so we’ll go to the Commons. A full program of activities is offered for elementary-aged youth (see page 5 in this newsletter for the schedule) and baby and child care is provided each week. A few greeters are needed for each week, especially to greet and help orient visitors and newcomers. Please let Anna Shade know if you can be a greeter a few times this summer. Following the 1-hour service, we always have time for refreshments and greeting one another.

If you are able and willing to help provide them, fresh snacks are always welcome for this meeting time.

Hard to believe, and hard to say, but these summer months will be the time for us to say good-bye to each other, as Walter and I pick up and pack up to head west to begin a new life chapter. These fifteen years in Kalamazoo and at People’s Church have been some of the richest and most blessed of my life. I could never have imagined what would grow between us in this work together, how much I would learn and grow. In many ways, I will always be connected to you—because love never dies. In some ways, I will have to be disconnected for awhile, so that you can meet your next ministers and find the ways you will walk together with them. My greatest hope for People’s Church is that it keeps going strong! I will need that from you. I hope you will send us with your good wishes—I will need that from you too.

What do you need from me as we enter into these summer months? What can we do together to make our good-byes as good as possible? I hope you’ll let me know. And I hope to see many of you at summer services, as often as you can come.

See you Sunday—*Jill*

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“We should think to wish for things a little closer at hand.

The courage to bear up under pain.

The grace to take our successes lightly.

The liberation that comes with forgiveness.

The energy to address tasks that await our doing.

The meaning to be found in giving ourselves to others

The patience to surmount things that are dragging us down.

The joy to be gained in even the smallest endeavor

The wonder that lies between the sacred moments  
of our birth and death.

I call this thoughtful wishing—wishing for what is ours,  
here and now, to have, do and be.”

—The Rev. Forrest Church (1948-2009)



### General Assembly News—June 19-23

Delegates can participate in the business of GA without having to be physically present in Louisville. Using online technology, a registered delegate can watch the proceedings, vote, and participate in debate right from their home, office, or congregation. Registration is less costly, too—only \$150 instead of as much as \$380 for an adult.

To learn more, visit the UUA’s website at <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/175228.shtml>.

## Jill's Going Away Dinner By Sarah Renstrom

The date for the farewell dinner to send Jill on her way has been selected. It is **Sunday, July 28** in the evening. As chair of the celebration, I am asking for volunteers to help. We are going to need people to manage many aspects of this event (this is a preliminary list of decision areas and is not meant to be all inclusive):



- Physical setup
- Food
- Reservations
- Program
- Finance
- Kitchen Management/Dishes
- Communications
- Cleanup

It is our desire not to charge for the dinner, so we are soliciting donations to underwrite the costs of this celebration. If you would like to be part of the underwriting effort, please contact Sarah Renstrom, 327-3798 or [jjaksa00@aol.com](mailto:jjaksa00@aol.com).

If you want to volunteer for the "McAllister Celebration" Task-Force, also please contact Sarah at the above email address or phone number. The first meeting of the group will be on **Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at the church.

Let us work together and have a final joyous time together before Jill leaves for Oregon.

### NOTE FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER— Seeking Tips on Housing by Rev. Pam Allen-Thompson



I know you are focusing now on taking advantage of every opportunity to enjoy the remaining time you have with Reverend Jill, who has served you very well. The memories of your time together will be precious indeed in the years to come. I look forward to meeting her when my partner Di and I come to town in early July to try to secure housing. I'm sending this note of what we will be looking for, in case some of you may have a lead for us. If so, please feel free to send an email to advise us of any recommendations you may have. The primary need is no carpeting, due to allergies...

Interim Minister continued on Page 6



## Green Spot By Allan Hunt

### OZONE ACTION DAYS

The Federal Clean Air Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six pollutants, including ozone and particulate matter. These two pollutants are continuously monitored by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and reported in the Air Quality Index (AQI) for the region.

On the basis of the forecasted levels of ozone and particulate matter, **Clean Air Alerts**, formerly Ozone Action Days, are issued for West Michigan (Kalamazoo, Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa counties) to inform the public of the need to restrict activities that will contribute further to our air pollution. Typically there have been about 6 of these alerts per year in West Michigan, but last year there were 25 due to our hot and dry summer weather! See [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov) to find the local daily forecast.

When a Clean Air Alert is issued it means that our air quality is "unhealthy for sensitive groups," including people with heart disease or lung disease, children, older adults, and people who are active outdoors. It is recommended that such individuals stay inside or alter their activities to reduce their exposure to the hazards of air pollution. Remember, just because you can't see our air pollution does not mean that it cannot hurt you!

What can you do to reduce air pollution and lower our Air Quality Index? First, remember the basics of energy conservation. Avoid adding to the problem by keeping your air conditioner set at 78 degrees or more in the summer to lessen the pollution from coal burning electric plants. Keep your car tuned up and your tires fully inflated. A well-maintained vehicle produces up to 20 percent less ozone-related emissions than a vehicle that is not well maintained.

On Clean Air Alert days, fill your car's gas tank...

Green Spot continued on Page 7

### **Social Justice Coordinating Committee Update**

As we near the seasonal transition in our church calendar, the Social Justice Coordinating Committee would like to express gratitude for a very active and successful year of justice work by People's Church. Highlights included our recognition at the General Assembly for winning the Bennett Award for the social justice work of our congregation and a Buttress Leadership award at the ISAAC Banquet for our contributions to this work.

As we also near the transition to a new minister, we especially want to express appreciation to Jill for her wise leadership and strong commitment to the development of the church's social justice program and her consistent participation in social justice activities in the church and the community. We also extend our best wishes to her in new ministry in Oregon and trust that their social justice experience in the years to come will be equally meaningful.

Then, we extend gratitude to our church community who gave us every reason to believe that whatever we were called to take on in working for social justice, you would meet us with hands and hearts to accomplish it together. For example, the monthly special collections to benefit the work of local non-profit organizations were a great success. This year, the organizations were: Lincoln School, Ministry with Community, Recovery Institute, Community Homeworks, and the Transformation Society. For a full report of the many social justice activities of People's church this year, please see the Annual Report.

## SUMMER Religious Education Schedule

10:00-11:00 A.M.

This summer our RE program for elementary children will be based on the book, How the Moon Regained Her Shape about being kind and not bullying.

**June 16: Introductions and reading How the Moon Regained Her Shape** - Playing "getting to know you" games, and creating our Self Esteem Journals which we will write or draw in each week.

**June 23: Earth-based spirituality** - Making Moon dream catchers and experiencing Native American music.

**June 30: Self-Esteem** - Body tracing and affirmation activities.

**July 7: Drama** - Making masks and acting out How the Moon Regained Her Shape

**July 14: Music** - Making rain sticks, drumming, and dancing.

**July 21: Science** - Moon phases, and creating calendars or flip books.

**July 28: "I Can"**- Making "I CAN!" cans, playing bean-bag self-esteem games and writing name poems.

**August 4: Nature** - Going on a nature scavenger hunt and making crayon resist paintings.

**August 11: Overcoming Bullying** - Read One by Kathryn Otoshi, colored water and caring chain activities.

**August 18: Art** - bead bracelets and sand paintings.

**August 25: Having Self-Esteem** - Read I'm Gonna Like Me by Jamie Lee, creative movement and dream collages.

**September 1: Wrap up** - music, making special snacks, kindness wheel activity.

### RE Teachers Needed

Currently seeking RE teachers for next church year. Our theme is Unitarian Universalism where the children and youth learn about the 7 UU Principles, our history and values.

If you are interested in working with any age children or youth next year and would like to discuss the possibilities, please let me know at [re@peopleschurch.net](mailto:re@peopleschurch.net). **Thank you!**

—Diane Melvin, DRE



### Seeking Scholarship Donations for Peace and Nature Camp

Camp is only a few weeks away and **we are currently in need of \$250 to fulfill our scholarship requests.** Would you please consider making a donation to the scholarship fund for camp? Peace and Nature Camp allows our children to deepen their connection with the natural world and with their peers. It offers a fun and safe way for us to promote our values as Unitarian Universalists. Anyone willing to help can make a check out to People's Church and note that it is for a camp scholarship in the memo line and mail it to the church office or drop it off there. If you have any questions, please contact me at [birdman@mei.net](mailto:birdman@mei.net). Thank you for your generous support.

—Jeff Kirkwood

### RE Gratitude

Thank you parents and caretakers for having shared your children with us this year. For bringing them to People's on Sundays, and other days, for your time and energy, for your kindness and smiles.

Thank you to my fellow RE teachers: for the sense of partnership and joy and dedication that I feel from all of you.

Thank you to the RE Committee, for being behind us and with us through out the year. Thank you to Vicki and Mary Kate for the singing and fun. Thank you to Diane, the axis we move around, and the gravity that holds us all together.

But mostly, thank you to the kids: for listening, questioning, arguing, doing projects and art and meditation, taking in all that we taught them and then sharing it back with us in their words and actions. It is a wonder to see. I wish you all a safe and good summer.

—Cary Betz Williams, RE Volunteer

### Youth Service - June 2nd

You won't want to miss this special service planned and led by the youth where we will be naming the RE Attendance Award winners, bridging Freshman up into the 10-12th grade class and bridging the Seniors out into the world.

**Bridging Freshmen:** Juli Ginn, Lucy Cutler, Della Steenstra, Ulee Webster, Joey Friedel, Roe Warner, Quincy Bullmer, Pax Iadarosa-Desroches

**Bridging Seniors:** Chris Miller, Matt Dean-Hall, Wyatt Klan, Noah Tsang, Sulan Artz-Iffland, Ted Schering

**Interim Minister—Continued from Page 3**

Otherwise, things we hope to find:

- A small, furnished single-family home, but will consider a condo or apartment. (We seek furnished because we have a home in Dayton Ohio, so we will be traveling light to Kalamazoo if we can find a furnished place.)
- A 2-car garage for the winter would be nice.
- Close to People's would also be nice—and within walking or biking distance would be great.
- This past year we stayed in the home of snowbirds, working out the bit of time overlap at the beginning and the end. This worked well for us.
- We are open to being responsible for the outside care (I learned the art of snow-shoveling in Minneapolis.)
- Finally, Wi-Fi is important.

Email: pam.allenthompson@gmail.com

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## \$MONEY MATTERS\$

The Annual Meeting of People's Church occurred on May 19. A budget for 2013-14 was unanimously approved by the congregation. The new operating budget will cover one-half the interest on our construction loan and some significant personnel costs connected with the interim minister appointment. The overall increase in People's Church income for 2013-14 is projected at 10.8 percent while the increase in operating expenses is 12.3 percent, resulting in a projected deficit of \$5,142.

The Feeding Our Flame II campaign has been very successful with 36 new pledges for \$34,300. This means we qualify for the full \$25,000 in matching funds. Our grand total pledged for FOF to date is now \$770,000! We also qualified for the full \$25,000 in matching funds for our Annual Stewardship drive with more than 170 pledges for a projected total of \$280,530, plus the matching grant for a total pledged of \$305,530.

There is a vacancy on the Finance Committee for next year. If you have an interest in financial affairs, please contact Treasurer Allan Hunt, Assistant Treasurer Barb Davis, or Finance Chairperson Michelle Clark.

## Fairtrade Coffee, Tea and Chocolate

We won't be selling coffee, tea or chocolate during the summer months, but you can get Equal Exchange and Higher Grounds products at the People's Food Co-op and Sawall's. Thanks to all our customers. We hope to see you back in the fall for great products at a great price and don't forget that 50 cents to a dollar of every bag, box or bar goes to the church.




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## Book Group

The June book is The Gathering by Anne Enright. Our gathering will take place on **June 12 at 1:30** at Donna Grath's. Donna lives in the high rise apartments on South Burdick in down town Kalamazoo. Call her for directions. Newcomers are always welcome.

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## The Study Group

The Study Group will be discussing the Buddhist writing called the *Dhammapada* (translated by Valerie Roebuck) at its next meeting, **Monday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m.** at the Fountains. Newcomers welcome. For more information contact Tim Bartik.

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## Flower Pots at Church Entry

As you may have noticed, we have large new flower pots at the church entry. It is my hope that we can keep these pots filled with appropriate flowers and plants for seasons and celebrations.



However, I need some help. I will take responsibility for them from May through mid-October. But I am requesting volunteers to take over when I am in Florida for the winter. I was hoping that we would get enough interest that each person would be responsible for one month at a time,

during which you may or may not need to replant. But watering them would also be your responsibility. So I need help beginning October 15, 2013 - April 15, 2014. Any volunteers? Please contact me at saren43@aol.com or 327-3798. Thanks in advance for trying to work this into your already busy schedule.

—Sarah Renstrom

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	June 4	Building & Grounds Work Group Talking Pots	9:30a.m. 3:30p.m.	Meet at Church Kitchen
Wednesday	June 5	Beloved Conversations	5:30p.m.	Room 19
Thursday	June 6	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	June 7	Beloved Conversations	7:00pm	Room 19
Sunday	June 9	Meditation Session O.W.L. Sexuality Education Class—K/1st Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Pie and Ice Cream Social	9:00a.m. 9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m.	Room 18 Room 19 Foyer Commons TBD
Monday	June 10	Facing Life, Facing Death The Study Group	12:00p.m. 7:30p.m.	Room L1 Fountains at Bronson Place
Tuesday	June 11	Building & Grounds Work Group McAllister Celebration Task-Force	9:30a.m. 7:00p.m.	Meet at Church Room 18
Wednesday	June 12	Book Group Board Potluck	1:30p.m. 6:00p.m.	Donna Grath's Home Sue Caulfield's Home
Friday	June 14	Beloved Conversations	7:00p.m.	Room 19
Sunday	June 16	Summer Services Begin	10:00a.m.	Commons
Tuesday	June 18	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Thu.-Sat.	June 20-22	ERAC/CE Training	6:00p.m.	Douglass Community Association
Sunday	June 23	Summer Service Full-Moon Drum Circle	10:00a.m. 8:00p.m.	Commons Fire pit
Monday	June 24	Newsletter Deadline	12:00p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net
Mon.-Fri.	June 24-28	Peace & Nature Camp	9am-4pm	Meet at Church
Tuesday	June 25	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	June 26	Archives Committee	1:00p.m.	Archives Room
Friday	June 28	Newsletter Mailing	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Sunday	June 30	Summer Service	10:00a.m.	Commons

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### Green Spot...continued from Page 3

only in the evening, when it is cooler and escaping gas fumes will be reduced. Avoid using gasoline powered yard maintenance equipment, outboard motors, or other two-cycle engines because these small engines contribute much more to air pollution. Refrain from using a woodstove or fireplace and do not burn trash or yard waste. Consider telecommuting,

car-pooling, or taking public transit to work to avoid adding pollutants to the air.

If you want more information, consult the West Michigan Clean Air Coalition ([www.wmcac.org](http://www.wmcac.org)). And remember to listen for public service announcements of Clean Air Alerts, or subscribe to the alerts yourself at [www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm](http://www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm).

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## 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.”**

