



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



News & Views

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Summer Services—10:00 a.m.

August 4 “Tis a Gift to Be Simple” Kat VanHammen, Sally Padley

Sometimes we choose simplicity and sometimes we just land in it. When we simplify we often find more breathing room. What other gifts do we find in the space of the simple?

August 11 “Deep Listening / Being Present” Rev. Pam Allen-Thompson, Rochelle Habeck Hunt

Being present to one another and to the moment at hand is always aided by the practice of deep listening. Both are essential for relationships to be real and mutually beneficial. These practices are at the heart of a shared ministry and congregational life. Our Interim Minister, the Rev. Pam Allen Thompson, will share her thoughts with us this morning.

August 18 “Tasting the Wine of Astonishment” The Rev. Dr. Bill Schulz

Bill Schulz was President of the UUA in the 1980s, and went on from there to become the Director of Amnesty International. A few years ago he accepted a call to become the Director of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. He is one of the great preachers of our UU tradition. This morning at People's we'll share a video of his sermon at the recent UUA General Assembly in Louisville—a beautiful summary of the most important things he has learned and worked for in his exemplary career.

August 25 “Bringing Through the Threads”

Confucius taught that to be successful, it is necessary to know what of the past, and of tradition, to bring with you into the present and the future (and what to let go of). As our future begins, we'll consider what has been cultivated, nourished and grown for the last 15 years at People's, that we want to “bring through” and evolve in our congregation.

September 1 “Our Most Important Work”

There is always work to do, for all of us. We work to earn a living, we work to build and maintain the things we need for living, we work to understand ourselves and the world we live in. What some consider work is pleasure to others, and vice versa. What is the most important work you have done, in your life, or hope still to do? Let's gather to share and to listen.

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Between Us



Farewell, People's people! The time has come for me to say good-bye, which is very hard to do. I hope that many connections between us will remain, though they will be different, because I will no longer be your minister.

The most important things I can say to you now are these: Thank-you, I love you, and may you find blessings in all the new things to come.

I have so much to thank you for: for each and every one of you; for your willingness to share your life and struggles and learning and growth, for your insights, ideas, questions and courage, for helping make this community what it is. Thank-you for the many, many ways you have supported and helped me as we have shared the work of ministry here. Thank-you for your cards, notes, visits, good wishes and blessings in these past few months. Thank-you for stepping into this transition with strength and courage and grace. All of these things will stay with me for a long time, and they make me certain that there are great things in store for you—so many good possibilities. I look forward to hearing about the new things that will emerge and grow in this congregation, knowing that I am part of its history.

So I am sending my love with you, and will always do so. How could it be otherwise? We have shared so much in the journey of life. You will always be in my heart.

Walter, Calvin and I will leave Kalamazoo on August 21 to drive to Oregon. They'll come back on September 1, and I'll stay there. Calvin will finish high school in November and then plans to do a study abroad semester. Walter and I will travel back and forth a bit as we finish getting our house here ready to sell. So, I will come and go from Michigan this year, and probably in the years to come. Our paths may cross, and for that I'll be glad.

Now it is time for you to get to know Pam Allen-Thompson, and begin the work of finding the next minister to help you keep People's Church strong and vital. I'll be cheering for you all the way!

With gratitude—*Jill*



Hello, People's People!

Isn't it nice to have such a vibrant and inclusive name—*People's Church*. As I think about Silas Hubbard, the long-time member who proposed that name in 1892, I honor the insight that captures so well what the religious experience is about. People—that's the core.

Certainly people are different in countless ways, even Unitarian Universalists are often less alike than we think. Still, we're all part of the world-wide tribe called "people."

One of my great pleasures is getting to know people who are new to me—hearing their stories, learning how they have navigated life's twists and turns, recognizing the beauty and bounty of each unique fellow-traveler. I do look forward to our journey together as we celebrate the People's people—those who have served and received for years, those who have recently discovered this community, and the many who long to find a place like People's Church.

You have much to give, and I am happy to become a partner in sharing the bounty of this legacy with all of you and the seekers who are yet to come.

With joy—*Reverend Pam*

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"As we go out from this place and from this time together, remember to keep alert to all that is true within you and around you. Stand firm in your faith. Be courageous. Be strong as often as you can. And every day, begin again to try to let all that you do be done in love. Go in peace."

(Sunday closing words,
adapted from 1 Corinthians 16)



The Green Spot

By: Cybelle Shattuck

Environmental Justice

The word “environment” conjures images of wilderness, but our environment is all around us—it’s the air we breathe, the water we drink, the spaces we inhabit. Environment is where we live, work, learn, and play. Environmental *justice* describes the idea that everyone deserves to live in healthy conditions that promote physical and mental well-being. Some people call this “eco-justice” to remind us that we are all part of one *oikos* (*eco-*), one ecological household.

The Environmental Justice Movement began in 1982, when North Carolina officials decided to dump PCB-laden soils in Warren County, where the population was 75% African American and income levels were the lowest in the state. Fearing contamination of their wells, the residents petitioned, then turned to civil disobedience. The Coley Springs Baptist Church led protests for two months as men and women, elders and children, laid their bodies in the dusty roads to block the trucks bringing in toxic waste.

The United Church of Christ assisted the protesters and then initiated a study of hazardous waste siting that revealed the most significant factor predicting where a toxic facility gets located in the U.S. is race. This report gave rise to the formal charge of “environmental racism;” it also inspired a counter movement for environmental justice.

Environmental justice is about a healthy community. Inequitable distribution of environmental burdens and benefits affects an entire community. It affects us when adults and children suffer from asthma caused by exposure to air pollution, when we cannot safely eat fish from our rivers, when our children lack green spaces in which to play and be emotionally restored through contact with nature, when we have to worry about contaminants in the gardens where we grow vegetables to feed our families, and lead in the paint and dust of our homes where our children are supposed to be safe. It affects us when children miss class due to illness, making it hard for them to achieve their potential and have the lives their parents dream for them. The ripples from these examples make environmental justice an economic issue. But, more importantly, it is a moral issue because we are all part of one community, one household, and we are each re-

sponsible for the welfare of all who live together in this household.

People’s Church has a long history of social justice work; we strive to “build the beloved community.” This year, the Green Sanctuary Committee plans to develop some eco-justice projects through which to improve the health of our community. Actions under consideration include: supporting the campaign to remove PCBs from the Allied Paper site; partnering with other social justice organizations to improve energy efficiency in low-income housing; facilitating cleanup of the Kalamazoo River.

We hope church members will share other ideas and opportunities. Help us decide how our congregation can most effectively contribute to the health and welfare of our Kalamazoo community.

Mindfulness Meditation Retreat Saturday, September 14

Come join us in mutual support for a time of silence. We will gather from 9:00 am until noon for a time that includes sitting meditation, walking meditation, and perhaps a few other practices. No previous meditation experience is necessary.

There is no fee for this retreat, and no pre-registration is required. What to bring:

- your own meditation cushion if you wish; there are a few available to borrow in the space
- a folded blanket (or two) can serve as an alternative meditation cushion
- a yoga mat or other item to lie down on in the event we do a lying-down practice; there are about 7 mats available in the space

Straight-back chairs are available in the space. If you are new to meditation, a 3-hour block of practice can be a stretch. If you are a beginner, have questions about whether this would be appropriate for you, or would like to get some quick-start instructions, please contact Carolyn Heineman to arrange a time to talk.

For questions, or for more information, contact Carolyn Heineman at 269-345-7101, or carolynheineman@aol.com.

SUMMER RE Schedule

10:00-11:00 A.M.

Nursery care provided!

Our summer RE program for elementary children will be based on the book How the Moon Regained Her Shape, which emphasizes the themes of kindness and not bullying.

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, Make a kindness wheel.

Behind the Scenes

RE volunteers are working behind the scenes to wrap up details from last year and prepare for the coming church year.

The biggest change is that we are working closely with the Library Committee to combine some of our collections. All of the RE library books have been entered into a program titled "librarything.com" and assigned Dewey Decimal numbers.

By the end of the summer all of the RE library books which are written for adults (parents, teachers, etc.) will be combined with the adult library collection.



The books which are written for children and youth will be shelved separately in the front of the library shelves and labeled 'J' for juvenile.

Special Thanks to Emily Cutler for the countless hours she has worked on this project!

RE TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Saturday, September 7 - 10:00 - 2:00 OR

Saturday, September 14 - 12:30 - 4:30

Mark your calendars for one of the first two Saturdays in September to attend a teacher orientation workshop designed to best help you work with our children this year.

People's People at Lake Michigan Together Saturday, August 3 - Van Buren State Park

Even if you didn't sign up for the church camping trip, everyone is invited to join in for a day on the beach and evening potluck!

Join us as we spend the day relaxing on the beach, swimming in the lake and climbing the dunes. All ages of children, youth and adults enjoy a fun time together.



Around 6:00 or so, we gather back in the campground for grilled burgers and a potluck topped off by campfires and s'mores. Day trippers welcome Saturday.

Seeking Coming-of-Age Mentors

This fall we will be offering our Coming of Age program to the 9th-graders. This outstanding program has many fabulous components but one of the most meaningful is pairing the youth with adult mentors from our congregation.

I am seeking adults that would be willing to be a mentor for a 9th-grade youth. All of the meetings take place during church in the classroom and the activities and discussions are facilitated by the teachers. The mentor is needed when they break off in pairs for discussion questions to go deeper.

The role of the mentor is to share some of their faith journey with the youth, including how you came to UUism. Instead of asking these youth to memorize creeds, we are asking them to discern what their most important values and beliefs are. Mentors are essential in helping the youth articulate these ideas.

I would love to discuss the details with anyone who may be interested. Please contact me at 685-2813 or re@peopleschurch.net.

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, DRE



Book Group

Want to help us decide on the books we will discuss during the next church year? This year our reading took us to England, Ireland, Seattle, Canada, New York, Pakistan, the Balkans, North Dakota, and down a rabbit hole. Who knows where we will go next year. Join us on **Sunday, August 4 at 11:30** in Room 8 (across from the kitchen) for a potluck lunch and discussion. Bring something light to share (salad, fruit, cheese, crackers/bread, etc.) and several ideas for books you would love to discuss. Our focus is on fiction so think of some good novels you have read or want to read. You might want to bring your own dishes if you don't want to help wash up afterwards. We love to have new people join us. If you have questions contact Pat Nelson or Marj Lightner.

The Study Group

The Study Group will be discussing Christianity After Religion by Diana Butler Bass at its next meeting, **Monday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m.** at The Fountains at Bronson Place. Newcomers welcome. For more information contact Tim Bartik at 806-1904.

\$MONEY MATTERS\$

We are wrapping up the books on the 2012-13 church fiscal year (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013) as this is being written. It looks as though we are going to have a small deficit for the year. We had a significant shortfall (9%) in pledge income; but expenses were about 5% under budget as well. Fundraisers and collections and miscellaneous did better than expected, so total operating income was just 6% under budget. The net result is a small deficit of \$2,836 for the year. We will be sending confirmation statements for your new year pledges in August, and will include an additional statement for those who have not yet completed their 2012-13 pledge. Please try to clean up any deficits in your pledge account as soon as possible.

—Allan Hunt

Kitchen Clean-Up



On Tuesday mornings this summer, we will be sorting through the cupboards in the kitchen to make sure everything is where it should be and getting rid of things that are not needed. The refrigerator and freezer need to be cleaned out as does the spice drawer. If you are willing to help, contact Marj Lightner or come between 10 and noon. If Marj isn't there, she will leave a checklist of what needs to be done. Many hands make light the work and make it more fun too.

MidAmerica Region Makes History at 2013 GA by Kathy Burek



The MidAmerica Region made history at this year's General Assembly by becoming the UUA's first region. On the morning of Saturday, June 22, delegates approved the proposed amendments to the UUA Bylaws which will recognize regions alongside districts as part of the UUA's structure. The same set of proposed Bylaws amendments also added MidAmerica to the list of named UUA districts, and phased out the Central Midwest, Heartland, and Prairie Star Districts as they complete their process of dissolving and merging into the MidAmerica Region.

There was some, but not much, dissension. The final vote was overwhelmingly in favor of our proposal.

The establishment of regions in addition to districts is a two-year process, since it amends the so-called "C" Bylaws. This amendment process requires a majority vote the first year an amendment is proposed, and a two-thirds vote in the second year. The final vote will take place at GA 2014 in Providence, Rhode Island. Make plans now to be there as a voting delegate to help ensure the completion of our work!



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	July 30	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Saturday	August 3	Camping/Beach Day at Van Buren State Park	All day	Van Buren State Park
Sunday	August 4	Summer Service Book Group	10:00a.m. 11:30a.m.	Room 19 Room 8 & Kitchen
Mon.-Fri.	August 5-9	All Church Floor Cleaning—NO EVENTS		Whole Church
Sunday	August 11	Summer Service	10:00a.m.	Room 19
Monday	August 12	Facing Life, Facing Death	12:00p.m.	Room LI
Tuesday	August 13	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	August 14	Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural Committee Board Meeting	5:30p.m. 6:30p.m.	Room LI Christina Cusumano's Home
Sunday	August 18	Summer Service	10:00a.m.	Room 19
Tuesday	August 20	Building & Grounds Work Group Full-Moon Drum Circle	9:30a.m. 8:00p.m.	Meet at Church Fire pit
Sunday	August 25	Summer Service	10:00a.m.	Commons
Monday	August 26	Newsletter Deadline	12:00p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net
Tuesday	August 27	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	August 28	Archives Committee	1:00p.m.	Archives Room
Friday	August 30	Newsletter Mailing	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Sunday	September 1	Summer Service	10:00a.m.	Commons

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Join the People's Choir

Have you been sitting in the congregation on Sunday mornings listening to the choir thinking that you would love to join that group of amazing singers? Do you know how to read music or sing well? Not a problem. We are a very diverse group of musicians with all different levels of vocal experience. The choir is even putting on a winter concert in December with the handbell choir. You don't want to miss out on rehearsing and performing with these talented people and getting to work with Scott before he leaves for Orlando in January. We rehearse on Thursday nights from 7-830 starting Thursday, August 29. The choir sings twice a month typically the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. If you are interested or have any questions, please find a choir member or email the director Scott Beck at scott.s.beck@wmich.edu. We hope to see you on the 29th!



Join the People's Handbell Choir

Wanting to know how you can join the handbell choir??? No experience needed! The handbell choir is looking for new members! This December, the bell choir is putting on a winter concert with the choir! You don't want to miss out in ringing with this fun group of people. The handbell choir rehearses on Thursday evenings 6-7pm and will start back up again Thursday, September 5. They perform once a month typically on the 3rd Sunday of each month. If you would like to join or have any questions please find one of the bell members or email the director Scott Beck at scott.s.beck@wmich.edu. We hope to see you September 5!



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Check us out on the web!
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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.”

