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Church Office Hours:  
M-Th 9:00am-4:00pm

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## Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

### September 8 “Homecoming Sunday” The Reverend Dr. Pam Allen-Thompson

Welcome back to People's Church for the start of a new program year.

Our first fall Sunday Service will be a celebration of homecoming and new beginnings. Join us for our inter-generational service (all ages together) including a Joining of the Waters ceremony. Please bring a SMALL amount of water from some place which has been important to you this year. Given the large attendance we expect, one person per family will be invited to share a brief sentence about the special place where the water comes from, whether your granddaughter's kitchen or your child's first visit to the shore of Lake Michigan. David Isaacson, Diane Melvin, Scott Beck, Jennifer Drake, Darryl Loiacano, and the People's Choir will help with the service.



### September 15 “Where Do We Come From, Where Are We Going?” The Reverend Dr. Pam Allen-Thompson

We reconnect with some of the vibrant history of People's Church to spark thoughts about future possibilities. Gay Walker and the Bell Choir will help with the service. There will be a special collection during the service to support the work of Lincoln International Studies School (see page 5).



### Welcome Back Second-Sunday Lunch Sunday, September 8

September through May, the church will host a lunch following the service on each of the second Sundays of the month. The Membership Committee will sponsor a lunch following the Homecoming Service. The suggested donation is \$3 for an adult and \$2 for a child, but everyone is welcome to stay and eat even without making a donation.

To receive an electronic version of this newsletter, please email [office@peopleschurch.net](mailto:office@peopleschurch.net), with the word 'subscribe' in the subject box. An electronic version can also be found at [www.peopleschurch.net](http://www.peopleschurch.net).

## From Our Board President



*"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."*

– Maya Angelou

As we begin the new church year (Homecoming Sunday is September 8, 2013), it is

an important time to remind ourselves of the cycle of life. As we enter into a new year of covenant, of shared ministry, of chalice lightings, of introducing ourselves to each other, of holding each other in joy and sorrow, of all these things, may we stop to remind ourselves of why we gather together in community.

Reverend Pam Allen-Thompson began her ministry with us on August 1, 2013 and will be our guide throughout this church year. For those who have not yet met Rev. Pam, please introduce yourself to her the next time you are at the church.

Let us all remember that while we have lost our beloved minister to another congregation, we have not lost the core of this church—the people of this church. It is the people that allow this church to be a force for social justice, at home and abroad; a leader in fighting for anti-racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism; a safe place for multiple religious and spiritual views and backgrounds; a welcoming congregation; and an active part of the Kalamazoo community for more than 150 years.

As we move forward in our important work, it is imperative that we focus on who we are—here and now—and how we can continue to make UU values a living part of our community. Your Board of Trustees is committed to helping everyone in this church be up-to-date on what we need to do in a time of transition and how we can all work together to maintain our effectiveness in the church, the district, the UUA and abroad. The next key step in our transition process is a retreat on Saturday, October 26, 2013. This

retreat is for the members of the Board of Trustees, the minister, the transition team, and a few other church leaders. The retreat is a gift we receive from the MidAmerica Region (formerly the Heartland District) and will be facilitated by a trained consultant. This retreat is to help church leaders best set the course of action for our first year of interim ministry.

Some time in early 2014, the church will begin a conversation on how to select our ministerial search committee, a committee that will take the lead on searching for our next called minister, someone we will call to begin work with us in September, 2015. There will be numerous conversations around this process and plenty of opportunities for everyone to participate.

As we enter this new year together, let us be open and honest with each other about our hopes as well as our fears. Let us remember to share our concerns with each other and to seek each other's guidance. Please keep in mind that Jill is no longer our minister and not someone we should consult about church business. Part of our healing process is just like the transition from a caterpillar to a butterfly, we must encase ourselves in the process of transition. Unlike the caterpillar, however, we need not do so alone.

As we move through what will feel like uncharted territory for many (any of us who have known only one minister at People's Church), let us do so together, as People's people and let us each remember the beauty that will follow.

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

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, in community and in peace,

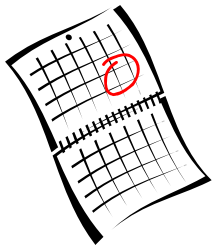
*Sue Caulfield*

# WELCOME

Newcomers!

We at People's Church want to welcome all who are new to our church. People's is a non-creedal religious community, which means there is no one thing we all have to believe. We gather here to find religious and spiritual nurture and to be challenged to grow. If you've never been to our church before and have questions about Unitarian Universalism or our religious education program, please stop by our Information Desk in the Reception Area and one of our members will be happy to try to answer them.

## Note to Committees About Calendar



As the church year begins, and committees start meeting again, please let the office know what date, time and place your committee plans to meet, so it can be put on the church calendar. Thank you.

Looking forward to another great year!

Chris Schleuder  
Office Administrator

## How Do I Join People's Church?



Membership in People's is open to any person 16 years of age or older who is in sympathy with our church's vision and mission, as well as with the principles and purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It is expected that members actively support the church through attendance, service, and an annual financial contribution of record. If you are interested in knowing more about membership, please speak to someone at visitor desk.

## Hospitality *Half-Hour*—10:15 a.m.

We want to continue the Hospitality Half-Hour that includes food, coffee, and conversation before the service. If you're interested in helping this practice continue, please sign up in the foyer to bring food or make coffee before the service.



## Change in Newsletter Schedule



Beginning in October, *News & Views* will go from being a bi-weekly publication to a monthly publication. The change has come about due to a variety of reasons, but most prominently because of the church's ability to provide up-to-the-minute information via its website, social media, and email, and also a desire to cut down on paper use. Please continue to send the church office your news and updates whenever you have them, so that the information can be made available to the congregation.

The next newsletter deadline will be **Monday, September 9 at noon**. A revised newsletter schedule will be printed in the next newsletter.

## Social Justice Coordinating Committee Update

### Special Collection for Lincoln Elementary Sunday, September 15

The first special collection in September is always designated for our partner school Lincoln International Studies school, which we support with volunteers working in classrooms and special events. Teachers truly appreciate our monetary contribution at this time so that they can purchase those supplies which are not afforded them. Please remember the children on September 15. Thank you.



—Social Justice Coordinating Committee.

*Each year the Social Justice Coordinating Committee sponsors monthly special collections on behalf of community service programs such as Lincoln School, Center for Transformation, Ministry with Community and the YWCA Domestic Assault Program. We are always open to suggestions of new organizations to support. If you are aware of any local cause which we should consider, tell any SJCC member or contact Phil Kramer.*

## Thanks from the Recovery Institute

First the Recovery Institute would like to thank People's Church for the generous gift they gave us back in April. It was greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank you for allowing us to come and share a little bit about who we are and what we do. We will be moving into a more accessible building by the end of August. You can



visit our website for latest information by going to:

[www.recoverymi.org](http://www.recoverymi.org).

## People's Church Concert Series

We are happy to announce the following concerts already scheduled for this year, with more to follow.

Sat. October 12—Joshua Davis

Sat. February 1, 2014—Claudia Schmidt

Sat. March 8, 2014—The Red Sea Pedestrians



Joshua Davis

Our pre-concert soiree fund, however, needs donations to continue. If you are a fan, we invite you to talk with Chris Schleuder for information about how to contribute. Tickets for concerts are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Call the office at (269) 375-3262 for tickets.

## Join the People's Choir

Have you been sitting in the congregation on Sunday mornings listening and enjoying our group of amazing singers? Why not be a part?

Whether you can read music or not, we are a diverse group of musicians with all different levels of vocal experience. We rehearse on Thursday nights from 7-8:30, and sing during the service. 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](mailto:scott.s.beck@wmich.edu) for information. We hope you will join us!



## 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 has started back up again. We perform once a month, typically on the 3rd Sunday of each month. If you would like to join or have any questions, please email the director Scott Beck at [scott.s.beck@wmich.edu](mailto:scott.s.beck@wmich.edu). We hope you can join us!

## A Letter From The Board Regarding Our New Pet Policy

Recently, concerns have been brought to the Board of Trustees regarding dog visitors at People's Church. These include soiling/damage to carpets, unwanted visits from dogs that are unleashed in the building, as well as other problems. Because of this, the Board has approved the following pet policy for People's Church. This policy might be expanded or revised in the future as needs arise. The policy is addressed to issues of dog visitors only.



- All dogs should be leashed or crated, or confined behind a gate in an area where they can be supervised. No dogs are allowed in the building unless they are under the owner's supervision at all times.
- Dogs that are visiting the building must be house-trained. Owners will be held responsible for any costs incurred due to soiling or other damage to church property. Dogs that are not house-trained should not be brought inside the building.
- Owners should ask permission before allowing their dog to approach other church members or visitors.
- Owners are required to clean up after their dogs on church grounds (i.e. Scoop the Poop!).
- Service dogs, and dogs in training to be service dogs (such as through Paws for the Cause and Leader Dogs) continue to be welcome in the building.

The intent of this pet policy is to keep People's Church a safe and welcoming place for people as well as their dogs. We hope this will address concerns currently being raised by church members.

## **158 Years of History**

Next time you pick up your nametag from the rack, look across the corridor at our newly revised church history timeline. This re-designed version brings up to date material compiled in the 1990s by Marge Spradling and the Archives Committee.



## **Farewell Dinner and Roast Recap**

We gave Jill quite a sendoff on July 28. The choir performed beautiful music with both Scott Beck and Luke Rosenberg singing solos, Beth Bullmer contributed an original, soulful poem, and Darryl Loiacano performed another original song reflecting our feelings of "happy endings." The poem, song, and original limericks by Dave Curl and others can be found on the website. Check them out. We have a lot of talent in our congregation.

About 190 people attended and we were able to accommodate everyone at dinner who wanted to eat. We had 8-10 people who wanted to attend the program only.

We had about 60 different people make food and help in many ways to make it a memorable occasion. A special thanks to Dave Isaacson who emceed the dinner and added his own very humorous "roast" comments. Special thanks to all the kitchen people, especially Marj Lightner, who helped make sure we had enough dishes and food. And lastly, to Catherine Niessink, for the lovely flowers and tablecloths that provided a pretty, colorful atmosphere that complimented the warm feelings felt all around.

All our pleas for donations were wildly successful. We raised about \$2,000 and our expenses were also about \$2,000 so that the money allocated by the board was not necessary.

Thank you to everyone who attended and also to those who helped make it happen.

*Sarah Renstrom, Chair  
Farewell Dinner and Roast*

## Unitarian Universalism

This year our curriculum theme for all ages is UUism and we will focus both on our 7 UU Principles as well as some key figures in UU history. The curriculum guide for Kindergarten - 6th grades is entitled, "**We Believe: Learning and Living our UU Principles.**"

The curriculum preparation team is excited for the opportunities this curriculum gives us for immersing our children in our values of inclusivity, justice and searching for truth and meaning throughout the coming church year.

### 7th & 8th Grade OWL

Our 7th- and 8th-graders will be immersed in Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education class this year. Parent Orientation - Sunday, Sept. 22, 12:30-2 or 3? Kick-off Sleepover - Saturday, Sept. 28, 6:00p.m.

### 9th Grade - Coming of Age

Our 9th-grade class will be engaged in a year-long Coming of Age program designed to help these young people undergo this rite of passage with guidance and thoughtful activities and guidance from individual adult mentors from our congregation.

### 10-12th Grades

These high school students will be exploring a new UU curriculum entitled "A Place of Wholeness" which is designed to be an opportunity for them to examine their faith journeys to better understand themselves in the context of UUism.

### YRUU - Youth Group

First Sunday Afternoons beginning Oct. 6. ALL 9th-12th graders are invited to participate in monthly youth group sessions which include time for youth worship, social justice projects, social activities, leadership development as well as lots of fun and connection with other youth.

### RE TEACHER-TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Saturday, September 7 - 10:00 - 2:00 OR  
Saturday, September 14 - 12:30 - 4:30

Please plan to attend an RE teacher-orientation workshop on one of the first two Saturdays in September which are designed to best help you work with the children this year.

## RE Room Preparation Help Needed September 5 & 6 - 5:00-8:00 pm

EVERYONE is invited and encouraged to come and help us clean and set up the RE classrooms for the new church year. We run all the Legos and toys through the dishwasher, hang the posters and restock the supply cupboards in each room. There is a job for everyone who comes and pizza for all. Many hands make light work!



Please join in and help!  
RSVP to Diane Melvin at 375-3262  
or re@peopleschurch.net

Seeking RE Teaching Assistants to help out in the preschool, kindergarten and 1st grade classes this year. Be the 2nd adult in the room and be willing to assist with the children where needed.

Let Diane Melvin know of your willingness to help!

### 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 mentors 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 375-3262 or re@peopleschurch.net.



## 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.

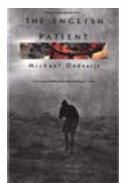
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## The Study Group

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.

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## Book Group



We will visit the desert and Italy on **Wed. September 11** when we discuss Michael Ondaatje's The English Patient. Join us at Joy Gardner's at 1:30 for a lively discussion led by Marj Lightner. Call Joy for directions. Our book for October will be Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey.

## Calling All Dreamers!

A new Dreamwork Circle will be meeting in Room L1 every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month from 6 until 7:30, starting September 10th.



Active dreaming is a playful practice that develops practical intuition and creativity. We will brave up to our most fierce nightmares and turn them into allies. We will learn and use techniques that enable each person to interpret his/her own dreams. Each member of the circle will develop a personal dream dictionary, learn how to re-enter dreams with the aid of sonic driving, and participate in group dreaming as practiced by indigenous groups all over the world.

Throughout history dreams have been used as an accurate source of information on health, spiritual and practical guidance, and to catch a glimpse of our individual and cultural futures.

Come ready to laugh and play! Join us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/Active Dreamers](http://www.Facebook.com/ActiveDreamers) for reading referrals and to learn what kinds of adventures are in store! Have questions or want more information? contact: Lynetta Carnes.

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## Church Road Sign

We are looking for a few volunteers to help change the church road sign. It's easy! Takes about 30 minutes and...lasts for a whole week! It's usually done after a Sunday Service, and stays up until the following Sunday. Ideally, we'd have four volunteers—a person to do one Sunday per month. The only qualification is that you have to know the alphabet! If want to help, please contact Rick Johnson.



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Monday	September 2	Labor Day - OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday	September 3	Building & Grounds Work Group Talking Pots	9:30a.m. 3:30p.m.	Meet at Church Kitchen
Wednesday	September 4	Religious Education Committee	6:30p.m.	Room LI
Thursday	September 5	Handbell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Saturday	September 7	Religious Education Teacher Training Membership Retreat	10a.m.-2p.m. 11a.m.-4p.m.	Room 19 Christina Cusumano's Home
Sunday	September 8	Homecoming Sunday Sunday Lunch— <i>provided by Membership</i> Music Committee	10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m.	Commons Commons Room 18
Monday	September 9	Newsletter Deadline	12:00p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net
Tuesday	September 10	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	September 11	Board Meeting	6:30p.m.	Room LI
Thursday	September 12	Handbell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	September 13	Newsletter Mailing	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Saturday	September 14	Meditation Retreat Religious Education Teacher Training	9a.m.-12p.m. 12:30-4:30p.m.	Room 19 Room 19
Sunday	September 15	Sunday Service *Special Collection for Lincoln Elementary Art Wall Reception for John Walker	10:45a.m. 12:15p.m.	Commons Commons

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## Deaf School Project

People's Church member, Rick Johnson, visited Liberia this summer and traveled throughout the country visiting students from his Peace Corps days in the 1960s. Rick is pictured here with Jackson Willie, a Liberian friend who is starting up a much-needed school for deaf Liberian children. He is standing with one of 36 children from his hometown of Buchanan who are totally deaf and do not speak. Jackson has been given classroom space by a local church, but he needs money to employ teachers, feed the students and buy school supplies. Several years ago, while a refugee in Ghana, Jackson taught himself sign language and started a successful school for the deaf kids living at the refugee camp. Now that he's home, he wants to do the same in Liberia. He receives just a little help from grateful parents and the local church. Otherwise, Jackson is alone with this good idea. If you would like to offer help or sponsor a student, please contact Rick Johnson for more information (657-3460).





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Non-Profit  
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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.”**

