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



Reflection on Homecoming Sunday

What a nice gathering enjoyed by 243 people, adults and children, on September 8. Donna Grath, a member of 22 years, was honored as *Person of the Week* for her longstanding practice of quilting a little blanket for every new baby born to parents who attend People's Church. Thank you, Donna!

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What Is Interim Ministry Anyway?

Ah, it would take too many words to describe it in depth. So here's a snapshot: ***The primary goal of Interim Ministry is to help the congregation through its transition and ready it to welcome the next settled minister.***

Companion Goals of the Interim Minister Are:

- 1) to help the congregation through the sometimes difficult process of saying good-bye to the previous minister;
- 2) develop good working relationships with members and staff;
- 3) observe current practices in the organizational system and lift up the congregation's strengths;
- 4) build on those strengths;
- 5) model the importance of trying on new practices.



Each of us will have opportunity to contribute in ways that bring out the very best of People's Church. Join Rev. Pam for conversation and coffee in the Commons after the October 6th service.

Please see page 8 for new information about future distribution of *News and Views*. An electronic version of this newsletter can also be found at www.peopleschurch.net.

Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

September 22 “My Journey” The Reverend Dr. Pam Allen-Thompson

Everybody has stories to tell about life experiences that had a significant impact. Since a number of you have asked about my story, it seems fitting that I share some highlights early in our time together. Don't worry, we'll still get out on time! I'm hoping there will be plentiful opportunities throughout the year to share our stories and in different venues. If you have ideas for that and would like to take an organizing role, let's talk.

September 29 “Faith and Conservation” Cybelle Shattuck

The People's Church community has expressed a desire to be "as green as possible." But where do we find motivation to take action and strength to persevere when the crises besetting our wondrous planet seem to escalate while political will evaporates? One resource can be found in accounts of other faith communities striving to foster sustainability. We can learn from their examples as we craft our own UU path forward and we can take heart in knowing that we have companions across religions and nations who are working alongside us to bind together the strands of our interconnected web.



October 6 “This I Believe” Rev. Pam

When friends or family ask what you believe, what do you say? Do you have a handy “elevator speech,” meaning that you could express the core of your belief systems in the time it takes for the elevator to go from the first floor to the sixth—without getting tongue tied? If they are intrigued and want to know more, do you have a deeper explanation? I will share something of my current beliefs, and we will hear “elevator speeches” from some of our members.

Membership Matters

By Anna Shade



The Membership Committee is just coming off a fabulous retreat in what I hope becomes an annual event. As a team, we contemplated all that we want to bring to the Visitor / Guest experience at People's—as well as what the ongoing experience of being here at People's should feel like. This work will be an evolution—and we hope to take transformational steps upon that journey this year.

In the meantime, you may notice we've instituted new Visitor / Guest nametags. They are blue and say "Welcome" at the top. This will help us do two things—better track how many guests are attending as well as more visibly recognize our guests as they interact with the congregation. This will help us on our journey to build a culture of welcoming at People's. So, if you see someone wearing one of these nametags, reach out and say, "I don't believe we've met." Give a warm smile and a handshake. Engage in a conversation—find out why they are visiting and what they are looking for at People's. Share why you came and what you continue to seek and find here.

This article continued on next page...

Membership Matters

Some brief descriptions of how the Membership Committee envisions the experience for guests:

Welcomed - Included - Comfortable - Free to have their own experience - Interested

Let's all work together to make those who visit People's feel at home.

We are actively working on improving our greeting. Being a greeter is a simple way to show our guests we care. One step towards improvement is to make sure we have a few greeters each week in key places and that they have good training. If you would like to greet at People's, please email me—anna.shade@gmail.com. We will be holding a Greeter training on **Sunday, September 29 from 12:30 - 1:30**. We'll have sign-up information for when you can be a Greeter.

By the same token if you'd like to help at our Visitors' Desk at the lower level by orienting our guests to Unitarian Universalism, giving information about People's Church, collecting information so we can remain connected, please let me know that too. We are always looking for folks who are willing to act in this vital role even once per month. Training is provided as well.

Thanks to the Membership Committee and our extended supporters who brought food, helped set up the Commons—and for those core folks who planned and made the wonderful Second Sunday lunch this past weekend. Special thanks to Lynetta Carnes, our primary organizer—and Matthew Morris McCormick who assisted. You all rocked it and gave a great opportunity for those attending to share a meal and conversation on our first Sunday back to the new church year!

Looking forward to all this year brings!

In peace,

Anna

Joshua Davis in Concert Saturday, October 12th, 8:00 p.m.

For over 15 years Joshua Davis has made his living sharing his songs, stories and knowledge—



as a solo act, front man for roots ensemble "Steppin' In It," classic swing band "Shout Sister Shout," and,

songwriter showcase band "The Starlight Six."

His music is steeped in ragtime blues, sweet jazz and real country, but Davis's broad schooling in the cultural, political and musical roots of American tradition has resulted in more than a simple retelling of universal themes.

His most recent album, "A Miracle of Birds," is inspired by his travels in the Palestinian West Bank with the non-profit organization On the Ground. Half of the album's proceeds go towards olive trees and educational scholarships for the farmers and families he encountered during his travels. The songs are deeply personal and deal with his struggle between his Jewish identity and the oppression and confusion he found in the Middle East.



Joshua has performed live on the internationally syndicated programs Mountain Stage, Woodsongs, Old-Time Radio Hour, and Backstage Pass. His songs have been featured on NPR's All Songs Considered, Folk Alley and The Mix and he has played scores of prestigious festivals and venues, not to mention every festival Michigan has to offer.

Tickets for the concert are \$12 if signed up for in advance or \$15 at the door. Call the office at (269) 375-3262 for advance tickets.

The Bazaar is Coming...Please Join the Preparations—Pasty-Making First!



Saturday November 23rd will be the 2013 People's Church Holiday Bazaar and Fine Arts Sale. This event brings several hundred people from the community through our doors, provides a venue to support local artists, generates a valued contribution to our annual budget needs, and builds community within our church as we work together to accomplish this amazing event. All are welcome and needed on this team—members and visitors and friends.

Here's how you can help: First, please save the date. Plan to come to the Bazaar and do your holiday shopping for unique gifts—jewelry, soaps, turned wood, photography, textiles to wear and to use, and others things—some green, some fair trade, some upcycled! Invite people from the larger community to come to the Bazaar and meet you there. Put a copy of the Bazaar flier (coming soon!) at your workplace or favorite community spot. Plan to volunteer for one or more jobs that interest you. Sign-up sheets will be available in the foyer and on the church website. Below are some ways you can help right now.

Pasty-Making Parties

We will be making about 900 pasties to freeze and sell at the Bazaar. Bob Friedel and Susan Moerdyk are able and ready to organize and lead this project once again!

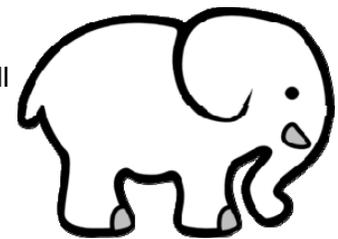


There will be 7 sets of 2-part sessions on Fridays and Saturdays: **September 20-21; 27-28; October 4-5; 11-12; 18-19; 25-26; November 1-2; and 8-9.**

On each of these **Fridays, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**, 3 people are needed to prepare ingredients (chopping, etc.) for the next day. On each of these **Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, 6 people are needed for assembly and baking; and **from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**, 2 people are needed to finish cooling and

wrapping. An experienced person will lead each session—so no prior pasty experience necessary. This is a lot of fun and a great way to get to know people. Contact: Bob Friedel or Susan Moerdyk.

White Elephant Sale - Please search high and low for all the nice items (no clothing or furniture, please) that you can clean, set aside and donate to be repurposed in our White Elephant Sale. They may be dropped off in the week before the Bazaar. Consider coming to help sort, arrange and mark items that week. Many hands will be needed.
Contact: Kay Spade.



More details about other ways you can help, and all the jobs on the day of the Bazaar, will be coming in the next newsletter. Questions? Contact Rochelle Habeck.

\$MONEY MATTERS\$

Since the Annual Meeting, we have paid off \$100,000 of our Feeding Our Flame loan. Total FOF pledges through June 30 were \$725,170 with payments to date of \$646,335. This leaves a balance of pledges to come of \$78,835. Our loan balance at First National Bank of Michigan is \$835,000 which we hope to reduce to \$700,000 by next June 30. If you are behind on your pledge, please try to catch up in the next few months. You may contact Treasurer Allan Hunt or Assistant Treasurer Barb Davis if you are having difficulty meeting your pledge.

Thank You to the Membership Committee



A BIG thank you to the Membership Committee and all of these folks for helping with the Second Sunday lunch on September 8!

*Lynetta Carnes
Matthew Morris McCormick
Anna Shade
Drue Kramer
Deb Wickman
Kimberly Ginn
Sally Padley
Kimberly Payne
Andrew Payne
Connie Ferguson
Barb McCrea
Ardyce Curl
Christina Cusumano
Jen Lyle
Linda Gentry-Bennett
Gary Rankinen
Tim Bartik
Chris Schleuder
Alexander Bennett
Laura Beltran
Jeremy Perkins
Ben Miller
Pat Nelson
Bob Swicker
Bob Husser
Sue Glenn
Gary Leadley
Rodney Kling
Catherine Niessink
Edmund Tsang
Missy Howse-Kurtz
Michael Nassaney
Jack Urban
Chris Measzros*



Rundown of Second-Sunday Lunch

On the second Sunday of each month, we gather after church to share a meal prepared by a different committee at People's Church. It's a chance to visit with friends, meet new people, and build our community. The meal is usually something easy to feed a group, such as soup or salad, and we accommodate vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free diets.

The church asks for a suggested donation of \$3 per adult and \$2 per child with a maximum of \$10 per family to cover the meal's cost, but we hope everyone will feel comfortable staying for the meal regardless of ability to pay. When you're there, try

to sit next to someone you don't know so you can make a new connection. Also, if you plan to stay for lunch, please invite a visitor to stay after church with you as a guest of the church and then introduce him or her to people in line and at your table. You will see a few changes this year:

- The Second-Sunday Lunch will always actually be on the second Sunday of every month so that people can plan ahead of time and know

for sure that if it's a second Sunday of the month, there will be lunch after church.

- As Second-Sunday Lunch has become more popular, there has not always been enough food to last to the end of the line. We've asked committees who host meals to anticipate larger crowds and make more food so everyone who wants to stay is able to have something to eat.
- As a result, we anticipate there might sometimes be leftovers. We don't want to create food waste, so please feel free to bring reusable containers and, if there is food left after everyone has had their fill, to put some of the leftovers in your container or in a Zip-Lock bag.

If you have any questions, please ask Drue Kramer or Nicky Gates.

WELCOME BACK

It is wonderful to have our community gathered back together again. One of the many blessings of having smaller services and fewer activities in the summer is the opportunity to experience the joy of the amazing energy felt in the building when we gather together again for Homecoming Sunday!

I hope this summer provided you some time to slow down the pace of life a bit to smell the roses and connect with your inner spirit. I know that one of the highlights for me is the few days each summer that I get to spend time at Lake Michigan listening to the rhythm of the waves on the shore. Something about the combination of sun, water and sand seems to act as a balm on my soul.

As the fall season ramps up in speed and activities, I try to retain a bit of that peaceful feeling to carry me through the busyness of fall so I don't get so wrapped up in the details that I forget the bigger picture. I want to maintain that feeling of being grounded, centered and connected to something larger than my small self.

One of the ways I try to do that is to stay rooted in the spiritual practice of daily expressing gratitude. When I am focused on gratitude for the many blessings I do have in my life, it is harder to fixate on the disappointment I feel for what isn't the way I want it to be.

As we gather together each week this fall, I hope we can remind each other of the many blessings we have in this rich community. I hope we can remind each other of the ways we can stay centered and grounded in those things that are most important to us. That way we can remember not to get caught up in the details of our busy lives but remember to live out our highest values and ideals in our actions each day.

Blessed Be,
Diane Melvin
Director of Religious
Education



Wyatt and Wesley in Bronson Park at this summer's youth group event "Random Acts of Kindness."

Mystic Lake Middle School UU Retreat

October 11-13 for 6, 7, & 8th-graders

Back by popular demand, this fall retreat is an annual highlight among the youth! Held at Mystic Lake YMCA camp in Lake, MI, this weekend contains the best of two worlds—a Y camp experience combined with a Unitarian Universalist youth conference.

With youth from around the region, the youth will enjoy playing games and nature hikes as well as the opportunity to try archery, boating, and a low ropes course. Silly campfire songs and a Unitarian Universalist youth worship round out the weekend. Parent chaperones are needed.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education 7th & 8th Grades

- Parent Orientation - Sunday, Sept. 22
Lunch at 12:30, Orientation, 1:00-3:00
Please RSVP for lunch and childcare
- Kick-off Sleepover - Sat. Sept 28 at 6:00 p.m.

9th-Grade Coming of Age

Potluck Dinner and Opening Ceremony
Friday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m.

High School UU Youth Conferences

- Oct. 11-13—Chaplaincy Training CONference in Lafayette, IN
- Nov. 1-3—Contagious in Indianapolis, IN
- Nov. 15-17—Spirituality Development CON in Dayton, OH

YRUU - Youth Group

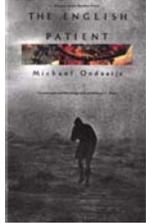
ALL 9th-12th-graders are invited to participate in monthly youth group sessions on the first Sunday of each month. These sessions include time for youth worship, social justice projects, social activities, leadership development as well as lots of fun and connection with other youth.

Youth-group trip to the beach in South Haven the afternoon of Sunday Oct. 22. Contact Wendy Dawson for more information.

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.

Book Group



Alaska in the 1920s is the setting for our October book, The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey. Jack and Mabel are new arrivals in the Alaskan wilderness. Jack is struggling to keep up a farm and Mabel with the loneliness she encounters there. During the first snowfall of the season they build a snow child and.... Read the book and come to the discussion on **October 9 at 1:30** at Drue Kramer's home. Joy Gardner will facilitate the discussion. Newcomers are always welcome.

The Discussion Group

The Discussion Group will consider "Striking Syria--Pros and Cons" at its **Saturday, September 21** meeting, 10 a.m., Room L2, People's Church.

Kalamazoo Fall Climate-Change Series

Kicking off right here at People's Church, at the Audubon Society's monthly meeting, Monday, 9/23, 7:30 p.m. is the climate-change series, "Awareness and Response." (Sponsoring Partners of the series: The Western Michigan University Center for the Humanities, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the People's Food Co-op of Kalamazoo.) Dave Karowe, WMU Professor of Biological Sciences, will speak on "The Effects of Climate Change on Birds."

The series continues through the fall with various topics/speakers throughout Kalamazoo. See the full calendar, as well as a poster on the keynote event with Bill McKibbin of 350.org at Miller Auditorium on October 10, 7 p.m. on our community events bulletin board.

Hope to see you at many of these,

—Pat Nelson & Bob Swicker

The New Jim Crow Book Discussion

Sunday, September 22, 1:00 p.m.

We will be sharing a discussion on The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander.



Michelle Alexander

The book was selected as the 2012-13 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Common Read. Alexander, an attorney who is a civil rights advocate and litigator, asserts that crime-fighting policies and systems in the U.S., such as the "war on drugs" and the incarceration system, disproportionately and intentionally affect Americans of color. She describes multifaceted, lifelong discrimination and disenfranchisement that affect people who are branded "felon." Read more at uua.org/commonread. If you are interested in reading this book and participating in a discussion group, please contact Nadine Godin-Nassaney or any ARAOMC Committee member.

Did you know...



You can recycle some of your **electronic waste** responsibly right at People's Church! There is a dropbox in the Volunteer Office (Room 17) near the Information

Desk for:

- Cell phones
- Laser and ink-jet cartridges
- Laptops
- iPods/iPads/tablets/eReaders
- digital cameras
- GPS devices
- Video games and consoles
- Scientific and graphing calculators
- ~ No batteries, please!

Contact Kimberly Ginn if you have questions.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Monday	September 16	Membership Committee The Study Group	6:15p.m. 7:30p.m.	Room L1 Fountains at Bronson Place
Tuesday	September 17	Building & Grounds Work Group Library Committee	9:30a.m. 9:30a.m.	Meet at Church Foyer
Thursday	September 19	Handbell Choir Choir Rehearsal Full-Moon Drum Circle	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 9 Commons Fire pit
Friday	September 20	Pasty Preparation	1:00-4:00p.m.	Kitchen
Saturday	September 21	The Discussion Group Pasty Assembly Pasty Baking	10:00a.m. 8a.m.-2p.m. 2:00-4:00p.m.	Room L2 Kitchen Kitchen
Sunday	September 22	Meditation Hospitality Half-Hour Sunday Service O.W.L. Parent Orientation and Lunch New Jim Crow Book Discussion	9:00a.m. 10:15a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 1:00p.m.	Room 19 Foyer Commons Room 12 Room 18
Monday	September 23	Newsletter Deadline Journey Circle	12:00p.m. 6:30p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Room L1
Tuesday	September 24	Building & Grounds Work Group Dreamwork Circle	9:30a.m. 6:00p.m.	Meet at Church Room L1
Thursday	September 26	Handbell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	September 27	Newsletter Mailing ARAOMC Committee	9:00a.m. 6:00p.m.	Room 8 Room 18
Saturday	September 28	Middle-School O.W.L. Sleepover	6:00p.m.	Whole Church
Sunday	September 29	Meditation Hospitality Half-Hour Sunday Service Greeter Training	9:00a.m. 10:15a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m.	Room 19 Foyer Commons Room 19

Newsletter Information

Beginning in October, *News & Views* will go from being a bi-weekly publication to a monthly.

In keeping with our ethic of reducing paper use, the November issue will be sent electronically to every household on our mailing list. Members who do not use email or simply prefer to read a paper copy, may continue to receive the paper newsletter by mail for no charge, but please sign up in the foyer or call the office so we know you prefer that option. Friends and guests may pick up a paper copy at People's Church or request an annual subscription for \$30.

Thanks for your help and cooperation as we continue to look at ways we can be as green as possible. 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.

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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.”

