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

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November 10th Special Collection for Disability Network



The special collection on **November 10th** will benefit Disability Network Southwest Michigan, the first stop for people with disabilities and their families in eight counties. They provide Disability Related Information & Referrals; Disability Rights Advocacy; Peer Support Groups; Connections to Community Resources; Independent Living Skills Training; Nursing Facility Transition Services; Assistive Technology Information; Social Security Benefits Counseling; and ADA Compliance Assistance. They also help local agencies become welcoming of people with disabilities by providing them with information, training, technical assistance and support.

Disability Network believes that:

- **The disability experience is best understood by those who experience it**, so more than half of staff and Board members identify as having a disability.
- **Disability is a natural part of the human condition**; not inherently good or bad.
- **A disability exists when someone encounters a barrier**; therefore, the

barrier is the problem, rather than the individual.

- **The language used to describe disability is powerful**; so that disability should be considered as just one characteristic, rather than the identity of the person.



Disability Network, a recognized 'Center for Independent Living' by the Michigan Department of Human Services and U.S. Dept. of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, receives revenue from these sources and from service agreements with a variety of agencies, including United Way. Grants and donations from local sources comprise 5% of their budget, with growing competition and need for these dollars. Our special collection will be an important contribution.



Winter Solstice Ritual

Would you like to help plan and/or lead this year's Winter Solstice Ritual on Dec. 20th? If so, please contact Diane Melvin at re@peopleschurch.net.

Find an electronic version of this newsletter at www.peopleschurch.net.

Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

November Sundays

Reverend Pam, with help from the Sunday Services committee, Greeters, Board Members, Musicians, Ushers and Counters, Story Tellers, Presenter for "This I Believe," the Audio/Visual team, Hosts for refreshments, and many more behind-the-scenes participants who make it all work. Thank you!

November 03 "Generosity in Anxious Times"

November 10 "Facing Life, Facing Death"

November 17 "Building the Beloved Community"

November 24 Guest Speaker: Karen Quinlan, former Ministerial Intern at People's

Pam's Peace



"It can't be November already!" Have you felt that, too? The titillating colors of Autumn that we glimpse through the many windows of People's Church are comfortably soothing. The scurrying squirrels remind us that it is time to gather the firewood, make apple

butter, or whatever we do to prepare for the wonder of winter.

The seasonal shift can usher in a deeper pull toward togetherness, as though we might tap into an innate recognition of the importance of coming together, to participate in the bounty of life ever in motion. I have come to see the good folks of People's Church as a congenial band of all kinds of people who easily stick out a hand of friendship or offer a big smile of welcome. As a relative newcomer to this group of beautiful souls, I know this is who I would want to be with to learn what winter is like in this part of the

country. And there are many more things you can teach me during my brief time here—as I also share my gifts with you.

Looking ahead, I see new ideas, new voices speaking their truth, new guests who make the commitment of membership, and new experiences for all who make their way to this unique church on the hill that is also an inspiring nature center.

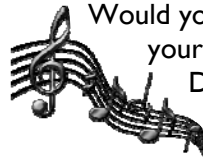
People's Church has much to be grateful for. Those of you who have made it so must feel very proud, and rightly so. Interested parties who feel a curious boldness to check it out will probably agree, and a good number of them will come back.

To the people of People's, may you always treasure your treasure on the hill—and all the devoted members of generations who continue to fan the flame that touches the lives of many in significant ways.

December 8th Service

Do you have a special story to share about any of the Christmas songs in our grey hymnal? If there is a song that brings back a fond memory, we would like you to say a few words about it in 2 minutes or less, then the congregation will sing the song with you. If your favorite song for the season is not in the hymnal, you are welcome to sing it yourself or ask a few friends to help. Music Director Scott will preview some pieces from the evening concert. If you want to share, let me know by Dec. 1. Thanks, Rev. Pam 941-889-8728

THERE'S MUSIC IN THE AIR
 Would you like to share holiday joy with your musical instrument during the December 22 service? Brass - percussion - woodwinds - strings. An intergenerational service, so contributions from any age range will be welcome. We will hear also from the Choir and Bell Ringers, as well as the children and youth. Send your ideas to Rev. Pam by December 15 if you are interested.



Membership Matters

By Anna Shade



The Sharing Our Faith Journeys workshop held on Sunday Oct. 20 was a huge success. We thank everyone who came, participated fully and engaged in a great conversation around faith. The Membership Committee

hopes to continue to offer new and engaging workshops such as this one in the near future. Stay tuned to the website and *New and Views* as plans unfold.

November includes a couple more events for friends or newcomers to People's Church. Everyone is invited to the **Connections Dinner which will be held on Friday, November 15 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Jointly hosted by the Religious Education Committee and the Membership Committee, this event is a great opportunity to get to know People's people and other newcomers. There will be a lovely potluck meal and then time for sharing as a group. Please join us for this fun and relaxing event!

The Membership Orientation workshop will be held on 11/17 from 12:15 - 1:30 in Room 19.

If you want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, People's Church and the benefits and responsibilities of People's Church membership, please join this workshop! We strongly recommend that you attend this workshop if you are considering People's Church membership. Sign-up to attend at either the visitor or information desk.

We will be pleased to recognize all those who choose to join our congregation formally on Sunday, December 8 during the Sunday Service. If you are interested in joining but do not wish to be formally recognized, we honor your preference—but don't let that deter you from joining! If you would like to join People's Church in December, please contact Anna Shade (anna.shade@gmail.com) or Rev. Pam Allen-Thompson (minister@peopleschurch.net) as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support. As Rev. Pam spoke of recently, the act of Radical Hospitality is so important - and can help jettison People's into a new era—as a thriving, loving, growing and welcoming

community. There are so many who are seeking what we have to offer here within these walls and beyond! Let's embrace them ALL with open hearts and listening ears.

In Fellowship, Anna Shade

SJCC Update

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo is organized to bring together hundreds of volunteers and local organizations to meet student needs at school--before, during or after class, working to solve problems that interfere with learning. The Social Justice Coordinating Committee supports and works with this organization. They have a need for volunteers with certain skills, namely:

- General office help
- An individual skilled in video recording
- Spanish tutors to assist high school students
- Anyone interested in starting a walking club at an elementary site
- School beautification projects
- Lunchtime support at recess/during recess time
- Guys interested in participating in a Guys Read program
- Someone to start a Science Club (natural science) at a middle school

If you can help with any of these needs, please contact Kaitlin Martin at kmartin@ciskalamazoo.org

On October 3, fourteen of People's people attended the ISAAC Convocation at First Congregational Church. After song and presentations in the sanctuary, participants broke into groups with interest in Transportation, Housing, Education and Youth Violence to receive updates on progress in these areas and idea-sharing for on-going work. Everyone left with positive encouragement about our impact on these important issues.

Loaves and Fishes need for November: **canned vegetables**. Rick's truck will be out front November 17 and again the 24th to collect food donations. We suggest watching the ads for specials; put items for the drive on your shopping list; if you have kids, let them find the items on your list; keep Loaves and Fishes goods in separate bags and leave them in your vehicle; on November 17, transfer food to Rick's truck. If you forget on the 17th, bring them the next week. Thanks so much!!!

Prepare Now for Saturday, November 23rd ~ People's Church 2013 Holiday Bazaar and Fine Arts Sale ~ Sign Ups and Promotion Needed!

The Bazaar has become a signature event for our church involving everyone – members and friends - who can lend a hand to help make it happen. We extend this event to the wider Kalamazoo area and surrounding counties. The Bazaar has also become an important help to our church budget, to support our program and our service to others. Here are some of the many ways you can help.

Invite people to come to the Bazaar. You can do

that by email and include the link to our website or our Facebook page which have all the details. You can post the event on your Facebook page or Tweet about it. You can pick up some of our postcard-size flyers at church and share them at meetings or post them in a public place. You can call a few friends and invite them to meet you here for lunch in the café. How many new people can you draw to this year's Bazaar?



Bring things for the White Elephant Rooms. Find nice items (decorative items, kitchen items, jewelry, hobby items, art, etc. *but no clothing or furniture, please*) that you can clean and donate to be repurposed in our White Elephant Sale. Drop them off in the lower 2 class rooms after church on Sunday the 17th until Friday evening the 22nd. Come help sort, price and arrange during that week.

Make things for People's Specialties. The foyer will be beautifully arranged with fabulous homemade baked goods, candies, jams and

bread, frozen entrees, and homemade craft items. Your contributions are needed here. Please drop them off on Friday the 22nd or early Saturday for pricing and arranging.

Work shifts at the Bazaar. Many people will be needed for 2-hour work shifts (generally 9-11, 11-1, and 1-3) on Saturday the 23rd in each area (People's Specialties, White Elephant, Café, Greeters, etc.). Please look for the sign-up sheets on the Bazaar sign-up table in the foyer or call the church office to choose a shift or two.

Park near the road on the grass. Please leave the spaces near the church for customers who will come and go during the day. If you can car pool and leave your car at home, all the better!

Plan to eat in the café. The food is splendid! Morning snacks, a fabulous array of lunch items – including pasties - and afternoon pies and more, will be available. Enjoy!

Help host our guests. Many people come to our Bazaar because they like the warm and friendly people. Please greet everyone and thank our vendors, too.

Shop local! It's hard to find a more interesting variety of gift items than you will find at our Bazaar, including green and alternative items. Bring your list and find the perfect choices right here.

Questions? Please check with Chris in the church office or email Rochelle Habeck Hunt.



Green Spot

By Allan Hunt

Alternative Giving

With the arrival of colder weather, our thoughts turn to the upcoming giving season. This year you can resolve to have a greener, cheaper, more meaningful holiday season through alternative giving. Instead of just going to the mall, be creative by inventing your own original presents, purchasing green products that express your values, or making a donation in someone's name. Here are some suggestions.

- Give your time rather than things. Do someone else's household chores for three months or give babysitting coupons. Those would be inexpensive presents with great meaning and value to the recipient.
- If you're skilled at crafts or like to cook or bake, make your presents. But be sure to start early enough that it doesn't add to the holiday crush.
- Shop at the People's Church Holiday Bazaar where you will find tons of interesting choices, including a white elephant sale where you can find unique and repurposed items.
- Give one of your favorite things or a special book that you have enjoyed to someone that you know will enjoy it also.
- If you love entertaining, give someone a Ground Hog Day party or celebrate the Chinese New Year to take some of the time pressure off the traditional holiday season.
- Donations make wonderful presents for people who really don't need anything. But you need to find a source that has special meaning for that person. Many non-profits have creative donation ideas, as well as the many local organizations to choose from.
- Donations can be great gifts for children too. One grandmother started giving a Heifer International animal to her grandchild when she was two. When she was school age, the grandmother would pick a country and make up a story to go along with the Heifer card.

She would ask the grandchild what animal she would like to give every year. This is one of the favorite traditions that these two still share.

- Paws with a Cause is headquartered nearby in Wayland and you could take a child on an outing so s/he could see how that donation worked. The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee rescues old circus and zoo elephants and gives them a home where they can roam free. Just ten dollars makes your child an "EleBacker!"
- There are many, many other paid options like Oxfam, World Wildlife Fund, or Save the Children. Look them up on Alternative Gifts International if you need inspiration.

You will find that giving and receiving alternative gifts is an effective way to channel the true holiday spirit and save your budget and help the environment at the same time.

Pat Pratt's Crispy Grahams

1 box graham crackers ½ cup brown sugar
½ cup walnuts, finely chopped ½ cup butter (1 stick)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Break graham crackers into rectangles (the smallest shapes that are lined into the crackers.) Place them on a cookie sheet, as close together as you can. You can use a second cookie sheet if you need to.
3. Measure ½ cup brown sugar, firmly packed into a measuring cup. Put it into a small sauce pan along with ½ cup butter.
4. Chop finely ½ cup walnuts. Add to saucepan, too. Heat on medium heat on the stove until butter melts and mixture comes to a boil. With a teaspoon, carefully spread some of the mixture on each of the graham cracker pieces. Be careful—it's hot!
5. When all graham cracker pieces have some of the mixture on them, carefully slide the cookie sheet (or sheets) into the oven. Set a timer to 10 minutes.
6. When the timer goes off, remove the cookie sheet(s) from the oven. Let them cool before handling them.

Innovation in Religious Education

I have just returned from 5 days in Minneapolis where I attended the annual conference of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA). It was a fulfilling and invigorating experience with food for the soul combined with new ideas and collaboration with colleagues.

The Fahs Collaborative, housed at Meadville Lombard Theological school, is led by Dr. Mark Hicks. It is an exciting laboratory that brings people together to explore and create innovative ways to deepen faith through educational encounters. <http://www.meadville.edu/the-fahs-collaborative.php>

Here are a few of the interesting presentations that I think People's people would enjoy learning more about.

Innovation in Technology by Phil Lund

Ideas to enhance use of digital media and web technology in service to professional development, continuing education, collegiality, and spiritual growth.

Cross-Cultural Spiritual Practice by Kat Liu

Co-creating a more multicultural UU liturgy centered around commonly shared themes of the changing seasons and our ties to ancestors and children. Check out the liturgical calendars based on the seasons and the 7 principles at <http://wizduum.net/>

Innovation in Multigenerational Faith Formation by Karen Bellavance-Grace

Re-imagining traditional RE programs and Faith Formation ministries by harnessing tools that transcend traditional RE classes and invite families into a Full Week Faith. Check out more information at <http://fullweekfaith.weebly.com/> where you can scan the QR code to download the app for that.

Young Adult UU Group

All 18-35 year olds are invited to participate in our young adult group on the first and third Thursdays at 8:00pm.

First Thursdays: games and activities

Third Thursdays: group discussion

For more information contact group coordinator, Fernando Ospina at faospina@gmail.com or 352-328-4964.

Elementary Sleepover - November 1

All K-6th graders are invited to enjoy a sleepover at church. Potluck dinner begins at 6:00 PM followed by fun games and a Haunted House created and run by our teens. For more information contact Jana Watson or Brooke Feltner-Beebe.

Teens please arrive by 6:00 to eat and create the Haunted House!



High School UU Youth Conferences

- Nov. 1-3—**Contagious** in Indianapolis, IN
- Nov. 15-17—Spirituality Development CON in Dayton, OH

REGISTER AT www.midamericauua.org

YRUU - High School Youth Group

While all 9-12th graders normally meet on the first Sunday of the month, due to other events this weekend they won't meet again until Dec. 8.

All youth are invited to help **make pasties** in the church kitchen for the Bazaar on Nov. 9 from 10-5:00. Contact Don Miller or Wendy Dawson for more information.



People's Mystic Lake Middle School UU Retreat Gang

Coming of Age Retreat - Oct 25-27

The 9th grade Coming of Age class enjoyed their Challice Circle weekend retreat Oct 25-27 at Camp Merriewood. Thank you to facilitators Gwen Abney Cunningham, Jana Watson, Ben Jones and Tom Cunningham for leading this amazing group of youth. Special Thanks to **Dawn Shilts** for all the behind-the-scenes work to support the facilitators and this program!

Book Group

Our November book takes us to the Ojibwa reservation in North Dakota for Louise Erdrich's latest novel The Roundhouse. We'll gather at Barb Osborne's home at 1:30 on Wednesday, November 13th. Call Barb for directions. Mary Tift will facilitate the discussion. We love having new people so join us for a lively discussion. Looking ahead, the December book will take us to Cambodia in the time of the Khmer Rouge with In the Shadow of the Banyan by Vaddey Ratner.

FAIR TRADE: Chocolate's coming!

The weather is now cool enough to order chocolate bars without having to pay special refrigerated shipping to keep it from melting so look for it on sale at the coffee cart in the lobby in the next week or two.

Library News

Thanks to Emily Cutler, the books in our library are now entered online in the LibraryThing program. This program can be used either at home or at the library via the computer supplied in the area. (It will not handle circulation—that still needs to be done by hand.)

To help us learn how to use LibraryThing and see the changes we have made in combining many of the RE books with the adult ones, we are scheduling two orientation sessions. These will be the first and second Sundays in November. So drop in on Nov. 3rd or 10th at 12:15. It will only take 10-15 minutes.



Now Hear This!

Our new Hearing Loop technology is installed and working in both the Commons and in Room 19. If you have trouble hearing what is said (except when people mumble or don't speak properly into the microphone) the new system may be very helpful—but it requires proper use of a hearing aid with T-Coil. The Western Michigan University Audiology Clinic offers evaluations that are free for WMU employees, retirees, anyone covered by the WMU insurance program. Medicare does not cover hearing evaluations, but most other insurance does cover the evaluation for those not affiliated with WMU. If a hearing aid is recommended, the WMU clinicians can suggest the best kind for you and will recommend that it include a T-Coil that will improve use in many public places including People's Church. The phone number to call for a hearing evaluation is 387-8047.

\$MONEY MATTERS\$

The year is off to a good start financially. Our current pledges are coming in slightly (11%) ahead of budget, and nearly \$4,000 in old pledges has been received. Our expenditures are running below budget so far, resulting in an operating surplus to date of over \$20,000. We have paid down our construction loan balance to \$785,000 thus far and are hoping to reduce it to \$700,000 by the end of the year. Please make every effort to complete your *Feeding Our Flame* pledge before June 30. You may contact Treasurer Allan Hunt, Assistant Treasurer Barb Davis, or Database Manager Dana Kubinski (dbmchurch@peopleschurch.net or 375-3262) if you have any questions about financial matters or the status of your pledge.

Our UU Friends!!!

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
10441 Shaver Rd, Portage MI 49024



The Season To be Giving
11th Annual
Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar

Saturday, November 16, 2013
9 am. - 3 pm. Free Admission
Holiday Lunch Cafe 11:00 to
3:00

Enjoy a delicious lunch & shop for alternative gifts to support local artists with creative wares.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Friday	November 1	Pasty Preparation Elementary Sleepover	1:00-4:00p.m. 6:00p.m.	Kitchen Whole Church
Saturday	November 2	Pasty Assembly The Discussion Group Pasty Baking	8a.m.-2p.m. 10:00a.m. 2:00-4:00p.m.	Kitchen Room L2 Kitchen
Sunday	November 3	Meditation Hospitality Half-Hour Sunday Service Library Orientation Congregational Informational Session Regarding the Start-Up Retreat High School Youth Group (YRUU)	9:00a.m. 10:15a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:15p.m. 12:30p.m. 4:00p.m.	Room 19 Foyer Commons Foyer Room 19 Room L2
Tuesday	November 5	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	November 6	Religious Education Committee	6:30p.m.	Room L1
Thursday	November 7	Handbell Choir Choir Rehearsal Young Adult Group (ages 18-35)	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 9 Commons Call Fernando Ospina at (352) 328-4964
Friday	November 8	Pasty Preparation Green Sanctuary	1:00-4:00p.m. 4:00p.m.	Kitchen Room L1
Saturday	November 9	Pasty Assembly Mindfulness Retreat Coming of Age Mentor Orientation Pasty Baking	8a.m.-2p.m. 9:00a.m. 12:30p.m. 2:00-4:00p.m.	Kitchen Room 19 Room 19 Kitchen
Sunday	November 10	Meditation Hospitality Half-Hour Sunday Service <i>Special Collection for Disability Network</i> Library Orientation Second Sunday Lunch	9:00a.m. 10:15a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:15p.m. 12:30p.m.	Room 19 Foyer Commons Foyer Room 19
Monday	November 11	Facing Life, Facing Death Financial Affairs Committee	12:00p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room L1 Room 18
Tuesday	November 12	Building & Grounds Work Group Dreamwork Circle	9:30a.m. 6:00p.m.	Meet at Church Room L1
Wednesday	November 13	Book Group Board Meeting	1:30p.m. 6:30p.m.	Barb Osborne's Home Room L1
Thursday	November 14	Handbell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	November 15	Connections Dinner	6:00p.m.	Room 19
Saturday	November 16	The Discussion Group	10:00a.m.	Room L2
Sunday	November 17	Meditation Hospitality Half-Hour Sunday Service *Loaves and Fishes Food Drive Full-Moon Drum Circle	9:00a.m. 10:15a.m. 10:45a.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 19 Foyer Commons Rick Johnson's Truck Fire pit (or Room 9)

More Calendar Items Are Included on Page 10

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 News & Views
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www.peopleschurch.net



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Monday	November 18	Newsletter Deadline Membership Committee The Study Group	12:00p.m. 6:30p.m. 7:30p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Room L1 Fountains at Bronson Place
Tuesday	November 19	Building & Grounds Work Group Library Committee	9:30a.m. 9:30a.m.	Meet at Church Foyer/Room I
Thursday	November 21	Handbell Choir Choir Rehearsal Young Adult Group (ages 18-35)	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m. 8:00p.m..	Room 9 Commons Call Fernando Ospina at (352) 328-4964
Friday	November 22	Bazaar Preparation Newsletter Mailing	All Day 9:00a.m.	Whole Church TBD
Saturday	November 23	Holiday Bazaar	9a.m.-3p.m.	Whole Church
Sunday	November 24	Meditation Hospitality Half-Hour Sunday Service *Loaves and Fishes Food Drive	9:00a.m. 10:15a.m. 10:45a.m.	Room 19 Foyer Commons Rick Johnson's Truck
Monday	November 25	Archives Committee	1:00p.m.	Archives Room
Tuesday	November 26	Building & Grounds Work Group Dreamwork Circle	9:30a.m. 6:00p.m.	Meet at Church Room L1
Thursday	November 28	Thanksgiving—OFFICE CLOSED	All day	Whole Church