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## Update From The Transition Team

As the newsletter deadline approaches, we are preparing for the third all-church transition discussion on March 23<sup>rd</sup> focusing on the future we envision. The results of the second transition meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> are summarized below, which addressed what we want to honor and claim from our history as we move forward. Thank you to all the people who assisted in many ways to the successful February History Month effort. With Reverend Pam's guidance, we will continue on with the process recommended by the UUA and explore how we sustain the institution of our church and our connections with the UUA. In addition, we have been asked to help focus attention on two current needs—improving and clarifying the communications in our church and developing shared understanding of the ministry and the minister's role in our church. Please share your suggestions and questions and concerns with any of us; your thoughts are welcome.

We also need another member, as Bob Wallis has shifted to focus on his work with Nominations and A/V. Interested? Please contact one of us: *Tim Bartik, Rochelle Habeck, Mary Lewis, Don Miller, Zoë Valette and Reverend Pam.*

Results from the Second Transition Meeting: Here are the main themes that were identified by those in attendance at our all-church transition discussion on February 23. These results can be used in the current work of the congregation and also provide insights to guide the upcoming search process.

The first question asked: **What key things from our heritage do we want to honor and bring forward as we move to this next period of our history?**

The most frequently mentioned aspects were:

1. Lifespan Religious Education
2. Social Justice
3. Intergenerational Services
4. Music/Musical activities
5. Congregational Connections
6. Intellectual Growth
7. Support
8. Community Involvement
9. Welcoming All
10. Valuing Change, Tolerance, and Diversity
11. Children and Families

The second question asked: **What key lessons can we learn from things that did not go so well in our past that we want to use to guide our future?** The replies were grouped into similar content themes as follows:

1. **Strengthen Congregational Life**  
Realize that the church is the Congregation—the people—not the minister or the building; Encourage people to engage with those they don't know and cross generations; Provide more ways of welcoming and connecting (e.g., Sunday circle suppers), adaptable to give people what they need; Place strong emphasis on

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Find an electronic version of this newsletter at [www.peopleschurch.net](http://www.peopleschurch.net).

**Transition Team Update —Continued from Page 1**

diversely scheduled adult activities; Lack of parking space (requires funds) demands carpooling; Preserve ability to speak as a church on important issues and to take a stand; Narrow down our commitments (e.g., Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary) and push through to finalize these commitments; Widen our community focus beyond metropolitan Kalamazoo

**2. Respect and Promote Diversity**

Be able to respect, validate, and be open to other people's views and ways of knowing, other religious paths and beliefs (from UU Christianity to UU Atheism), and styles of services; Be able to attract diversity, not just accept it.

**3. Manage Change**

Help everyone understand why changes are being made; balance honoring tradition and inspiring change and flexibility; take time to accept change and not be quick to judgment; prepare to be more welcoming to the next minister; but don't over-process

**4. Improve Communication**

Achieve transparency in communications within the church; Better communication about activities; Clarify how/when to use each communication vehicle effectively and briefly; Provide and make clear the option for print or email subscription to newsletter.

**5. Find Balance in Next Minister**

Able to give voice to both head and heart; intellectualism and human warmth; thoughtful sermons (to grow) and good politics/compassion (to keep); gives more than a Sunday sermon, has pastoral interests, well-rounded, shared ministry.

**6. Sunday Services**

Maintain ritual in service, e.g., Joys and Concerns, opening song, consistency in order of service; Achieve clarity about expectations regarding "control" of Sunday services, i.e., our desire to share control, what the minister wants; Continue to include kids in the service (don't repeat exclusion from earlier years).

**7. Mitigate Conflict**

More flexible problem solving; Even in difficult situations, we can find some positive things; Appreciate creative tension; Mediate conflicts when they first appear and reach out to those who have been alienated; Have something in place for leadership to use in conflict resolution, and a place to register concerns.

**8. Develop Leaders**

Develop a clear and open path to leadership; Need to open leadership to many, currently asking too much of too few.

**Going Once, Going Twice...**

It is time to get to work on our Annual Service Auction, always a fun time for our community. The Service Auction

is an evening dedicated to fun, bidding on ways to spend time with each other and raising money for the church. As with the holiday bazaar, the Service Auction is a significant fundraiser for the church.

This year's Auction will be **Saturday, April 26**, with social time beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the auction beginning at 6:30 p.m. Our favorite auctioneer, Bill TerAvest, is scheduled to join us again. His skills as an auctioneer make for a very enjoyable evening.

We need people willing and able to help out with this important event, ranging from seeking services to be auctioned, getting things organized for the evening, organizing the food and drink, and the list goes on. If you are interested in helping out with this year's auction, please contact the office. If you're interested in donating goods or services, please email Emily Cutler at [emilymarguerite2@gmail.com](mailto:emilymarguerite2@gmail.com).

Let's make this an evening to remember!!

## Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

April 06 **The Legacy of our Religious Educators** Reverend Pam

Our children's Religious Education program, led by Diane Melvin, is seen by many here as one of our most successful and meaningful accomplishments. A very large number of teachers, parents, and assistants contribute to this dynamic endeavor. This Sunday we will hear from two of the directors of religious education who laid the groundwork for this thriving accomplishment—Deb Wickman and Marj Lightner.

April 13 **With Sandals and a Slingshot** Reverend Fran Dew

Great Friend of Man, Lamb of God, Carpenter's Son, Man of Sorrows—there are many images of Jesus. During a trip to Egypt, Rev. Fran began to reflect on the different place Jesus occupies in Muslim scripture and thought. This morning, she wants to introduce you to a remarkable Muslim.

*The Reverend Fran Dew began her UU life as a member of People's Church of Kalamazoo in the 1960s, in the "old" church downtown. She is a retired Accredited Interim Minister. During her ministry she served congregations from coast to coast, returning to her home state for her last two churches. She now lives in her family's Ann Arbor area 19th century farmhouse where she is impatiently awaiting to get into her garden.*

April 20 **We Are All Connected** - Earth Day Intergenerational Service, Diane Melvin

April 27 **Stewardship of the Earth** – Commitment Sunday Reverend Pam

Faith statement from Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth: *Our UU faith compels us to promote policies that build sustainable and just responses to the effects of climate change. We honor the sacredness of all of creation, recognizing our place within—not separate from—the web of life.* Come join us for a call to renewed commitment to Mother Earth and Father Time.

### Pam's Peace



As I write, the calendar has reminded me that spring has sprung! I don't quite see it or feel it yet, here in beautiful snow country, but I believe it is well on its way. Picnic basket, get yourself ready—we're going to find those nice hiking trails and do some exploring.

In a way, the interim period we have shared is a bit like that. And thanks to the many who have tread the path before us, we have a bit of a road map that can offer guidance for the next steps. It won't take us directly from *point a.* to *point b.* because it leaves room for you to do your own exploring.

The All-Congregation conversations have been a significant part of getting ready for that journey, and my accolades of appreciation for the great work the Transition Team has brought to lay this important foundation. They have asked questions and listened, encouraged conversation and shared ideas, and much more—all in preparation for the next Interim Minister whom you will meet in August.

Then one year later you will welcome the Settled Minister who will laugh and cry and sing with you through all the years you share together. And you will remember what a big load the Board of Trustees and other leaders carried in service of People's Church—and you will smile, knowing that it was all very well worth it, in more ways that you might have imagined.

May you keep imagining because there are always new trails and new discoveries that will delight you. I feel blessed to have been a part of this season of discernment with you, and I will leave at the end of

May with a deep gratitude for what I have observed and experienced in my short time with you. But this is not yet a good-bye. We will make the best of the time we have. While I work closely with certain groups in areas that aim to strengthen the overall ministry of People's Church, I want to also be available for individual conversations. Let me know how I can be helpful in these last months, filled with the renewal of springtime.

*Rev. Pam*

## Membership Matters



We have welcomed **20 new members** to People's Church in this church year so far. If you haven't had a chance to get to know our new members, check out the January newsletter as well

as the bios that Ardyce Curl has put together for those who recently joined on March 9—found in this newsletter. I am continually amazed by this great group of people and how much they are adding to our congregation already. Make sure to introduce yourself to them if you haven't already.

**Are you new to People's – either a recent visitor or a new member – OR - are you a member or friend of People's looking for an interesting discussion?** Come and have an interactive conversation about Unitarian Universalism as we discuss the forward, introduction and first two chapters of the book *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*. All new members who join People's receive a copy of this book—and copies are available in the library or can be loaned from the Membership Committee. This engaging experience will be held at **12:15 on April 13** in Room 19. Grab some Second Sunday lunch food right after the service from the kitchen. We'll eat first and then start our 1 hour discussion at 12:30.

We'll hold our Spring **Membership Orientation on 5/4 from 12:15 – 2:00** in Room 19. Please bring a brown bag lunch – we'll eat first and then learn more about People's Church, Unitarian Universalism and what it means to be a member at People's.

All of our events require pre-registration, so contact Anna Shade, Membership Chair at [anna.shade@gmail.com](mailto:anna.shade@gmail.com). Child care is always available.

For those who would like to join People's, we'll hold our next Bond of Union signing ceremony and **New Member Recognition on Sunday, May 18**. If you are interested in joining People's on this day, please let Anna Shade know as well.

Finally, with all of the transition talk, it's a really different and sometimes confusing time for newcomers at People's Church this year. I just want to remind everyone of how important it is to greet and welcome our newcomers, but also to make real connections with them. Stop a newcomer with a blue nametag, introduce yourself and tell them why you are a part of the People's Church congregation and what you love about being here. Share your faith journey, give them your UU elevator speech and take time to listen to their story. Our community needs People's Church and Unitarian Universalism more than ever—and those walking in our doors are seeking all that we have to offer. Let us open our hearts to one another in the midst of all that is going on—and eagerly share our truths and our hopes for the future with the newest People's people.

In Fellowship,  
Anna Shade

## Do You Use Technology at People's Church?



Are you interested in helping People's upgrade its technology? We want to improve the hardware, software, and technology usage. If you would be interested in helping with this effort please contact Barb Davis at [it@peopleschurch.net](mailto:it@peopleschurch.net).

## New Member Biographies



**Gordon Bolar** grew up as a Methodist, but has been attending People's since 2009 and says he has found it to be an open and welcoming place. He soon became involved helping set up and take down preparations for the Holiday Bazaar, has served as an usher and helped with clean up on Sunday mornings. He is General Manager for Public Radio Station WMUK 102.1 FM.

**Bill Ginn** was brought up Catholic in the Detroit area. He has been a member of UU churches in St. Joseph, MI and South Bend, IN, and was a ten-year member of People's until 2012. He works for the Department of Defense in Battle Creek. He enjoys kayaking, cycling, cross-country skiing, hiking, tennis, guitar playing and singing and often plays guitar at People's Sunday mornings and leads sing-alongs. His 15-year-old daughter Juli is active in the high school youth group.



**Wyatt Klan** has attended People's since he was a child and now attends the People's Young Adult Group. He's looking forward to a job in Yellowstone National Park this summer, likes the outdoors, growing his own food, and he holds a Permaculture Design Certificate. He's also interested in art and cooking.

**Amy Marr** was raised in the Missouri Synod Lutheran church. She heard of UUism on NPR and found People's in the phone book. She is married to Jeremy; and her full-time job now is raising and home-schooling their three children: Gwen, 12, Rohan, 10 and Maggie, 8. Amy has a part-time job as a baker at Water Street Coffee Joint. At home she raises chickens, tends bees, makes maple syrup, dabbles in glass art. She loves to read and play the violin.



**Sandra Zukowski** was a member of People's several years ago and returned recently because of her interest in the Religious Education program. She is currently a public school substitute teacher and is applying for enrollment in WMU's Graduate School of Social Work. She enjoys rollerblading, cross-country skiing, horseback riding and gardening.



## Green Spot

By Julia Kirkwood

Earth Day will soon be upon us and the Green Sanctuary Committee thought we should provide a short update on projects currently being worked on. The goal is to submit our action plan report to the UUA at the end of the summer for review. To be certified as a Green Sanctuary, a congregation must complete 12 projects in four areas usually over the span of two years. This is the second year of implementation.

- 1) Worship
- 2) Religious Education for adults and children
- 3) Environmental Justice
- 4) Sustainable Living

Check out the Green Sanctuary Kiosk for the projects in 2012-2013. Right now we are working on multiple tasks, however three major tasks:

### **Bottled Water Awareness – “Tap Water = People’s Water”:**

There are perfectly legitimate reasons for buying bottled water on occasion however we thought that as part of our action plan we would try to raise more awareness of their impact and encourage people to commit to using tap water and reusable bottles. We will be offering stickers on Earth Day that members can put on their reusable water bottles as a reminder to use tap water. These stickers can also help start a conversation with other people about the importance of using tap water when possible.

### **People’s Nature Trail:**

We started last year with making sure the trail through the woods was clear of brush to making walking its entire length easier. More work on the trail will be done this year. New signs, a map and opportunities for contemplation along the trail. How about a few fairy homes or toad huts along the way for a little whimsical fun? If you are interested in helping with this please stay tuned! A request for help will soon be coming out.

### **Environmental Justice Project: Fish Consumption Awareness**

This project is a long-term project. As most of you

already know the Kalamazoo River is contaminated with PCBs from just upstream of Kalamazoo all the way to Lake Michigan from historical paper mill waste. It is what is called an Area of Concern (AOC) and also a Superfund Site. The PCBs end up in fish particularly bottom feeding fish and make them essentially unsafe to eat. There are people that do fish the river and eat the fish. The signs are old at the public access sites, information is difficult to find on what to eat and what not to eat and the people fishing typically do not speak/read English.

Discussions have just begun with State agencies and the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council (the AOC Public Advisory Council) to identify what resources are already available and what educational information is currently being worked on at the state level. The goal is to coordinate and identify specific needs to be effective at getting the word out to people who are eating the fish to help reduce their health risks. The MI Dept of Community Health has grant money to help with outreach materials and programs and the Watershed Council is also applying for a small grant to assist in the community aspect. Much of this work will begin in the fall.



## Tips for Being Green at Church

To help us be “green,” at church, here are some tips:

- Blue paper recycling bins are placed next to all trash cans.
- Please rinse out glass, plastic and metal and place in blue bins in kitchen, near sinks.
- A compost bucket is located on the counter in the kitchen (please no fats or animal products).
- Please DO NOT recycle tissues and paper towels.
- Paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, & metal can go in large curbside containers near the dumpster.

Thanks,  
Denise Valette, Custodian

### COMING of AGE

We have just wrapped up our Coming of Age Program for the 9th graders and I want to express my joy for the amazing group of youth and facilitators we've had this year.

The youth have had an opportunity to deeply explore their own values and beliefs and make some discernments around what is most important to them. They've pondered about what they believe about why we are here, what happens after we die, ideas around a higher power, the mysteries of life and how to be a good person. As Unitarian Universalists, we don't have a creed to answer these big questions, so they have to decide what feels true and right for them at this stage in their lives.

This is an intense program which includes two weekend retreats, a service project and time with their mentors. These youth have consistently attended the weekly sessions and stepped up in amazing ways, so I want to acknowledge their commitment and welcome them into our church community as youth who have come of age.

### CONGRATULATIONS COA YOUTH!

Nich Betz-Thorn, Dharma Fry, Stefanie Haenicke, Chase Howse-Willard, Hannah and Hayden Lane-Davies, Mary and Vincent Livingstone-McNelis, Nick Loken, Isabel Measzros, Sarah Shilts, Ave and Lena Wood and Duncan Wallis.

### THANK YOU COA MENTORS!

Marj Lightner, Kat VanHammen, Allan Hunt, Tim Bartik, Connie Ferguson, Elizabeth Warner, Phil Cutler, Colleen Van Slambrouck, Kelly Henderson, Jim Gardner, Ken Tindall, Lori Hughes, Kelly Henderson and Michael Ku

### THANK YOU COA FACILITATORS!

Jana Watson, Ben Jones, Gwen Abney-Cunningham and Tom Cunningham

**Special Thanks** go to Dawn Shilts for all the amazing "behind the scenes" work to assist the facilitators!

#### YRUU Youth Group

April 6th - 4-6:00pm

**All 9-12th graders invited!**

For more information contact Wendy Dawson at 349-5084 or [wmdawson40@gmail.com](mailto:wmdawson40@gmail.com).

### OWL

Our 7th and 8th grade Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education class only had 6 boys in it this year, but that didn't keep it from being fantastic. Thank you to the dedication of these families for consistently getting their youth to church each Sunday for this valuable program.

### CONGRATULATION OWL YOUTH!

Kiernan Dean-Hall, Gavin Rutherford, Manny Tsang, Jake Crouse, Owen Edwards and Nate Vanderberg

### THANK YOU OWL FACILITATORS!

Joy Gardner, Don Miller, Beth Bullmer and Mark Gernsback

It is such a blessing to work with so many talented and dedicated youth and leaders!

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin,  
Director of Religious Education

### RE Volunteer Appreciation Party



Sunday April 27 after church  
Everyone is invited to stay after church and enjoy lunch to help us honor and celebrate the many volunteers in our religious education program! Enjoy a burrito lunch, a recognition ceremony and slide show.

### Chalice Sparx UU Family Camp

July 10-15, 2013

Camp Ronora in Watervliet, Michigan will be the location for the first year of this new UU family camp. All ages and family configurations are invited to participate in this fun week designed to bring UU's together for workshops, worship, campfires, great food and fellowship with UU's from around the Midwest.



**Check it out at [chalicesparx.org](http://chalicesparx.org) !**

### 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.

For information contact coordinator, Fernando Ospina at [faospina@gmail.com](mailto:faospina@gmail.com) or 352-328-4964.

## Cottage Conversation Meetings



Please join us for an upcoming fellowship meeting. These are informal gatherings to enjoy one another's company and ask any questions you might have about People's Church, our transition process, or this year's Commitment Campaign. Dates, times and locations can be found on green slips in the reception area, or you can sign up at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/peoplescottage](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/peoplescottage).

### Inspiration for "People of Hope"

By Darryl Loiacano



I first walked through the doors of People's Church about 6 years ago, after a long and uncharacteristic absence from church-going. I was definitely a seeker at that point. For I had spent much of my adult life in anger about organized religion, about my perception of a particular religion that had let me down, and even betrayed me. It was an anger that was understandable, and certainly justified, but an anger that was no longer serving me.

So on a cold December morning, at the height of the holiday season, I sat through my first service at People's Church and literally wept. I remembered what it was I was longing for—that sense of connectedness, that sense of hopefulness, the experience of looking out at the world with a group of people and feeling like we are all seeing a similar thing.

And here was a church that did this in a remarkable way. I didn't have to check my brain at the door, that's true. But nor did I have to check my heart, nor my sense of wonder, nor my sense of being part of a world much bigger than myself. Here was a church that wasn't trying to *separate* me from the realities of the world, but actually *reminded* me of just how connected we all are, and why everything we do really does matter.

I believe that most humans, perhaps all of us, are seekers of one sort or another, just as I was the first day I came to People's. Sometimes the seeking calls us to something out there, mysterious and omnipotent. Sometimes the seeking leads us to look inside for our truth and our direction. And sometimes the seeking just makes us lift up our gaze and look around, to the people we love, to the people we share this space with, to the place that we call our religious home—the one that welcomes us in.

So the inspiration for a song like "People of Hope" was easy to find. It's the same inspiration that I feel at People's every day. It's the reason I give of myself, and my financial resources, to this great church.

Because the world needs more churches like this, and it needs more people like you.

So thank you, for all that you do, and all that you give.

### MidAmerica Regional Assembly in Ann Arbor – Saturday, April 12



The MidAmerica Regional Assembly is a weekend of coming together for enriching fellowship, inspiring lectures and workshops, and deepening worship. There will be live workshops, worship, and entertainment at each of the four locations. We'll open with our traditional banner parade and welcome. The closest assembly to People's Church will be in Ann Arbor on Saturday, April 12. If you would like to be one of our church's 5 congregational delegates, please contact the church office at [office@peopleschurch.net](mailto:office@peopleschurch.net)

For more information about the assembly, go to <http://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly>.

## Peace and Nature Camp

Peace and Nature Camp is a one-week day-camp at People's Church that runs **M-F, June 16-20, 9am - 4pm** and is open to all children ages 6-12 years old. This includes an all-day field trip to the Kalamazoo Nature Center on Thursday of that week. Camp provides an opportunity to play and explore in the woods,

ponds, and fields around People's Church. It gives children a chance to relax in a safe

environment and learn how to be comfortable in the woods and with their peers. Camp can



inspire in children a sense of wonder for the natural world and help them to shape their own values regarding it. Peace and Nature Camp will also allow campers to see how quiet reflection can impact their lives and nourish their spiritual growth. In short, camp will provide lots of fun and growth for your child. So, do you have a child or know someone who would like to come to camp this summer? Look for a short presentation and slideshow about camp at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Intergenerational Service. Registration forms will be available in the foyer at the camp display board and online at [peopleschurch.net](http://peopleschurch.net) starting April 20<sup>th</sup>. The cost of camp is \$110 per camper if registered by May 25<sup>th</sup>. After that, the fee is \$120 and final registration is June 8<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships are available if registered by May 25<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, are interested in helping with camp or would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund please contact me at [269-623-2932](tel:269-623-2932) or [birdman@mei.net](mailto:birdman@mei.net). See you at camp! —Jeff Kirkwood

## Car for Sale?



If anyone has a car they would be willing to sell to a member of our congregation for under \$5,000, please let Diane Melvin know at 375-3262. The member is currently using public transportation and a vehicle would be a great help.

## ARAOMC Film Series

The Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multicultural Committee will be showing: "Race: The Power of an Illusion" a 3-part video series which historically examines the concepts of race and racial differences and their perceived genetic and social aspects. There will be discussion following the videos. Please sign up on the sheet in the lobby so we can prepare for enough handouts and snacks.

Episode I – "The Difference Between Us" shown Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm, Room 19

Episode II – "The Story We Tell" shown Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm, Room 19

Episode III – "The House We Live In" shown Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm, Room 19

## \$Money Matter\$

The Budget Hearing on March 16 presented a goal of 8.7 percent increase for next year's operating budget. This primarily reflects an increase in interest cost. This year the \$42,000 cost of our interest only loan was split between the operating budget and Feeding Our Flame contributions. We are hoping to pay all the interest from the operating budget next year so that every dollar contributed to FOF will go toward reducing the principal of \$700,000.

At the Combined Campaign Kickoff on March 23, plans for a joint annual fund and debt reduction campaign were introduced. As in 2011, we plan to conduct the two campaigns simultaneously. Pledges will be requested for the Annual Fund and for a three-year extension of Feeding Our Flame. If we can be as successful as we were last time, we could be debt free in 3 years! This would result in interest savings of over \$300,000. Details will be forthcoming early in April. Cottage Conversations are planned over the next month to provide an opportunity for questions, discussion and fellowship. Please call the church (269-375-3262) or visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/peoplescottage](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/peoplescottage) if you want to attend. The Combined Campaign will end with Commitment Sunday on April 27.

## Social Justice Update

One hundred twenty People's people have signed petitions supporting the Minimum Wage. If you have not had the opportunity, the petitions are still available at the Social Justice table in the upstairs lobby. The petitions are calling for a referendum vote in November that would increase the minimum wage over a 3-year period from \$7.40 an hour to \$10.10. For more information please contact Pat Nelson (269-521-4353) or Phil Kramer (342-9617).

**Loaves and Fishes spring pick-ups will be April 20 and 27.** A good plan to follow:

- 1) Watch the ads for specials
- 2) Put items on your shopping list
- 3) If your kids shop with you, let them pick out the items
- 4) Keep L & F goods in separate bags in your vehicle
- 5) On April 20, transfer food to Rick Johnson's truck parked near the entrance
- 6) If you forget April 20, try again on the 27th!



Thanks so much! Special need for April is CANNED TUNA.

## Lincoln Elementary School

Here is another wonderful opportunity to support our on-going connection to Lincoln School! You know those little coupons on General Food products marked BOX TOPS for Education? We are hoping you will clip these and bring them to church so we can add them to Lincoln's collection.



Look for a container marked COUPONS for LINCOLN SCHOOL on the Social Justice table in the upstairs foyer. Our kids at Lincoln School deserve all we can do for them.

## April Special Collection



DOUGLASSCOMMUNITY  
association

The special collection on **Sunday, April 13** will be for the Douglass Community Center. This Kalamazoo institution has been serving the North Side community for ninety five years! First established as a social club for returning Afro-American WWI troops, it has now become a busy center which provides many vital services for the entire community.

Various ongoing programs at the Center offer psychiatric and medical services to those in need, guidance for young parents in caring for and raising children.... and a variety of programs directed toward the young which deal with specific issues such as substance abuse prevention, character building, literacy and community service. Once a month, the Center coordinates with Loaves and Fishes and The Food Bank to provide a food distribution to 400 individuals. At least 100 people a day come through for breakfast, lunch and dinner. In the summer, many young people contribute to the Community Garden which provides fresh produce for the Douglass Farmers' Market.

Besides housing its own services, The Douglass Center provides a valuable meeting place for numerous community programs. The most important are The Boys and Girls Clubs, The Powell Public Library, Lift Up Through Literacy, Mothers of Hope, ERAC/ce, NAACP, Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation Summer Camp, USDA Breakfast and Lunch Program (serving 500 children a week in the summer) and the GFM Counseling Center. Space is always available for other local meetings and events.

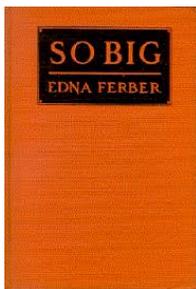
The Douglass Community Center is an active, important place. Its programs and services provide help for those who need it. Its building is often a refuge for at risk families and children.

## The Discussion Group Saturday, April 5, 10:00am

Pat Nelson will lead a discussion of Pantheism at the group's next meeting. All are welcome to attend and participate. The discussion starts at 10 a.m. in Room L2 at People's. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.



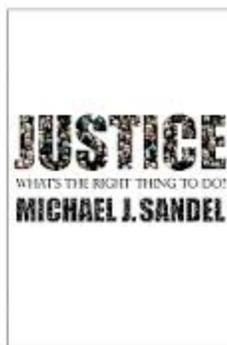
## Book Group Wednesday, April 9, 1:30pm



The April selection will take us from sunny Florida to the plains of Illinois with Edna Ferber's *So Big* which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1924. 1:30 is the time and Marj Lightner's condo in Parkview Hills (3826 Greenleaf Circle) is the place. Lois Loeffler will lead the discussion. We love having new people, so join us. Call Marj (353-1311) if you need directions.

## The Study Group Monday, April 28, 7:30pm

The Study Group's next book is "Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?", by Michael Sandel. Based on his popular undergraduate course at Harvard, this book explains various approaches to understanding morality and justice by applying these philosophies to contemporary issues such as bank bailouts, income inequality, affirmative action, immigration, same-sex marriage, the role of markets, and the place of religion in politics.



Next meeting is in "The Den" at the Fountains. New participants welcome! For more information, contact Tim Bartik at 806-1904.

## Upcoming Women's Gatherings

Dear Women of People's Church,

Did you know that there are over 225 women, ages 16 and up, who are members and friends of People's Church? Can you imagine the intricate web of connection and support there would be if we all knew each other? If we shared pieces of our lives with each other?



There is definitely a web of connection and support in existence now, but let's make it stronger, larger, deeper...!!

So...Women of People's (16+)...you are invited to two upcoming events!

**Women's Gathering** (hopefully the first of many to come!)

**Sunday, April 13, 2014 from 5:00 pm —7:00 pm in Room 19**

Bring a potluck dish to share. Gathering will include spiritual centering, a chance to get to know one another and share a meal as well as brainstorming / discussion about future gatherings. We'll also get a chance to hear more about plans for the upcoming Women's Retreat with the theme "Coming to the Well". For more information, contact Dawn Shilts at [dawn@shilts.org](mailto:dawn@shilts.org) or [269-532-1702](tel:269-532-1702).

**Women's Retreat – Coming to the Well**  
**Friday, May 9 – Sunday, May 11 – Circle Pines Resort near Delton MI**

Come take a facilitated, personal and collective journey to reconnect your spirit with community. Intentional music and singing, local healthy home-cooked food, kayaking/canoeing on the lake, walking on 300 beautiful acres, sauna, quiet time and much, much more! Registration forms and more information will be available soon in the foyer or online at [www.peopleschurch.net](http://www.peopleschurch.net).

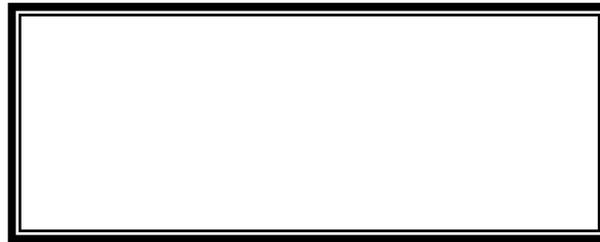
With our shared hope to gather with you,

**Anna Shade, Dawn Shilts, Kat VanHammen**

People's Church  
News & Views  
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### FRIDAY EMAIL

In an effort to keep members and friends of the church informed, the Communications Team is sending out a weekly email of upcoming church news and events. If you'd like to receive this weekly email and are not currently receiving it, please email [office@peopleschurch.net](mailto:office@peopleschurch.net), and Administrator, Chris, will put you on the list. Also, if you have timely church news or events that you would like sent out in this email, please email [office@peopleschurch.net](mailto:office@peopleschurch.net) by noon on Thursday. Thanks!

Check out our Calendar of Events online at  
[peopleschurch.net/calendar-of-events!](http://peopleschurch.net/calendar-of-events!)