



1758 North Tenth St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
Phone: 269-375-3262  
Fax: 269-375-3270  
office@peopleschurch.net

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

Volume 75, Issue 12

July 2014

## Summer Services—10:00 a.m.

*The church's summer services will follow a more informal, participatory worship hour—with gathering in Room 19 at 10:00 a.m. The services will have a theme of elucidating individuals' spiritual and ethical beliefs and practices. We hope that the people who attend will find a high level of welcome and friendship and an opportunity to share what is important to them on a wide-range of topics.*

### July 6 “Meditation as Spiritual Practice” Jim Croteau

To facilitate reflection and sharing by those in attendance, Jim will share his own perspectives and experiences with meditation practice. He will acknowledge its stress reduction and other mental health benefits, but focus on meditation as a spiritual practice that can alter how one perceives and experiences the world.



### July 13 “Spiritual and Ethical Aspects of Nature” Cybelle Shattuck

Born of the earth and sky, humans are kin to all other members of nature's extended family. "We are the rocks dancing." This week, we'll reflect on blessings, healing, inspiration, and wisdom we find through nature.



### July 20 “What Is (The) Sacred?” Gay Walker

As a free faith, we are able to choose for ourselves what we consider—if anything—to be holy. What do you hold up in your life? What is (The) Sacred to you?



### July 27 “Spirituality Through Ritual” Kat VanHammen

Ritual and ceremony are powerful tools that we have to help create the environment to have an embodied experience of The Sacred. In this service we will explore the things that we do both personally and collectively that serve us to sense deeper meaning and connectedness.



#### Inside this issue:

Greetings from Rev. Dave	2
Social Justice Update	3
New Board Officers	3
RE Notes	4
Money Matters	5
Camping Trip	6
Calendar	6
Mission Statement	7

## Greetings from Rev. Dave Johnson

Greetings, People's people! As summer's rhythms and festivals arrive, I'm completing two years of interim ministry in Hartford CT and preparing to move to Kalamazoo. I greatly appreciate the dedicated work of your Interim Task Force, Board of Trustees, Transition Team, and Ministerial Search Committee in preparing for a successful ministerial search and settlement in the coming year. I am honored to have been invited to serve you during 2014-2015, as together we re-claim and build upon the exemplary legacy of People's Church and anticipate the future.



A brief introduction of the Johnson family—whom I expect you will meet during my brief time at People's Church. My wife Diann and I will be celebrating our forty-seventh anniversary in late September this year. She is a native of Carmel IN, attended New England Deaconess School of Nursing, and worked thirty-plus years in coronary care and intensive care nursing, as well as home health care settings. A devotee of genealogy, music, computers, and many arts and crafts, Diann eagerly anticipates living in southwest Michigan and engaging its many cultural and artistic focal points—including the quilters in Shipshewana IN.

Our daughter Melanie is a dancer, violinist, counselor, yoga instructor, and movement therapist. Graduating from Butler University in 2004 with a dual major in French and Psychology, Melanie spent a year in Hiroshima prefecture Japan, teaching English in public schools. Returning to the U.S., she completed her Master's degree in Dance / Movement Therapy and Counseling Psychology at Antioch University

in Keene NH. Melanie is now a full-time Ph.D. student at Lesley University, focusing upon the expressive therapies. She is a regular presenter at annual conferences of the American Dance Therapy Association.

Our son Stefan completed undergraduate study at Syracuse University in 2009, dual-majoring in Spanish and computer engineering. He re-focused his vocational goals toward medicine, and completed a Master's degree in Bio-ethics. Stefan entered medical school two years ago, and is now a full-time student at the University of Kansas Medical School, conveniently located just ten miles from our family's home in Overland Park. He is now well into his third year of study and clinical rotations, with special interest in orthopedic surgery. Stefan is a skilled golfer, and is easily able to out-drive his Dad by 80 yards or more.

I will defer my self-introductions until after my arrival, when there will be ample opportunities for scheduling visits with each of you.

My sincere thanks to the many People's people who have already assisted our family in so many ways in getting to know you and the Kalamazoo community. Diann and I will be moving into our apartment (at Summer Ridge, which is quite close to the church) on Saturday and Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Rick Johnson has generously offered his truck to assist us on that weekend in local moving of furnishings for our one-bedroom-and-den apartment. Sally Padley has kindly donated a queen-bed-frame and a single bed, so our bedding needs are covered. I would make this request: **If you have other furniture items that you would be willing to lend to Diann and me for next year, or to donate, please e-mail Diann at: [lavande77@wildmail.com](mailto:lavande77@wildmail.com) or call her on her cell phone at: 913-302-5081.** She will be the coordinator / communicator, while I am fulfilling ministry obligations over the next five weeks.

Thanks again for your warm welcomes, generous hospitality, and enthusiastic offers of support as we begin our shared endeavors together. All good wishes for the summer.

*Rev. Dave Johnson, incoming Interim Minister,  
People's Church*

### Pastoral Care in July

In case of critical pastoral care needs during July, before Reverend Dave arrives, please contact Dana Kubinski at (269) 375-3262.

### New Board Officers Elected

At the Wednesday, June 11 Board meeting, the board voted on its officers for the upcoming 2014-15 church year. Here are the results:

**Co-Presidents:**

Sally Padley &  
Darryl Loiacano

**Vice-President:**

Megan Reynolds

**Secretary:**

Mary Kate Webster

**Treasurer:**

Allan Hunt



### Office Closed Week of July 21-25

Please note that the church office will be closed the week of July 21-25.

Administrator, Chris Schleuder will be out of town.

### Social Justice Coordinating Committee Update



**ISAAC News:** Brendan Flanagan, who has served as executive director of ISAAC for the past 3 years, is resigning for an opportunity to work with the gubernatorial campaign of Gov. Quinn of Illinois. The job opening will be posted soon with a starting date of mid- to late August. New organizer Vanessa Miller has joined People's Church and will be eager for help on her assigned issue area of education and early childhood, currently canvassing neighborhoods for enrollment in preschool and Lift-Up through Literacy. Welcome Vanessa! After the shooting death of the young man in Edison neighborhood, work on youth violence prevention issue is moving forward with greater urgency. The collaborative work on affordable housing has submitted grant applications to fund the innovative FUSE program. People's Church Core Team, which coordinates our congregation's involvement with ISAAC will meet on **Sunday, July 27th from 11:00 to 12:00 in Room 8**, right after the summer service. If you are interested in becoming more involved in ISAAC's work or in learning more about the Core Team, please join us. Questions? Contact Rick Johnson.

Molly Fairbanks, George McCrea and Rick Johnson, working through the Center for Transformation (a Kalamazoo faith-based support group for parolees and inmates), have been providing support to an inmate in the state prison in Muskegon. For the past year, they have been sending letters and care packages and visiting every month or so. He is scheduled to be released next July to begin his 2-year parole in Kalamazoo. They plan to continue the support then to help him make a successful transition from prison to community living.



**Loaves & Fishes:** Canned fruit is on the food wish list this month. Foods high in protein are always welcome. Summer is a high demand season due to children not getting hot lunches through the schools.

## Summer Sunday Religious Education

10:00-11:00 AM

In July and August, we will continue our special Sunday RE activities for kids entering kindergarten through those entering eighth grade.

Participants will enjoy creative movement, making crafts, games, and activities based on books written by Jamie Lee Curtis: Big Words for Little People, I'm Gonna Like Me, and Is There Really a Human Race?

We will be making paper cooperation sandwiches, exploring simple yoga, planting vegetables, learning the "Happy UU Hokey Pokey," planning an End of Summer Fiesta, and talking about how to make the world a better place. Visitors are welcome too!

Questions? Contact Mackenzie Hatfield-Johnson or Mary Kate Webster.

July 6 - Cooperation and Patience

July 13 - Family and Respect

July 20 - Consequence and Perseverance

July 27 - Difference and Understanding

August 3 - I'm Gonna Like Me

August 10 - I'm Loved and I Know it

August 17 - Bold Choices and Bold Voices

August 24 - Make the World a Better Place

**Nursery and toddler care will be provided each week by either Emerald Haan or Sulan Artz-Iffland.**

## New RE Curriculum

For the past 15 years, we have been adapting the same pillar curriculum units that Jill brought with her from Corvallis. This year we are changing our model and going to use curriculum from the UUA called *Tapestry of Faith*.

K/1st Grade - World of Wonder

2nd/3rd Grades - Moral Tales for Kids of Conscience

4th/5th Grades - Sing to the Power

6th/7th Grades - Amazing Grace

8th/9th Grades - Coming of Age

10-12th Grades - TBD

You can check out all of these curriculum options at the following link. <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children>

## SEEKING RE LEADERS

RE Teachers are needed to teach at all age levels from September through May. Each teaching team consists of four people who rotate according to a schedule you put together with your team. Training and orientation provided on September 6th from 10:00-3:00.

Please contact Diane Melvin if you are interested in being a leader or a helper in an RE class this year at [re@peopleschurch.net](mailto:re@peopleschurch.net).



## Peace and Nature Camp

Peace and Nature Camp is in full swing with 30 campers. **Thank you** to everyone who donated to the scholarship fund so that every child who wanted to attend camp was able to!

The children spend more time together during this one week than during a whole year of religious education classes. Hopefully this time together will deepen their relationships with one another and their connection with our church community.

Spending this time immersed in nature and with their natural sense of wonder and awe encouraged will hopefully help them develop a deep respect for the earth and her inhabitants.

We are fortunate to have Jeff Kirkwood's capable leadership at the helm of our camp!

## Book Group

The Book Group will gather at **11:30 on Sunday, July 13th** in the big room on the lower lever (Room L2). Bring something to share for a light lunch: cheese, dips, crackers, veggies, salads, fruit. Something simple. Also bring several ideas for books you would like to discuss next year. We will develop the schedule from these ideas. If you can't come but have some ideas, email them to Marj Lightner or Pat Nelson. Hope to see some new faces along with the old-timers.



## Full-Moon Drum Circle—Fri. July 12



Full-Moon Drum Circle will be held **8-11 PM** at the fire pit behind People's Church. All ages and abilities are welcome. Children under 17 should be accompanied by an adult. Some drums and other percussion instruments are provided, but bring your own if you have them. Other instruments are also welcome, such as guitar, flute, etc. You are welcome to bring poetry, stories, songs, or other creative ideas to share (although dim lighting often makes it difficult to read written material). Bring an open mind, a friendly smile, and a kind heart. No drugs or alcohol. No pets. No preconceptions. We request a few dollars donation from participants to offset our costs including rental of the space and promotional materials.

## Floor Cleaning—Building Closed

Please do not schedule events in the building **July 28 through August 1**. The floors will be cleaned at that time.

Thanks!  
Denise



## \$MONEY MATTERS\$

The fiscal year at People's Church ends on June 30, 2014. This is also the end of the three-year pledge period for the original *Feeding Our Flame* pledges. That means that all pledges should be fulfilled by June 30. In fact, there are still about 30 pledges that have not yet been completed. If you are behind on your annual pledge or *Feeding Our Flame* pledge, you will receive a statement showing the amount still owed. Please try to catch up in the next two weeks. We will keep the books open until the middle of July to allow for late payments to be credited to the fiscal year. You may contact Treasurer Allan Hunt or Assistant Treasurer Barb Davis if you are having difficulty meeting your pledge commitment.

## The ERAC/Ce Racial Identity Caucus Monday, July 14th

This purpose of this monthly event is to collectively grow our anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural identities. Our goal is to identify and move beyond the ways we've been racially socialized into roles of presumed superiority and inferiority, and claim and celebrate anti-racist, re-humanizing ways of being together in community.

### REGIONAL CAUCUS SCHEDULE: EVERY SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

5:30-6:00pm Focus on facilitation—anyone interested in developing caucus facilitation skills is welcome.  
6:00-6:30pm Gather to share snacks—some snacks provided, contribute if you wish.  
6:30-8:30pm Caucusing

### REGIONAL CAUCUS LOCATION:

Douglass Community Association  
1000 W. Paterson Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Please call Jo Ann (269.365.4819) or Lillie (231.392.2528) for directions or further information.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	July 1	Building & Grounds Work Group Talking Pots Membership Committee	9:30a.m. 3:30p.m. 6:30p.m.	Meet at Church Kitchen Room L1
Friday	July 4	<i>Independence Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED		Whole Church
Sunday	July 6	Summer Service: " <i>Meditation as Spiritual Practice</i> "	10:00a.m.	Room 19
Tuesday	July 8	Building & Grounds Work Group Dreamwork Circle	9:30a.m. 6:30p.m.	Meet at Church Room 18
Thursday	July 10-15	UU ChaliceSparx Summer Camp		Watervliet, Mich.
Saturday	July 12	Full-Moon Drum Circle	8:00p.m.	Fire pit
Sunday	June 15	Summer Service: " <i>Spiritual and Ethical Aspects of Nature</i> " Book Group	10:00a.m. 11:15a.m.	Room 19 Room L2
Monday	July 14	Facing Life, Facing Death	12:00p.m.	Room L1
Tuesday	July 15	Building & Grounds Work Group Library Committee Chalice Circle (Cusumano)	9:30a.m. 9:30a.m. 7:00p.m.	Meet at Church Foyer / Room 1 Room 18
Sunday	July 20	Summer Service: " <i>What Is (The) Sacred?</i> " Women's Group	10:00a.m. 5:00p.m.	Room 19 Room 19 / Foyer
Mon-Fri	July 21-25	OFFICE CLOSED	9a.m.-4p.m.	Whole Church
Monday	July 21	Newsletter Deadline (all August events)	12:00p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net
Tuesday	July 22	Building & Grounds Work Group Dreamwork Circle	9:30a.m. 6:30p.m.	Meet at Church Room 18
Sunday	July 27	Summer Service: " <i>Spirituality Through Ritual</i> " ISAAC Core Team Meeting	10:00a.m. 11:00a.m.	Room 19 Room 8
Mon.-Fri.	July 28-Aug. 1	Floor Cleaning (No Events in Building)	All Day	Whole Church
Tuesday	July 29	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church

Check out our Calendar of Events online at <http://www.peopleschurch.net/calendar-of-events>.

## People's Church Camping Trip, August 1-3

People's Church has an informal camping trip each summer. This summer it will be August 1st-3rd at Van Buren State Park. We camp Friday and Saturday nights, generally swim on Saturday afternoon and have a potluck Saturday evening. We usually have 40-60 people gathering and playing. As of this writing there was one site still available. See [www.midnrreservations.com](http://www.midnrreservations.com) for reservation information, rules and regulations, including pet policy and cancellation policy. Some people just come for the day on Saturday to swim, sun, and eat at the potluck.



For more information, contact Lori Hughes. We generally stay in the loop farthest east in the campground, but feel free to reserve any available site.

People's Church  
News & Views  
1758 N. 10th St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Permit No. 921

Check us out on the web!  
[www.peopleschurch.net](http://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.”**

To subscribe to an electronic version of this newsletter, please go to the bottom of the homepage at <http://peopleschurch.net>, enter your email address and click subscribe.