



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 13

August 2014

Summer Services—10:00 a.m.

August 3 “The Ethics of Food and Sustainability” Erik Pye

In a globalized world where small farmers compete against large corporations to make a living, ethical questions arise concerning our food. What can be done to make for a more sustainable future?



August 10 “How Spiritual and Ethical Practices Affect Destiny” Sally Padley

For many people, what happens after this temporal life is over is a huge concern. Various traditions have, over time, taught that there is more beyond the present realm. This service will explore different world views about what, if anything, comes next.



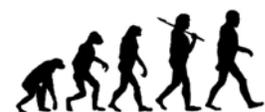
August 17 “From Ages of Rocks to the Rock of Ages” Rev. Dave Johnson

Exactly a half-century ago, on a dark and stormy night at sea, my emerging career as an oceanographer met disaster. What happened? What did I learn? How have learnings-amidst-failure remained the pacemakers of my ministerial journey? How have I built upon my scientific training in ways that are relevant to congregational life? I'll share some personal reflections of my sauntering, surprise-filled vocations.



August 24 “In Praise of Tinkering” Rev. Dave Johnson

How did life come to be as we find it; and why should we care? It turns out that evolution functions as a "tinkerer" (fumbling by trial-and-error with available resources) rather than as an engineer (i.e., intelligently designing optimal products). I'll offer some examples from paleontology, and consider the implications for the choices we face in creating lives of meaning and value.



August 31 “I’m Dancing as Fast as I Can!” Rev. Dave Johnson

On this Labor Day weekend I'll reflect on the challenge of seeking and creating meaningful work—at all stages in our lives, and without regard to compensation or recognition. Thomas Merton wrote: “All the good that you do will come not from you, but from the fact that you have allowed yourself to be used by the power of love. Think of this, and gradually you will be free from the need to prove yourself; and you can be more open to the power that will work through you—and without your knowing it.” We'll consider the implications of Merton's wisdom.



Inside this issue:

Rev. Dave's Reflections	2
Homecoming Potluck	2
RE Notes	3
Camping Trip	4
White Elephant Sale	4
Calendar	5
Mission Statement	6

Reverend Dave's Reflections



Greetings, People's people!
It's been a busy and enjoyable summer for our family.

I have closed out my interim ministry obligations at the Unitarian Society of Hartford CT, and am eagerly anticipating the coming year's

opportunities to build upon and strengthen the many shared ministries at People's Church.

By the time you read this newsletter, my wife Diann and I will be settling into our apartment at Summer Ridge, and beginning to explore the landscapes of greater Kalamazoo and southwestern Michigan. We will attend the church campout at Van Buren State Park on the shores of Lake Michigan on Saturday, August 2, and expect to visit other destinations reflecting the magnificent landscapes of late summer and autumn in the Great Lakes region.

We look forward to greeting each of you during coffee hour at summer services beginning on August 3rd. Moreover, we are eager to schedule individual visits with you—either at the church, or at convenient coffee spots in town, or in your homes. Diann and I have enjoyed reading some of the Members' profiles compiled by Ardyce Curl. These personal statements are an inspiring introduction to the truly amazing qualities of this congregation. I will be following up and calling you, and hope that we might arrange a time for a visit. In addition, please feel free to contact me

either via e-mail at revdaj@aol.com, or via my cell phone number: 269-330-8495. Diann's cell phone number is 913-302-5081. We look forward to getting to know you during the coming year.

During early August, I will be meeting with the church staff, the Board Executive Committee, the entire Board, the Transition Team, and the Ministerial Search Committee as a guide to allocating my time and priorities for the coming year. I do have a single over-arching goal: Everything that I do at People's Church in the coming year will be aimed toward strengthening the church so that the very best UU ministers will apply to become your next settled minister. That will be my primary goal.

Meanwhile: The summer awaits our discoveries and appreciations. I am eager to hear your suggestions about destinations – both well-known and little-known – that you have found meaningful and inspiring.

Thanks so much for your generous hospitality in welcoming Diann and me to your community. We look forward to visiting with each of you soon.

Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister, People's Church of Kalamazoo, 2014-2015

e-mail: revdaj@aol.com
cell phone: 269-330-8495

Homecoming Sunday – September 7 Salad Potluck – Dishes to pass are needed.



The Membership Committee is excited to host this free potluck lunch for all People's People on our first Sunday of the church year (September 7). This is a great time to get to connect with one another after the busy summer.

If you can bring a salad to the kitchen before the service on **Sunday, September 7**, sign up at the upstairs information desk before or after Summer Service or email anna.shade@gmail.com. A reminder will be sent 1 week before.

Kiera's Passing

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that Kiera was hit by a car and killed on the 4th of July. She has been a wonderful part of our church community for the past four years and provided much ministry in her time here.

I am heartbroken at her sudden passing and am deeply grieving the loss of her daily companionship and love. I will miss returning to my office to find her sitting in my chair surrounded by children reading to her and petting her.

She was a sweet, gentle and wise spirit who loved to greet everyone with her never ending supply of kisses and her happy wappy tail.

Though I had tried hard to find a new home for Bo, the Siberian Husky I rescued over the winter, I will be keeping him now. He is a sweet boy, but we are both missing Kiera very much. She was one of a kind!

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Director of Religious Education



Seeking Some Great RE Leaders

Religious Education 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 or 269-685-2813.

CHURCH CLEAN UP

Friday, August 29 6:00-8:00pm

Everyone is welcome to help up clean up the church for the new year. Pizza provided. Please RSVP to Diane Melvin at 375-3262.

RE TEACHER TRAINING

Saturday, September 6 - 10:00am-3:00pm

It is very important for all elementary and middle school-aged RE Teachers to plan to attend this year's teacher training workshop. We are rolling out new *Tapestry of Faith* curriculum this year and it is important that our teaching teams begin the year on the same page. Please mark your calendars today!

RSVP to Diane at re@peopleschurch.net so we will know how many people to plan lunch and childcare for.

Thank you!

Summer Sunday Religious Education

10:00-11:00 Am

In 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 at 269-779-2111 or Mary Kate Webster at 269-388-5998.

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

August 31 - Summer Celebration

Nursery and toddler care is available each week.

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. Some people just come for the day on Saturday to swim, sun, and eat at the potluck. For more information, contact Lori Hughes. Hope to see you there!



Some people just come for the day on Saturday to swim, sun, and eat at the potluck. For more information, contact Lori Hughes. Hope to see you there!

Book Group

We've changed our meeting time. We will now meet on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30 in the afternoon. Our next meeting will be at Roger and Lois Loeffler's home on **September 11**. Roger will facilitate the discussion of Philip Roth's "The Plot Against America". What would have happened if Charles Lindbergh had become president at the beginning of World War II?

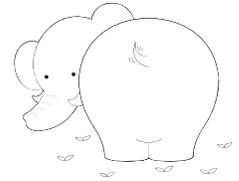


The Study Group

The Study Group will next be meeting on **Monday, September 22nd, at 7:30**, in "The Den" at the Fountains at Bronson Place. The Study Group has read a variety of books related to religion and philosophical issues, broadly defined, over the last several years, including Thomas Merton, a Harvard philosopher's book on justice, popular science books on the evolution of morality, books on environmental ethics, a book by Paul Tillich, a book co-authored by the head of the Starr King seminary, and the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius. We welcome new participants: No expertise required, just a willingness to engage and listen in an open-minded discussion. For our September meeting, we will be considering what books to read during the 2014-15 church year, and we invite anyone interested to show up and suggest a book for future discussion. For more information, contact Tim Bartik at bartik@upjohn.org.

Please Save Your Treasures

Garage sale season is almost here, but please hold on to your nice, gently used items and save them for the White Elephant room at People's Church Fine Arts Sale and Holiday Bazaar coming up in November (Saturday, November 22). Decorative and seasonal items, small household goods, jewelry, collectibles, toys, etc. all welcome [NO clothing or furniture, please]. Please save the date, too! More info to come.



Volunteers Needed to Help Change Road Sign

The church needs a team of three or four volunteers to help change the road sign which announces each upcoming sermon title. If we can establish a group of 4 volunteers, the obligation would be for one posting a month, and schedules could be shifted to suit needs of the volunteers.



Postings are usually done right after church or early in the week. It takes about 30 minutes. Nothing is required other than a working knowledge of the English alphabet. It's a job with little glory, but has great importance. Please help.

If interested, contact the church office (375-3262, office@peopleschurch.net) or Rick Johnson.



ISAAC Seeking New Executive Director

ISAAC (Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community) is an interfaith organizing network of congregations and strategic partners working together to build a more just community in Kalamazoo County. See isaackalamazoo.org for details and job requirements. Email resume, cover letter and contact information for three references to isaacsearchkzoo@gmail.com by **August 18, 2014**.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Fri-Sun	August 1-3	People's Church Camping Trip	All weekend	Van Buren State Park
Sunday	August 3	Summer Service: "The Ethics of Food and Sustainability" Erik Pye Anti-Racism Anti-Oppresion Multicultural Committee Board Retreat	10:00a.m. 11:15a.m. 1-4p.m.	Room 19 TBD Christina Cusumano's Home
Tuesday	August 5	Voting at the church Building & Grounds Work Group Talking Pots Membership Committee	All Day 9:30a.m. 3:30p.m. 6:30p.m.	Lobby, Rooms L1 & L2 Meet at Church Kitchen Room L1
Sunday	August 10	Summer Service: "How Spiritual and Ethical Practices Affect Destiny" Sally Padley Full-Moon Drum Circle	10:00a.m. 8:00p.m.	Room 19 Room 9
Monday	August 11	Facing Life, Facing Death Finance Committee	12:00p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room L1 Room 18
Tuesday	August 12	Building & Grounds Work Group Dreamwork Circle	9:30a.m. 6:30p.m.	Meet at Church Room 18
Wednesday	August 13	Bazaar PR Meeting	7:00p.m.	Room L!
Sunday	August 17	Summer Service: "From the Ages of Rocks to the Rock of Ages" Rev. Dave Johnson Women's Group	10:00a.m. 5:00p.m.	Room 19 Room 19 / Foyer
Tuesday	August 19	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	August 24	Summer Service: "in Praise of Tinkering" Rev. Dave Johnson Religious Education Committee Retreat	10:00a.m. 11:30a.m.	Room 19 Diane Melvin's Home
Monday	August 25	Newsletter Deadline Archives Committee	12:00p.m. 1:00p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Archives Room
Tuesday	August 26	Building & Grounds Work Group Dreamwork Circle	9:30a.m. 6:30p.m.	Meet at Church Room 18
Friday	August 29	Newsletter Mailing RE Classroom Clean-up	9:00a.m. 6:30p.m.	Room 8 Whole Church
Sunday	August 31	Summer Service: "I'm Dancing as Fast as I Can!" Rev. Dave Johnson	10:00a.m.	Room 19

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

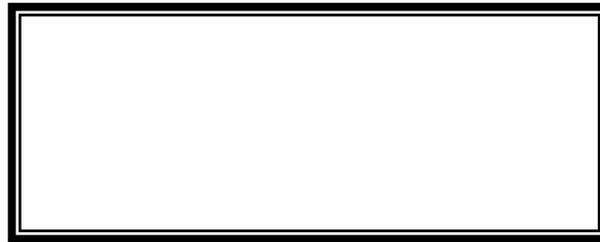


Is Your Kitchenware at Church?

If you think you may have left kitchen supplies at the church, please check. There are a couple of unclaimed crock-pots and bakeware that may belong to you.

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

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.”

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.