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People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 84, Issue 5

January 2023

Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

For information on attending in-person services, please see page 3. The Zoom link for People's Church services is: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326>

By phone: 1-646-876-9923, ID: 552 766 7326

January 8 Christmas Eve Service Rachel Lonberg

Rev.

Join us for a make-up service to celebrate the Christmas story and hope for the rebirth of love and peace in our world with music, poetry, and candlelight.



January 15 Remembering Viola Liuzzo

Rev. Rachel Lonberg



Viola Liuzzo was a white Unitarian Universalist from Michigan who answered the call of Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders to participate in the Selma voting rights campaign in 1965. While providing transportation to marchers, she was killed by members of the Klu Klux Klan. On Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, we will tell the story of this modern Unitarian Universalist martyr.

January 22 The Miracle of the Fleece

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Buried deep in the Book of Judges in the Hebrew scriptures is Rev. Rachel's favorite bible story. It's about a high maintenance hero named Gideon and a very patient God. It's an obscure story featuring underwhelming miracles, which is part of what Rev. Rachel loves about it. Join us to hear her retell this story of a God who is with us even when we are ridiculous.



January 29

The Notorious CBC

Rev. Claudia Jiménez



Ministry on the frontier and in our denomination was challenging enough in the 1800s. The resilience and perseverance of women ministers like Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane, despite being shunned by the Boston patriarchy, makes their ministry even more remarkable! What can we learn from Crane's imaginative, resilient, inspiring ministry that re-energizes and deepens ministry in this time of an endemic pandemic when the concept of church itself is being redefined? Rev. Claudia Jiménez will be preaching to us via Zoom.

Wishes of the Month

Wishes of the Month

I hope everyone has been enjoying the opportunity to look at and add their great ideas to the new “I Wish Someone Would” board here at People’s Church.



If you missed the announcement: Have you ever wanted something to happen at People’s Church? We’re introducing a new tool called the ‘I wish somebody would...’ board. This is a place to share your ideas for the church and share if you have the capacity to help make something happen. People will share their ideas. Once three people have said they are willing to help make it happen, I will connect them and help them get started.

To make this project as accessible as possible, we will have this board both as a physical object in the church foyer and online <https://padlet.com/PeoplesChurch/lvo4v0pcvh14ck70>

I am excited to see your ideas and to have a central place to store them. Several times in the last year multiple people have said they are interested in the same project, but by the second time someone told me, I had forgotten who the first person was. I hope this will allow your good ideas to flourish and help connect people with the capacities to make it happen.

We are now announcing a NEW featured section of the monthly newsletter: The Ideas of the Month. Here, I will showcase a variety of the new ideas posted on the “I Wish Someone Would” board. Remember to review **ALL** of the great ideas posted on the board and add your name to the comments if you are able to help make the idea happen (or hit the heart/like button if you aren’t able to help but would like to see the idea come to fruition!).

I wish someone would start a children's choir. When I was

a kid it was called Joyful Noise and that's precisely what it was. I could be a part of a team to help make this

happen and I have limited musical experience/ talent. ~Emily Sipsma



... coordinate an assessment on how accessible the church building is for those with various physical needs, and then make changes based on the findings. Above the bare minimum of



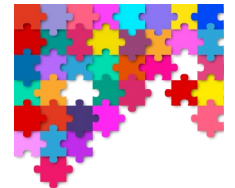
what is legally required by the ADA. Also, coordinate a fundrais-

er or start up a church fund to get automatic opening doors in the front. ~ Anonymous Post

- Comment on Post: An automatic front door opener would be really nice. I have struggled with those heavy doors for several years, first when juggling babies and more recently with my shoulder and back problems. The front door is attended for only a brief time, and it can be hard to squeeze past the person holding the door open if you are carrying a bunch of things. The back door is not useful as I can't park back there, and it doesn't feel great in general to be relegated to using the back entrance.

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap – Susan Moerdyk

- One person: Jen Docsa-Koehler has already signed up to help make this happen. Can we get two more folks to add their names and make this wish a reality?



People's Church is now collecting cans & bottles!



We are excited to announce a new partnership between People's Church and BLM Mealtrain Kzoo/BC! Please help support their wonderful work by bringing in your clean cans and bottles on or under the table that has been set up in the downstairs lobby of the church (behind the welcome desk).

The Kalamazoo/Battle Creek BLM Meal Train began in the spring of 2020 as an effort to make sure Black organizers and families were fed during the biggest racial justice uprisings of our lifetimes. What began in 2020 as an urgent mutual-aid effort morphed into a more sustained and sustaining network of care centering food. All along they have prioritized BIPOC organizers and families, safety, dignity, and care.

MUUSJN Membership

December 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN), a statewide network of people from 24 UU congregations and fellowships -- and our activist friends -- who are working together for justice. It's been a challenging and rewarding year for making justice happen in Michigan. Click this link: <https://conta.cc/3P5izky> to learn about what this UU justice network has accomplished during 2022. You're invited to become a member for 2023. All contributions are tax deductible for this 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.



Information about Attending Sunday Services in Person

People's Church is now offering in-person attendance at Sunday services. We are becoming a church that connects on Sundays in multiple ways—and we know some People's people watch services later in the week on YouTube.

What can you expect if you attend services in-person?

If you are planning to come, but develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please stay home and participate in the service via Zoom. When you enter the church building, you will be greeted by health screeners, who will remind you that we expect people to be masked for their whole time in the church building, be as vaccinated as it is possible to be, have no symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and tell the church if you develop COVID-19 within three days after attending. **(If you would like to volunteer as a health screener/greeter (NO MEDICAL EXPERIENCE NEEDED!), please reach out to Marti Peters-Sparling at martijpeters@yahoo.com.)**



So far, this process has gone well, with people remaining well-masked for the duration of their time in the building and no known COVID exposures. Thank you to everyone for your care for this community, your flexibility, and patience as we find new ways to be together.

ISAAC Update

A review of ISAAC's work in 2022 shows powerful impacts throughout our community on all issues tackled. We are grateful for the support and participation of People's people in these endeavors and for the opportunities ISAAC provides for us to help build the Beloved Community.



Voter Engagement

Working with key partners El Concilio and NAACP, ISAAC was funded and carried out extensive efforts to get out the vote in communities of color, including billboards of BIPOC leaders; deep engagement with Edison and Northside neighborhood partners for door-to-door canvassing; outreach to inactive voters from these neighborhoods, and grassroots community forum with judicial candidates.



Preventing Gun Violence

Collaborating with community allies, ISAAC conducted events to heighten public awareness about local impacts of gun violence and increase advocacy for policies and interventions to prevent it, such as the Wear Orange Rally and Gun Violence Resource & Resilience Rallies.



Preventing Youth Violence



Summer Youth Programs were hosted by ISAAC for innovative neighborhood-based programs including Blocks Club Youth Ambassadors, GVI Youth Academy and Parents United Youth Entrepreneurs, to develop leadership and

engagement of BIPOC youth.

Anti-Racism and Affordable Housing

ISAAC members contributed public comments to public officials in Portage, Kalamazoo, surrounding townships, and County government on matters



involving equity and access in housing decisions, human resource matters, and race-related

incidents. Candidates for public office made commitments to antiracism training as part of the ISAAC Public Meeting.

Special Collection: Community Homeworks Maternal Wellness and Small Child Pilot Program January 8, during the service

Community Homeworks provides critical home repairs and education to low income homeowners that allow them to be safe and warm, avoid homelessness, and build generational wealth.

In partnership with Cradle Kalamazoo (a previous special



offering recipient), Community Homeworks is beginning a program to provide critical home repairs (like furnace and water heater repairs and replacements) to households that include pregnant people and babies. They hope to reduce infant mortality and parental stress, which contributes to adverse health outcomes. Please give generously to this important effort. You can learn more about Community Homeworks at <https://communityhomeworks.org/>

National Day of Racial Healing

TRHT (Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation) Kalamazoo will be hosting three free racial healing experiences to the public on Monday, January 16th, 2023. Space is limited. You can RSVP as a participant <https://docs.google.com/forms/de/1FAIpQLSf7SW22sDT2cITXy4KQGlwu8t9AuiLEVigyXxpRuFLboal8cg/viewform>

These are being offered as part of TRHT's community celebration of the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH)



On Tuesday, January 17th TRHT (Truth Racial Healing & Transformation) Kalamazoo will host its annual National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH) and community celebration of the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr at the Kalamazoo State Theater. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. Local youth performers from El Concilio, The Chinese Academy, and Orchestra Jammbo'laya. There will also be a community panel that will discuss radicle heal-

ing. Folks can stay up to date on our Facebook page OR check out the Kalamazoo State Theater web-site.

Community Celebration – Tuesday, January 17th: There is no need to “RSVP”, instead you are encouraged to follow TRHT on its <https://www.facebook.com/events/438890935077715/?ref=newsfeed>. Updates about the event, performers, MC, and panelists will be posted there.

Inquirers Series

Begins Sunday January 22, 12:30-1:30pm, with sessions held every other week until May.

Visitors, newcomers, members, and anyone who wants more information about People's Church are invited to participate in the Inquirers Series. The Inquirers Series meets at 12:30pm on Sundays in Room 19. A light lunch will be provided and childcare is available with one week's notice. The Inquirers series is nine conversations that offer a general introduction to our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. Each session is stand-alone; you are welcome to participate in as many as you're able to attend and interested in.

The first session will be a Q&A with the minister. The topics for other sessions will be shared in January.

For more information about this class, or to request childcare, please contact Rev. Rachel at minister@peopleschurch.net or 269-389-9721.

It is helpful for our lunch planning if you register for the sessions that you plan to attend here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-inquirers1> or by contacting Rev. Rachel.



Green Spot — Composting — Back to the Earth



Composting—Back to the Earth

We're sharing some meals at church again, so we're also producing food waste. Did you know that you can compost much of that food waste and return it to the soil? Thanks to the volunteer work of Bob Friedel and Kimberly Ginn, we have a system for that at People's.

Composting keeps organic matter out of the landfill, where it would rot and produce greenhouse gases. Instead, organic materials-turned-compost enrich the soil and provide



nutrients to plants. Mineral-rich compost in the garden also means that use of chemical fertilizers on plants can be avoided.

Instructions are posted in the kitchen, so you'll know what you can compost and how to do it. Briefly, when you're done preparing and eating your meal or snack, collect any fruit or vegetable scraps. Napkins, coffee grounds and tea bags are also compostable. We still have to put animal products, oils, processed foods and trash in the garbage/landfill.

Add your compostable materials to the bin on the kitchen counter, or place them in the larger bin outside near the back entrance. That's it! Bob will make sure it's stirred and the microorganisms will do the rest. Compost happens! When it's broken down, Kimberly and our other gardeners will use the finished compost for the plants in our gardens.

If you still have questions after you've looked at the posted instructions, please check with Kimberly. This is all part of making People's a Green Sanctuary. Thanks for helping.

How to Search the People's Church Library Catalog from Home

The instructions below are listed in People's Church website (peopleschurch.net). Find Engage with Us in the blue strip above the large photo of the church. Choose Church Library Catalog from the drop down menu.

Go to www.librarything.com/catalog/peopleschurchofkzoo

Decide which collection you'd like to search (Examples: Main Church Library=adult titles; RE Library=children's titles) and select it from the list in the upper left.

Near the upper right in the box next to the yellow word 'Search', enter a title or author or simple desired topic.

Use the book's Dewey call number in the left hand column to locate the book in People's library. People's Library collection is located in the upper foyer to the left of the door into the Commons. The books are divided into Main Church Library (adult) and RE Library (children's).

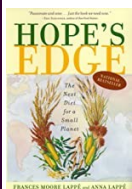
The Main Church Library begins to the left of the middle of the back wall and continues (left to right, in ascending Dewey call numbers) across the aisle to the right end of the low bookshelves and then around to the front of the bookcase, ending with B (biographies). The RE Library begins in the middle of the front side of the low bookshelves, ending with RE picture books and fiction (J).

The following instructions are listed in People's Church website (peopleschurch.net). Find Engage with Us in the blue strip above the large photo of the church. Choose Church Library Catalog from the drop down menu.



Library Corner

As we enter 2023, many of us HOPE for more PEACE. Using these words as search terms in Library-Thing, our church's online catalog, reveals books such as these in our collection.



HOPE (in the Main Library Collection)

Hope's Edge: the Next Diet for a Small Planet, by Frances Moore Lappe
Journey to five continents and see the world of sustainability and conscious eating with new eyes--featuring 100 pages of plant-based recipes.



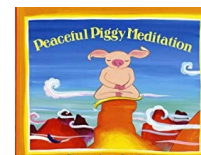
A House for Hope; the Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-First Century, by John Buehrens shows how religious liberals have countered fundamentalists for generations and provides progressives with a theological and spiritual foundation for the years ahead.



Turning to One Another; Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future, by Margaret J. Wheatley

"I believe we can change the world if we start talking to one another again"...Such change will not come from governments or corporations... but from the ageless process of thinking together in conversation.

PEACE (in the RE Collection)



Peaceful Piggy Meditation, by Kerry Lee MacLean

What can you do when you're mad, sad, or anxious? Find a quiet spot, sit, and breathe.

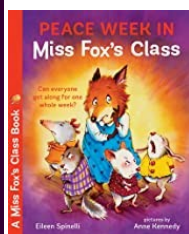


What Does Peace Feel Like? By Vladimir Radunsky

Peace. What does that word really mean? Ask children from around the world, and this is what they say....

Peace Week in Miss Fox's Class, by Eileen Spinelli

Miss Fox is tired of hearing her young students quarrel. So she announces Peace Week—no more squabbling for one whole week! The children chime in with their own rules...



These books will be on display and ready for check-out in January. Questions/ comments are welcomed. Please contact Lois Loeffler, chair of the Library Committee, at loisloeffler@gmail.com.



This book is a middle-grade fantasy novel by first time author Esme Symes-Smith (they/them)

FAITH ALLIANCE
FAITH LEADERSHIP WORKING TOWARD
EQUITY FOR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES
A PROGRAM OF OUTFRONT KALAMAZOO



All Ages Book Discussion
Sunday, January 22, 2023
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
on Zoom

Meeting ID: 847 4885 7279

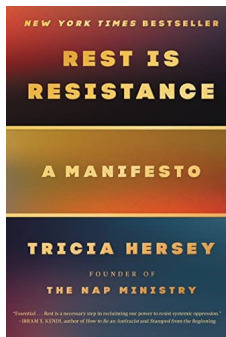
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Esme, the author, will be dropping in!

Rest and Rejuvenation

What would it be like to live in a well rested world? Far too many of us have claimed productivity as the cornerstone of success. Brainwashed by capitalism, we subject our bodies and minds to work at an unrealistic, damaging, and machine-level pace ...

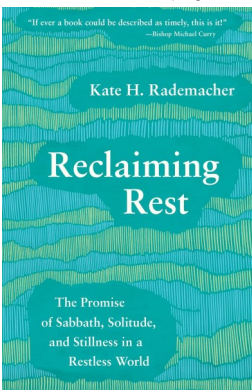
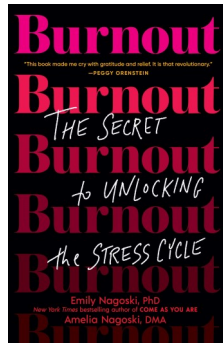
~ From the cover of *Rest is Resistance* by Tricia Hersey



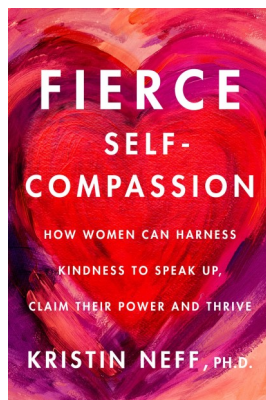
One of my sabbatical goals is to work on healing and decolonizing my mind from the harmful and false narratives around productivity and worth.

As I work to recognize the depths to which I function out of these harmful stereotypes, I aspire to work through and release as many layers as I can.

This important healing work will hopefully allow me to return to serve this congregation after my sabbatical feeling refreshed and able to set healthy boundaries around my time and energy so that my work/life balance can be joyful and sustainable.



My plan for the month of January is just simply to rest. I look forward to experiencing the luxury of not constantly pushing myself beyond my capacity.



I am so grateful for this much needed time for rest and renewal. See you in six months!

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Religious Education Director

RE Sabbatical Coverage

Religious education assistant, Laura Bultman, will be working 20 hours per week while I am away to help keep the things running smoothly in my absence. RE committee members will oversee various parts of our RE program to ensure we are capably serving our children, youth and families this winter & spring.



- ♦ Laura Bultman, RE Assistant
- ♦ Annie Hampel, RE Committee Chair
- ♦ Mary Kate Webster, Secretary
- ♦ Brandon Brown, Chair Elect
- ♦ Colleen Van Slambrouck
- ♦ Michael Bultman
- ♦ Emerald Haan
- ♦ Maggie Wilson
- ♦ Anna LeRoux
- ♦ Ben Jones
- ♦ Judy D'Arcangeles

You can access the Sabbatical Brochure Here: <http://peopleschurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/DRE-Sabbatical-Brochure-2022.pdf>

Encanto Intergenerational Service

Special thanks to the middle schoolers who helped Rev. Rachel and I plan and prepare for our winter intergenerational service based on the themes from Encanto! So much interactive fun was had by all.





Afternoon Book Club

Thursday 1/19, 1:30pm

The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Thursday, January 19, at 1:30 at the Friendship Village Clubhouse or via Zoom depending on the weather. Shari Harris will lead the discussion of *Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead. Marj Lighner is the contact person; marjlighner56@gmail.com

Jewel Heart Instructors Present: The Foundation of All Perfections

Tuesdays, Jan 10-Mar 28, 7-8:30pm On Zoom & In Person

This course, based on Gelek Rinpoche's commentary on the famous text by Je Tsong Khapa, presents a summarized outline of the graduated path to enlightenment. Suitable for beginners and seasoned practitioners alike.

Free of Charge – All welcome to join this virtual course

To register and receive the zoom link, email westmi@jewelheart.net or call/text Colleen at 734-223-0660



Discussion Group

Saturday 1/7, 10:30-12, Room 8 Masks optional

Matt Dailey, Superintendent of Schoolcraft Public schools will speak on what is being taught in our high schools today, with time for discussion. All welcome.



The Discussion Group meets on the 1st Saturday of the month through the church year. To get on the email list, to receive reminders and any recommended background readings, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com.

Film Discussion

Continues to meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month. On a month-to-month basis, participants volunteer to suggest 3 films; everyone votes and highest vote-getter becomes the movie to be reviewed.. Everyone watches the film in advance and we meet on Zoom for the discussion.



Watch the weekly email for announcements of films to vote on, and which has been selected. Or. contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com, to get on the email list and/or for additional information. Newcomers are welcome. If you like to discuss films, please join us.

Lincoln School's Kid's Closet Needs

We have received a request from the Communities in Schools Kids Closet for donations of clothing and shoes. They need boys and girls sweaters and shoes. The sizes needed are boys tennis shoes are size 3, 4, & 5 and girls tennis shoes sizes 1, & 5. Also woman sweatshirts or sweaters size L & XL. If you wish to donate any of these needed items, please bring them to church to Rev. Rachel's office.

Alternately, donations of Walmart Gift Cards are very welcome so that Joseph, the CIS Lincoln representative, can purchase the needed clothing items and shoes.



Ongoing needs for Refugees at the Free Clothing & toy Store, at Congregation of Moses



Thanks to all of you who have made donations to assist our Refugee friends. There continue to be needs as there are new arrivals & cold weather is here. These are items we're needing:

- Winter clothing, including coats, gloves & boots, especially items for children, small/med men's.
- Nice blankets & large pieces of fabric for making garments.
- Personal care items, laundry & dish soap & paper products.
- Toys

Items can be dropped off at Congregation of Moses, 2501 Stadium Dr, M-F 9-1:00. You are always welcome to visit the store. Any questions, please contact Colleen VanSlambrouck 269-341-0573

Study Group



PROVING GROUND

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE SIX WOMEN
WHO PROGRAMMED THE
WORLD'S FIRST MODERN COMPUTER

KATHY KLEIMAN



The Study Group will be meeting on Monday December 12 at 7:30, via Zoom, to discuss "Proving Ground: The Untold Story of the Six Women Who Programmed the World's First Modern Computer", by Kathy Kleiman. Kleiman is an internet attorney who has for many years been researching the story of the six women who programmed the first modern computer, the ENIAC, at the University of Pennsylvania towards the end of World War II.

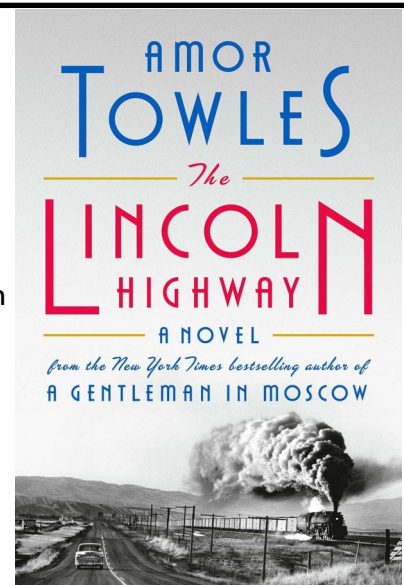
The Study Group meets monthly to discuss a wide variety of books dealing with issues in philosophy, religion, science, history, and current affairs. New members are welcome! For more information, or to get the Zoom address for the meeting, contact Kay Spade at jkspade@charter.net.

Evening Book Club

Thursday, January 12; 6-7:30

Continues on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m., in person (masks optional) at the home of Lois Loeffler (very near church). Newcomers are welcome. This church year's schedule of books is on the church main web page; click on the title "Afternoon and Evening Book Clubs" under "Announcements". For more information and/or to get on the email list for reminders, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com

Thursday, January 12: *The Lincoln Highway*, by Amor Towle, reviewed by Mary Gibson



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	January 3	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Zoom
Wednesday	January 4	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	At Church
Thursday	January 5	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Saturday	January 7	Discussion Group	10:30am	Room 8
Sunday	January 8	Sunday Service: Christmas Eve Make-Up	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
Tuesday	January 10	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		UUA Common Read	6:15pm	Zoom
Wednesday	January 11	Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Home of Lois Loeffler
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	January 15	Sunday Service: Remembering Viola Liuzzo	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
Monday	January 16	Green Sanctuary Meeting	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	January 17	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	January 18	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	At Church
		RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	At Church
Thursday	January 19	Afternoon Book Club	1:30pm	Friendship Village
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	January 22	Sunday Service: The Miracle of the Fleece	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
		Inquirer's Series: Q&A with Minister	12:30pm	Room 19
		Faith Alliance Book Study	3:00pm	Zoom
Monday	January 23	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
Tuesday	January 24	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Facing Life, Facing Death	1:30pm	Zoom
		Dismantling Racism Team Meeting	6:00pm	Zoom
Wednesday	January 25	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	At Church
Thursday	January 26	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	January 29	Sunday Service: The Notorious CBC	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
Tuesday	January 31	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church

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: A beloved community
embracing and serving our diverse world."**