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People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 83, Issue 9

May 2022

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

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May 1

Creeds and Covenants

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal faith. We are bound together by our promises to each other – our covenants – rather than our beliefs. Yet, some pieces of our covenants, like the UU principles, come very close to statements of belief. In this service, Rev. Rachel will explore history and current practices of covenants and creeds.

May 8

Music Service

Come, sing a song with us! Join People's musicians at our Spring music service, May 8.



May 15

Bring your Questions

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

It is a day for questions at People's Church (but isn't every day a day for questions?) Bring your questions about meaning, ethics, integrity, and Unitarian Universalism. Rev. Rachel will do her best to answer as many of them as she can during the service – and all of them will help shape the focus of our worship services over the coming year. Bring your questions to church either in-person or via Zoom – or send them to Rachel in advance at minister@peopleschurch.net or 269-389-9721. The questions will continue after the service during our first congregational conversation event, focused on listening across generations.

May 22

Annual Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting



Our annual congregational meeting will be happening at 10:45am. The agenda will include passing a church budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1 and electing new leaders to the board of trustees and the nominating committee. Because of recent bylaw changes, members can participate fully (and vote!) both in-person and via Zoom. All church members are encouraged to attend and participate in our democracy.

If we finish before noon, we will sing some of our favorite hymns.

May 29

We Remember

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

On our annual memorial day weekend service of remembrance, we will remember those who have died in war and military service. We will also honor church members and others who have died in the past year and the griefs that so many of us carry these days. (If you like a photo of someone you love who has died in the past year included in the service, please send it to Rev. Rachel at minister@peopleschurch.net or drop it off at the church.)

Miss a Sunday sermon? Check out the video at: <https://tinyurl.com/Peoplesyoutube>

From the Minister



Dear People's People,

It is a challenging time to be a community together. There is disagreement about some parts of the bylaws passed in February. We are relearning what it means to be a church now that some of us are

gathering in person again. We are relearning how to be humans in relationship with other humans.

Your board and I believe that one important piece of moving forward together as a church is conversations. We are planning a series of Congregational Conversations over the next several months. We know that there is a collective wisdom that we find when we are together--curious, listening, and speaking our truths. The first Congregational Conversation will be focused on Listening Across Generations. We were inspired to begin here because of the generational divisions we witness in our church that have been increased by the pandemic – and the powerful work on these divides that Rev. Jill mentioned in her recent sermon. One of the greatest gifts and greatest challenges of our church is that we are a multigenerational community, including babies, elders and everyone in between. This Listening Across Generations will be a time to ask questions and listen and learn about other people's life experiences and hopes for the church. These conversations will be structured in such a way that each age group present will get a chance to speak uninterrupted and respond to questions from people of other ages.

To make these conversations as accessible as we can, we are holding two sessions – Sunday May 15, at 12:30pm in person at the church and

Tuesday May 17 at 7pm on Zoom. A light lunch and childcare will be provided on the 15th. (If childcare or anything else would enable you to attend on the 17th, please let me know.) We encourage everyone in the church attend one or both sessions, ready to share and ready to listen. You can RSVP here, so we know how many to expect: (we need RSVP links for both sessions)

I strongly encourage you to attend these sessions, to speak your truth and to listen with openness. It is in conversation with each other that we will find our ways forward together.

The team leading this congregational conversation project is board members Donna McClurkan, Tom Hackley, Karen Friedel and me. We have ideas for the topics for future conversations – and we would love to hear what you think. Please be in contact with us if you have questions or suggestions for future conversations.

Take gentle care of yourselves, everyone,
Rev. Rachel

Delegates to the UUA General Assembly

People's Church is entitled to send six church members to the UUA General Assembly as delegates. There are a few spots still available. This year, the General Assembly is online and in-person in Portland, OR June 22-26. Among the items up for discussion (and vote) at the General Assembly this year is a motion to authorize a thorough review and rewrite of the UUA bylaws.



If you are interested in serving as a People's Church delegate, please be in contact with Rev. Rachel by the end of May.

Inquirers Series

Sundays 12:30-1:30pm, begins June 5 with sessions held every other week through September



Visitors, newcomers, new 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 outside, weather permitting. A light lunch will be provided and childcare is available with one week's notice. It is a series of 9 conversations that offer a general introduction to our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. These sessions include introductions to UU theology and history, our religious education program, small groups within the church, a tour of our building and grounds, and other topics. Each session is stand-alone, so you are welcome to participate in as many as you're able to attend and interested in. You can expect more details in the June newsletter.

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

You Can Count On This

DRUUMM PUBLIC WORSHIP
MAY 4TH, 2022 8:30 PM ET

with Rev. Tyler Coles and
Musical Artist Dr. Zanaida Robles

RSVP: www.druumm.org

Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries is holding an online worship service on Wednesday May 4 at 8:30pm. All are invited to attend.

Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) is collective for Unitarian Universalists and UU-adjacent people of color. Please register here to receive the Zoom link for the service: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJLbdvEA8y0NHhu_x-G5r9SGFGzvSL_7hzyUg2VBC4CwUCzA/viewform

On Thursday May 5 at 7:30pm, Rev. Rachel will be on Zoom to meet with anyone who would like to reflect on their experience attending this service. The link for this meeting is <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326>.

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, 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.





It's time to
brush off the
cobwebs and
update our

records! We're asking that everyone fill out [THIS FORM](#) in order to make sure that we have the most up to date demographic information for everyone here at People's Church. You can also call the church at 269-375-3262 or fill out a paper form, available at the reception desk if you would prefer!

Open House with Jill McAllister Thursday May 12, 3-5pm



On the church grounds,
weather permitting (rain
location: Room 19)

Rev. Jill McAllister,

People's Church's minister emerita, will be in Kalamazoo! All People's people are invited to come and visit with her. If the meeting is indoors, masks will be required.

ISAAC Update

This past month, members of the ISAAC Anti Racism Task Force met with former Kalamazoo Police Captain Stacey Ledbetter and Director Vic Ledbetter, who leads the police academy training program at KVCC, to discuss the tragic event in Grand Rapids resulting in the shooting death of Patrick Lyoya. We continued deep reflection in racial affinity groups of the White Supremacy Culture paper by Tema Okun, prompted by the recent resignations of several leaders of color from area organizations.

Task Force members attended the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission to support the presentation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion assessment that was conducted with City employees, by the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI). Employees of color and women report significantly different lived experiences of bias in the culture and operation of the City which are not recognized by majority employees and result in mistrust and skepticism. Director Dorla Bonner spoke of the need to back up and normalize the need for DEI with all employees for interventions to be received and take hold. She explained the critical need for DEI to be built into the structures and policies of the City for them to endure over time and changes in personnel. Sadly, she has decided to retire from the City. The April Leadership Board meeting was dedicated to a presentation and discussion of the History of Antisemitism with Rabbi Simone Schicker of Temple B'nai Israel, a member congregation of ISAAC. Several People's people attended this session.



ISAAC is offering an invitation to white people in member congregations who have completed the ERAC-CE 2.5 day training or equivalent to participate in a training with E. Wolff who spoke at People's earlier this spring. Titled Healing Whiteness through Cultural Somatics, the small group experience will use Resmaa Menakem's work (*My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Hearts and Bodies*) and is for white people desiring to engage in self work to become stronger, more self-aware, accountable allies. If interested, complete the Interest Form by May 4th <https://forms.gle/TjAHWAUtm5dWf8Cv6>.

Housing Action Opportunity: We learned in last month's service on Housing, that no matter how many new units get built, many people will still be homeless, unless we end *housing discrimination*. Officials from Kalamazoo Township, Oshtemo, Comstock, Texas and Portage have all shown interest in adopting a Housing Equity Ordinance similar to the one Kalamazoo passed unanimously. *If you live outside the City of Kalamazoo, please let your local officials know (again) that you support a Housing Equity Ordinance and thank them for their work on this!*

Green Spot—The City of Kalamazoo Community Sustainability Plan

In line with the City's Climate Emergency Resolution, the city of Kalamazoo has recently released a draft version of its Community Sustainability Plan (CSP) for public review and comment. To read it, simply go to <http://www.imaginekalamazoo.com/projects/sustainability/>. The Sustainability Team is taking comments until June 1, and they are planning to present the plan to the City in June. They are really looking for feedback and would like everyone to at least skim the document and answer the short survey included. Everyone includes both city and non-city residents!



Climate change is everyone's problem. We can work on an individual basis, for example recycling, but it is vital that we also work on a community

basis. The CSP does a good job of stating what the City can do by itself, while also discussing the regional areas, such as transportation, which needs inter-governmental cooperation. I would strongly suggest everyone look at the plan.

The CSP, in its entirety, is not an easy read - 199 pages - but it is well-formatted to choose the areas that interest the reader. By going to Imagine Kalamazoo, you can see the overview. For more detail on each section, the overview points you to the specific

pages of the CSP, for example Healthy Community is pages 86-177. As with all plans, there are constraints due to available time, amount of money, who has authority, etc. This plan clearly defines the goals, the strategies, and the actions required. It also tries to explain the problems with each due to the stated constraints.

This is our community and it works best knowing what our residents want and need. Please give the City your input using the simple survey included on the CSP page of Imagine Kalamazoo.

Items Needed for Resettled Families

The Interfaith Afghan Resettlement Team is currently helping eight refugee families start a new life here in Kalamazoo.

We are now asking for twin sheet sets to serve as 2nd/backup sets for the total of 36 twin beds currently being used. The donated items can be brought to church and left on the table at the top of the stairs overlooking the lower entry level.



The Afghan Refugee Resettlement Committee is also requesting adult size donated bikes in good condition. Contact Ann Feldmeier at annfeldmeier2018@gmail.com or 269-720-1649.

New Chalice Circles Open

If you would like to get to know a small group of people better and deepen your connections at People's Church, this is the time to reach out. Chalice Circles are small groups that meet a few hours each month (typically on Zoom) with a format designed to provide opportunities for honest sharing and deep listening.

If you're interested in learning more, [please check out our new webpage](#) with more details, FAQ's and testimonials. Email Diane Melvin to get started in a new group today at re@peopleschurch.net.



May Special Collection: Red Birth Green: May 8

Red Birth Green (RBG) provides accessible, full-spectrum reproductive care to the Kalamazoo area. Our Women of Color-founded and led team offers all-embracing community care for the modern age. Our birthwork philosophy combines traditional healing practices and collectivism with a modern standard of care. We meet our clients where they are, without judgment or opinion. Our goal is to empower all families to advocate for themselves through shared knowledge and connections.



Red Birth Green was founded as the Rootead Doula Collective in 2016 as a way to address Black infant mortality with community care and principles of traditional healing practices. Equitable access and care for all is and has always been our driving mission.

Outcomes

- 90 Babies welcomed as of December 2021
- 99% Breastfeeding initiation rate
- 98% of RBG client pregnancies reach 37 weeks gestation or more
- 99% of RBG client babies are born at a healthy weight (5.5 lbs or more)

Rowan Jakobah, a young adult raised at People's Church who has been one of our Our Whole Lives Teachers, is the coordinator of Red Birth Green.

To learn more about Red Birth Green, visit <https://www.rootead.org/programs/rbg>

News from the Nominating Committee



The Nominating Committee is proud to announce nominees for People's Board of Trustees and nominees for the Nominating Committee. These nominees serve three-year terms and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting (scheduled for May 22).

Annual Meeting Date Change! Sunday, May 22, 10:45am

Mark your calendars for 5/22/2022 at 10:45am to join our Annual Meeting during our usual service time. This will be a multi-platform session and online attendees can fully participate and vote! We are looking forward to continuing our adventure in successfully navigating gathering in this way! This is a change from the 5/15 date announced earlier, and has been made by the Board of Trustees to allow all the people that contribute to the preparations a little bit of flexibility in completing the work they do for us.



The Stewardship, Finance, and Investment committees are busy preparing our financial information and coordinating to bring us the first revised budget in two years. Committees and staff members are writing their annual messages for the congregation, and submitting budget requests. So there are many things happening to help the Board of Trustees prepare for the upcoming session. As usual, we will also be scheduling a time for members to have the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed budget and review the voting procedure. Look for the agenda and information for the congregation in the Friday email on May 6, 2022.

Weaving Us Together



We are in the clean-up phase of our annual pledge drive. So far we have received 115 pledges for nearly \$234,000. Our goal is 130 donors, so we are nearing the end! Everyone should have received at least one pledge form by now. If you have not, or you have misplaced it, please go to the Church website (peopleschurch.net) and choose the big green **PLEDGE** button. Or come to church where we have paper pledge forms available to pick up and fill out. Or call the Church office (269-375-3262) and we will mail one to you. Please do not forget! Every pledge matters and we aim to wrap up the campaign in the next week or so.

Thank you,

Your Stewardship Committee

Steven Cavanagh—Nominating Committee

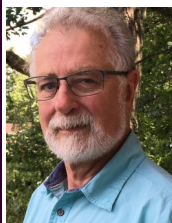
My name is Steven Cavanagh and I have been a native of the Kalamazoo area since grade school. I work as the general manager of Mattawan Artisan Creamery yogurt. My partner Teresa and I have two children that we homeschool and that are involved in the RE program here at People's Church. We have been attending People's since about 2018.

For the past 2 and a half years, I have been serving on the RE committee and will be done with that assignment by the end of the church year. I would be happy to serve on the nominating committee as well beginning next March.

Lois Loeffler—Nominating Committee

Being a People's person has been a growing pleasure ever since my husband Roger and I joined the church almost nine years ago. We moved from a farmhouse we renovated near the village of Burr Oak. After retiring from 35+ years as the librarian of Mendon Middle/High School, I had become involved in several clubs and volunteer activities in the Burr Oak/Sturgis area

and was hesitant to be uprooted but it became obvious that it was Time. I became a member in the afternoon Book Club, the Library Committee, and the Discussion Group and eventually joined the Art Wall Reception Committee, evening Book Club and the Membership Committee. As chairperson of the Library Committee I prepare the Library Corner article for the monthly church News & Views. Recently I have been involved in organizing the donated items for the Afghan families, the Interfaith Afghan Resettlement Committee, and the White Elephant Sale Committee. I am now fully immersed in the opportunities for enjoyment, friendship, and personal growth in the Kalamazoo area and am looking forward to experiencing another volunteer activity at People's Church.



Gordon Bolar retired as General Manager of public radio station WMUK in 2016. He has served on the boards of The Kalamazoo Bach Festival, Oshtemo Rotary and the Richmond Center. He is a practicing playwright and has been produced and published. Gordon believes that our creativity is our most important asset. He's been a member of People's Church for more than 12 years.

Brian Lewis—Board of Trustees

Brian Lewis arrived in Kalamazoo with husband - Jeffrey Xie - and started attending People's Church in August of 2017. Baptized at the Queen of Peace Catholic church in Salem Oregon, Brian with his family joined the Salem UU Fellowship when he was about 9 years old. Brian has served People's Bylaws committee - leveraging his background in church polity and union work. He has served as People's UUA delegate and writes occasional columns on UUA topics of interest. He has extensively engaged in services to various UU communities, taking active roles in anti-racism & justice work, stewardship to both general fund and capital campaigns, adult faith formation training on "Belief and How to Write a Credo," 8th Principal forum, Small Group Ministry coordination - structured like Peoples Chalice Circles, newsletter editor, member of the Coordinating Council, and member of executive board - as operations liaison for building and grounds, safety, legal, rentals and staffing. Served as young adult and youth advisor, helped create the Cascade Connection - integrating youth programming in Oregon and Southwest Washington, and took multiple roles at Eliot Institute (the UU family camps for Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia) to lead activities and programs. It is an honor to be considered for service on the church board of People's Church, and should I be elected will honor the trust you place in me.

Joe Hampel—Board of Trustees

I'm a data analyst for Charles River Labs in Mattawan and my wife is a counselor at Gull Lake Middle School; she's also wrapping up a term on the RE Committee. Our daughter, Violet, is in RE and OWL. Our family has called Kalamazoo home since 2014 and People's Church since 2017. I've been on the AV team since the late Dave Curl recruited me at the beginning of 2018. I'm excited at the opportunity to get more involved with the church, especially after being away for the last couple of years. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, playing golf, photography, piano, and spending quality time with my family and friends.



Library Corner



Talking Across the Divide; How to Communicate with People You Disagree with and Maybe Even Change the World, by Justin Lee

America is more polarized than ever. Whether the issue is Donald Trump, healthcare, abortion, gun control, breastfeeding, or even DC vs Marvel, it feels like you can't voice an opinion without ruffling someone's feathers. In today's digital age, it's easier than ever to build walls around yourself. You fill up your feeds with voices that are angry about the same issues and believe as you believe. Before long, you're isolated in your own personalized echo chamber. And if you ever encounter someone outside of your bubble, you don't understand how the arguments that resonate so well with your peers can't get through to anyone else. In a time when every conversation quickly becomes a battlefield, it's up to us to learn how to talk to each other again.

In *Talking across the Divide*, social justice activist Justin Lee explains how to break through the five key barriers that make people resist differing opinions. With a combination of psychological research, pop-culture references, and anecdotes from Justin's many years of experience mediating contentious conversations, this book will help you understand people on the other side of the argument and give you the tools you need to change their minds - even if they've fallen for "fake news."

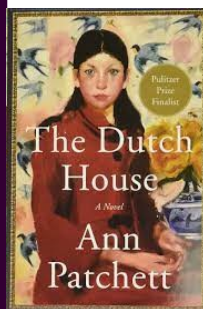
How to Check Out/Return a Book from People's Church Library

1. Open the front cover of the book.
2. Note the card in the pocket. Remove the card. Occasionally the card and pocket are inside the back cover of the book.
3. Print the full day's date in the left column of the card.
4. Print your name in the right column.
5. Add your email address and phone number. Use another line if necessary.
6. Locate the open wooden box which is on the window side of the far right bookshelf near the double doors to the Commons. A wire basket is above this shelf.
7. Place the book card in front of the right portion of the box.
8. To return the book, place it in the wire basket above the wooden box. Library committee members will replace the card and re-shelve the book.



Afternoon Book Club

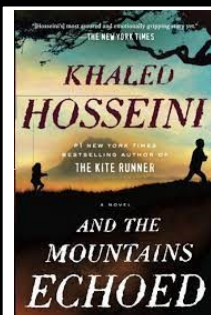
Thursday, May 19, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.



The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 2:30 on May 19th to discuss Ann Patchett's *The Dutch House*.

Weather permitting, we will meet on the patio of the Club House at Friendship Village. Contact Marj Lightner for information and directions,

marjlightner56@gmail.com.



Evening Book Club

Thursday, May 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini will be the topic this month, reviewed by Marijo Steenstra. Anyone is welcome!

Location (or Zoom) will be decided later, and announced in the weekly email.

To get on the email list for reminders, contact Pat Nelson (patnelson348@gmail.com)

People's Church White Elephant Sale—Saturday, May 14



Spread the word, invite your friends and neighbors to our amazing Outdoor White Elephant sale Saturday May 14!

Please note the schedule to drop off of your clean items in good repair in the

downstairs lobby area outside rooms L1 and L2:

- Sunday, May 1st 12:00 to 2:00
- Wednesday, May 4th 3:00 – 7:00
- Thursday, May 5th 3:00 – 7:00
- Sunday, May 8th 12:00 – 2:00
- Wednesday, May 11th 3:00 – 7:00
- Thursday, May 12th 3:00 - 7:00

Volunteers are needed!

Drop Offs: We still need people on Wednesday 05/04 & Thursday 05/05! A member of the WE Team will be on duty with you to help receive and sort items into designated areas. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ba9ac22a13-white>

Set Up/Tear Down: We need set up and tear down crews as well as people with trucks who can help move items both before and after the sale! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-white1>

Please gather your items to prepare for donation! The White Elephant team is also accepting donations of packing supplies to be used on the day of for purchased items, especially bags of varying sizes and packing paper to protect fragile items!

Items especially wanted: Kitchen and Household items; Home Décor, Collectables, and Holiday Décor; Toys and Games; Jewelry; Small furniture

(e.g., lamps, end tables); Craft Items; Books; Bikes in good repair

Items not accepted: Cosmetics and personal hygiene care items; Clothing; Technology (e.g., TV, computers); Large Items (but if it fits in your back seat or your trunk, bring it!); Large Furniture or exercise equipment

Thank you! Remember that 50% of our proceeds will benefit the Afghan families new to our community.

People's @ Kalamazoo Pride: June 4, 2-8pm



Each year, Kalamazoo Pride brings together over 8,000 people of all ages, genders, sexual orientations, and racial identities from Southwest Michigan and beyond to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride. The festival at Kalamazoo's Arcadia Creek Festival Place features show-stopping drag performances, incredible music, exhibitors, food, dancing, and more.

This year, People's Church is again partnering with the UU Community Church of Southwest Michigan to be a visible Unitarian Universalist presence at Pride. We need volunteers to staff our booth, wish people a happy Pride, and share information about People's Church.

To volunteer for a two hour shift during Pride, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ba9ac22a13-kalamazoo>. The first shift of the day will be responsible for setting up the booth with materials from the church while the final shift will need to return materials to the church. Volunteers are encouraged to bring sunscreen, water, and a chair.

Making Meaningful Connections

The opportunities we have available for children, youth, families and adults of all ages to connect with one another are abundant at this time. As the weather warms, there will be more chances for connecting with one another outside on our beautiful church grounds in various ways.

Seven high school youth and I attended the first regional UU youth conference in two years at the UU Church of Muncie, IN. These youth are excited to help plan and lead the **Youth Bridging Service** scheduled for **June 5**. The Religious Education Committee is hosting a **Volunteer Appreciation reception** after church also on June 5 with cookies and punch to thank our RE volunteers. I hope you'll mark your calendars not to miss this special day!



We are so thankful that Gay Walker and Cory Zann led wonderful **Weaving activities** with the children. Cory brought her loom so the children could experience weaving on it in addition to making God's Eyes and weaving onto the bike wheels.

After two years of not being able to connect with one another in person, I appreciate the chance to be together at church even more. I hope to see you all soon!

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin,
Director of Religious Education



Peace and Nature Camp - July 20-24 Register Now

At People's Church day camp, kids will enjoy a week of outdoor activities exploring our church grounds, building forts in the woods, science experiments, music, art and lots of fun with church friends.

Camp will be held from 9-4pm M-F, with before and after childcare available. Traditionally our camp fills quickly so don't delay to get registered. <http://peopleschurch.net/religious-growth-learning/peace-nature-camp/>



High School Youth Group

May 8, 2022 - 6:00-7:30 pm

All are invited for fun and connection
together



Youth at High School Bridging Con in Muncie, IN

Queer Grief Circle

Radicle will be holding a five-week grief workshop for LGBTQIA+ people. Using the book, 'The Wild Edge of Sorrow' by Francis Weller as a guide, queer grief counselor, Tay MacIntyre, M.E.d, will lead discussions, and hold safe space for sharing, witnessing and unpacking of personal, collective & ancestral grief.



Queer Grief Circle

A five-week workshop for LGBTQIA+ people based on *The Wild Edge of Sorrow* by Francis Weller.

Sundays, May 1st - June 5th

4:30pm - 6:00pm EST

virtual | \$60

register at rootead.org



This will be a hybrid program, held largely on Zoom, but with outdoor, in-person opportunities to connect based on the groups' comfort level.

This program is for queer people only, and there will be a limit of twelve participants. The cost is \$60. The book and other course materials are included. Please email coco@rootead.org for scholarship information.

Mindfulness Meditation Group 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Come participate in this group designed to share our wisdom about how to keep our mindfulness and meditation practices in the forefront to help us remain fully present in each moment of our lives. This month we will be gathering over Zoom at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84377653719?pwd=dEp5Q0VydWkrcVlyMXRob0toZk1OZz09>



Questions? Please contact Diane Melvin at re@peopleschurch.net.

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.

Registration Now Open for UU Family Camp: July 8-10, 2022

Registration for this summer's Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat for Unitarian Universalist families is now open. Join us July 8-10 in Cassopolis, Michigan for an amazing all-ages experience at lovely Camp Friedenswald in southwestern Michigan—only 90 miles from Chicago, 120 miles from Ann Arbor and 195 miles from Indianapolis.

At Chalice Sparx camp and retreat for families, you will experience a truly multigenerational community. There are no camp counselors here to whisk away the children separate from their families. Here, we learn together, worship together and explore together in a community of all ages—including elders who complete our multigenerational village. As an intentional UU covenanted community, we are especially welcoming to Trans children, youth and their families.

We also have fun together. Swimming, hiking or riding a wagon through the trails, canoeing, archery, popcorn popped in a kettle over an open fire, and of course, s'mores and singing camp songs.

Check out the website of our non-profit organization run by Unitarian Universalist religious educators, ministers, and lay persons from all over the Midwest: www.chalicesparx.org. Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/chalicesparx/> and join us in Cassopolis, Michigan July 8-10, 2022!





Invitation to People's Music Groups

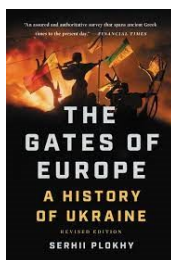
Have you ever wanted to sing with our choir or ring bells with us? You can! We are always accepting new members. Contact Savannah at music@peopleschurch.net for more details.



Study Group

Monday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday June 13 at 7:30, via Zoom, to discuss *The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine*, by Serhii Plokhy. The book is the definitive recent history of Ukraine, by a professor of Ukrainian history at Harvard. 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 jkspace@charter.net.



Film Discussion Group

Wednesday, May 25, 3:00 p.m.



We continue to decide on a month-to-month basis which film will be discussed. Each month a volunteer suggests 3 titles, and we vote for a winner.

Watch weekly emails for updates, or to be added to the email list, contact Pat Nelson (patnelson348@gmail.com)

Discussion Group

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10:30a.m. - 12:00p.m.

—5/7: Are there any 'pros' and 'cons' anymore? Seems like it gets more and more difficult to find Discussion Group topics including 'pros' and 'cons' (which of course make for the best discussions). Everyone, everywhere seems to only think their point of view is the only one. Let's talk about this. One member came up with a couple of groups worth looking at: allsides.com and braverangels.org/

—5/21: TBD

Topics are chosen by participants, with input from the group. Contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com if you would like to get on the email list to receive reminders and recommended background resources. Anyone is welcome to attend any meeting.

Meal Train: Help support one of our families during a very challenging time.

Like so many others, Zoe and her family are struggling to keep up with life in general. In addition to having a young child who can't yet be vaccinated, Zoe is going through long-term treatment of a large tumor in her right shoulder and back. It causes a great deal of pain and makes it difficult to take care of everyday tasks, and the medications have side effects that include fatigue, brain fog, and arthritis-like pain in her hands and feet. Knowing that they have one night a week where they don't have to think about and prepare dinner would be a great help. Please go to <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ld8qdz> to read more and to help!



Save the Date: Interfaith Pride Service Sunday, May 22, 4pm, Location TBD



Please save the date for the annual interfaith Pride Service put on by the Faith Alliance of OutFront Kalamazoo. More details will be shared in weekly emails as they become known.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Sunday	May 1	Sunday Service “Creeds and Covenants”	10:45am	The Commons & Zoom
		White Elephant Drop-Offs	12:00pm-2:00pm	L1/L2
Monday	May 2	Social Justice Coordinating Committee	3:00pm	Meeting ID: 552 766 7326
Wednesday	May 4	White Elephant Drop-Offs	3:00pm-5:00pm	L1/L2
		Bell Choir	5:30pm	RM 12
		Peace and Nature Camp Meeting	7:00pm	TBD
		‘You Can Count on This’ DRUUMM Worship	8:30pm	Zoom
Thursday	May 5	White Elephant Drop-Offs	3pm-5pm	L1/L2
		Mindfulness Meditation	6:30pm	RM 19
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	At Church
		Reflection on DRUUMM worship	7:30pm	Contact Rev. Rachel for ID
Saturday	May 7	Discussion Group	10:30am	Contact Pat N for MTG ID
Sunday	May 8	Sunday Service “Music Service”	10:45am	The Commons & Zoom
		White Elephant Drop-Offs	12pm-2pm	L1/L2
		Antiracism Discussion Group	1:00pm	Zoom-Contact Carolyn H.
		High School Youth Group	6:00pm	At Church
Monday	May 9	Chalice Circle—Stafford	6:00pm	RM 19
Wednesday	May 11	White Elephant Drop-Offs	3pm-5pm	L1/L2
		Bell Choir	5:30pm	RM 12
		Membership Connections Committee	7:00pm	Zoom
Thursday	May 12	White Elephant Drop-Offs	3pm-5pm	L1/L2
		Open House with Jill	3:00pm	Outside or RM 19
		Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Zoom
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	At Church
Saturday	May 14	White Elephant Sale	9:00am-2:00pm	Outside, front of Church
		Chalice Circle—Miller	12:00pm	Zoom
		OWL Sleepover	6:00pm	Contact Diane Melvin
Sunday	May 15	Sunday Service “Bring Your Questions”	10:45am	The Commons & Zoom
		Listening Across Generations	12:30pm	Contact Rev. Rachel
Wednesday	May 18	Bell Choir	5:30pm	RM 12
		RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	Outside or RM 19
Thursday	May 19	Afternoon Book Club	2:30pm	Contact Marj L
		Mindfulness Meditation	6:30pm	RM 19
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	At Church
Sunday	May 22	Annual Congregational Meeting	10:45am	The Commons & Zoom
Tuesday	May 24	Facing Life, Facing Death	1:30pm	Zoom— Contact Rev. Rachel
Wednesday	May 25	Film Discussion	3:00pm	Zoom
		Finance Committee	3:00pm	Zoom
		Bell Choir	5:30pm	RM 12
Thursday	May 26	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	At Church
Sunday	May 29	Sunday Service: “We Remember”	10:45am	The Commons & Zoom
Monday	May 30	MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICE CLOSED		

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."**