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# People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 84, Issue 8

April 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

### April 2 To Question, Truly, is an Answer 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, People's Church, Unitarian Universalism and more (but please no math problems). 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 and church programming over the coming year. Please bring your questions with you to church, either in person or via Zoom.

### April 9 Resurrection for Skeptics Rev. Rachel Lonberg


On this Easter Sunday, Rev. Rachel will explore stories of resurrection (including Jesus and Zombies) as well as the scientific reality that our atoms continue to cycle through ecosystems and other living beings long after we die.




### April 16 The Church of the Helping Hands Rev. Rachel Lonberg

 Every week, the preschool class at People's Church lights a chalice with the words 'We light this chalice as a symbol of Unitarian Universalism. This is the church of the open mind. This is the church of the helping hands. This is the church of the loving heart. Welcome, everyone!' How can we best help one another in hard times? In this service, Rev. Rachel will share wisdom for being a helpful helper. There will also be a chance to sign up to offer care (such as meals, rides, and visits) to other folks when the need arises.

### April 23 Earth Day All Ages Service People's Youth, the Green Sanctuary Committee, and Rev. Rachel

 Come celebrate our connection and commitment to our precious planet with this all-ages service led by People's Church youth (the team that brought you the wonderful Encanto-themed service last December); members of the Green Sanctuary Committee, (which leads our congregation's efforts toward stewardship, sustainability, and environmental justice), and Rev. Rachel.

### April 30 Mayday! Mayday! Rev. Rachel Lonberg

 May first is Beltane, the pagan wheel of the year festival that falls between the spring equinox and summer solstice. Rev. Rachel will preach on this festival of spring, fertility, and fire. Recognizing the destructive potential of fire, we will hold a fire drill following the service for people in the church building (weather permitting).

## From the Board

The members of the Board of Trustees are writing to share an important update on Article III of the People's Church bylaws.

On February 27, 2022, following a two year period of work by a board appointed committee, a significant majority of our congregational members voted to adopt a revised set of bylaws, including:

### *Article III – Commitment to Equity*

*1. People's Church is deeply committed to the principle of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We affirm the need to dismantle all forms of oppression and commit to changing ourselves, our organization, and our society by:*

*a. Building an environmentally just, wholly diverse, multi-cultural Beloved Community that accountably dismantles racism and all forms of oppression.*

*b. Assuring every action, policy, and practice governing and operating this congregation aligns with the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.*

*2. Our success will be known by our actions. Reflections on the validity and effectiveness of our actions will be informed by and centered on the lived experiences of those who identify as marginalized.*

Following the vote, a group of congregants met with a special committee of the board and Rev. Rachel to discuss their concerns regarding the language in Article III. In 2022, a series of Congregational Conversations were held so we could engage in careful, thoughtful discussions and deep listening, and as a way to reconnect after the pandemic kept the church closed - and us apart - for so long.

During this process, the board decided to pause policy work specifically related to Article III. We want to emphasize that social/racial justice policy work not specifically related to this article has continued.

After a year of discussion and listening, the consensus among board members is to move forward with the adopted bylaws language, and that it is time to begin the working of drafting policies related to Article III. We invite anyone interested in helping

guide this work to join us.

We want to emphasize the highest authority in the church is the congregation's membership acting at congregational meetings. The congregation approved the bylaws and elected the board. We trust the wisdom of our congregation.

We close with an appreciation for how deeply People's people care about our church, and for the time and effort the Bylaws Committee undertook in drafting our current bylaws. We are grateful that so many in our church community participated in Congregational Conversations, and thankful to board members Tom Hackley, Donna McClurkan and Karen Friedel for engaging in and helping lead those conversations.

Sincerely,  
People's Church Board of Trustees



## **Save the Date! Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> at noon**

On Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have a short all-ages service at People's Church, followed by a potluck (in-person only, unfortunately) and our annual congregational meeting (in-person and online.) The



agenda for the meeting will be distributed in early May. You do not need to be present to vote – all voting will happen online and by mail following the congregational meeting. For a refresher on our voting process, please attend the 'Annual Congregational Meeting Process Refresher' event online and on Zoom on April 23. If you are not yet a member and would like to vote at the congregational meeting, you need to sign a Bond of Union by April 8. Please reach out to Melissa in the church office if you are ready to become a member of People's Church. We will celebrate new members on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Congregation Meeting Process Refresher with Barb Davis**

**Sunday April 23 at 12:30-1:30pm in The Commons and livestreaming to Zoom**

People's Church updated our bylaws and policies last year to allow for broader participation in congregational meetings. We now vote online and by mail. In this session, Barb Davis, our church parliamentarian, will offer a refresher on (or introduction to, if you're newer among us) the process we use for congregational meetings. Please note that this session is entirely about the process of congregational meetings, not the topics that will be discussed. There will be sessions to learn more about the church budget for the coming fiscal year and other agenda items in the weeks before the annual congregational meeting. A light lunch and childcare are provided for this session.



## **White Elephant Sale Date Announced!**

The White Elephant Sale will take place on Saturday June 17th here at People's Church! The team will begin accepting drops offs of items on June 1st.

Many more details to come! Keep an eye on church communications for updates as they become available!

If you're interested in helping to put on this event, please reach out to either Lori Rupe ([lrupe123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lrupe123@sbcglobal.net)) or Karen Friedel ([karenbfriedel@gmail.com](mailto:karenbfriedel@gmail.com))

## **Stewardship Update**

Our Stewardship drive for 2023-24 is especially critical to the future of Peoples Church. We suffered serious programmatic and financial losses during the pandemic, when we were closed to in-person attendance. Fortunately, we were able to qualify for Federal government assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program for both 2021 and 2022 which offset our lagging income. But the sad fact is that our regular pledge income declined by \$10k in 2020-21, \$15k in 2021-22, and \$25k so far in 2022-23.



Now we are ready to start building our programs and pledge support again. The Stewardship Committee has asked us for a 10% increase in our pledges for next year. That is justified by our recent history, and will also support the beginning of a transition to the new UUA Congregational Salary Program. In November 2022 the UUA Office of Church Staff Finances released the details of this new program featuring economic justice, individual equity, and salary alignment and predictability based on job level rather than job title.

We have a Board-appointed committee evaluating this program for adoption by People's Church. If adopted, it will improve our internal equity, standardize compensation levels, and simplify our wage and salary administration. It will also cost us at least 10 percent more than we are paying our staff right now. Thus, I urge you to dig deep to try and make that 10% increase in your pledge level for 2023-24. As of Friday March 31st. we have received 117 pledges for a total of \$246,390.

Thank you, Allan Hunt, Treasurer

## **And Now for This Year's Nominees**

The Nominating Committee for the 2022-2023 church year consisted of Patrick VanSlambrouck, Rachel Chadderdon Bair, Sandy Steele, Lois Loeffler, Steve Cavanaugh and Karen Friedel (Board appointed).

The nominating committee developed a slate of candidates for the People's Church Board of Trustees and for the Nominating Committee for the upcoming church year! Please see below for the photos and bios of each candidate!

### **Board of Trustees Nominees**

- **Laura Bultman**

I first came to People's Church in 2017 when we moved to Portage from the East Coast. Being in a two-faith (at the time) household made Unitarian Universalism and People's Church a natural choice. Once I saw that there was a bell choir, well, I turned to my husband Mike and said "oh, we're coming here." And so we have. Aside from bells and occasionally



playing piano or ukulele for services, I've found a niche being deeply involved RE: teaching preschool, joining the RE committee, teaching OWL, writing curriculum, and serving as Diane's assistant since 2020 (a job I will be leaving in June). I'm also the co-director of Peace and Nature Camp. With my BA in theatre I've worked as a stage manager and served on the

Board of a theatre group in New York and, because of my masters in Library Science, I've been a children's librarian and later a Library Branch Manager in New Jersey. I recently started a job as a Children's Librarian at the Kalamazoo Central Library and it's been absolutely wonderful. My kids, Alex (8) and Catherine (6), are a joy and a blessing. In my spare time I crochet and weave to try to make a dent in my yarn stash. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve our beloved church as a board member.

- **Donna Kaye**

Hello - my name is Donna Kaye. I've been a member of People's Church for about 6 or 7 years but was previously affiliated with Unitarian Universalist churches in the Chicagoland area. I am a retired educator and taught in various capacities



in Kalamazoo Public Schools for 33+ years. I currently serve as a trustee for a non-profit here in Kalamazoo after spending 3 years serving as the treasurer of that board. I am currently working on the membership committee here at People's Church and I participate in 2 different Chalice Circles. I also work with another People's retired educator tutoring the children of one of the Kalamazoo Afghan families - something I enjoy immensely! I came to People's Church seeking fellowship, social justice, fun, and the common sense that our liberal faith offers. I love being part of this church!

- **Cindy Pietras**



## Nominating Committee Nominees

- **Robert (Bob) Friedel**

I have been at People's Church over ten years, during this I have worked with many people, building and grounds, Bazaar Committee, I have many hours

in the kitchen supervising pasty making, and potlucks and all things food. Karen, my wife, is currently on the nominating committee and she thought my recruiting skills for kitchen



help would be an asset for the committee. We came to People's for a religious education for our son Joe, but stayed to further our commitment to liberal religion.

- **Lori Rupe**

I consider myself to be a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, although I have attended some other churches during my 65 years. My earliest reli-

gious education occurred during my childhood in protestant churches, but by the time I was an adolescent we had discovered the UU church in my hometown near Philadelphia. Then I married a Baptist (what was I thinking?) and agreed that we would raise our child while attending a Christian church. Boy, was he surprised when I took it a step further and suggested that our daughter attend Catholic school. Although I didn't share the theological beliefs of either of these church communities, I found both to be very welcom-

ing and nurturing and they broadened my perspective.

I moved from New Jersey to Indiana to attend Purdue University, then to California for grad school at UC Davis. My degrees



are in Food Science, and I spent my career working at Kellogg's. I had the opportunity to work in various jobs including food development, capacity planning, and management of technical functions like statistics, chemistry and quality. But my favorite job was Project Management. I loved pulling together a cross-functional team, facilitating communication, planning and problem-solving. I retired 8 years ago and now I'm "living the dream". I enjoy travel, reading, and gardening. I participate in UU book club, film club, bell choir, a chalice circle, the bazaar and white elephant sale. I live in Battle Creek. My daughter and her family live nearby and I get to see my twin one-year-old grandsons almost every day. Can't beat that!

## ISAAC Update

Many important efforts are underway: With ISAAC advocacy, Gun Violence Prevention was declared a public health crisis. Funds for youth-oriented prevention programs were moved from the City to United Way to assure that program recipients are competent to conduct this work effectively and accountably for impact. Brother Ed Genesis has been hired by ISAAC to lead the grass roots BLOCKS Club (Building Leadership and Organizing Community for Kids to Succeed) and other trauma-informed and impacting interventions for youth violence prevention and engagement work.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3 – 5pm (light meal served) the Blocks Club is partnering with the WMU Lewis Walker Institute to co-host the first Youth Juvenile Justice Fellows fundraising event, **Dine \$ Justice** at the Bernhard Center. Special Guest motivational speaker **Eric Thomas (aka ET)**, author of You Owe You



will participate as keynote speaker. Tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/DINE4JUSTICE>.

Several excellent training opportunities have been developed and are available to ISAAC members; Healing Whiteness, Addressing Internalized Racial Oppression (IRO for BIPOC) and Internalized Racial Supremacy (IRS for whites), and wellness activities for people leading justice work. The slate of officers for the next 2-year terms of the ISAAC Executive Committee was proposed and supported. Each member congregation is encouraged to have two members identified to attend the monthly Leadership Board meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evening of each month. Please contact Rochelle at [habeck@chartermi.net](mailto:habeck@chartermi.net) if you are interested and want more info. This is an uplifting opportunity to be part of the ISAAC leadership family and help our church play an active role in ISAAC's work.

## The ISAAC Walk, Run,

**Roll is coming back!** We are invited to participate once again in this wonderful community event for ALL ages and



ability levels to support and celebrate ISAAC's work. The event will be held at Spring Valley Park once again, date to be deter-



mined (likely early summer). Here are a few pictures from the 2018

event. Watch for more details soon!



## Special Collection: April 16th

The special collection for April will benefit Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's (SWMLC) Stewardship Fund to support their efforts to promote climate resilience. SWMLC, a local nonprofit conservation organization, works with people in the community to improve habitat, protect water quality, support biodiversity, connect people with nature, and conserve the landscapes – prairies, forests, dunes, wetlands - of our region. SWMLC works in the 9 counties of southwest Michigan.



To achieve climate resilience, people and wildlife need healthy local natural areas. SWMLC and partners have developed a strategic map called Nature's Network, to guide land protection efforts by identifying key areas to protect water quality, biodiversity, and habitat connectivity <https://swmlc.org/how-were-planning/>

Donations and grants fund the protection and stewardship of over 18,000 acres, with 18 public nature preserves open year-round with no admission fees. Protecting these lands in perpetuity requires financial support not only to purchase properties but also for their ongoing stewardship – habitat restoration, invasive species removal, planting native species, and maintaining public infrastructure for trails, signage, and parking lots.

Learn more about SWMLC's work, volunteer opportunities and other ways to support this work here <https://swmlc.org/>

### **Inquirers Series**

**Sessions are held every other Sunday from 12:30-1:30pm, 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.

- **April 2:** Session 6: Building Tour with Gary Heckman
- **April 16:** Session 7: Sunday Services with Savannah Ramsey & Rev. Rachel
- **April 30:** Session 8: Membership 101 with Rev. Rachel
- **May 14:** Session 9: Religious Education for Children and Youth, with Laura Bultman

For more information about this class, or to request childcare, please contact Rev. Rachel at [minister@peopleschurch.net](mailto: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.

### **Wishes of the Month**

You can access the board online here: <https://padlet.com/PeoplesChurch/lvo4v0pcvh14ck70>

Remember to review **ALL** of the great ideas posted 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!). A number of ideas that have been posted on the board have already been implemented !



- **Group/Community Mural - Maddy**  
Comment: Yes! We have new unpainted drywall in some of the RE classrooms. I would love to see a tree with the kids handprints as leaves or flowers. Why not a whole mural.
- **Picture Directory:** I believe it is time to consider offering a family/member photo opportunity and compiling a new People's Church Picture Directory. The most recent one was completed in 2016-2017. Another photo could be submitted by those who did not want to have a professional photo taken.
- **Discussions on Variety of Spirituality:** This is Steve Foley. I would be willing to coordinate twice monthly discussions on various aspects of spirituality. This would be a week night activity (Weds.?). We would take turns choosing topics and I would schedule those topics in advance. I would take responsibility for providing topics and background readings for gatherings that lacked a topic. The format would be less didactic and more toward personal sharing. Let me know if you have any interest in this. Steve Foley 734 223 9078 or [sfoley49@gmail.com](mailto:sfoley49@gmail.com)

### **Sokukoji Buddhist Temple Monastery**

The Reverend Kyouin Sokuzan will be joining us at People's Church the first Monday of every month for guided meditation and a talk on Shikantaza, a traditional style of Zen meditation. With over 50 years of training, Sokuzan has studied with some of the most preeminent Buddhist teachers to come to the west including his root teacher Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche and his Zen master Kobun Chino Roshi. Sokuzan is also the founding abbot of Sokukoji Buddhist Temple Monastery in Battle Creek, Michigan. Our program will begin at 6pm with a 15 minutes guided meditation and will be followed by a 45 minute talk with plenty of room for question and answers. We would invite you to stay after the talk to enjoy a cup of tea and get to know the community. All are welcome regardless of experience with meditation.



## Green Spot — Earth Day



**Join Kalamazoo's Earth Day  
Fun!  
Saturday, April 22**

Kalamazoo's Earth Day Festival will be different this year. This is the first in-person festival since 2019. The Kalamazoo Nature Center, Public Media Network, Kalamazoo Parks, and the Edison, Oakwood and Vine neighborhood associations are working with the Kalamazoo Earth Day Festival Committee to put on activities in three areas in the city. The theme is Connecting Communities to create a better, more equitable and more sustainable Kalamazoo.

Here's the schedule:

Upjohn Park (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

Woods Lake Park (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

Davis Street Park (5:00 PM - 7:00 PM)

Each site will feature live music, children's activities, interactive exhibits, food vendors and opportunities to participate in meaningful projects to improve our community.

For more information, see [www.kalamazooearthday.com](http://www.kalamazooearthday.com).

**COOL PLANNER** People's Church of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, MI is the 2023 winner of the Cool Planner category for their plans to reduce their congregation's carbon footprint to zero carbon emissions by 2030. <https://www.coolcongregations.org/2023-challenge-winners/>



## People's Church Talent Show

### Revue & Extravaganza

to help raise money for a new church piano

**Saturday April 15th 7PM**

**MAGICIANS, SINGERS,  
DANCERS, JOKE TELLERS,  
MUSICIANS - WE WANT YOU!**

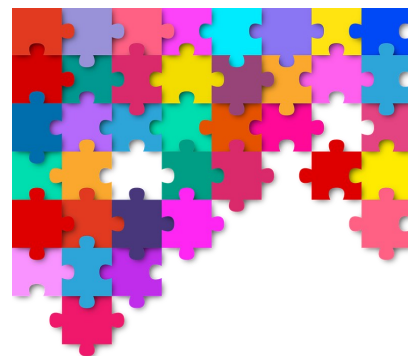
PLEASE RSVP TO  
SAVANNAH RAMSEY  
[MUSIC@PEOPLESCHURCH.NET](mailto:MUSIC@PEOPLESCHURCH.NET)  
IF YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO PERFORM  
THAT NIGHT.

If you can't make it that night but would still like to contribute to the new piano all donations are accepted. Just get in touch with Melissa in the office.

## JIGSAW PUZZLE EXCHANGE

**Sunday April 2nd**

Like to do puzzles? Need a new one? Join us on the first Sunday each month for a jigsaw puzzle exchange. Drop off the puzzle you've done and pick up one that's new to you! A table will be set up in the foyer outside of the Commons both before and after service!

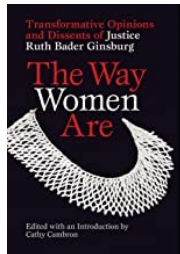
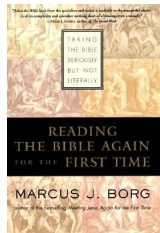


If you are new to puzzles, visit the table, and try one out (there might be extras!) Puzzles are great fun for everyone, good for cognitive skills and stress relief! Join us for lots of fun!

## Library Corner

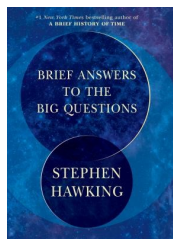
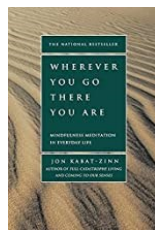
After long-time church member Kay Spade died, her family offered many of her books to People's Library. These books are among those which were donated and selected for inclusion in the library.

**Reading the Bible Again for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but Not Literally**, by Marcus J. Borg - On display or shelved under 220.61 Bo



**The Way Women Are; Transformative Opinions and Dissents of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, edited by Cathy Cambron - On display or shelved under 342.73 Ca

**Wherever You Go, There You Are; Mindfulness Meditation in Everyday Life**, by Jon Kabat-Zinn. - On display or shelved under 155.9 Ka



**Brief Answers to the Big Questions**, by Stephen Hawking - On display or shelved under 500 Ha

The following is the **People's Library Selection Policy** according to which library books are chosen to be purchased or otherwise become part of the book collection: Our primary need is for new, up-to-date books on contemporary trends in Unitarian Universalism and other religions, current social issues, and other thinking of our day.

We will include books and other materials that deal with Unitarian Universalism, Humanism, Buddhism, Naturalism, Paganism, and other religious materials by and about UU ministers and lay members; materials dealing with contemporary issues such as ethical dilemmas and social justice, spiritual and philosophical issues, and personal and church health and growth.

The Library Committee will evaluate donated books according to our policy. Those found to be compatible will be added; others will be donated to Kalamazoo Public Library Friends or to a used book sale. Ordinarily we will not add fiction or duplicate copies to the collection.

**Questions/ comments are welcomed.**  
Please contact Lois Loeffler, chair of the Library Committee, at [loisloeffler@gmail.com](mailto:loisloeffler@gmail.com).

### **Getting Good at Getting Older book study**

**Tuesday April 18 1:30-3:00pm on Zoom, continuing for six sessions on the third Tuesday of each month**

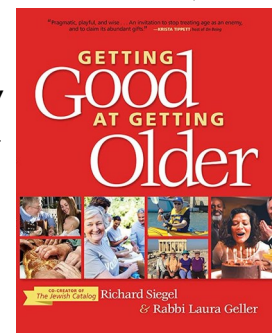
A six-month series of the Facing Life, Facing Death group

All People's people who are navigating the years between maturity and death are welcome to join

this class and discussion group that will focus on the book *Getting Good at Getting Older* by Richard Siegel and Rabbi Laura Geller. The first session will focus on Getting Good at Gaining Wisdom, while other sessions will focus on relationships, generosity, and other spiritual and emotional challenges of aging well.

The book is rooted in Jewish tradition, but we will put our Unitarian Universalist spin on it.

Copies of the book are available at This is a Bookstore (3019 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo) at a 15% discount if you mention that you're part of the People's Church Facing Life, Facing Death group. E-books are also available from online retailers. If you would like to participate but purchasing the book is a hardship, please let Rev. Rachel know and she will purchase a copy for you. Please contact Rev. Rachel if you have any questions.



### Spotlight on: The RE Committee



With nine members, the RE committee is a large and very active committee at People's Church. Members are in charge of curriculum, specialty classes, Sunday morning greeting, snacks for RE, childcare on Sunday morning and for People's Church events, and, of course, the religious education program that runs during our church year. Every person on the committee works hard and is dedicated to the Religious Exploration experience of all members of our congregation. This month, a few of our committee members reflected on their experience.

Working with the RE committee the past two years has been a really fulfilling way to connect with the youth at People's Church and the church community as a whole. It's hard, challenging work sometimes but everyone on the committee is always willing to pitch in and help out when things need to get done; we operate as a true team. And, of course, we do our best to make things fun for both the committee members and those that we are serving. Organizing and participating in the high school youth sleepover and the family campout in the fall were lots of fun and very rewarding experiences. *Brandon Brown*

I have enjoyed working on the RE committee as it's given me a chance get involved and meet a lot more people in the church. It can be difficult to know how to introduce yourself to other people within the community and the committee work gave me a chance to directly interact with many others. From my role as helping with Point on Sunday morning's I have had a chance to bear witness to the tremendous work that others bring into the church every week. *Michael Bultman*

I have taught RE off and on for thirty-five years, in addition to committee work and youth ministry. Currently, I am involved with organizing Specialty Classes, putting together elementary curricula, and helping with various short-term projects. I also frequently lead Summer RE. If you see me on a Sunday morning, I'm probably running around getting ready to teach an elementary class. If you receive an email or message from me, it likely involves assisting with a Specialty Class. This year, we extended our monthly Specialty Classes to our youth. The teens were very excited, since they had enjoyed Specialty Classes when they were younger and then felt like they were missing out on the fun when they got older. Teaching or assisting in Specialties is a wonderful way to share a hobby and make intergenerational connections.

Whatever the activity, they are building relationships and putting some of our principles into practice. The RE Committee is serious about our work, but we are a lively and supportive bunch who are always ready to pitch in if someone needs a hand, a sounding board, or a tissue. Together, we get satisfaction from planning experiences for all age groups. Please talk to us if this sounds like fun to you! *Mary Kate Webster*

PEACE AND  
NATURE CAMP

JUNE 19-23, 2023

Registration is open!

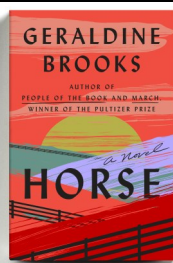
[bit.ly/peoplespnc](http://bit.ly/peoplespnc)



While Diane, our Director of Religious Education, is on sabbatical, the RE committee and the RE assistant are working hard to keep our program running.

Get in touch, volunteer, or ask us anything by emailing

**RE@peopleschurch.net**



### **Afternoon Book Club**

**Thursday 04/20, 1:30pm**

The Afternoon Book Group will discuss *HORSE* by Geraldine Brooks on Thursday, April 20th, at the Friendship Village Clubhouse. We meet from 1:30 to 3:00. Pat Nelson will lead the discussion. Contact Marj Lightner ([marjlightner56@gmail.com](mailto:marjlightner56@gmail.com)) if you have questions or need directions.

### **Discussion Group**

**Saturday, 4/1 10:30-12 Room 19, masks optional**

Convert your lawn into a garden? Church member Dan Bair will share his experience of transforming much of his family's outdoor space here in Kalamazoo.

Dan is currently a stay at home dad and life-long gardener, with a Certificate in Organic Farming from MSU. Anyone welcome to any meeting!



### **Film Discussion**

**Tuesday, March 28, 3-4:30 on Zoom**

"You Feel You've Witnessed Nothing Less Than the Birth of a Soul"



On April 25 we'll discuss the 2009 film "Precious". Participants are encouraged to also read the novel on which it is based, also titled "Precious" by Sapphire, et al. Local libraries have a DVD version of the film with some 'extras' highly recommended by our reviewer, Martha Beverly. It can also be rented from Amazon.com for \$3.99 without subscription, and probably from many subscription services as well. We watch the movie separately and then get together on zoom for the discussion.

Anyone welcome to any meeting (4th Tuesdays of the month). Contact Pat Nelson ([patnelson348@gmail.com](mailto:patnelson348@gmail.com)) if you would like to get a zoom invite and/or get on the reminder email list.

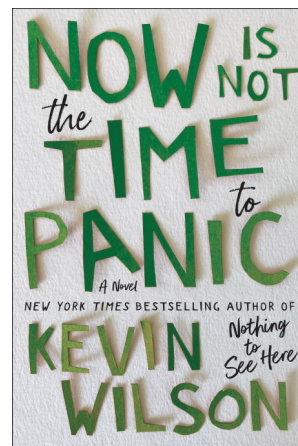
### **Evening Book Club**

**Thursday, 4/13, 6-7:30 PM**

The evening book club meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m., at the home of Lois Loeffler -- very near church. Anyone is welcome to any meeting. \*Note Changes to Schedule

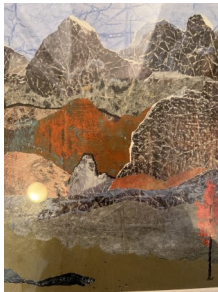
- April 11, Lois will be reviewing "Now is Not the Time to Panic" by Kevin Wilson, et al.
- May 9 Mary Montgomery will review "Dictionary of Lost Words" by Pip Williams, et al. This had initially been a choice of Kay Spade for this month; we are so sorry to lose her.

If you have any questions, or want to get on the email list for reminders, etc. contact Pat Nelson ([patnelson348@gmail.com](mailto:patnelson348@gmail.com))



## **New Art Wall Exhibit: Beginning April 4 through June 4, 2023**

**Artist Reception: April 16, after the service 12:15**



### **A COLLAGE COLLABORATIVE**

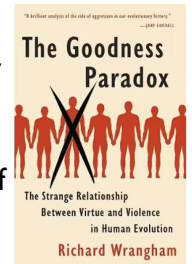
Collage: from the French term, coller, meaning “to glue or stick together”, used primarily in the visual arts to create a composition of lines, shapes and color. Collages may be created of various materials, and images, both borrowed and original.

A COLLAGE COLLABORATIVE is a loosely-affiliated group of artists who have been exploring and experimenting with this art form. Members have all worked in other media, such as hand-papermaking, painting (watercolor, acrylic, oil), surface decoration and mixed media. Although digital collage is becoming popular, every piece in this exhibit is analog, adhering to the original definition. Members of the group are

Lorrie Abdo, Daisy Chisholm, Glenda Demissianos, Joan Khaled, Patsy Kreuzer and Sally Padley.

## **Study Group**

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday May 15 at 7:30, via Zoom, to discuss *The Goodness Paradox: The Strange Relationship Between Virtue and Violence in Human Evolution*, by Richard Wrangham. Wrangham, an anthropologist and primatologist at Harvard, focuses on explaining how human evolution led us to have great capacities for both peaceful coexistence and planned violence. 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 Mary Lewis at [magelewis@aol.com](mailto:magelewis@aol.com).



## **In Memoriam: Kay Spade and Nancy Crawford**

Two long-time, beloved People's Church members died in March.

Nancy Crawford died on March 21. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 22nd. Plans will be shared with the congregation when they are known. You can read her obituary here: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/kalamazoo/name/nancy-crawford-obituary?id=51461877>



Kay Spade died on March 9. A memorial service was held on March 18, you can read her obituary here: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/kalamazoo/name/kay-spade-obituary?id=50102249>

Please note: The Spade family has apologized for not including Kay's deep involvement at People's Church in the obituary.

When Kay died, she left a collection of favorite poems and quotes – much too many to feature them all in her memorial service. We will have a special service this summer featuring the beloved words she collected and left behind.

## **Alan Parcells Ash Spreading Ceremony**

**Saturday May 13 at noon in the memorial garden**

All People's people and others who knew church member Alan Parcells, who died in November 2022, are invited to attend this brief ceremony. A portion of Alan's ashes will be spread at the foot of the memorial tree for Lynn Parcells, Alan's first wife and first love. This will be a chance to share memories of Alan with others, including his daughter Barb.



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Saturday	April 1	Discussion Group	10:30am	Room 19
Sunday	April 2	Sunday Service: To Question, Truly, is an Answer	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
		Inquirer's Series: Building Tour with Gary Heckman	12:30pm	Room 19
		<b>Jigsaw Puzzle Swap</b>		
Tuesday	April 4	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
Wednesday	April 5	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
Thursday	April 6	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	April 9	Sunday Service: Resurrection for Skeptics	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
Tuesday	April 11	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		UUA Common Read	6:15pm	Zoom
Wednesday	April 12	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
Thursday	April 13	Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Zoom
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Saturday	April 15	Talent Show Revue & Extravaganza	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	April 16	Sunday Service: The Church of the Helping Hands	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
		Inquirer's Series: Sunday Services with Savannah Ramsey & Rev. Rachel	12:30pm	Room 19
Monday	April 17	Green Sanctuary Meeting	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	April 18	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00am	At Church
		Facing Life, Facing Death	1:30pm	Zoom
Wednesday	April 19	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
Thursday	April 20	Afternoon Book Club	1:30pm	Friendship Village Club-house
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Saturday	April 22	Nancy Crawford Memorial Service	TBD	TBD
Sunday	April 23	Sunday Service: Earth Day All Ages Service	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
		Congregational Meeting Process Refresh	12:30pm	Commons and Zoom
Monday	April 24	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>		
Tuesday	April 25	Building and Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Dismantling Racism Team	6:00pm	Zoom
Wednesday	April 26	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
Thursday	April 27	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	April 30	Sunday Service: Mayday! Mayday!	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
		Inquirer's Series: Membership 101 with Rev. Rachel	12:30pm	Room 19

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

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



## **People's Church Mission Statement**

**"People's Church: A beloved community  
embracing and serving our diverse world."**