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October 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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October 2 “The Congregation is the Curriculum” Rev. Rachel Lonberg
UUA Staff Member Connie Goodbread has said, ‘Everything we do is faith formation. Everything we teach is Unitarian Universalism. The congregation is the curriculum.’ On the first Sunday of religious education for children and youth in this program year, we will commission our religious education teachers and advisors, and debut a new recessional (the song we sing as children go to their classes). Rev. Rachel will preach on how what we teach our children (and each other) is not just what happens in the RE classrooms, but in all of our congregational life together.



October 9 “Membership Celebration” Rev. Rachel Lonberg
Join us to celebrate the newest members of People's Church. Rev. Rachel will reflect on the meaning of membership. This service will end with a fire drill, weather permitting.



October 16 Because Every Body Is Sacred Rev. Ashley Horan
From "Don't Say Gay" bills to the swath of laws criminalizing gender affirming and abortion-related care, attacks on bodily autonomy in the US are escalating at an alarming pace. And, this nation has always targeted certain kinds of bodies as less worthy of protection and freedom than others. What does our UU tradition offer us as an antidote to toxic theologies of coercion and control that are fueling the current culture wars? Join us for a conversation about intersectionality, radical spiritual imagination, and the liberation of all our sacred bodies. Rev. Ashley will be with us via Zoom.



October 23 “Imagining Accountability” The Dismantling Racism Team and Rev. Rachel Lonberg
The word ‘accountability’ is in the newly adopted bylaws of People's Church. This Sunday, Rev. Rachel and the Dismantling Racism Team will offer wisdom about what accountability can look like in the context of the right relationship we seek to practice at People's Church. This service will be followed by cider, donuts, and Congregational Conversation #4 on Accountability. Come to listen and come to share your views of what accountability could mean for us. The Zoom option for Congregational Conversation #4 will happen on October 24 at 7pm.



October 30 “Getting the Death You Want (Maybe)” Rev. Rachel Lonberg
Death is inevitable, and often unpredictable, but there are things you can do now (paperwork and conversations, mostly) that will make it more likely that you will get the death you want and ease the logistical burden on those you leave behind. We will explore those tasks and conversations – and play ‘end of life bingo.’



From the Minister



Dear Ones,

Recently, I participated in Congregational Conversation #3. One of the groups I facilitated focused on our mission statement: 'People's Church: a beloved community embracing and serving our diverse world.'

Someone asked, 'what is beloved community, anyway?' Here is an extended answer, cribbed from a sermon I preached in October 2018, when the current mission statement was new.

The phrase 'Beloved Community' was coined by Josiah Royce, a philosopher of religion and ethics, just over 100 years ago. After the death of his young adult son, Royce became interested in how we live together and began thinking about the nature of communities. He asserted that communities are formed by loyalty and that everyone is loyal to something. He writes, "My life means nothing, either theoretically or practically, unless I am a member of a community." He developed categories for communities based on what kind of loyalty bound them together. There are communities that are bound together by vicious or predatory loyalty. These groups have clearly defined in-groups and out-groups and disdain for the people who aren't part of their communities. These sorts of communities can be created around anything that insiders believe is the one truth, religious or political. There are communities that, in Joyce's words, harmonize with a universal ideal, who do not create divisions between in groups and outgroups, who have everyone's best interest at heart, not in a patronizing, we-know-what's-in-your-best-interest-better-than-you-do sort of way. He calls these 'genuine communities.' We might know some of these communities in our lives and in

our world. They tend to be humble, open to new people and new information, willing to adjust plans to do the most good.

Then Royce names 'The Beloved Community.' It is an ideal that doesn't yet exist, though we might catch glimpses of it when genuine communities are at their very best. A Beloved Community is one in which all are loyal to love and truth and whose actions are always guided by love and truth.

Martin Luther King Jr. read Josiah Royce during his preparations for ministry. He borrowed the phrase 'Beloved Community' and expanded upon it, making it one of the central themes in his ministry. Over and over again, he shared his vision of Beloved Community, a society based on equity, love and justice for all, a world where there are no enemies, only temporary opponents who will one day be friends. In the Beloved Community, no one is left behind.

In 1956, after the successful end of the Montgomery bus boycott, he preached, 'the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men.'

Beloved Community is not about prevailing over others, but about doing the work of love and justice in big and small ways until everyone is transformed. The Beloved Community writes no one off and leaves no one behind.

The members of People's Church were ambitious when they set Beloved Community as their aspiration in adopting this mission. May we continue to advance our mission.

Take good care,
Rev. Rachel

ISSAC Public Meeting Watch Party

October 25—6:30pm

Please Save the Date and please spread the news!

Please plan to be part of our People's Church people virtually attending the ISAAC Public Meeting on Tuesday, October 25th at 7 pm.

This very important public gathering occurs only on even-numbered years close to the November elections. Our attendance demonstrates the magnitude of public support for achieving changes in policy and practice requested of our elected representatives and public officials to increase equity in our county.



This year is ISAAC'S 20th Anniversary! People's Church was a founding member and continues to bring a strong presence to this work of justice to help create the Beloved Community - infused with love, hope, equity and abundance.

There are two ways you can attend - either on-line on Facebook (<https://facebook.com/isaackalamazoo>) or YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ISAAC4Kalamazoo>) or Join our first ever ISAAC Watch Party on the big screen at People's Church! (Masks required) Childcare is available! Please contact Rev. Rachel at least a week before the event if you would like to request childcare. Supporting ISAAC's work through your attendance helps advance current initiatives for anti-racism, preventing youth violence, and increasing affordable housing. Sign up here (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ba9ac22a13-isaac>) to RSVP for the Watch Party!

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.

Sign Up Now to Help with People's Church Fine Arts Sale & Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

During our annual Fine Art Sale & Holiday Bazaar— our largest church fundraiser—our building is transformed into a holiday shopping experience. We expect several hundred people to join us in shopping for unique gifts from 25 local artists, buying our famous pasties and other delicious specialties!

Sign Up for Pasty-Making Dates

No previous experience needed! Chef Bob will lead the way. Meet other People's people and help make our famous pasties which are frozen and sold at the Bazaar. There are still spots available for the weekends of Oct. 7 & 8 and Oct. 14 & 15! Sign up at the bazaar table in the lobby or online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-2022>. Don't miss this once a year opportunity to be part of the pasty making fun and support our church Bazaar!



Now is the time for our members and friends to sign up with your contributions to make our Bazaar fun and successful. You can sign up online or in person at the Bazaar table in the church foyer. Melissa

Emrich, our church administrator will help organize our volunteer teams and can assist you with sign up opportunities.



Prepare Items for People's Specialties

Sign up is now available for the homemade contributions you plan to make for the People's Specialties tables in November. The whole foyer will be dedicated to your contributions of homemade foods and goods. Please decide what you can make and sign up here or at church. Consider making your favorite baked goods, frozen entrees, jams, breads, candies, photo cards, knitted items, etc. Sign up either online (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-peoples4>) or at the Bazaar table in the foyer to let us know what you're planning on bringing to donate!



Swedish Limpa Bread with Martha Beverly

Only ONE spot left! Please sign up online here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-swedish> or on the gold sheets in the lobby to bake with Martha. Details available at church or contact Melissa at office@peopleschurch.net.

Due to COVID restrictions, there will be no café or white elephant this year, to provide more space and social distancing; masks are expected to be required.

Report on Afghan Resettlement Co-Sponsorship

People's Church, in partnership with the Congregation of Moses and Temple B'nai Israel, two synagogues in the Kalamazoo area, has been busy helping to resettle seven Afghan families who are seeking asylum status in the United States. These families began arriving in November 2021 and through February 2022. Below is a summary of what our team of 30+ volunteers have been doing to assist these families as they resettle in Kalamazoo.

The help we have provided over the last 10 months includes:

Groceries and Household Items:

We paid for groceries until the family's food assistance application was processed and their Bridgecards became available to them. In some cases, this took more than a month. We also purchased needed household items that had not been donated. When the families arrived their households were set-up and furnished with donated items that had been collected at People's Church and Prince of Peace Church, but this was a bare minimum of what they needed.



Clothing, Toys, TV's and Car Seats:

We needed to immediately find clothing, as most of the Afghans arrived with very little, some with only the clothes they wore on their trip from the military camp. We "shopped" at free clothing resources and thrift shops for each member of the families – 45 total. We were fortunate to receive free winter jackets, boots, snow pants, gloves and hats from Warm Kids, a local non-profit, but we needed to purchase some winter clothing items for the adults. When members of our team put out a request to their friend networks and on Facebook, we had a great groundswell of clothing donated. Because so much clothing was donated, we recognized the need to set up our own "free store". Under the

leadership of People's Church member, Colleen Van Slambrouck, a free clothing store was established at the Congregation of Moses.

Colleen recruited many volunteers to sort the clothing to make it manageable to find correct sizes and keep the "store" organized. In addition to the free and thrift shop clothes we also needed to purchase clothing items that need to be new: underwear, socks, pajamas, slippers, etc. Other items that needed to be procured, either by donation or purchase included age and gender appropriate toys for the children. We purchased eight car seats and booster seats. We needed to locate people who were willing to donate a TV and ended up buying 3 TV's and getting 4 donated. We paid for internet set-up and monthly charges until a member of the family was working and earning money.



Improving the condition of their rental homes and apartments:

Our volunteers have completed projects such as building shelving in a large pantry, fixing electrical light switches and fixtures, putting up extra towel bars, purchasing and installing ceiling fans. etc. These are things that are often difficult or impossible to get landlords to do with the current worker shortage.



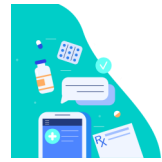
Transportation:

Our transportation team provides rides for adults to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and other destinations and shuttles kids to school when their bus is canceled, which was at least once or twice a week throughout last winter. Twenty-nine children from the families we are so-sponsoring are going to Kalamazoo Public Schools; the elementary kids go to Lincoln, middle school kids go to Milwood Middle School and the



high schoolers attend ESL classes at Phoenix H.S. Other volunteers take families grocery shopping and to Loaves and Fishes for twice monthly food donations. Free diapers are picked up once a week at the Diaper Bank at St. Luke's Church.

Medical and Dental Appointments:



Our medical and dental team has made and shepherded our Afghan family members to over 100 medical and dental appointments so far. Many have needed X-rays, blood draws, MRI's, surgical procedures, PT and OT, appointments with specialists, etc. Navigating our medical system is difficult when you speak English, it's very challenging when you do not!

ESL tutoring:

Under the leadership of People's Church member, Vicky Konzen, our volunteers have provided in-home ESL lessons and tutoring and we have purchased workbooks for the adults. Some on our team volunteered at the summer ESL classes sponsored by The Literacy Council.



Drivers Training and Finding Cars to Purchase.

Four of our volunteers have been devoting many hours to helping people learn to drive. The first task is to pass their written test to get their driver's permit and then ultimately to pass their road test and get their driver's license. We have also helped our first drivers to find a suitable car that they can afford to purchase and helped them find automobile insurance and get their new car registered with the Secretary of State.



We need more Volunteers!

Helping our "new Americans" from Afghanistan is a very rewarding experience. We know the help we provide for them today will get them started on a good footing that will help them be successful in America in the future.

Our team could definitely use more volunteers.

Sometimes we are stretched pretty thin. Areas we could really use help in are transportation, taking families clothes shopping at our free store or other free resources, grocery shopping, ESL tutoring adults, tutoring a few children (five to seven year-olds) who are being mainstreamed and not in the ESL contained classrooms. These kids need help with "homework" and being read to. We also need help with dental appointments as there are so many. Our Afghan friends did not have dental care before arriving here and many have multiple cavities and other issues that need to be addressed in multiple appointments. If you are interested in helping/volunteering, please call or email Ann Feldmeier, 269-720-1649, annfeldmeier2018@gmail.com. We need you!



Special Collection: Sunday October 16

YWCA Kalamazoo Reproductive Health Fund

The YWCA Reproductive Health Fund enables all Kalamazoo County residents to access reproductive, sexual, and gender-affirming health care services – especially those who identify as Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), undocumented people, low-income people, and those who identify as LGBTQIA+. The Fund eliminates financial and transportation barriers and increases access to abortion services, doula care and gender-affirming care as well as on-site access to emergency contraception kits. The comprehensive reproductive health fund represents a larger step towards reproductive justice in Kalamazoo County.



For more information on the YWCA Kalamazoo comprehensive Reproductive Health Fund, please contact [269-978-1200](tel:269-978-1200) or visit <https://www.ywcakalamazoo.org/what-we-do/advocacy-systems-change/reproductive-health-fund>

Green Spot — Environment and Citizenship



By Cybelle Shattuck

Fall is in the air, the season of pumpkin spice, bright leaves, and elections. As we prepare to participate in one of the most vital acts of citizenship, voting, it is important to locate information that can help us make informed choices. For those seeking information on environmental and justice issues, here are some useful resources.

One of the best places to find information about local and state candidates comes from the League of Women Voters, which has adopted environment as a focus issue (lww-environment). LWV asks about environmental problems in the



questionnaire they give to election candidates. You can read and compare candidates' answers in the printed voter guide or online at vote411.org.



The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (michiganlcv.org) is a nonpartisan organization that evaluates the environmental records of sitting legislators and judges and also asks candidates about their environmental positions. You can look up legislators' environmental scores on the Accountability Scorecard and can also check to see who has earned an LCV endorsement.



Another resource that may be of use comes from Faith Climate Justice Voter, an organization that produces a Faithful Voter Reflection Guide (Reflection Guide) in both English and Spanish. The guide is "intended to spur discussion and discernment" about issues such as protecting the environment, voting rights, immigrants, economic security, racial justice, LGBTQ rights, affordable

health care, global peace and security. It does not tell people how to vote, but tries to "provide a framework for evaluating issues and candidates in a way that prioritizes solutions that promote dignity and the common good." Each page includes a brief overview of how an issue connects with faith and justice, along with some questions that can be used to "guide conversations and spark ideas for questions to ask political candidates." This resource may be useful for People's people who want to start conversations with family or friends who belong to other religious traditions or for thinking about how to frame questions for political candidates so as to highlight the importance of addressing connections between environmental and social justice.



Neighborhood Improvement Opportunity

The Green Sanctuary Committee of People's Church is again sponsoring the Fall Clean-Up of 10th Street from West Main to H Street on Sunday, October 30 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Come and pick up trash along the road to help beautify our Church neighborhood. Youth are encouraged to volunteer, but parental permission forms are required for those between 12 and 18 years of age. Please email Allan Hunt (hahunt@gmail.com) if you need a form. We will meet in the parking lot at 1:00 pm on Sunday for a brief safety review. There will be no lunch this year.



MUUSJN and UU the VOTE Opportunities

Phone and Text Banking: There are opportunities to phone bank every week with the Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN). Monday Nights from 6-8 PM (text banking will come soon) <https://bit.ly/PhbankMon> Wednesday Night 6:30-8:30 PM Phone banks: <https://bit.ly/phMUUSJN>

Keep in mind that you don't necessarily have to stay for the whole session and once you are trained and comfortable, you can make calls or text on your own time between 9 AM and 8:30 PM.

Letter Writing: Would you prefer to write letters to voters? With Vote Forward, you sign up for an account and then through their dashboard, "adopt" voters, download typed letter templates to which you'll add a handwritten message, and manage your progress. They also provide information about hosting a letter-writing party if you want to set one up. Learn more <https://votefwd.org>



Become an Advocate for Ballot Proposals: There will be three proposals on the November 8 ballot. MUUSJN has endorsed all three.

- Proposal 1: Term Limit Reform and Financial Transparency for Elected Officials
- Proposal 2: Promote the Vote 2022
- Proposal 3: Reproductive Freedom for All



MUUSJN Consultant Nomi Joyrich has a one-hour recorded presentation that gives a 'deep dive' into all of the proposals - what the fine print says, who is funding them, and the pros and cons. This information will help you advocate for the proposals and fight against misinformation. She also shares strategies for relational organizing during the presentation that will help you find ways to talk to your friends and neighbors about the issues. If you are interested in watching the video, please contact UU Community Church (uucommunity@gmail.com) and they will send you the link.

Other opportunities for Get Out the Vote (GOTV) actions can be found on the UU the Vote event page: <https://www.uuthevote.org/events/>

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.



CHURCH CAMP OUT!

OCT. 7TH-8TH

Time: 6pm Friday to 10am Saturday

Come on Friday evening (eat dinner before you come!), pitch a tent or park your camper, and enjoy snacks and activities such as s'mores, campfire stories, flashlight tag, and maybe even an outdoor movie! Saturday morning breakfast will be provided.

Please note, grown-ups will be responsible for their children during the entirety of the event.

Register here: bit.ly/REcampout



Rise Up and Sing Comes to People's Church!

Join us for an evening of powerful singing with two of North America's finest activist folk singers on Sunday, October 23rd right here at People's Church! Charlie King and Annie Patterson are hitting the road again in October with a 9 city tour of the Midwest. Live concerts can really help lift people's spirits, build community, and increase people's resilience to keep up their work to address the many challenges facing our communities, nation, and world! They are excited to have the chance to perform in person again! COVID precautions will be in effect guided by local and venue guidelines for safety.

Charlie King is a musical storyteller, hailed by Pete Seeger as "one of the finest singers and songwriters of our time."

Annie Patterson is the co-creator of *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again* songbooks. "Annie's sparkling presence makes every song she touches come alive" - Reggie Harris.

You can buy tickets now online at <https://www.riseupandsing.org/events/annie-patterson-charlie-king-concert-kalamazoo> or at the door for a suggested donation of \$15 ("pay as led" - no one turned away for lack of funds).



Pay Now or Pay Later?

Our fiscal year at Peoples Church goes from July 1 through June 30 each year. So pledge payments that arrive in the fall are particularly helpful in guiding our financial plans. So far this year we have not seen the usual pace of early pledge payments. The result is that we are having to monitor our bank account closely to avoid any expensive overdrafts. If you are in a position to pay your pledge earlier than December, it would be very helpful. Thanks!

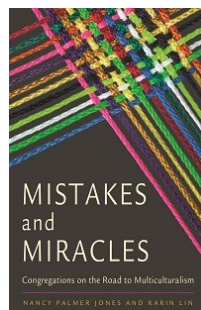


UUA Common Read begins in November

November 8 6:15-7:30pm on Zoom, continuing for six sessions on the second Tuesday of the month

Every year, the UUA selects a Common Read for congregations. This year, People's Church will participate, with conversations facilitated by Rev. Rachel and members of the dismantling racism team.

Authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explored five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community. In *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* (Skinner House Books, 2019), they shared the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.



For more information -- or to order the book -- please contact Rev. Rachel at minister@peopleschurch.net or 269-389-9721. For the first session, we will be reading the introduction and forward. The book is available from the UUA bookstore, an ebook is available from Amazon.com, and a audiobook is coming soon.

Congregational Conversation #4: Accountability

In-person: Sunday, October 23, 12:15-1pm
Online: Monday, October 24, 7-7:45pm

'Accountably' is the word in the newly adopted bylaws that has provoked the strongest feelings and the most questions. Join with other People's people to discuss this tricky word and what it could mean for us to be a church that 'accountably dismantles racism and all forms of oppression.' Attendees at this conversations are encouraged to also attend the Service on October 23 which is also focused on accountability. RSVP to one or both sessions here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-congregational2>



An Introduction to Queer Theology

Are you interested in the intersection of Christianity and issues of sexuality and gender? Then join us for this online introductory discussion about queer theology. We'll learn together about what it is and why it matters. Spoiler: it's more than discussing why LGBTQIA people can be Christian. Queer theology also asks what revelations can be found in the lives of people who don't fit within



"traditional" boundaries. During the workshop, we'll also make time for attendees to share their own experiences as LGBTQIA people and allies. The workshop will be held on Zoom from 6:30 to 8 pm on Thursday, October 27, 2022. This event is hosted by Phoenix Community Church, UCC, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89680941523?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89680941523?pwd=YU9jOUUpXMzBEldpWMFJ5VjdmT2NlZz09)

[pwd=YU9jOUUpXMzBEldpWMFJ5VjdmT2NlZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89680941523?pwd=YU9jOUUpXMzBEldpWMFJ5VjdmT2NlZz09)

Library Corner



These pamphlets are among the collection in the Pamphlet Rack which is located on the far right wall of the foyer before you enter the Commons. (Pictured right)

Published by the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association), the pamphlet texts bring better understanding to the variety of beliefs and backgrounds of fellow UU's.



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 (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).



Questions/ comments are welcomed. Please contact Lois Loeffler, chair of the Library Committee, at loisloeffler@gmail.com.

All Our Contributions are Needed

It is that time of year when the seasons are changing. The temperature is dropping and the leaves are demonstrating the majesty of turning beautiful colors and letting go. This autumn, our RE leaders are excited to be gathering together with our children and youth each week for religious learning and growth.

Our focus this year is on **cultivating young justice makers** who understand some of the injustices in the world and feel empowered and equipped to do what they can to make a positive difference. Keep your eyes out around church for evidence of what they are learning and doing throughout this church year!

Two **favorites** we are bringing back this year that we haven't done since the pandemic are **RE snacks and Specialty Classes**. We are having Specialty classes for the K-5th graders once a month and a similar experience for **6-12th graders called "Maker" Days**. Kids love the opportunity to create together and it is so valuable for them to get to choose what they want to do. It is also great to have them interact with **a variety of adults** from the congregation.

We will need a wide variety of adults in our congregation to say YES, to answer the call to help lead or assist with a **Specialty Class/Maker Days** this year. The commitment is only one Sunday at a time and the benefits are many! Do you have a hobby or passion you'd like to share with our kids this year? Can you agree to help someone else lead an activity a Sunday this year?

You, yes, **you are Needed**. If a volunteer contacts you to help, please consider carefully before you reply. If you don't get asked to help but would like to, please contact Mary Kate Webster at tomandmarykate@gmail.com.

As a community where **everyone contributes**, we can best minister to and raise our UU children and youth as vital members of our congregation!

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Religious Education Director

We Are Justice Makers

All are welcome to join in with our weekly religious education classes for children and youth! This year we are actively cultivating young Justice Makers.



All K-12th graders will be exploring injustices at age appropriate levels while learning about those who are making a positive difference.

Activities and discussions will help our young UU's understand and respond to a variety of current issues in meaningful ways. We hope they will feel empowered to work together to bring forth more equity, liberation and justice in the world.

Preschool - Chalice Children Children will learn about our church, UUism and our rituals and values. We offer a space for curiosity to flourish as children play together.

K-2nd Grade and 3rd-5th Grades - Justice for All Children will work together to create a peaceful world where we can live sustainably with all people and other species. Cultivating empathy and a sense of responsibility to understand and address injustices.

6-8th Grades - Justice Makers - We will address social justice, animal protection and environmental ethics and how they can make a positive difference.

9-12th Grades - Be the Change and Heeding the Call - We aspire to cultivate the qualities of justice makers in our teens and support them as they **live out their faith at the intersection of race, identity and justice**.



Mystic Lake Middle School Retreat for 6-8th graders - November 4-6, 2022

UU youth from around the state gather together to enjoy this **fun weekend at a beautiful YMCA camp**. A perennial favorite among youth for over 20 years, kids have lots of fun while meeting other UU youth and deepening connections with their church friends. Engaging activities and fun abound! Register before 10/17.

For more information: <http://peopleschurch.net/religious-education/mystic-lake-2022/> Register here: <https://forms.gle/o3Toe5qSUCbcLyA66>



Mindfulness and Meditation Group

First Thursdays of Oct., Nov., & Dec
6:30-7:30 pm in Room 19 (In person only)

All are invited to join in this hour of practicing mindfulness and meditation together to remind ourselves of how we most aspire to live our lives. Opportunities to practice and share together enrich our lives, touch our hearts and feed our souls. Contact Diane Melvin at re@peopleschurch.net with questions.

Jewel Heart Tibetan Buddhist Center: Opening the Compassionate Heart in a Difficult World: Connecting with Others in Our Divisive Environment Featuring Demo Rinpoche, speaker

Saturday, October 29; 1-3pm At People's Church

Buddhism teaches that all beings want happiness, and wish to be free of suffering. In this public talk, Demo Rinpoche speaks to the difficulty of maintaining an open heart toward others in a world that increasingly seeks to divide.



Demo Rinpoche is the resident spiritual director at Jewel Heart International. He was educated in India and received his master's degree in Inter-Religious Engagement from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He is currently based in Ann Arbor. Rinpoche offers free weekly teachings in person and online.

Study Group

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday October 24 at 7:30, via Zoom, to discuss *Humankind*:



A Hopeful History, by Rutger Bregman, Bregman is a historian and journalist who argues that cooperation and kindness are more natural to human beings than is sometimes believed.

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.

Discussion Group

**10/1 IN-PERSON MEETING 10:30 - 12,
ROOM 8 - ALL WELCOME**



If you enjoy lively exchanges from a wide range of ideas, please plan to join us any 1st Saturday of the month during this church year.. Kay Spade is

our new discussion moderator, and presenter of the 10/1 meeting's topic: COVID, its impact world-wide, nationally, locally (a brief review) then **personally**. Hoping to hear some stories/ insights from those who wish to share, of changes which the pandemic made in everyday lives.

If you'd like to receive meeting reminders and any suggested background readings (usually a few public media articles) contact Pat Nelson (patnelson348@gmail.com).

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.

Film Discussion

Continues to meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Participants volunteer to suggest 3 films; everyone votes and highest vote-getter becomes the movie to be reviewed that month. Amy Meyer will be suggesting films for this month. 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.

Additional Refugee needs

Last winter, we established a Free Clothing, Toy & Fabric store for our refugee friends, located at the Congregation of Moses on Stadium Drive. Response has been very positive, as families are able to shop & choose nice things for themselves. There are new refugees arriving regularly. We are currently open M-F 9-3:00 by appointment.

We are especially in need of children's clothing, (especially size 6 and up), tweens, smaller men's clothing, coats, shoes & boots (all sizes & genders) as well as toys. All gently used clothing welcome as well as large pieces of fabric that would be suitable for clothing. If you are interested in donating, you can take items to the Congregation of Moses 9-1, M-F or contact Colleen VanSlambrouck 269-341-0573. Volunteers also needed & appreciated

In Memoriam: Jean Bright

We celebrate the life and mourn the death of People's Church member Jean Bright, who died on Saturday, September 10. A memorial service will be held for her on Sunday, October 9 at 2:30pm at People's Church. This service will also be livestreamed to Zoom at <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326>.

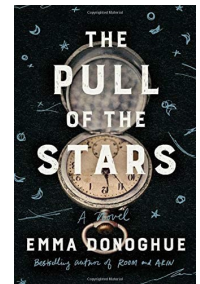


Assistance is needed for the reception! If you are willing and able to help, please contact Donna McClurkan at 269-779-6260 or dcmclurkan@gmail.com

Afternoon Book Club

Thursday October 20 1:30 to 3:00

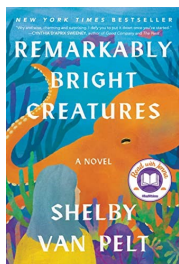
The Afternoon Book Group will meet from 1:30 to 3:00 on Thursday, October 20 at the Friendship Village Clubhouse. Marj Lightner will lead the discussion of "The Pull of the Stars" by Emma Donoghue. Newcomers are welcome. We ask that all attendees are vaccinated. Please do not attend if you have any Covid symptoms. Contact Marj at marjlightner56@gmail.com for directions or questions.



Evening Book Club

Thursday, 10/13 6-7:30

Continues on the 2nd Tuesday 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 "Featured News". For more information and/or to get on the email list for reminders, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com.



"Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt will be the focus on October 13, reviewed by Mary Montgomery Clifford.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Saturday	October 1	Building & Grounds Work Day	10:00am	At Church
		Discussion Group	10:30am	Room 8
Sunday	October 2	Sunday Service: The Congregation is the Curriculum	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
Tuesday	October 4	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	October 5	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
Thursday	October 6	Mindfulness Meditation	6:30pm	Room 19
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Friday	October 7	Pasty Making	1:00pm	Church Kitchen
		Family Campout	6:00pm	Church Grounds
Saturday	October 8	Pasty Making	9:00am	Church Kitchen
Sunday	October 9	Sunday Service: Membership Celebration	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
		Memorial Service: Jean Bright	2:30pm	Commons and Zoom
Tuesday	October 11	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	October 12	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Bazaar Planning Meeting	6:30pm	Zoom
Thursday	October 13	Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Zoom
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Friday	October 14	Pasty Making	1:00pm	Church Kitchen
Saturday	October 15	Pasty Making	9:00am	Church Kitchen
Sunday	October 16	Sunday Service: Because Every Body is Sacred	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
Monday	October 17	Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Outside at church or Zoom
Tuesday	October 18	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	October 19	Bean Soup Mix Assembly	6:30pm	LI
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		RE Committee	6:30pm	Room 19
Thursday	October 20	Afternoon Book Club	1:30pm	Friendship Village
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	October 23	Sunday Service: Imagining Accountability	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
		Congregational Conversation #4	12:00pm	Church Grounds
		Rise Up & Sing Concert	7:00pm	Commons
Monday	October 24	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
Tuesday	October 25	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Facing Life, Facing Death	1:30pm	Zoom
		ISAAC Public Meeting	6:30pm	Commons
Wednesday	October 26	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
Thursday	October 27	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Saturday	October 29	Jewel Heart: Demo Rinpoche	12:00pm	Commons
Sunday	October 30	Sunday Service: Getting the Death You Want (Maybe)	10:45am	Commons and Zoom

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."**