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People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 84, Issue 10

June 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

June 4

Youth/Milestones Service



This Sunday, we will mark the milestones, transitions, and learnings in our community this year. We will dedicate ourselves to babies and young children in our community, welcome eighth graders as they transition into our youth program, and celebrate our youth who are bridging to young adulthood. We also will reflect on the learning and growing that we all have done this year. If you want to share with our community a sentence (or a very short video) about what you have learned this year, please send it to Rev. Rachel at minister@peopleschurch.net or give her a call at 269-389-9721.

June 11

Flower Celebration Centennial

In 1923, Czech Unitarians held the first flower service in Prague. Today, we continue the tradition of this anti-fascist holiday, celebrating human diversity and the legacy of Czech Unitarian minister Norbert Čapek. We will be celebrating in the style of contemporary Unitarians of Prague, Czechia. All in-person attendees are invited to bring a flower (or something with a flower on it – perhaps a photograph or a cupcake or a drawing?) – to share. If you are not able to attend in-person, we will have flowers and flowered items to exchange all week at the church – or please contact Rev. Rachel (269-389-9721, minister@peopleschurch.net) to arrange for a mini flower ritual at a time or place convenient to you.



Summer Services



This year our broad theme for summer services is “Navigating the Unexpected.” People's People will speak on this theme in a variety of ways. Each service will include a ten-minute reflection from a speaker followed by group discussion. Summer services will be multiplatform, taking place both in the Commons and over Zoom. Services begin at 10:45.

- **June 18:** Darryl Loiacano
- **June 25:** GA Worship Livestream
- **July 2:** Amber Stilson & Rev. Rachel Lonberg
- **July 9:** Heather Renter
- **July 16:** Matthew Miller
- **July 23:** Rev. Rachel Lonberg
- **July 30:** Gordon Bolar
- **August 6:** Brian Lewis
- **August 13:** Rev. Rachel Lonberg
- **August 20:** Josh Holcomb
- **August 27:** Tim Kieffer
- **September 3:** Matthew Morris McCormick

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

From the Minister



Dear ones,

Summer is near – and summer is a special season at People's Church.

Our summer services are coming. I recently described summer services to a newcomer to our church as 'lower in production values but deeper in intimacy.' In July and August, I only lead worship once per month; the other Sundays are led by People's people. The reflections they offer are usually deeply meaningful. Nearly every Sunday features discussion of the day's topic, which is its own source of wisdom and insight. Though the summer is more lightly attended than the services during our 'program year,' it is a wonderful time to nurture connections with People's people and engage with services about topics that I don't have the expertise or experience to tackle.

The summer is also the time that I set aside larger pieces of time for study and planning. Next year, many of our children will be learning more about Unitarian Universalism in their religious education classes. I'm planning to echo that in our Sunday services. If you have a favorite historical moment or person in our religious tradition; a piece of UU theology that particularly inspires you; or a question about who we are, please let me know. If it's a topic that interests you, that's probably true for others in the church.

Wishing you all moments of connection and times of slowness this summer,
Rachel

Rev. Rachel away June 19-21

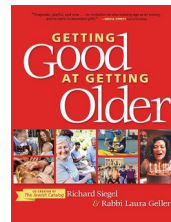
Rev. Rachel will be out of town June 19-21 attending the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA. She will be largely away from email during this time. If you need to reach her, please call or text her at 269-389-9721.



Getting Good at Getting Older book study

Tuesday, June 27 1:30pm-3pm
On Zoom: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326>

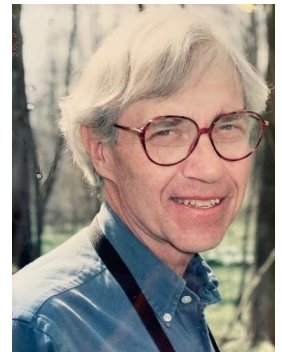
For this session, we will be reading Part 3 'Getting Good at Getting Better,' which is focused on physical and emotional health, which includes tending to our own health, supporting others who are sick and living with grief. All People's people who are navigating aging are welcome at this session, even if you haven't at-



Richard Brewer Tree Dedication

Friday, June 2, 9am

Gather at the Friendship Village Clubhouse (4309 Persianwood Drive) for coffee and pastries before walking to the Village Woods for a dedication ritual at a tree planted in Richard Brewer's honor.



Child Dedication Ritual June 4

A child dedication ritual is the special way we welcome children into our church community. The church community dedicates itself to the children and promises to support them and their parents, guardians, and caregivers. We will be having a child dedication ritual as part of the Sunday Service on June 4. If you would like your family to participate or have questions, please contact Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net



People's @ Kalamazoo Pride: June 3rd, 12pm-6pm



Each year, Kalamazoo Pride brings together over 8,000 people of all ages, genders, sexual orientations, and racial identities from South-west 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 sun-screen, water, and a chair.

Sign Ups for White Elephant Sale Now Live!

Sign ups are now open to volunteer to help with the upcoming White Elephant Sale. Check out the available spots here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ba9ac22a13-white4#. Sign up for as many as you are able!! It takes a lot of hands to make the event successful!

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. Please bring your gently used and in working condition household décor, kitchen items, books, small furnishings, children's toys and more!!!

The drop offs will be collected downstairs in rooms L1/L2.

Drop Off Schedule:

- Thursday June 1st 4pm-7pm
- Sunday June 4th 12pm-2pm
- Wednesday June 7th 4pm-7pm
- Thursday June 8th 4pm-7pm
- Sunday June 11th 12pm-2pm
- Wednesday June 14th 4pm-7pm
- Thursday June 15th 4pm-7pm

The White Elephant team is **NOT** ACCEPTING the following:

- Clothing
- Electronics (tvs, computers etc.)
- Large items (if it's too big to fit in a car – it's too big for the White Elephant sale!!)

White Elephant Sale

Saturday, June 17
(rain or shine!)

9:00am - 2:00pm

People's Church of Kalamazoo
1758 N 10th St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

- Household decor
- Kitchen items
- Small furnishings
- Books
- Children's toys
- And More!!!!

PEOPLE'S CHURCH of Kalamazoo

Social Justice Coordinating Committee Update

This month, the SJCC will complete allocations of funds available for distribution from the Community Service and Outreach Fund. This Fund was created by a generous endowment from the estate of former members Dr. George and Virginia Hoeksema.

Dr. Hoeksema was a beloved general practitioner providing care to a small rural community for many decades. Mrs. Hoeksema served the community as a teacher, including some years as the only teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, and as an advocate for the natural environment. Their deep compassion for a just and humane community, and our church's role in this endeavor, lives on through this Fund. The specified purpose of the fund is for distributions to "be used to further the church's mission of supporting individual and collective service to and within the larger community for social responsibility efforts in the broader community at large".

Expenditures from the endowment for this church year were:

\$500 to support emergency housing for a Lincoln School family who had lost their home and all their belongings in a fire

\$230 to purchase a stroller for Cradle Kalamazoo Baby Shower Drive, sponsored by the Metro Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP.

\$100 as part of a group sponsorship for Dine 4 Justice Event hosted by BLOCKS Club to support efforts to empower local youth.

The remaining balance (@\$1500) will be donated to El Concillio/Hispanic American Council's Capital Campaign.



Save the Date! The ISAAC Walk/Run/Roll event will take place on September 9th at 1:30pm. It will be at Spring Valley Park. Mark your calendars to join this event moving towards wellness, unity and equity!

Special Collection – ISAAC

June 11th

This month, ISAAC will be the recipient of our special collection. Dr. Charlae Davis, Executive Director, will be with us to share a few words about ISAAC's good work.

ISAAC is an interfaith organizing group of 30 congregations and strategic partners working together to build a more just community; united to accomplish policy-level changes that could not be done on our own. ISAAC is supported by member congregations, individual donors, foundations, and grass-roots fundraisers.

Every two years, hundreds of members from the congregations listen to community needs, especially from voices less often heard, and assemble to vote on the most pressing issues of injustice in Kalamazoo County. Task forces are formed that identify the root causes of and possible solutions for those injustices. Leaders engage in direct actions that call for relevant public officials, elected and appointed, to commit to use their power to remedy the situation. Officials are asked to be accountable to their commitments at the annual Public Meeting with our members.

Peoples church was a founding member of ISAAC and has been an active partner in supporting the work of ISAAC and its task forces over the 20 years since. Our people have provided financial support for the organization and participated in task forces that led to system changes in access to affordable housing, resources to pay for high quality preschool, advocacy for services to reduce racial disparities and incidence of infant mortality, antiracism training for public officials, clergy, and members, and more.

Immediately following the service, please come join us in room 9 to welcome Dr. Charlae in a Meet and Greet. Your questions will be welcomed. Snacks will be served.



Q&A for Potential Leaders to Join the Bazaar Steering Team



Sunday, June 4th, immediately after church, members of the Bazaar Steering Team will be in the foyer.

If you would like to explore stepping up to serve as a co-chair for one of the

Bazaar work groups - People's Specialties, Café, Publicity, Set-Up, Artist/Vendors, etc. - please come by and talk with us to learn more. Have a cookie, ask your questions, consider the options. Thank you!



I Wish Someone Would...

When's the last time you took a look at the 'I Wish Someone Would...' board? New ideas and comments get added all of the time so make sure you don't miss out! You can access the board online [HERE!](#) Reminder on how the board works:



- Review ALL of the great ideas posted
- Add your name to the comments if you are willing and able to help make the idea happen
- Hit the heart/like button if you think it's a great idea but aren't able to make it happen.
- Post your own ideas to the board (you can do so anonymously if desired!) because chances are, someone else has had the same idea or there's someone who can help make your idea a reality. Adding an idea does NOT mean you are volunteering to make the idea happen!
- A number of ideas that have been posted on the board have already been implemented and more are in the planning stages and coming soon!

People's Church of Kalamazoo

&

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of
SW Michigan (UUC)



• vegetarian pot luck •

June 10

11:00 - 2:00

Milham Park

(South Pavilion)



We are so excited to be sharing fellowship and good food with our friends at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church on **June 10 from 11:00 - 2:00!** Please bring a **vegetarian** dish to pass and if you're pining for a veggie burger, there are grills outside of our gathering place, which is the **South Pavilion at Milham Park** (across from Loy Norrix High School).

We're going as close to zero-waste as possible and appreciate your bringing your own serving piece for the shared dish, utensils, plate, and a napkin. Bring a beverage, too, if you want something other than water (which will be provided). The pavilion has large picnic-style tables with seating, electricity and plenty of cover in case it's hot or rainy, and there's a new playground for the kids!

Green Spot — A Rain Garden at People's Church



Kimberly Ginn and the Green Sanctuary Committee have been working together to create a rain garden at People's Church. There are many environmental benefits to having a rain garden in areas that naturally collect water. The plants will filter pollutants from hard surface run-off, lessen mosquito habitat and provide nectar for pollinators.



Our rain garden will be located in the area between the two parking lots, which often accumulates standing water when it rains. It will also beautify the grounds for us humans, letting visitors know that People's church works to improve our environment for all.

The building process will start in late August, and will consist of preparing the ground for planting, planting, and moving sod from the garden area to a nearby low-lying spot. Volunteers will be needed, both as part of the construction and to help water the plants until they are well established. We are looking forward to having a rain garden at People's Church!

Building & Grounds Work Day Saturday June 3rd 10:00am-1:00pm

The Building & Grounds Committee is organizing a church-wide work day to take care of some larger tasks and to spruce up our building and grounds for summer. The biggest project will be working on gardening of the front terraces.



Please dress appropriately, bring work gloves and tools if you have them, and be prepared for a great opportunity to have fun, improve our facility, and build our

community!

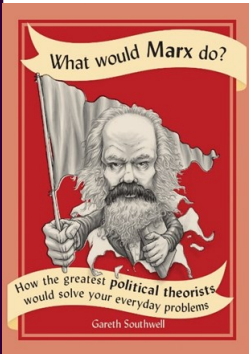
Want to be a Delegate to the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly?

From June 21-25, Unitarian Universalists are gathering online and in person in Pittsburgh, PA to do the work of our association. The business agenda includes the election of a new UUA president (there is one candidate, running unopposed) and updates to Article II of the UUA bylaws, which includes the principles and sources. If you are a People's Church member who would like to serve as a voting representative of People's Church (a "delegate" in UU-speak), please contact Rev. Rachel. As this newsletter goes to press, we have several delegate spots still to fill.



Library Corner

What Would Marx Do? How the Greatest Political Theorists Would Solve Your Everyday Problems, by Gareth Southwell



Karl Marx lived in an uncannily familiar time, one of concentrated wealth and ultra-conservatism that oppressed the majority economically and politically. It is a time that challenges the best of us, so perhaps it is no surprise that people would turn to him for insight.

This book uses 40 everyday questions as springboards to

explore Marx's theories and those of the other great political and social theorists, and in the process, help us make difficult decisions.

The situations are ones that we might encounter which challenge our morality, free will and responsibility to society. For example:

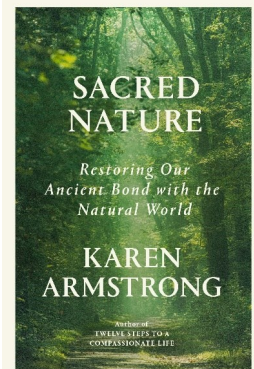
- Should I bother to vote?
- Who should look after the baby?
- Do you earn enough?
- My car has just been stolen! But can I hold the thieves responsible?
- Should I watch what I say on Twitter?
- Should your children benefit from your success?

Is it wrong to want a bigger house?

Informative text and quirky illustrations, including humorous caricatures, leave readers with a better grasp on social philosophy, from Marxism and Libertarian Socialism to Populism. On display or to be found in 170.44 So

Sacred Nature; Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World, by Karen Armstrong

Much has been written on the scientific and technological aspects of climate change.... But Armstrong's book is both more personal and more profound. Its urgent message is that hearts and minds need to change if we are to once more learn to revere our beautiful and fragile planet." —The Guardian



Since the beginning of time, humankind has looked upon nature and seen the divine. In the writings of the great thinkers across religions, the natural world inspires everything from fear, to awe, to tranquil contemplation; God, or however one defined the sublime, was present in everything. Yet today, even as we admire a tree or take in a striking landscape, we rarely see nature as sacred.

The best-selling historian of religion Karen Armstrong re-sacralizes nature for modern times. Drawing on her vast knowledge of the world's religious traditions, she vividly describes nature's central place in spirituality across the centuries. In bringing this age-old wisdom to life, Armstrong shows modern readers how to rediscover nature's potency and form a connection to something greater than ourselves. On display or to be found in 202.12 Ar

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



Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Club will be taking a break for June & July. If you have a general question or want to get on the email list for reminders, contact Pat Nelson (patnelson348@gmail.com) We'll be choosing books for next church year at a meeting this summer, TBA.

For all the time you spent with our children and youth...

For your patience....

For every pivot in lesson or format or style to match the childrens' needs...

For every time you listened...

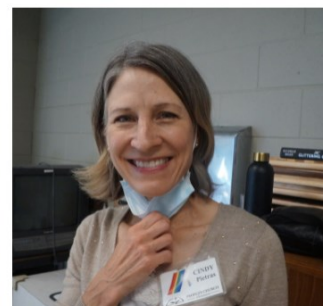
For every lesson our children learned from you...

For making each child feel loved and safe...

For doing everything with great love...

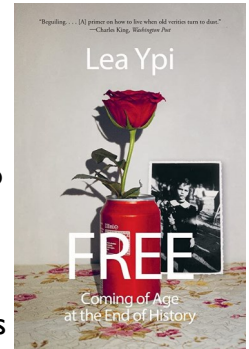
THANK YOU, RE TEACHERS!





Study Group

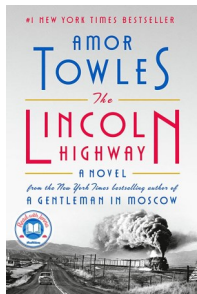
The Study Group will be meeting on Monday June 26 at 7:30, via Zoom, to discuss "Free: Coming of Age at the End of History", by Lea Ypi. Ypi, a political theorist at the London School of Economics, writes about her own experience in growing up in Albania around the time of the fall of Communism, and relates this experience to broader thoughts about what truly promotes freedom. 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.



Afternoon Book Club

The Afternoon Book Group will meet on June 15th at 1:30 to discuss "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles. Lori Rupe will lead the discussion at the Friendship Village Clubhouse. Marj Lightner is the contact person for questions or directions: marjlightner56@gmail.com

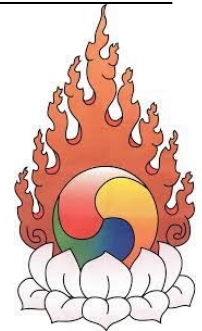
At our August meeting, we will decide what books to read for the 2023/24 church year so think about what you want to recommend.



Jewel Heart Instructors Present: SEM: The Nature of Mind

Tuesdays, May 9-July 18; 7-8:30pm At People's Church

Based on teachings delivered by Gelek Rimpoche on the nature of mind, this course addresses the relationship between energy and mind, the mind's capacity for liberation and wisdom, and continuity of consciousness. One needn't be Buddhist to benefit from this course. All are welcome! Free of Charge/Donations Welcome! To register, email west-mi@jewelheart.org or call/text 734-223-0660



People's Church Collects Cans & Bottles!

As a reminder: PLEASE make sure the cans and bottles you are returning are empty and rinsed!!

The folks that pick these are up volunteers so please be respectful!

Please help support the wonderful work of BLM Mealtrain Kzoo/BC 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). Please only drop off cans and bottles that are able to be returned for their \$.10 deposit.



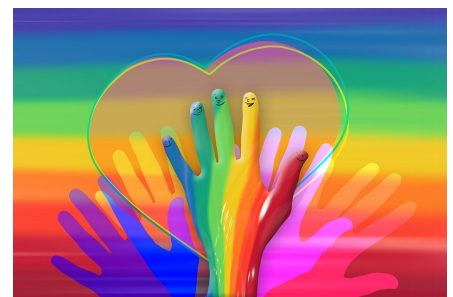
Interfaith Pride Service: Queer Joy

Sunday, June 24, 4pm

At First Presbyterian Church, 321 W. South Street, Kalamazoo

This service of music and personal reflection focused on the theme of Queer Joy is part

of our community's Pride Celebration. All people are invited to attend what will surely be an inspiring service.



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Thursday	June 1	White Elephant Drop-offs	4-7pm	LI/L2
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Friday	June 2	Richard Brewer Tree Dedication	9:00am	Friendship Village
Saturday	June 3	Work Day	10:00am	At Church
Sunday	June 4	Sunday Service: Youth/Milestones	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
		White Elephant Drop-offs	12-2pm	LI/L2
		Q&A for Bazaar	12:15pm	Foyer
Tuesday	June 6	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
Wednesday	June 7	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		White Elephant Drop-offs	4-7pm	LI/L2
Thursday	June 8	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
		White Elephant Drop-offs	4-7pm	LI/L2
Friday	June 9	Sunday Services Committee	4:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	June 11	Sunday Service: Flower Celebration Centennial	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
		ISAAC Meet & Greet	12:00pm	Room 9
		White Elephant Drop-offs	12-2pm	LI/L2
Tuesday	June 13	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	June 14	White Elephant Drop-offs	4-7pm	LI/L2
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
Thursday	June 15	White Elephant Drop-offs	4-7pm	LI/L2
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Saturday	June 17	WHITE ELEPHANT SALE	9am-2pm	At Church
Sunday	June 18	Summer Service: Darryl Loiacano	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
Monday	June 19	Peace & Nature Camp	9am-4pm	At Church
Tuesday	June 20	Peace & Nature Camp	9am-4pm	At Church
Wednesday	June 21	Peace & Nature Camp	9am-4pm	At Church
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		RE Committee	6:30pm	Room 19
Thursday	June 22	Peace & Nature Camp	9am-4pm	At Church
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Friday	June 23	Peace & Nature Camp	9am-4pm	At Church
Sunday	June 25	Summer Service: GA Worship Livestream	10:45am	Commons and Zoom
Monday	June 26	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
Tuesday	June 27	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Facing Life, Facing Death	1:30pm	Zoom
Wednesday	June 28	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
Thursday	June 29	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons

People's Church
News & Views
1758 N. 10th St.
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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."**