



1758 North Tenth St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Phone: 269-375-3262
Fax: 269-375-3270
office@peopleschurch.net

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| From the Minister | 2 |
| Picture Directory | 3 |
| Musicians & Singers | 3 |
| SJCC | 4 |
| Green Spot | 6 |
| Library Corner | 7 |
| Religious Education | 8-9 |
| Calendar | 11 |



People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 84, Issue 11

July 2023

Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

The Zoom link for People's Church services is: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326> or
By phone: 1-646-876-9923, ID: 552 766 7326



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.

Our summer speakers are as follows:

- **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

Summer Religious Education



Our structured RE program goes on summer break, but we'll have fun activities for kids during the Sunday service time. Nursery will be available. All kids should meet at 10:45am in room 19 (big room at the top of the stairs) for summer RE! If you have questions, contact Mary Kate Webster at 269-501-3854 or tomandmarykate@gmail.com.

Staff Time Off in July

- Rev. Rachel will be on vacation July 3rd-July 9th.
- Melissa, office administrator, will be on vacation July 7th-July 11th.
- Rev. Rachel will be taking study leave the weeks of July 10, July 24, and July 31. These are weeks that she is 'released' from regular responsibilities (though if you have a meeting scheduled with her during that time, you can still expect her to show up).
- Diana, church bookkeeper, will be on vacation July 20th-July 25th.



From the Minister



Dear People's people,
For me, July brings a welcome slowness after a frantic spring season. Without preparing full sermons most weeks, I have time and capacity for deeper thinking, planning, and study and collaboration – and to take breaks.

I will be on vacation in early July – July 3 to 9. My best friend and her family will be visiting from Oregon. I am excited to show them Kalamazoo.

I will be taking study leave the weeks of July 10, July 24, and July 31. These are weeks that I am 'released' from regular responsibilities (though if you have a meeting scheduled with me during that time, you can still expect me to show up). I'm planning to read a few books, take an online course on preventing clergy sexual misconduct (a class on this topic is required of me every three years to remain in good standing as a Unitarian Universalist minister), prepare worship themes for the first half of the church year, and make plans to implement some of the policies implemented by the board over the last year.

If you would like to join me in study this summer, I invite you to read *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World* by Danya Ruttenberg. This excellent book by a Reform Rabbi was the inspiration for our service on 'The Art of Apology' last February. It has also been selected as the UUA Common Read for the upcoming church year. We will likely have a class for adults on this book in the coming year. The Kalamazoo and Portage Public Libraries both have paper copies. E-books and Audiobooks are available in the regular places. Please let me know if you

read this book and would like to be part of a conversation about it in the fall.

A final unrelated note for this column:

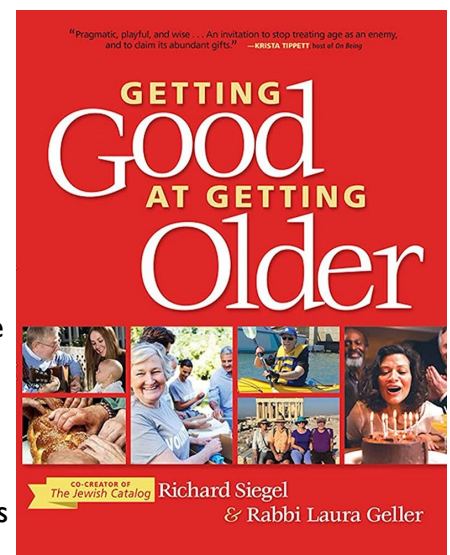
If you would like to 'friend' me on Facebook, please do. It is my practice not to friend People's people, and accept any of you who request to be my online friend. (I know not everyone wants their clergyperson reading their status updates.) My Facebook feed is mostly pictures of my family. If you don't follow me on Facebook, you won't be missing any important church content – that's shared on our more official channels. If you want to catch glimpses of my children, please find me online.

Take good care,
Rachel

Getting Good at Getting Older book study

Tuesday, July 18 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 attended the previous sessions.



Picture Directory Coming Soon!

This summer, by popular demand, Melissa will be putting together an updated picture directory. This will be a much simpler version than the yearbook style that has been done in the past and the church will not be having a professional photographer. The directory, once complete, will be available on our church website in the password protected "Member Docs" section to ensure privacy. Paper copies can also be requested from the church office.

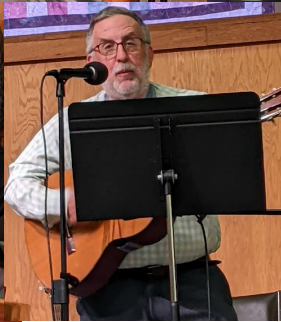
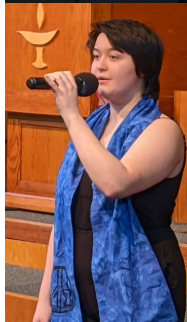
While I have a lot of great pictures of People's People here at church, if you have a nice photo of yourself, your family etc. please submit to the church office by **NO LATER** than July 15th. Both individual and household group photos are welcome! You can send via email to office@peopleschurch.net or via Google Photos to 'sundayinformation@gmail.com'. If you are unable to send the photo digitally, please feel free to bring it by the church office!



If you are a church member and do **NOT** wish to have a photo of yourself included, please let me know by July 15th! Otherwise, I will be using my best judgement to select the best recent photo I can from the church picture database for each church member who doesn't submit one.

Calling All Singers and Musicians!

Savannah is in the process of planning music for summer services and she needs your help! If you are interested in playing/performing/singing for one or more of these services, or if you would like more information, please get in touch with her at music@peopleschurch.net



Year End Special Collections Update

People's People are generous. Over the last year, we have been able to raise over \$14k in our monthly Special Collections to help out so many different wonderful organizations! Thank you to everyone's generosity!! To read more about any of our special collection recipients, check out our website here: <https://peopleschurch.net/featured-article/year-end-special-collections-update-2/>

September 2022: Lincoln School: \$1,354

For many years People's people have been intertwined with the students and staff at Lincoln Elementary. We hold a special annual collection for them at the beginning of the church/school year.



October 2022: YWCA Reproductive Health Fund: \$1,142

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+.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

November 2022: Black Lives Matter: \$1,103



This grassroots chapter is serving the Black communities of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, MI. Committed to being transparent with contributions, we aim to include the needs of *all* Black lives in our communities, especially the most marginalized.

December 2022: Ministry with Community: \$1,117

Ministry with Community is one of our traditional yearly recipients. MWC is a daytime shelter and resource center in downtown Kalamazoo. They are open 365 days a year to anyone who needs their services, including those experiencing homelessness, poverty, substance use disorder, and other crises.

MINISTRY WITH
COMMUNITY
rebuilding lives

January 2023: Community Homeworks Maternal Wellness and Small Child Pilot Program: \$996

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



February 2023: OutFront Kalamazoo- Legacy House: \$1,419



The Legacy House is a program of OutFront Kalamazoo. Legacy House offers transitional housing for LGBTQ+ young adults ages 18-24, who are navigating homelessness in Kalamazoo County.

March 2023: Loaves and Fishes: \$1,315

With help from people of all beliefs and backgrounds, Loaves & Fishes provides an average of 700 people with groceries each day.



April 2023: SWMLC: \$1,215



The special collection for April will benefit Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's (SWMLC) Stewardship Fund to support their efforts to promote climate resilience.

May 2023: El Concilio: \$1,261.25 (plus an additional \$1,887.01 from the People's Church Social Justice Coordinating Committee)

El Concilio serves Latinx residents of Kalamazoo through preschool, translation services, educational mentoring, bilingual counseling, cultural programs and much much more.



June 2022: ISAAC: \$1,447.44



ISAAC (Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy & Action in the Community) 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.



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: <https://padlet.com/PeoplesChurch/Ivo4v0pcvh14ck70>

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!



BELOVED COMMUNITY WALK/RUN/ROLL

Moving Towards Wellness, Unity and Equity

September 9, 2023

1:30pm

Spring Valley Park

- Open To All Ages 0-100+
- Wheelchair, Walker and Stroller Friendly
- Choose your Own Pace & Distance
- Register by August 1 for the lowest costs!

**Childcare
Provided**

**Music,
Singing,
Dancing
and Food!**

**Wellness,
Community
and Faith
Vendors**

**Unity,
Fellowship,
Faith, Hope,
Wellness**

To Register: -Go to runsignup.com
 -Click "Find a Race" Or **Go to the Link**
 -Type in: **ISAAC** & click enter runsignup.com/Raceracelid=148711

You're invited to the **"ISAAC - Beloved Community Walk/Run/Roll: Moving Towards Wellness, Unity and Equity"** on Saturday, September 9, 1:30-6:30, at Spring Valley Park, Mt. Olivet Rd, in Kalamazoo. * Open to all ages 0-100+ * Wheelchair, walker and stroller friendly * Set your own pace & distance * Childcare provided * Children 6-12 years old \$10 registration * Music, singing, dancing, movement and food * Wellness, Community & Faith Vendors * **Register by August 1 for best prices**--includes T-shirt, hydration, snacks, awards celebration, performances & resource booklet * To Register go to runsignup.com, click "Find a Race", type in "ISAAC" and enter. Signing up as a pair or a small team will save you money!

Green Spot



On June 1 this year, People's Church marked 3 complete years of electricity production from our solar photovoltaic array. The results are encouraging for our future, both for the church's finances and for our carbon footprint. On average over those three years we have produced 22,770 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year. This represents over 39% of our electricity usage. All of this electricity is carbon free, as is about 20% of production from Consumers Energy, so approximately 1/2. of the church's electricity is presently from renewable, non-carbon sources. (The utility's plan is to eliminate all coal production by 2025, and to use 60% renewables by 2040.)

At the current rate of \$0.153 per kilowatt hour, the electricity we produce is worth \$3484 per year, although currently most of that goes toward the purchase of the installation. Once we pay off the loan, all this will benefit the church in the form of lower utility costs. We will be eligible to purchase the balance of our contract on

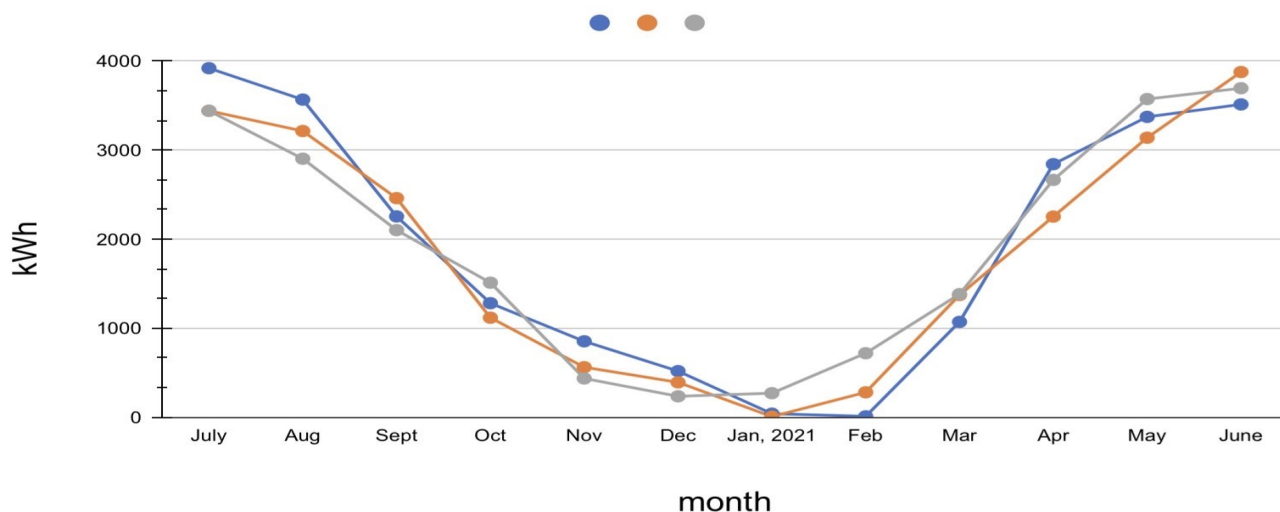
December 31, 2024, for an agreed upon price of just under \$40,000, or if we wish we can purchase it any year after that for a further reduced price.



The installation crew from Helios Solar on May 26, 2020

The solar system is part of a long-range plan of the Green Sanctuary Committee to move the church toward Net Zero carbon. Other efforts have included insulation of the walls in the classroom parts of the original building, LED lighting replacement throughout the building, high efficiency pumps and pipe insulation for the heat distribution from the boiler, and efficiency improvements in the ventilation system. This work is ongoing by the dedicated volunteers of the Building and Grounds committee. If you want to help please contact Tom Hackley.

Solar PV production at People's Church

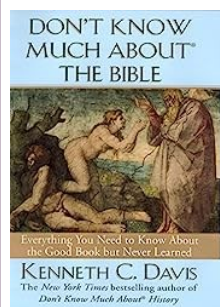


This chart shows the monthly electricity production over the past 3 years, and the seasonal variation from our solar panels.

Library Corner

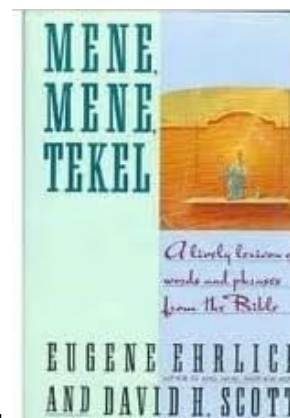
For word lovers, writers, Bible readers, and those who just like history/trivia:

Don't Know Much about the Bible, by Kenneth C. Davis



With wit, wisdom, and an extraordinary talent for turning dry, difficult reading into colorful and realistic accounts, the author brings the world of the Old and New testaments to life. Relying on new research and improved translations, Davis uncovers some amazing questions and contradictions about what the Bible really says. Jericho's walls may have tumbled down because the city lies on a fault line. Moses never parted the Red Sea. There was a Jesus, but he wasn't born on Christmas and he probably wasn't an only child. By examining the Bible historically, Davis entertains and amazes, provides a much better understanding of the subject, and offers much more fun learning about it. On display or shelved under 220.6 Da

Mene, Mene, Tekel; a Lively Lexicon of Words and Phrases from the Bible, by Eugene Ehrlich and David H. Scott



Entertaining as it explains, this book relates the origins, modern usages, and pronunciations of phrases, such as "doubting Thomas", "pride goes before a fall", and "pearls before swine" that have come from the Old and New Testaments and worked their way into our everyday speech.

On display or shelved under 220.3 Eh

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

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/peopleschurchhofkzoo

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

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

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

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

The RE Library begins in the middle of the front side of the low bookshelves, ending with RE picture books and fiction (J).

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



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...

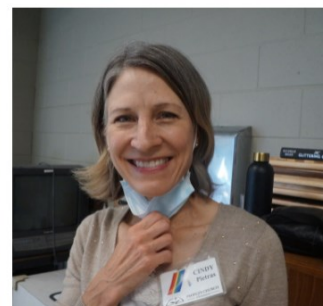
For every lesson our children learned from you...

For making each child feel loved and safe...

For doing everything with great love...

THANK YOU, RE TEACHERS!



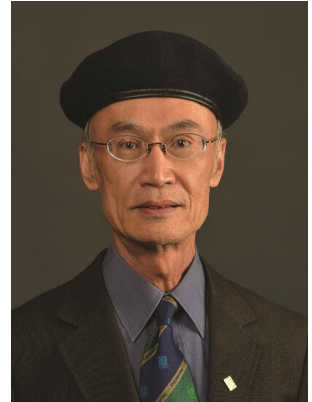


Committal Service for Edmund Tsang

**Monday, July 10, 11am
Mount Ever-Rest Memorial Park South
3941 S Westnedge Ave**

There will be a brief, graveside service for Edmund Tsang, a People's person who died in March 2020.

All People's Church people are invited. If you plan to attend, please let Rev. Rachel know, so she can tell the Tsang family how many people to plan for. You can reach Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net



Afternoon Book Club

We will not meet in July but will gather on August 17th to decide what books we want to read for the 2023-24 church year. The contact person is Marj Lightner: marjlightner56@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.

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.



Styrofoam (EPS Foam)

Recycling

The next quarterly Styrofoam recycling day will be Saturday, July 22, 10 am to 1 pm. There will be two sites:

- Mayors' Riverfront Park
- KVCC's main campus

Material must be labeled with the 6 symbol, and food containers must be rinsed. Insulation, lids, and packing peanuts are not accepted.



| Day | Date | Event | Time | Place |
|-----------|---------|---|---------|---------------------------|
| Sunday | July 2 | Summer Service: Amber Stilson & Rev. Rachel Lonberg | 10:45am | Commons and Zoom |
| | | Substance Use Disorder and Overdose Prevention training | 12:30pm | Room 19 |
| Tuesday | July 4 | OFFICE CLOSED | | |
| Wednesday | July 5 | Bell Choir Rehearsal | 5:30pm | At Church |
| Thursday | July 6 | Mindfulness Meditation | 6:30pm | Zoom |
| | | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00pm | At Church |
| Sunday | July 9 | Summer Service: Heather Renter | 10:45am | Commons and Zoom |
| Monday | July 10 | Committal Service—Edmund Tsang | 11:00am | Mount Ever-rest |
| Tuesday | July 11 | Building & Grounds | 10:00am | At Church |
| Wednesday | July 12 | Bell Choir Rehearsal | 5:30pm | At Church |
| | | Bazaar Planning Meeting | 6:30pm | Room 19 |
| Thursday | July 13 | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00pm | At Church |
| Sunday | July 16 | Summer Service: Matthew Miller | 10:45am | Commons and Zoom |
| Monday | July 17 | Green Sanctuary | 4:00pm | Outside at Church or Zoom |
| Tuesday | July 18 | Building & Grounds | 10:00am | At Church |
| | | Library Committee | 10:00am | At Church |
| | | Facing Life, Facing Death | 1:30pm | Zoom |
| Wednesday | July 19 | Bell Choir Rehearsal | 5:30pm | At Church |
| Thursday | July 20 | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00pm | At Church |
| Sunday | July 23 | Summer Service: Rev. Rachel Lonberg | 10:45am | Commons and Zoom |
| Monday | July 24 | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | | |
| Tuesday | July 25 | Building & Grounds | 10:00am | At Church |
| | | Dismantling Racism Team | 6:00pm | Zoom |
| Wednesday | July 26 | Finance Committee | 2:30pm | Zoom |
| | | Bell Choir Rehearsal | 5:30pm | Commons |
| Thursday | July 27 | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00pm | Commons |
| Sunday | July 30 | Summer Service: Gordon Bolar | 10:45am | Commons and Zoom |
| Monday | July 31 | CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED FOR FLOOR CLEANING (Through Friday August 4th.) | | |

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."**