

<u>'eople's Cl</u>

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 85, Issue 3

November 2023



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

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

November 5– All Souls Music Service

Join Peoples' musicians in song and remembrance at our All Souls music service.



November 12 – Harm Reduction as an Ethical Guide **Rev. Rachel Lonberg**

Inside this issue:

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Harm reduction is a set of practices and policies in public health **REDUCTION** to reduce the negative consequences of human behavior, recognizing that you can't force someone to make different choices, but you can work to make the consequences of their choices less catastrophic. (Needle exchange programs for IV drug SAVES LIVES users is an example of harm reduction.) In this service, Rev.

Rachel will apply the ethics of harm reduction to other areas,

showing how they might help us to live with integrity in this beautiful and broken world. We will also be devoting our special offering to COPE Network, which practices harm reduction in our community.

November 19 - Reflecting on The Lord's Prayer **Rev. Rachel Lonberg**

At a memorial service last summer, several hundred people in The Commons recited together 'Our Father Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed by Thy Name...' It was a powerful moment – and led Rev. Rachel to wonder what the words of that prayer Jesus taught meant in their original context – and what they might mean for us now.



November 26 – Toward Our Metamorphosis into Who Knows What **Rev. Chris Buice**



In June, thousands of Unitarian Universalists gathered for The Service of the Living of Tradition. In that service, Rev. Chris Buice preached on navigating change. This service will include a rebroadcast of some of that service, as well as in-person joys and sorrows and singing.

Rev. Chris Buice is the minister at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

From the Minister

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Dear People's people, As I write to you in late October, we are in the midst of a fall 'minifill a gap in our church annual budget. I wanted to share with you (again, perhaps) part of my sermon for this campaign on October 22:

We are in a time of

churn and transition. The pandemic hit us hard financially, as it did so many. We lost pledges. We lost rental and fundraiser income. We made it through. We participated in the federal Payroll Protection Program to balance our budget for two years. Last year, we asked our most generous givers to give more - and they responded with generosity. We have drawn from our savings and invested funds.

Last spring, when we were building the annual church budget, we couldn't make it work. Church leaders stared at the numbers and couldn't make the expenses as low as the income. We did what we could. We trimmed expenses from an already lean budget. Still there was a gap, a \$60,000 gap. That's about 15% of our roughly \$400,000 annual budget. The members of this church made a promise last spring when you approved a budget with an additional \$40,000 stewardship campaign - and now is the time to make good on this promise.

We can break down our \$40,000 goal in a few ways. It is every person or family who pledged in the spring increasing their pledge by 15%. It is every member giving an extra \$150 more. And we invite people who aren't giving money to the church to start now. Of course, these one-size-fits all number probably won't be right for you. Be generous, whatever that is for you.

My family will be making an additional gift of \$500. Perhaps you can join me at that level – or give or more. We are share our abundance with this com-

munity that helps us raise our children, and other people's children, rooted in our values - as well as everything else that happens in this community.

stewardship' campaign, to Your board, finance leaders, and I have had many conversations in the last six months about how to become a financially sustainable church. We have more questions than answers. Can we continue our commitment to paying all church employees a living wage? How can we move toward our goals of sustainability, paying off our solar panels and reaching our goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2030? Can we continue our current level of staffing? How can we continue to build the Beloved Community within and beyond our walls? How you respond to the campaign over the next few weeks will help us all answer those questions.

> You can make your pledge online at this link: https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8YK/campaign/C-14ENN?access=tile direct or by completing and returning the pledge form that was given to you or mailed to you.

Take good care, Rev. Rachel

Staff Time off in November

At the end of this month, there will be a number of days of staff time off. Please note the below dates!

- Rev. Rachel will be off Monday Nov. 20-Mon. Nov. 26
- Melissa Emrich (administrator) will be off Sunday Nov. 19-Saturday Nov. 25
- Diana Lundquist (bookkeeper) will be off Thursday Nov. 23-Wednesday Nov. 29



News and Notices

All in to Support the Bazaar! Saturday November 18th 9:00 - 3:00

Our Annual Bazaar is a signature event for our church and community. All our members, friends, and family members play a part in making it a success. The Bazaar supports our church budget, our programs and service to others, and introduces us to the wider

- community. Here are ways you can help!
 - Plan to do your holiday shopping at the Bazaar! It's hard to find a more interesting variety of gift items than you will find



at our Bazaar. Bring your list and find the perfect choices right here from 25 local vendors. Shop local! See who our 2023 artists are here: https://peopleschurch.net/news/bazaar-featured-artists-2023/ Also purchase tickets in the Commons to win one of three gorgeous raffle baskets with

contributed items from our artists. (Baskets are valued at \$250, tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20.) *Help promote the event!* Email the flyer (downloadable file here) to your friends, colleagues, neighbors and family and invite them to join you at the event. RSVP to our Facebook event. Share the event and post to your social networks. Please take bazaar flyers from the sign-up table if you go to places where these can be posted. Take the cards with you to your workplace

- and community events to share. Call a friend. Your personal invitations work best. **Put out a yard sign on Sunday morning, November 12th.** Our yard signs have been the best way to attract new customers, and due to your generous donations, we are thrilled that we will have an additional 26 signs to display throughout the community this year. Check out one of the signs
- at church on Sunday November 5th, or pick up the one you bought. **Make crafts or bake treats for Peoples Specialties.** The foyer will be beautifully arranged to sell your homemade items – crafts, breads, jams, baked goods, candies, vegan and gluten-free foods, and our famous frozen pasties. (No frozen entrees will be sold this year.) This is our main profitmaking area, and every item sold here comes from your generous contributions of your homemade goods. Sign up at church or here Specialty Contribution Sign Up HERE with what you will make. Please drop off your contributions on Friday the 17th between 4 and 7, if possible, or early

- on Saturday the 18th for pricing and arranging. Eager workers needed for Monday Madness. Sign Up HERE to come on Monday evening, **November 13th from 6** - 7:30 pm to help clear the Commons and Fover of chairs and furni-
- ture and to begin set up for the Bazaar. Pizza will be served! Youth are welcome!
- Sign up to work a shift at the Bazaar. Helpers will be needed for the Mini-Café, for salespeople to staff Peoples' Specialties tables; and many hands for cleaning up at 3 PM. Please sign-up at the Bazaar table in the foyer or <u>Clean Up Crew Sign Up HERE</u>, <u>Mini Café Sign Up HERE</u>, Specialty

Table Helpers Sign Up HERE, Greeters HERE.

- Help host our guests. Many people come to our Bazaar because they like the warm and friendly people. Please greet everyone and thank our vendors, too. **Grab lunch or coffee and pie at the Mini-café.** This year we will host a mini-café for our vendors
- and volunteers. Please note that the mini-café is NOT open to the general public. If you have volunteered to help with the Bazaar or contributed donated items, you are welcome to purchase your lunch or a treat and grab a beverage. Food will be served cafeteria style from the Kitchen, with food to be eaten in Room 9. (And we need folks to bake fruit pies to be served at the mini-café Sign Up HERE to contribute your homemade Fruit Pie). Since the mini-café will not be available to the public, please access it discreetly from the far hall to the rear of the church.

Questions? Please check with Melissa in the church office. Thank you for helping make this a huge success!

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SJCC Updates

News & Views

Special Offering to Benefit COPE Network

Sunday November 12



COPE Network (Community Outreach Prevention and Education Network) provides a variety of resources for people who use substances or have a history of using substances, as well as resources for their loved ones and the community at large. We offer art, music, and movement based classes, support group meetings, re-

covery oriented meetings, harm reduction supplies, and more.

You can learn more about COPE Network at https://www.copenetwork.org/

Substance Abuse and Overdose Prevention Training Sunday, November 12, 12:30-2:30pm, Room 19 Presented by Nancy King of COPE Network

This comprehensive training is designed to increase understanding, reduce stigma, and prevent fatal overdose due to substance use disorder/addiction. Everyone 18+ attending the training will be eligible for a free naloxone (NARCAN) kit. We offered this training in the summer and it was very well-received, so we are offering it again.

Advance registration is required. Please contact Rev. Rachel Lonberg at 269-389 -9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net by November 7.



Transgender Day of Remembrance Service Friday November 17, 11am, Stetson Chapel at Kalamazoo College

The chaplain's office of Kalamazoo College invites the whole community to gather for this solemn remembrance of transgender people who were killed this year. Rev. Rachel and other members of OutFront's Faith Alliance will be participating in this service.

Afghan requests Our Afghan Resettlement Team has gotten a request for a math tutor from one of our high school girls for tutoring Algebra 2. She lives in Candlewyck Apartments and does not have transportation.





A 12 year old Afghan boy has requested a hand weight set. If you have one you are no longer using please con-sider donating your set.

Contact Ann Feldmeier at 269-720-1649 or email:annfeldmeier2018@gmail.com



New Member Welcome Ceremony November 12, during the service

We will welcome our newest members during the service. If you would like to be recognized, please contact Rev. Rachel (and it's just fine if you'd rather not participate in this public ritual.)

The Stories of People's People

The newly rebuilt website has an area for personal testimonials/stories from People's People. If you would like to share something about why you love People's Church, please email it to Melissa at <u>office@peopleschurch.net</u>. For space reasons, please keep any testimonials no longer than 1-2 paragraphs. For privacy, unless requested otherwise, testimonials will be credited with the person's first name and last initial.

Inquirers Series

Every other Sunday, 12:30-1:30pm, with sessions held every other week until March (with an end-ofyear break). In Room 19, mostly

Visitors, newcomers, members, and anyone who wants more information about People's Church are invited to participate in the Inquirers Series.

A light lunch will be provided and childcare is available with one week's notice. The Inquirers series is nine session that introduce our congregation and Unitarian Univer-

salism. Each session is stand-alone; you are welcome to participate in as many as you're able to attend and interested in.

- November 12: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles, and Sources
- November 26: Religious Education
- December 10: Social Justice and Green Sanctuary Programs
- January 14: Sunday Services
- January 28: Building Tour
- February 11: People's Church History and Governance
- February 25: Chalice Circles and Pastoral Care
- March 10: Membership 101

For more information about this class, or to request childcare, please contact Rev. Rachel at <u>minis-ter@peopleschurch.net</u> or 269-389-9721.

It is helpful for our lunch planning if you register for the sessions that you plan to attend here: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-44518270-inquirers</u>#/ or by contacting Rev. Rachel.



Green Spot

Green Spot

Rain Garden Update

People's Church rain garden is progressing. The area has been dug out, shaped,



and planted. However, our recent rains have made it apparent that we need to do some tweaking. The garden is collecting a lot of standing water due to high clay content in the soil. While we want the garden to collect water, the clay is keeping it from seeping further into the soil in a timely manner. We will be meeting to help remedy this, weather permitting, on Saturday, October 28, at 9:30 a.m.

Please feel free to join us as we continue this garden adventure!



New Website is Now Live!

The church website, <u>peopleschurch.net</u> has been completely rebuilt and after some technical delays, I'm delighted to announce that it's finally up and running! Feel free to check it out! Please note that



access is restricted to the church directories in order to protect our members privacy. <u>Unlike our previous website</u>, <u>there is no generic login, all users must make their own</u> <u>account</u>! All requests to create an account will be reviewed by an administrator in order to protect the privacy of our members. All accounts must be approved before access is granted to these documents. If you have any questions, please reach out to Melissa at <u>office@peopleschurch.net</u>

Art Wall Exhibit: SPIRIT of the PEN

A Pen Dragons Calligraphy Guild Exhibit

Pen Dragons Calligraphy Guild currently consists of 55 artists who focus on the study, practice, and promotion of lettering arts.



The Guild members have exhibited their work in and around the Kalamazoo area and southwest Michigan for decades. This is their first ex-

hibit at People's Church. Pen Dragons members' skill levels range from beginner to professional.

They work in a multitude of lettering styles, or "hands", and in a wide

range of media: ink, paint, pencil, collage. Pen Dragons hopes you enjoy this selection of pieces reflecting themes

such as spirituality, kindness, love of nature, meditation or prayer. For more information on Pen Dragons Calligraphy Guild, visit our web-

site at <u>pendragonscalligrahy.org</u>

This exhibit will be up from Tuesday October 31st through the end of the year!

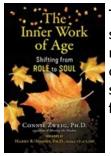
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Library Corner

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Library Corner

The Inner Work of Age; Shifting from Role to Soul, by Connie Zweig



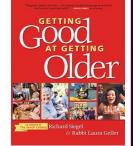
This book is a guide to help get past the inner obstacles and embrace the hidden spiritual gifts of age. Sharing contemplative practices for self-reflection, [the author] also reveals how to discover ways to share your talents and wisdom to become a force for change in the lives of others. [Learn how to] move through these life passages to a new stage of awareness, choosing to be fully real, transparent, and free to embrace a fulfilling late life.

Selected lines from Overview of book on thriftbooks.com On display, checked out, or shelved under 305.26 Zw

On display, checked out, or shelfed under 305.26 Zw

Currently the subject of the 3rd Tuesday (1:30-3:00) Book Study & Conversation group.

<u>Getting Good at Getting Older</u>, by Richard Siegel & Rabbi Laura Geller We transformed society in the 60's and 70's...We aren't young anymore. But we are still revolutionary... [This book] is a tour for all of us "of a certain age" through the resources and skills to navigate the years between maturity and old age. It brings humor, warmth, and more than 4,000 years of Jewish experience to the question of how to shape this new stage of life.



Excerpts from description on book's back cover.

On display, checked out, or shelved under 305.26 Si

Previously the subject of the 3rd Tuesday (1:30-3:00) Book Study & Conversation group.

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 on the People's Church website (peopleschurch.net). You can find them here: <u>https://peopleschurch.net/engage-with-us/church-library-catalog/</u>

Go to www.librarything.com/catalog/peopleschurchofkzoo

- 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).

News & Views

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Blessed Community

We are blessed to have such a vibrant community of folks with whom to gather and connect each week. Our Religious Education classes and programs are off to an excellent start with enthusiastic participation. Opportunities to meet and get to know new people and deepen relationships are abundant at People's Church.

With so much war and suffering in the world, we are fortunate to be able to gather in peace and freedom with those whose core values we share. In a society that encourages individualism, gathering in community is a subversive act that is one of the keys to dismantling oppressive systems.

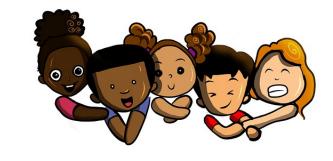
I am grateful to have such a blessed community with whom to connect and work together toward the larger goals of liberation, freedom and justice with more love and compassion in the world.

See you soon! Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Religious Education Director

Opportunities Abound

Are you willing to be an occasional helper in our preschool classroom on Sunday mornings? Would you serve as a buddy for a child with special needs to help them focus in their class? We can arrange it to fit your schedule preferences. Please Let Diane Melvin know

at <u>re@peopleschurch.net</u>.



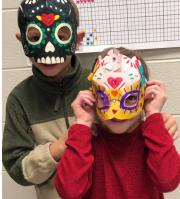
RE Sleep Over & Haunted Potluck Party

Friday, Nov. 3 @ 6:00pm - Sat. Nov. 4 @ 10:00am All K-6th graders are invited to join in on

the fun!

RE Notes

Families are invited to the potluck dinner. Kids are invited to stay for the party complete with games, crafts and a haunted house.



Parents of Kindergarteners are requested to spend the night with their kids. Other parents are welcome to help with games and activities and/or



to spend the night.

Please contact Jen at Jen-Docsa@gmail.com or Brandon at Brandon_Brown76@hotmail.com

• for more information.

Calling All Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers!

All Middle and High school youth are invited to help with the Haunted House for the elementary sleepover on Friday Nov. 3rd at 6:00pm.

Please let Brandon Brown know if you are interested in helping

at <u>Brandon Brown76@hotmail.com</u> or 734-276-3800.

Our hopes are that the youth will gather at 6:00pm 11/3 and brainstorm a plan while enjoying pizzas in room 6. Then they will construct a haunted house experience for the elementary kids to partake in, run the event for an hour or so and then clean it up and put things away from approximately 6-9 or 9:30ish.

News and Notices

Study Group

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday November 6 at 7:30, via Zoom, to discuss: Chooing Freedom: A Kantian Guide to Life" by Karen Stohr. Stohr is a professor of philosophy at Georgetown. 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 <u>magelewis@aol.com</u>.

Afternoon Book Club

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at Friendship Village Clubhouse on November 20 at 1:30. We will discuss an old favorite, "Purple Hibiscus" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adicus. Newcomers are welcome. Contact Marj Lightner at <u>marjlightner56@gmail.com</u> to get on the mailing list.

Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

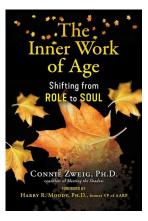
"The Miniaturist" by Jessie Burton will be the topic of this month's meeting, 11/9, 6:00 - 7:00, reviewed by Nancy Stern, at the home of Lois Loeffler. We continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month; see the complete schedule for this church year on the church website. Newcomers are welcome. To get on the email list, contact Pat Nelson, 269-716-3623, <u>patnelson348@gmail.com</u>.

Film Discussion

The group continues to select films to review on a month-to-month basis. Watch the weekly email for updates on selections and date/time. We welcome newcomers. For questions, or to get on the email list, contact Pat Nelson, 269-716-3623, patnelson348@gmail.com.

The Inner Work of Age

Book Study and Conversation: The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul by Connie Zweig



Tuesday November 28, 1:30-3:00pm, on Zoom Zoom link: <u>https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326</u>

Join others in the church to talk about aging and living well. We will use *The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul* as our source for conversation. This book, which is rooted in Jungian psychology, offers guidance for getting past inner obstacles and becoming an Elder filled with vitality and purpose. This book is available in paperback, as an e-book, and as an audiobook. (If the cost of the book is a barrier to your participation, please reach out to Rev. Rachel.)

For the November session, we will read chapter two 'The Three Portals of Age.' If you have questions about this, please reach out to Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net

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Events and Activites



<u>In Memoriam</u>

We celebrate the life and mourn the death of People's Church member Nita Fowler, who died in late September. A memorial service was held on October 7 at Friendship Village. You can read Nita's obituary here: <u>https://www.amsfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/juanita-fowler</u>

Memorial Service for Ivan Klinesteker

Sunday, November 19 at 1:30pm, with a visitation beginning at 12:30 pm. You can read Ivan's obituary here: <u>https://betzlerlifestory.com/obituaries/ivan-</u><u>klinesteker.144375</u>





SAVE THE DATE DECEMBER 3, 2023 Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange/Pick up

For all you puzzlers out there, we will have another puzzle exchange or pick up on Sunday December 3, 2023. Bring your completed puzzles and exchange for some new to you. We have lots of puzzles, so if you don't have one to exchange, that's okay, feel free to take one and enjoy it. We hope you can return it and share another one.

Puzzles are fun, rewarding, a good stress reliever, and a fun way to share with the family. See you December 3!

I Wish Someone Would...

When's the last time you took a look at the 'I Wish Someone Would..." board?

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

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Day	Date	Event	Time	Place		
Thursday	Nov 2	Bell Choir	5:30pm	Commons		
		RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19		
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons		
Friday	Nov 3	Elementary Sleepover	6:00pm	At Church		
Sunday	Nov 5	Sunday Service: Music Service	10:45am	Commons & Zoom		
		Coming of Age for All Ages	I 2:30pm	Room 9		
Monday	Nov 6	Study Group	7:30pm	Zoom		
Tuesday	Nov 7	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church		
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19		
Thursday	Nov 9	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons		
		Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Lois Loeffler's		
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons		
Sunday	Nov 12	Sunday Service: Harm Reduction as an Ethical Guide	10:45am	Commons & Zoom		
		Art Wall Exhibit	I 2:30pm	Commons		
		Inquirer's Series	I 2:30pm	Room 19		
Tuesday	Nov 14	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church		
		Sunday Services Committee	5:00pm	Zoom		
Wednesday	Nov 15	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom		
Thursday	Nov 16	Afternoon Book Club	I:30pm	Friendship Village		
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons		
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons		
Saturday	Nov 18	FINE ART SALE AND HOLIDAY BAZAAR!	9am-3pm	At Church		
Sunday	Nov 19	Sunday Service: Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer	10:45am	Commons & Zoom		
		Ivan Klinesteker Memorial Service	I 2:30pm	Commons		
Monday	Nov 20	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE				
Tuesday	Nov 21	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church		
		Library Committee	10:00am	At Church		
Sunday	Nov 26	Sunday Service: Toward Our Metamor- phosis into Who Knows What	10:45am	Commons & Zoom		
		Inquirer's Series	I 2:30pm	Room 19		
Tuesday	Nov 28	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church		
		The Inner Work of Age	I:30pm	Zoom		
		Film Discussion Group	3:00pm	Zoom		
		Dismantling Racism Team	6:00pm	Zoom		
Thursday	Nov 30	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons		
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons		
Tł	The Full Calendar of Events can be viewed online at <u>https://peopleschurch.net/events-2/</u>					

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



People's Church Mission Statement

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