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People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 85, Issue 6

February 2024

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

February 4 You Don't Own Me

Amy G.S.A. Brooks

For better or for worse, the Bible has become a significant text in our world. It has been used as a tool for liberation and it has also been weaponized against marginalized communities of people. In this sermon Amy will take us on a poetic reflection on the good, the bad, and the ugly of this book; and whether it is possible to wrestle it from the hands of those who use it for personal gain at the expense of the powerless.

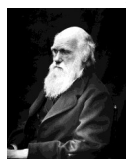
***Please be advised that this service touches on issues that include racism, anti-LGBTQIA+ hostility, and religious trauma. While the central theme is compassion for ourselves and each other, some may find the content confronting. You are invited to engage with this subject matter with tender courage, at whatever level is accessible to you.*



Read more about Amy G.S.A. Brooks here: <https://peopleschurch.net/services/you-dont-own-me/>

February 11 Happy Birthday, Charles Darwin!

Rev. Rachel Lonberg



On the weekend marking the 215th anniversary of the birth of naturalist Charles Darwin, who developed the theory of evolution and who was raised as a Unitarian. We will celebrate his life and legacy of inquiry, science, and trying to make sense of the world around us.

February 18 The Misuse of Science

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Following up on the previous Sunday's celebration of Charles Darwin and evolution, we will grapple with how the scientific ideas Darwin developed have been misused in racist, ableist, and imperialist ways. The modern eugenics movement (founded by Charles Darwin's cousin) promoted social policies designed to "improve" human populations. Many of the early proponents were Unitarians. In this service, we will wrestle with this legacy and explore how science can build Beloved Community.



February 25

Love at the Center

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Our Unitarian Universalist Association is in the process of revising Article II of the bylaws, which includes the principles and sources. In this service, Rev. Rachel will explore the proposed changes, which will be voted on at the General Assembly this June. If you want to learn more about this process than will be included in this service, please visit <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>



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



Dear People's people,

Every year or so, I like to re-run this column to remind you of why you might want to reach out to your minister. This is something I share with our newcomers & it is good for us all to see it again periodically. Supporting People's people is my highest priority as a

minister. If you're ever wondering if you should call, please do.

Call (or Text) your Minister When....

- You or a family member are ill.
- You want your minister to know you better – or you want to know your minister better.
- You, someone you are close to, or a church member are in the hospital. (The hospital does not notify the church.)
- You are experiencing a life crisis and need to talk.
- You are celebrating one of life's joys and want to share it.
- You have a child you wish to have dedicated.
- You have a concern about our religious community – or an appreciation.
- You are considering joining the congregation.
- You are struggling with grief, loss, or change.
- You are pregnant and glad you are, or pregnant and wish you weren't, or you are dealing with infertility.
- You want to talk about your beliefs and spiritual journey or you are seeking spiritual growth.
- You are facing a difficult decision.
- Your children (or grandchildren or other children in your life) have spiritual questions and you want help answering them – or want the minister to meet with all of you.
- You are planning to be married, or you are challenged by the demands of marriage, or you are planning to separate or get a divorce.

- You would like to discuss your wishes for a memorial service.
- You are feeling challenged by your life circumstances and want to talk.
- You are feeling alone and want to be reminded of the support you have.

The quickest way to reach me is by call or text – 269-389-9721. You can also reach me by email at minister@peopleschurch.net; I do not check email every day.

Take good care, everyone,
Rachel

Inquirers Series

Every other Sunday, mostly: 12:30-1:30pm., 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 sessions that introduce our congregation and Unitarian Universalism.

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

- **February 11: People's Church History and Governance**
- **February 25: Chalice Circles and Pastoral Care**
- **March 10: Membership 101**
- **March 17: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles, and Sources**

It is helpful for our lunch planning if you register for the sessions that you plan to attend here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-44518270-inquirers#/> or by contacting Rev. Rachel.

Coming Soon: People's Church Silent Auction

The Silent Auction will open for bidding on Sunday February 4th and will run for 3 weeks, wrapping up on February 18th. For up to date information on the auction, please visit: <https://peopleschurch.net/news/silent-auction/>

The form for submitting your goods and services for donation is NOW OPEN! Submissions will be accepted until the auction closes! Click here to submit your good or service to the auction: <https://forms.gle/5MYN5Xpj4xeh6i1f7>



Frozen Entrees are coming to the Silent Auction! This year, since they weren't included in the Bazaar, frozen entrees will be included in the auction instead! Feel free to submit your Frozen Entrees to be bid on during the auction!



On Sunday February 4th, there will be a Coffee, Cocoa and Cookies Kickoff after church. Any donation submissions will be up on the walls for first bids on that Sunday! Are you a baker? We're looking for folks to volunteer to bake and bring cookies, shortbreads or other small treats in to share with the congregation for this. Please let Melissa know at office@peopleschurch.net if you're willing and able to bake items to bring in!

Still aren't sure what to donate? People's people have donated a wide range of services, goods, and events for auction including homemade seasonal pies; a poetry brunch; an ice cream party; cooking lessons; dinner parties; game nights; boat rides; child care; a haircut; a home appraisal; tax preparation assistance; framed photographs; original art; plants; skilled (and unskilled) labor; a dairy tour; pet care; accommodation at a lake house, and so much more. If you value it, someone else will too and they'll be willing to bid on it (with proceeds to benefit our church). Many of these activities also bring people closer together and work to build community.

Stewardship Preview

We will be trying a different approach to our annual stewardship campaign, which will begin in March. For the first time in at least ten years, we will be gathering in small group "grateful gatherings" to talk about what People's Church means to us, learn about the church's finances, and make our financial commitments for the coming year. This will be a good chance to learn, connect, and be generous. More information will be in the March newsletter, weekly emails, and during the service on March 3.



ISAAC Update

Mark your calendar and reserve your spot for some exciting opportunities coming up with ISAAC.

As a member congregation of ISAAC (the interfaith network of over 30 congregations and organizations working to advance social justice in Kalamazoo County), these events are open to you and you are invited and encouraged to attend.

- ISAAC is offering two antiracism trainings with ERACCE <https://www.eracce.org>.
 - February 21st - 22nd will be an on-line introductory training for \$200
 - March 6th – 8th will be the full 2.5 day in-person training in Lansing for \$600
 - Funds are available to support the cost of the training for anyone who needs financial assistance. To register, to request financial assistance, and for other questions, email the ISAAC office at isaackalamazoo@gmail.com



ISAAC is very excited to announce that Layla Saad, author of the renowned book, *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* has accepted our invitation to offer a virtual fire-side chat with us on Saturday afternoon, March 16th (time TBA). Elder Doug King will be our host with Layla Saad for this amazing opportunity. Free copies of her book will be available from ISAAC. Many of our Peoples' people have found her voice to be especially helpful in inviting them into deeper understanding of these concepts and exploring their impact in their lives. The book is organized as a 28-day guide to help readers, especially white people, to understand and identify the impact of white privilege and white supremacy in their lives and become better ancestors in shaping a better future for those who follow us. More details to come.

Special Collection for COPE Network

Sunday February 25

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, recovery oriented meetings, harm reduction supplies, and more.

You can learn more about COPE Network at [https://](https://www.copenetwork.org/)

www.copenetwork.org/

If this organization name looks familiar, it's because it is. We have attempted to have this special collection twice before, but COVID and weather thwarted our plans.



Substance Abuse and Overdose Prevention Training

Sunday, February 25, 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 February 20. A light lunch will be provided and childcare is available with one week advance notice.



LGBTQIA+ & Pronouns 101 Training

February 11 1pm Room 19

All are invited to this training presented by Dell Darnell, program manager at OutFront.



Myths, stereotypes, and misinformation are often at the heart of discrimination, harassment, and violence against LGBTQ+ individuals. This session tackles the basics of LGBTQ+ lives and experiences; and helps participants learn proper terms, understand facts about gender identity, and discover how to be an advocate.

To register, please use this signup genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-46953684-lgbtqia> or contact Rev. Rachel. A light lunch will be provided

for all and childcare with one week's notice.

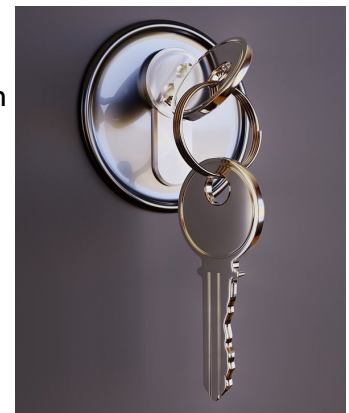
Building Re-Key

On February 15th, our building entrances will be re-keyed and so all current building keys will be ineffective after that date. If you would like to request a copy of the new building key, please let me know as soon as you are able with the following information:

- Keyholder(s) name(s)
- Group, Committee, Company etc. (if applicable)
- Reason for needing a building key

All requests will be reviewed and keys will be issued as needed. Copies of the new key will be available BEFORE the re-keying on February 15th so please don't wait to let me know so I can have the correct number of new keys available! As a quick FYI, moving forward, all key holders will have to sign a key holder agreement form. This will be available once new keys are being issued. Any questions, feel free to reach out to Melissa in the office! Office@peopleschurch.net or 269-

375-3262





People's Climate Conversations Starting Soon

The Green Sanctuary Committee will present a series of *Climate Conversations* this spring. The focus is on what's happening at the state, county, and local levels in legislation, initiatives, education, and other areas to help us all limit future climate change and adapt our communities to live with changes that already are occurring. We welcome the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area as a co-sponsor of these events.

Three talks have been scheduled for Sunday afternoons. Come to Room 19 after church to join us for a light lunch. The conversations will begin at about 12:30 p.m.

February 18, Denise Keele, Executive Director, Michigan Climate Action Network

March 24, Taylor Van Winkle, Kalamazoo County Climate Sustainability Coordinator

April 14, Justin Gish, City of Kalamazoo Sustainability Planner

Denise Keele will open our series on Sunday, February 18, bringing us up to date about the state of climate justice in Michigan, recently adopted legislation, and what to expect during the coming year. Denise has spoken at People's several times in the past about the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition and other climate action at WMU and in the Kalamazoo area. Come prepared to learn what's happening, to ask questions, and to share ideas.

Watch the Friday emails and upcoming issues of News & Views for more information.

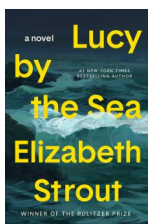
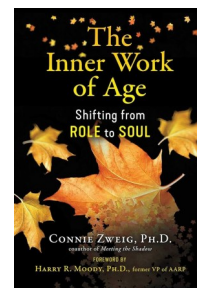
The Inner Work of Age

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

Tuesday February 20,, 1:30-3:00pm, on Zoom

Zoom link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326>

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.)

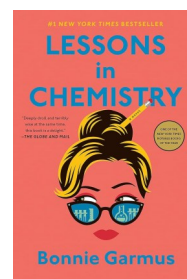


Afternoon Book Club

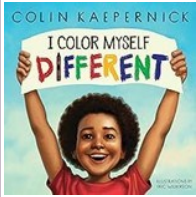
We will meet on Monday, February 5 at 1:30 to discuss *Lucy By the Sea* by Elizabeth Stout. Newcomers are welcome. Contact Marj Lightner at marjlightner56@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

"Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus will be the topic of the 2/8/24 meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. We meet at the home of Lois Loeffler, who will also be reviewing this month. (If the weather is bad, we zoom.) Newcomers are welcome. The schedule for the remainder of this church year is on the church website.. For more information or to get on the email list for reminders/updates, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com., 269-716-3623.



Library Corner: Black History Month

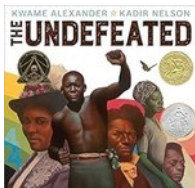


I Color Myself Different, by Colin Kaepernick RE 305.8 Ka

An inspiring story of identity and self-esteem from celebrated athlete and activist Colin Kaepernick.

The 1619 Project: a New Origin Story, created by Nikole Hannah-Jones and the New York Times Magazine—973 Si

The New York Times Magazine's award-winning 1619 Project issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This book substantially expands on the that project by weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance.

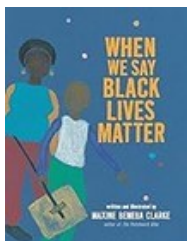
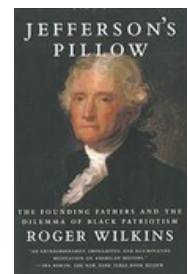


The Undeclared, by Kwame Alexander—RE 811.6 Al

Originally performed for ESPN's The Undeclared, this poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes.

Jefferson's Pillow: the Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism, by Roger Wilkins—973.09 Wi

Wilkins asserts that the mythic accounts of the American Revolution have ignored slavery and oversimplified history until the heroes, be they the founders or the slaves in their service, are denied any human complexity. He offers a thoughtful analysis of this fundamental paradox through his exploration of the lives of George Washington, George Mason, James Madison, and of course Thomas Jefferson.



When We Say Black Lives Matter, by Maxine Benebe Clarke—J Cl

In a powerful, poetic missive, the award-winning author-illustrator celebrates the meaning behind the words Black Lives Matter.

Rise Up! How You Can Join the Fight against White Supremacy, by Crystal Marie Fleming—RE 305.8 Fl

This urgent book explores the roots of racism and its legacy in modern day, all while empowering young people with actionable ways they can help foster a better world and become antiracists.



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

Cycles of the Seasons - Imbolc

One of the gifts of tuning into nature as the wheel of the year turns is what we can observe and learn when we pay attention. In this dark and cold time of year, much of nature is dormant or hibernating, gathering or saving energy for the spring. I see so much wisdom in the cyclical ebb and flow of energy during this time of year.

The beginning of February traditionally marks Imbolc which is a Pagan holiday half way between winter solstice and the spring equinox. It is an ancient Gaelic seasonal festival celebrating the beginning of the turn of the wheel of the year toward spring.

The etymology of Imbolc or Imbolg is unclear but one theory is that it comes from the Old Irish that meant "in the belly" and it refers to this time when the ewes were pregnant with lambs. The holiday was coopted by the Christians who renamed it St. Brigid's Day, yet continued many of the old traditions, foods and celebrations

The holiday is traditionally associated with weather-lore and the old tradition of watching to see if serpents or badgers came from their winter dens may be a forerunner of the North American Groundhog Day.

A modern take comes from the 1993 film *Groundhog Day* with Bill Murray acting as a news anchor who keeps waking up repeatedly to the same day. It is this play on Ground Hog day that we adapted for our family potluck and game night, hoping that folks keep coming back for more.

We hope you will join us for a fun evening of community and connection building and to help welcome many of the newer/newish folks to People's Church.

You are welcome to bring a traditional Imbolc dish to pass to celebrate the season or whatever you want. I look forward to seeing all who come for a fun evening together. Childcare providers will be available along with games and crafts.

Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Religious Education Director

Coming of Age for HS Youth and Adults

Sunday February 4th - 12:30-2:30pm

Lunch and Childcare provided

Articulating Values and Beliefs

Everyone is invited to join in on this fun and engaging opportunity to explore, discern and articulate our most important values and beliefs.



Thank you to everyone who brought food for the young adult conference on January 12th. Despite the blizzard keeping some participants away, those who made it to People's had a fabulous weekend. The food that congregants provided was enormously appreciated!

Thank You!

**POTLUCK
& BOARD
GAMES**

**EVERYONE
IS INVITED**

**COME WELCOME
NEW FAMILIES**



FEB 2

**6:30 -
8:30 PM**



**WE HOPE YOU KEEP
COMING BACK AGAIN**

**BYO GAME
OR LEARN A NEW ONE**

**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT New/
ish family welcome
potluck!**

Are you newer to People's Church? Returning to People's after a hiatus? Would you like to get to know other families? You are invited to a welcome potluck for New/ish church families.

We also invite any and all 'Oldish' members to join us in welcoming new families. Let's show off People's spectacular potlucks!

Friday February 2
6:30 to 8:30pm

Groundhog Day, cause we hope you keep coming back around!

There will be a kids craft and board games for everyone! Bring a dish to pass.

Bring your favorite game or learn a new game!

Specialty Class Helpers Needed

Specialty classes are monthly activities designed to connect our K-6th graders in fun and engaging activities with members of our wider congregation. Kids love to choose from a variety of activities when they arrive at church on the first Sunday of each month. Regular RE teachers love to get a break so they can attend church and socialize with adults. Kids love to get to know and interact with other adults in our church community.

Do you have a hobby or activity that you enjoy that you could do with kids? The possibilities are wide open - they love to bake/cook, play games, make arts and crafts, and learn new skills.

We especially need folks who are willing to lead the large motor option each month - games, dance, martial arts, drama, sports, hiking, sledding, etc.

Helpers are also needed each month to assist the leaders with the activities.

Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to get to meet some great kids, support our RE program and engage in some fun activities for one Sunday this year! Contact Mary Kate Webster for more information at tomandmarykate@gmail.com.



In Memoriam

Dottie Goodwin

We celebrate the life and mourn the death of Dottie Goodwin. Dottie died in late December 2023. She was 89 years old. Dottie was most known to People's Church in recent years as our occasional organist. Her weekday practices would fill the building with beautiful music. You can read more about Dottie's life here: <https://www.amsfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/dorothy-goodwin>
An informal celebration of Dottie's life will take place on Friday March 8, 9:30-11:30am at Sarkozy Bakery.



Jan Park

We celebrate the life and mourn the death of Jan Park. Jan died on January 19, with family nearby. Jan first became involved at People's Church when she was a student at Western Michigan University in the 1950s. She was also a 'co-founding mother' of the UU congregation in Traverse City when she lived there.
A memorial service will be held on Saturday February 10 at 11am at People's Church.

We are calling for more volunteers to be trained on our A/V and Zoom set up!

If this is something that you are interested in and willing to learn, please reach out to Melissa at office@peopleschurch.net. While the set up can seem overwhelming, it is all set up to be as user friendly as possible and someone from our AV team will help train you to make sure you feel comfortable!



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 office@peopleschurch.net. 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.

Film Discussion

2/21/24, 3-4:30 p.m.

The group continues to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month on zoom to discuss a film we watch separately in advance. This month's selection is the 2023 "Jules", starring Ben Kingsley. It explores the elderly experience via his character's encounter with an extraterrestrial who crashes in his backyard. This is available for streaming on amazon.com for \$1.99, and the DVD is at the Kalamazoo Public Library.

Newcomers are welcome. For more information and/or to get on the email list, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com, 269-716-3623.



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Thursday	Feb 1	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Friday	Feb 2	Potluck & Board Games	6:30pm	At Church
Sunday	Feb 4	Sunday Service: You Don't Own Me	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Coming of Age for All Ages	12:30pm	Room 19
		Auction Kick Off	12:30pm	At Church
Monday	Feb 5	Afternoon Book Club	1:30pm	Zoom
Tuesday	Feb 6	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
Thursday	Feb 8	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Zoom or Lois's
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Saturday	Feb 10	Memorial Service for Jan Park	11:00am	Commons
Sunday	Feb 11	Sunday Service: Happy Birthday Charles Darwin!	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		LGBTQIA+ & Pronouns 101 Training	12:45pm	Room 19
		Inquirer's Class	12:30pm	Room 8
Tuesday	Feb 13	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Thursday	Feb 15	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
		BUILDING RE-KEY		
Sunday	Feb 18	Sunday Service: The Misuse of Science	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		AUCTION CLOSSES	10:45am	
		Climate Conversation	12:30pm	Room 19
Monday	Feb 19	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
Tuesday	Feb 20	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		The Inner Work of Age	1:30pm	Zoom
Wednesday	Feb 21	Film Discussion Group	3:00pm	Zoom
Thursday	Feb 22	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	Feb 25	Sunday Service: Love at the Center	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Inquirers Class	12:30pm	Room 8
		Substance Use Disorder & Overdose Prevention	12:30pm	Room 19
		First Aid/CPR for Safety Team	12:30pm	Room 9
Tuesday	Feb 27	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Dismantling Racism Team	6:00pm	Zoom
Wednesday	Feb 28	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
Thursday	Feb 29	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons

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."**