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People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 85, Issue 7

March 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

March 3: Gathering in Gratitude and Generosity—Rev. Rachel Lonberg

We will kick off stewardship season (our annual pledge campaign to raise money for the church the coming year) with Rev. Rachel's annual 'sermon on the amount' and an invitation to participate in grateful gatherings – small groups that will have a facilitated conversation about the role People's Church plays in our lives, church finances and generosity.



March 10: Living the Questions—Rev. Rachel Lonberg



It is a day for questions at People's Church (but isn't every day a day for questions?) Bring your questions about meaning, ethics, People's Church, Unitarian Universalism and more (but please no math problems). Rev. Rachel will do her best to answer as many of them as she can during the service – and all of them will help shape the focus of our worship services and church programming over the coming year. Please bring your questions with you to church, either in person or via Zoom.

March 17: Reverse Service—Rev. Rachel Lonberg and Diane Melvin, Director of Religious Education

After a four-year hiatus, we are bringing back our reverse service. This is a special day where our younger children stay in The Commons for the whole service while we sing out the adults (both in person and on Zoom) to participate in their own specialty classes, such as art, movement, discussion, and more.



March 24: The Great Mystery

Just before the newsletter went to press, the plans for this Sunday fell through. Plans will be shared in the weekly email – or just come and be surprised by whatever great thing we are able to plan.

March 31: The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Black Liberation Theology Easter—Rev. Rachel Lonberg

In this Easter service, Rev. Rachel will explore Black Liberation Theology's understanding of the death of Jesus. Drawing of the work of Dr. James Cone, the pioneer of Black Liberation Theology and one of Rev. Rachel's seminary professors, she will explore how this theological tradition might help us all find meaning in the midst of suffering and injustice.





Dear ones,

“People’s people are generous people” is something I say nearly every Sunday, but it is especially true in March. March means stewardship season at People’s Church. This is the time when church leaders start to make plans for the coming church year and we seek to raise

the funds necessary to fund church programs for the coming year. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of our church budget comes from your pledges.

This year, we are trying something we haven’t done as part of our stewardship campaigns in at least 10 years – small group gatherings. In March, we will host a series of ‘grateful gatherings’ at the church, in the homes of People’s people, and on Zoom. In these gatherings, you will have the chance to connect with other People’s Church folks, reflect on why the church matters to you, learn more about our church budget and finances and have any questions answered, and think about what generosity might be possible for you in the coming year.

Even if you are one of those people who already know exactly what you plan to pledge, I invite you to come to one of these meetings. I’ve co led several grateful gatherings over the past few weeks among stewardship and board leaders and each one has been inspiring. You all inspire me with your stories about how our community has mattered in your life.

If you are ready to sign up for a gathering please click here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-48130429-grateful> or sign up in church beginning on March 3. If you don’t see a time that works for you, check back again soon. We are still adding a few grateful gatherings to the calendar. If you’re in a chalice circle, please check

with your leader about your March program. About half the chalice circles are becoming grateful gatherings for March.

I will be facilitating many of these grateful gatherings, along with members of the board, finance committee, and stewardship committee. We’re excited to connect with you and talk about People’s Church, generosity, gratitude, and money.

Take good care,
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.

- **March 10: Membership 101**
- **March 17: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles, and Sources**

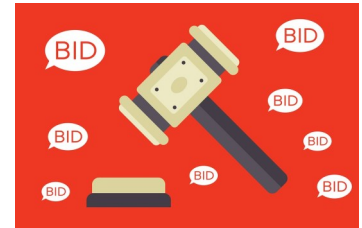
It is helpful for our lunch planning if you register for the sessions that you plan to attend here:

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

Thank You For A Successful Auction This Year!

The People's Church Silent Auction closed on Sunday February 18th and it was a tremendous success! We raised around \$3,700 for the church, which is a \$1,000 increase from last year!

Thank you to everyone one of the fabulous donors who contributed items, services, food and events for folks to bid on. Thank you to everyone who bid and a special thank you to everyone who helped make the Auction a reality! As you all constantly remind me with your words and actions— People's People are wonderful and generous!



Sunday Morning Coffee Helpers



Coffee on Sunday mornings after service is a beloved tradition here at People's Church but it doesn't happen by magic. We're looking for additional volunteers to help make this happen every week! Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-45217221-coffee>

if you're interested in learning the ropes and joining the rotation of folks who make the coffee & clean up afterwards!

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 or sign up for a training spot here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4CA5AD2EA4FE3-sunday1/5865393#/>

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!



Sunday Morning Greeters

One of the key pieces of hospitality on Sunday mornings is greeting people as they come in the front door, making sure they feel welcome! Feel free to sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ba9ac22a13-health#/>

www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ba9ac22a13-health#/

Coming soon in March and April

Art Wall Exhibit at People's Church, "Which Way Are We Going?"

A group exhibit featuring the paintings of Conrad Kaufman and Fencerows Painters.

This edgy exhibit will show art that makes a statement or has a social justice theme, and will focus on Conrad's Kaufman's political art and the work of fellow painters. This exhibit will show that art can make a statement and we want people to think beyond what can be hung in your living room.



ISAAC Update

ISAAC Presents: Virtual Fireside Chat with Layla Saad, author of *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*

Saturday March 16

1:00 pm - Pre Fireside Chat Recordings

1:30pm Fireside Chat with Layla Saad & Elder Doug King

There are two ways to participate in this event a watch party at People's Church (which will be followed by an ice cream social) or on your own.

Register for the People's Church watch party here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-48014448-isaac#/>

Register to watch on your own here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVaflvZbWgdZE6CP_h6K2eyszKBvY_WKBzzL45EkHsxLykNA/viewform

[e/1FAIpQLScVaflvZbWgdZE6CP_h6K2eyszKBvY_WKBzzL45EkHsxLykNA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVaflvZbWgdZE6CP_h6K2eyszKBvY_WKBzzL45EkHsxLykNA/viewform)

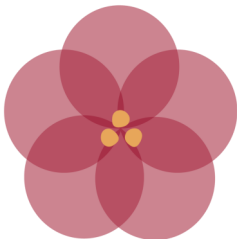


We also invite everyone, whether you can attend the March 16 event or not, to read *Me and White Supremacy* and work through the accompanying journal. We will have copies available at church for the next several weeks, on a pay-what-you-can-basis.

National Day of Racial Healing

The Michigan Transformation Collective (formerly known as, TRHT Kalamazoo) will observe the National Day of Racial Healing in a two-part event.

On Friday, March 1, 2024, starting at 6:00 PM, it will be hosting a free screening of the movie 'Origin.' 'Origin' is a 2023 American biographical drama film written and directed by Ava DuVernay. It is based on the book 'Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents' by Isabel Wilkerson, which describes racism in the United States as an aspect of a caste system.



Then, on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, at our new office, the Michigan Transformation Collective will be hosting Racial Healing Circles that will be designed to curate meaningful conversations around the film 'Origin.'

Commitment Request

We believe that bringing together the movie screening of "Origin" with Racial Healing Circles allows us to initiate meaningful conversations and foster strong connections among participants. Therefore, we're requesting that individuals registering for the movie screening also commit to participating in the Racial Healing Circles the following day.

Space is limited, please RSVP your spot today, using the link below!

RSVP → <https://bit.ly/NDORH2024>

Special Collection for Community Homeworks

Sunday, March 10



Community Homeworks provides critical home repairs and education to low income homeowners throughout Kalamazoo County. Their work helps families be safe and warm, avoid homelessness, and build generational wealth.

You can learn more about Community Homeworks at <https://communityhomeworks.org/>

Gaza Presentation

KNOW (Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War) is sponsoring a presentation about the current situation in Gaza on Sunday March 24th here at People's Church.

Tareq Abuhallima is a graduate student from Ohio who lived in Gaza until a year ago. He lost three sisters and several friends in the attacks on Gaza. There will be a slideshow. Please come and be informed by a person with firsthand experience.



Community Circle for Collective Healing

The Sacred Art of Presencing Together - Presented by Kat VanHammen

Saturday April 13th from 2 to 7 pm

Held in the Buddha Room (Room 9 at People's Church)

Based on my own work and the work of Thomas Hubl and Joanna Macy, this gathering is to create a sacred and embodied container to surface difficult feelings and be seen, heard and held in community. I am offering this work in response to a deep need that I witness to have collective healing spaces and processes available to hold and transform uncomfortable thoughts and emotions. We will also learn skills to more deeply cultivate our ability to witness, to center and ground, to experience our interdependence and reframe problems as pathways of detoxification and transformation.



To learn more about this event or the facilitator Kat VanHammen go to: <https://peopleschurch.net/news/community-circle-for-collective-healing/>

Cost is \$60

Some scholarships available.

To attend please pay and reserve with Kat at: Venmo: Tomkat658 or send a check to Kat

VanHammen 2742 62nd St, Fennville, MI 49408

Questions? Katvanhammen@gmail.com or 616 204-0219



People's Climate Conversations

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.

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

April 14, Justin Gish, City of Kalamazoo Sustainability Planner

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

The Inner Work of Age

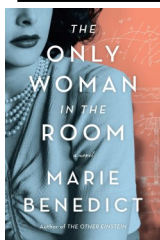
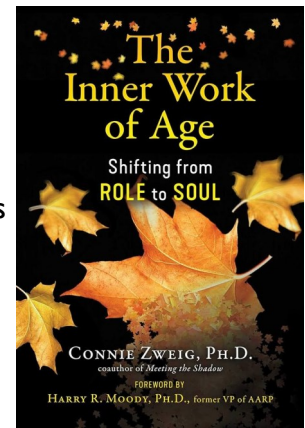
Book Study and Conversation: The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul by Connie Zweig

Tuesday March 19, 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.) For the March session, we will read chapter six 'A Review of Your Lived and Unlived Life.' If you have questions about this, please reach out to Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net

For the February session, we will read chapter five 'Life-Changing Illness as a Divine Messenger.' If you have questions about this, please reach out to Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net



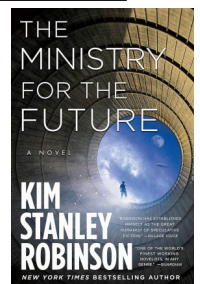
Afternoon Book Club

The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Monday, March 4 at Friendship Village's Garden Homes at 1:30 to discuss "The Only Woman in the Room" by Marie Benedict. Shari Harris will lead the discussion. The April book will be "The Violin Conspiracy" by Brendan Slocumb. If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, contact Marj Lightner at marjlightner56@gmail.com.

Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

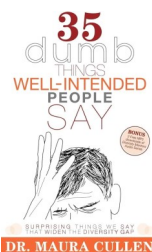
"Ministry for the Future" by Kim Stanley Robinson will be our topic March 14, 6-7:30 p.m. at the home of Lois Loeffler, 6536 Winddrift Ave. Kalamazoo MI 49009 (269) 372-0038. Marijo Steenstra will be reviewing.

Newcomers are welcome. To get on the email list, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com; 269-716-3623.



Library Corner

Browsing...Perusing...Scanning... Ruminating... Skimming... Inspecting...Scrutinizing... Killing time... whatever you may do when you find yourself near People's Library books, consider opening up a book from the shelves. Below are the books I discovered recently as I searched for books to highlight this month.—LL

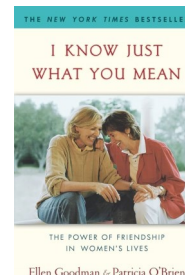


35 Dumb Things Well-Intentioned People Say; Surprising Things We Say that Widen the Diversity Gap, by Dr. Maura Cullen—658.3 Cu

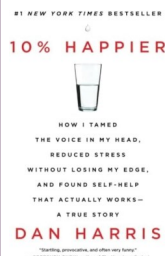
And, even though it was written in 2008 so is now out of date with its mention of only two states that allow same sex marriage, most of the examples and suggestions are good. So..."If you've ever wanted to be more effective in your communication with others, or have been afraid of saying the wrong thing, then this concise guide is essential to becoming more inclusive and diversity-smart."

Know Just What You Mean; the Power of Friendship in Women's Lives, by Ellen Goodman and Patricia O'Brien—158.2 Go

Cokie Roberts liked it. So did Doris Kearns Goodwin and Judy Blume. Written in 2008 and including an interesting chapter on men's friendships, this book "considers the unique elements that make up a friendship between women, incorporating interviews with close friends from all walks of life who became friends in childhood, old age, and after long periods of separation."



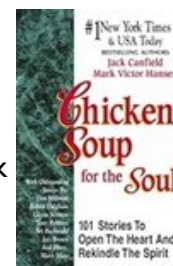
10% Happier; How I Tamed the Voice in My Head, Reduced Stress Without Losing My Edge, and Found Self-Help That Actually Works, by Dan Harris—158.12 Ha



"After having a nationally televised panic attack on Good Morning America, Dan Harris knew he had to make some changes. A lifelong nonbeliever, he found himself on a bizarre adventure involving a disgraced pastor, a mysterious self-help guru, and a gaggle of brain scientists. After learning about research that suggests meditation essentially rewires your brain, Harris took a deep dive into the underreported world of CEOs, scientists, and even marines who are now using it for increased calm, focus, and happiness."

A Cup of Chicken Soup for the Soul; Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit, compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and Barry Spilchuk—158.12 Ca

From the dedication page..."The stories in this book were chosen to make you think: think about your family, think about your friends and think about love; for it is with love that all great things are accomplished."



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

Spiritual Practices

In preparation for the upcoming Coming of Age class for adults on various spiritual practices, I re-read *Everyday Spiritual Practice: Simple Pathways for Enriching Your Life*, edited by Scott W. Alexander. He indicates that as UU's our spiritual practices are as diverse as our theological beliefs.

He states, "In our faith every individual is expected, with the help of clergy and community, to nurture and tend the garden of his or her own religious life each and every day."

The book contains 38 chapters written by different people about 38 different spiritual practices which include diverse descriptions of movement practices to quilting, from fasting to cooking, from gardening to social justice activities. He explains the difference between a hobby and a spiritual practice is when it includes intentionality, regularity and depth.

My daily spiritual practices include meditation, mindfulness, Lojong and somatic practices. I also read sacred texts for inspiration, wisdom and perspective.

What helps you to return to your center when you are feeling unbalanced? When you find yourself getting caught up and hooked by situations, what helps you to regain your perspective. What helps connect you with something larger in the Universe?

If you have kids, what practices does your family do to help practice wonder, awe & gratitude? Family nature hikes are great opportunities for this. Saying grace at meals and bedtime can also be enriching ways to connect with something larger.

If you are interested in hearing church members share a bit about their spiritual practices, as well as Rev. Rachel and I, join us in the Coming of Age class for youth and adults this Sunday after church. If you are interested in exploring spiritual practices in more depth, feel free to reach out and let me know.

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Religious Education Director

Coming of Age for HS Youth and Adults

Sunday March 3rd - 12:30-2:30pm
Lunch and Childcare provided

Exploring Spiritual Practices

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 the RE Committee for hosting the fun **Potluck and Game Night!** So much great food to eat and a plethora of interesting games and activities.

It was wonderful to see People's people connecting with one another and having fun together!



Registration for Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat Now Open

Registration for this summer's Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat for Unitarian Universalist families is now open. Join us July 4-7 for an amazing all ages experience at lovely Camp Friedenswald in southwestern Michigan -- only 90 miles from Chicago, 120 miles from Ann Arbor and 195 miles from Indianapolis.



At Chalice Sparx camp and retreat for families you will experience a truly multigenerational community. There are no camp counselors here to whisk away the children separate from their families. Here we learn together, worship together and explore together in a community of all ages – including elders who complete our multigenerational village. As an intentional UU covenanted community, we are especially welcoming to Trans children, youth and their families.

We also have fun together. Swimming, hiking or riding a wagon through the trails, canoeing, archery, popcorn popped in a kettle over an open fire, and of course, S'mores and singing camp songs.

Check out the website of our non-profit organization run by Unitarian Universalist religious educators, ministers, and lay persons from all over the Midwest: www.chalicesparx.org. Like us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/chalicesparx/> and join us in Cassopolis, Michigan July 4-7, 2024!



SAVE THE DATE

PEOPLE'S CHURCH
PEACE & NATURE CAMP
IS COMING

JUNE 24-28, 2024

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN
IN MARCH

In Memoriam

Dottie Goodwin

Dottie Goodwin Memorial Gathering

Friday March 8, 9:30-11:30am at Sarkozy Bakery

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>



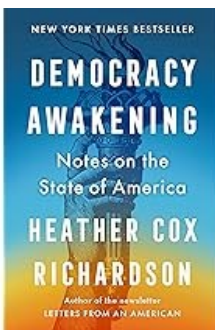
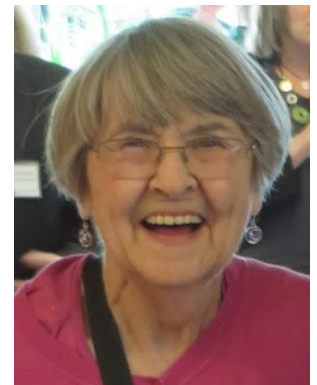
Donna Grath

We celebrate the life and mourn the death of People's person Donna Grath, who died on January 28, 2024.

Donna had been a member of People's Church for over 30 years. She contributed to the church in many ways, including making the purple quilt with symbols of world religions that hang in our Commons.

You can read more about her life here: <https://www.lifestorynet.com/obituaries/donna-lea-grath.145638>

Donna's memorial service will be held at 6pm on Thursday March 7, with a visitation at 5pm. March 7 would have been Donna's 89th birthday.



Study Group

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday March 4 at 7:30, via Zoom, to discuss: "Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America", by historian Heather Cox Richardson. This book attempts to use lessons from American history in shedding light on the current American situation. 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.

Film Discussion

3/20/24, 3-4:30 p.m.

The group continues to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 3-4:30 p.m on Zoom, choosing films on a month-to-month basis (not yet set for March) which do not require a subscription. (Usually rentals from Amazon.com or available free from the public library or youtube). We watch the chosen film in advance and get together to talk about it. Newcomers are welcome. We are always looking for suggestions of interesting films to discuss. If you would like to get on the email list, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com; 269-716-3623.



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Sunday	March 3	Sunday Service: Gathering in Gratitude and Generosity	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Coming of Age for All Ages	12:30pm	Room 19
Monday	March 4	Afternoon Book Club	1:30pm	Zoom
Tuesday	March 5	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
Thursday	March 7	Donna Grath Visitation	5:30pm	Commons
		Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Zoom or Lois's
		Donna Grath Memorial	6:00pm	Commons
		RE Committee	6:30pm	Room 19
Friday	March 8	Grateful Gathering Pizza Night	6:00pm	At Church
Sunday	March 10	Sunday Service: Living the Questions	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Inquirer's Class	12:30pm	Room 8
Tuesday	March 12	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Thursday	March 14	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Friday	March 15	Board Game Night	7:00pm	Commons
Saturday	March 16	Isaac Watch Party	1:00pm	Commons
		Grateful Gathering: Ice Cream Social	3:00pm	At Church
Sunday	March 17	Sunday Service: Reverse Service	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Inquirer's Series	12:30pm	Room 8
Monday	March 18	Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	March 19	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00am	At Church
		The Inner Work of Age	1:30pm	Zoom
Wednesday	March 20	Film Discussion Group	3:00pm	Zoom
Thursday	March 21	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	March 24	Sunday Service: The Great Mystery	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Climate Conversation	12:30pm	Room 19
		KNOW Presentation	2:30pm	Commons
Monday	March 25	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
Tuesday	March 26	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Dismantling Racism Team	6:00pm	Zoom
Wednesday	March 27	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
Thursday	March 28	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	March 31	Sunday Service: The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Black Liberation Theology Easter	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Art Wall Reception	12:30pm	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."**