



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

Volume 85, Issue 8

April 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

April 7: "The Spiritual Work of Preparedness"— Gordon Bolar and Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Over the past several years, church leaders have focused on becoming better prepared for medical emergencies, natural disasters, and other challenges. Gordon Bolar, a member of the board and preparedness committee will share a reflection on what he has learned as a leader of this work and how preparedness helps us to better live our values. *This Sunday will include a shelter-in-place drill for all in-person attendees.*



April 14: "Poetry Service"



People's Poetry will explore "To Begin Again" through your poems and prose. In the spirit of Spring, share your work as a reader or by submitting your poem to Don Miller, donbuilds@aol.com. Note: You don't have to be a poet! A special feature of this April 14th service is the "Six-Word Novel" on the same or similar theme. Beth Bullmer looks forward to reading your six-word masterpiece, so send ASAP to Beth.Bullmer@gmail.com!

April 21: "Earth Day Intergenerational Service"— People's Church youth, Rev. Rachel Lonberg, and Diane Melvin, director of religious education

Join us for our annual Earth Day observance, a day to celebrate the interdependent web of all existence and to recommit to using our power to protect all living things. This will be a service for people of all ages.



April 28: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"— Rev. Rachel Lonberg



Did you know that the high five was co-created by the first openly gay major league baseball player in 1977? Rev. Rachel will tell this story in a sports-themed service that will also feature a seventh inning stretch, peanut-free Cracker Jack and a few other sporty surprises. All are encouraged to wear sports uniforms or clothes that show support for their favorite team.

Inside this issue:

Nominee Bios	2-3
SJCC	4-5
Child Dedication	5
Stewardship Update	5
Green Spot	6
Library Corner	7
Religious Education	8-9
Calendar	11

And Now for This Year's Nominees!

The nominating committee developed a slate of candidates for the People's Church Board of Trustees and for the Nominating Committee for the upcoming church year! Please see below for the photos and bios of each candidate!

Board of Trustees Nominees

• Juli Ginn

I have been coming to People's Church since I was in preschool, when my family moved to the Kalamazoo area. I grew up in the religious education program, where I participated in OWL and explored schools of meaning in the context of religious doctrines, science, literature, and art. Being raised as a UU has been a foundational element to



my understanding of myself and the world around me. I moved away to attend college in the later part of the 2010s, but after moving back to the area I reintegrated myself back into the church community, and found the experience to be centering. I involved myself in the church's young adult circles by attending chalice

circles and helping organize the first YA Con held at People's since Covid disrupted the tradition. I also became an RE teacher, and have spent the current church year exchanging wisdom with our 4th-6th graders. They continue to surprise me with the conversations they foster in class, and how insightfully questioning they are. There have been many Sundays that I've left church feeling invigorated and lightened by my time with them. In my time away from church, I explore deep meaning through fiction and the discussion thereof. I find it to be an engaging space to contend with individual morality, ethics, perspective, and how cultural communities interact with those concepts.

• Teresa (Olsen) Klan

Greetings from Teresa (Olsen) Klan. I have been a

member of The People's Church for about 22 years. My myriad of experiences has given me unique perspectives that I hope will benefit my roles in the church. My "work" has ranged from dorm crew at Yellowstone National Park; dining room cashier at Mt. Rushmore; Registered Nurse at Bronson Hospital and Kalamazoo Health and Human Services (as a Public Health Nurse, living out my true religion); Epidemiology nurse (before Covid-19); Parents as Teachers Supervisor at Van Buren Intermediate School District; and my post "retirement" joy, preschool associate at Paw Paw Early Childhood.



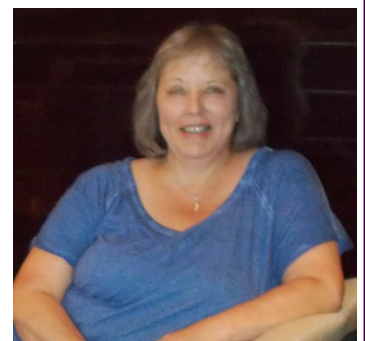
I came to this church with my husband Jeffrey and sons, Wyatt and Levi, to help give words to my beliefs. I have

been involved ever since as RE preschool teacher; RE Committee member; sounding board for Jill McAllister; sleep-over chaperone; Women's Retreat attendee; People's Cafe worker at the Bizarre; Adult and Youth Coming of Age...I'm eclectic and enjoy the wide variety of activities The People's Church has to offer!

In these challenging times, I feel it is time to give my time to this most important source of loving kindness. I am honored to be offered to serve as a Trustee of the Board in hopes that my contributions can help in continuing this essential, vibrant community for generations to come!

• Amy Meyer

I started attending People's Church when I was 3 years old. At that time, we were located in downtown Kalamazoo. I moved to Texas when I was in my 20's and raised a son and daughter. I visited several UU churches while I was living there. Those were



great experiences because I felt like I had found my people. When I returned to Kalamazoo in 2015, I began attending People's Church again. It feels like home.

My career was spent in various areas of accounting. I have always liked working with numbers because the outcome is either right or wrong. It is a satisfying offset to the uncertainties of real life. I've been involved in various activities at People's, including volunteering at the holiday bazaar, making pasties, playing in the bell choir, attending a chalice circle, the film group and a lunch group that meets once a month.

I have frequent video calls with my daughter and three grandsons who live in Texas. I visit them a couple times a year. They are my joy. I am also very close to my son who lives in Denver. My mom (Mary Lewis) and I live together and I feel very blessed to be with her.

I'm honored to be nominated and look forward to a new learning experience.

Nominating Committee Nominees

• **Michael Leonard**

I first attended People's Church in the before times, coming for the community, and staying for even more. But then I moved to Grand Rapids and so only attended sporadically with a big chunk of this time being taken up by COVID. Now that I am back living in the area – Oshtemo actually – I



am happy to be fully part of the People's as a member, my membership process having been interrupted before by my move. I was initially raised by a father who was Catholic, having been a Jesuit, but chose not to become a Catholic

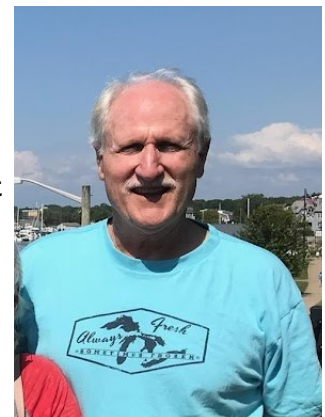
myself, choosing instead to learn about all religions by becoming a socio-cultural anthropologist. I was also fascinated by early belief in America, including deism, and how it all evolved into what we have today, including us Unitarian Universal-

ists. I initially got more involved at People's through singing, because I have been singing all my life, but another thing that drew me here is how People's integrates young people through the particularly rich RE program, even though I do not have any children of my own. After having taught anthropology at Western, I am now a full-time outpatient therapist at Van Buren Community Mental Health who works with people of all ages and I have learned how important culture is not only to the development of society, but to individuals' development and so now want to be more actively a part of keeping People's Church's culture healthy through being a member of the Nominating Committee. I appreciate being nominated for nominating and look forward to the process of picking the next batch of board members.

• **Ken Tindall**

I was born and raised methodist in portage, MI. I got a master of social work degree at WMU and had a long career with the state of MI. My jobs included psychiatric social work at the Kalamazoo psychiatric hospital and licensing adult foster care homes. I've been happily retired since 2017. As a young adult I had little interest and no involvement in Christianity or any other religious tradition.

When our son Timothy was 12 years old my wife Beth DeWaters, and I wanted him to get exposure to organized religion. After meeting with Reverend Jill McAllister and learning about UU and the excellent RE program at People's, we realized it was a good fit for us. So I have been a member of Peoples since 2000! During those 24 years I have made some friends with like values and participated in different ways. I value and support our church for many reasons that includes, among others, inspiring Sunday services, the RE program and the many ways our church works on social justice issues in The Kalamazoo area.



Special Collection: Unitarian Universalist Association April 7

The Unitarian Universalist Association is the central organization for Unitarian Universalists in the United States. The UUA's 1000+ member congregations partner together to promote congregational health and vitality, train lay and professional leaders, and to advance Unitarian Universalist values in the world. The UUA produces Our Whole Lives and other religious education curriculum, advocates for our values nationally and internationally, and is a source for our congregation for everything from stewardship strategies to words in Sunday services.

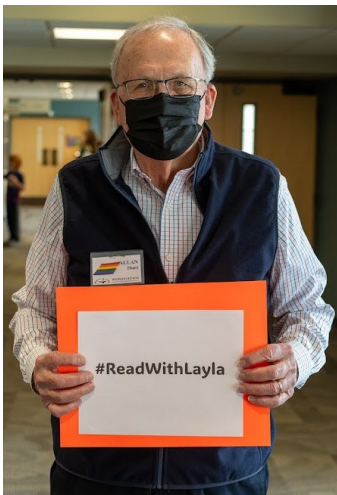
This year, we have given less to the UUA than what is considered our 'fair share' based on our budget. This special collection is a moment for us to close that gap and move toward right relationship.



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



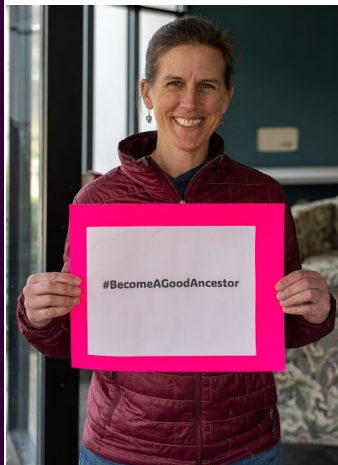
The live-streamed interview on March 16th with Layla Saad, author of *Me and White Supremacy*, with ISAAC President Elder Doug King was very moving and a tremendous learning opportunity. People's Church had over 30 people attending our watch party in the Commons and several more watching from home. The key constructs in her book were introduced in the video prelude. Their conversation allowed listeners to lean in deeply to gain a closer understanding of the impact of our white supremacy culture on all of us, internally through our socialization and in our systems and institutions. Dismantling these impacts begins by gaining a conscious awareness as this interview brought to bear.



If you were unable to tune in to the live interview, you can watch a recording of it on the below link.

You are also welcome to share the links with others in your circles to help build a shared understanding as we seek to dismantle racism. There is also a link to the Call to Action, providing an opportunity to indicate interest in several antiracism trainings that ISAAC and its partners will be sponsoring for member congregations and community partners.

Several People's people have indicated interest in participating in a reading



group to read and journal Me and White Supremacy more thoroughly at a manageable pace with opportunity for discussion and support. Reverend Rachel is considering offering this for us. Let her know if you are interested. Thank you to all who participated and or who are reading the book!

Fireside Chat Recording 1pm, Pre recordings and 1:30pm, Fireside Chat

<https://youtu.be/IaULW5on8kI>

Fireside Chat - Call to Action Form/ Link (Please submit by March 31st)

<https://forms.gle/5aVYpoR18durg7Fc9>



Child Dedication Rituals coming soon

At People's Church, child dedication rituals are our way of welcoming children to our community. We bless them and the whole congregation promises to support them and their families. Rev. Rachel is in the process of scheduling child dedication rituals for later this spring. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact her at minister@peopleschurch.net or 269-389-9721.

Congregational Meeting May 19

The People's Church Annual Congregational Meeting will happen on Sunday May 19, following the service. Please attend in-person or on Zoom. At this gathering we will set the final ballot that will be distributed to all church members by mail and email after the meeting. Agenda items will include the congregational budget for the coming fiscal year and nominees to the board and nominating committee, as well as anything else church members want the congregation as a whole to vote on.



To be eligible to vote at the annual congregational meeting, you must become a church member by signing the Bond of Union on or before April 8. If you are unsure about your membership status, please contact Rev. Rachel or Melissa, our church administrator.

Stewardship Update

Our stewardship campaign closes on April 2. Make your pledge by returning your pledge card to the church or via our online pledge form here: <https://forms.gle/ZRnywB1rfY9Kb2aV6> In mid-April, our stewardship committee will be reaching out to the folks we haven't heard from yet. Please save everyone's time by returning your pledge card (or letting us know you don't plan to pledge) today.





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

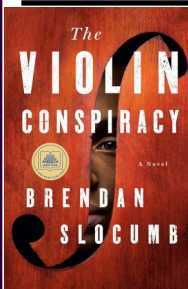
Room 19 after church to join us for a light lunch. The conversations will begin at about 12:30 p.m.

April 14, Justin Gish, City of Kalamazoo Sustainability Planner

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

Rain Garden Update

The People's Church rain garden was created last fall, thanks to the Green Sanctuary Committee and the hard work of many volunteers led by Kimberly Ginn, who is a certified Master Rain Gardener. This garden collects rain runoff into a basin, where the water infiltrates the ground, is cleaned and eventually flows into our aquifer. Roots from plants in a rain garden will filter contaminants from the parking lots. Our rain garden will be filled with native plants—those that have evolved to thrive in our area and climate. These flowers and grasses provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. They are attractive to humans, too! However, the basin we dug last September has proved to be too small to handle the volume of rain the area holds, so the adventure continues. This spring we plan to enlarge the garden, install more drains, and add more plants. These steps will help the area absorb the water that naturally collects there, leading to the garden's success. Volunteers will be needed to help “grow” our rain garden, so be on the lookout for details as we approach planting season. Participating in this project is a fun way to connect with People's people while doing meaningful work. In addition, if anyone has a sod cutter or a small earth mover they'd be willing to loan, or native plants to donate, please contact Kimberly or a member of the Green Sanctuary Committee.



Afternoon Book Club

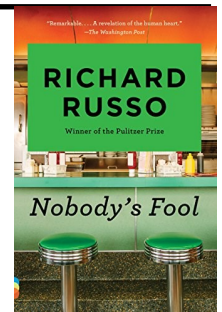
The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Monday, April 1 at 1:30 to discuss “The Violin Conspiracy” by Brendan Slocumb. Our May book will be “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride. Newcomers are welcome. Contact Marj Lightner for more details: marjlightner56@gmail.com.

Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

In-person meetings at Lois Loeffler's (near church)

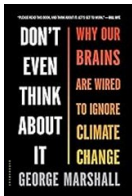
2nd Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m., Newcomers are welcome.

"Nobody's Fool" by Richard Russo will be reviewed by Mary Hrbeck April 11. You can see upcoming books on the church website, under "Learning/Adult Education". To be added to the email list and/or if you have any questions, feel free to contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com; 269-716-3623.



Library Corner

To celebrate April as both Earth Month and Poetry Month, here are a few of the titles found in People's Library.

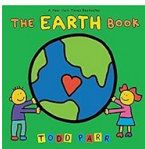
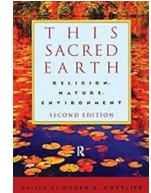


Don't Even Think about It; Why Our Brains Are Wired to Ignore Climate Change, by George Marshall—363.738 Ma

“What is the psychological mechanism that allows us to know something is true but act as if it is not? ... Marshall argues that the answers do not lie in the things that make us different, but rather in what we share: how our human brains are wired.”

This Sacred Earth; Religion, Nature, Environment, ed. by Roger S. Gottlieb—291.1 G

“This book surveys traditional religious perspectives on nature, and shows how contemporary theologians, spiritual teachers, and religious institutions are responding to humanity's devastation of the environment.”

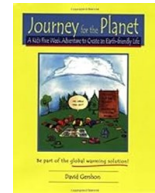


The Earth Book, by Todd Parr—RE 333.72 Pa

“Includes lots of easy, smart ideas on how we can all work together to make the Earth feel good - from planting a tree and using both sides of the paper, to saving energy and reusing old things in new ways.”

Journey for the Planet; a Kid's Five Week Adventure to Create an Earth-friendly Life, by David Gershon—RE 333.72 Ge

The author guides children through 46 action lessons, taught by a series of animal characters, that can impact both climate change and the environment as a whole.

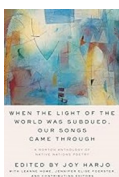
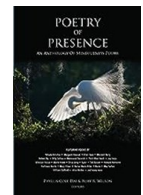


Stop Global Warming; the Solution Is You! by Laurie David—363.7 Da

An important book that will bring out the activist in everyone and inspire all who read it to do something about the most urgent issue facing our planet.

Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems, edited by Phyllis Cole-Dai and Ruby R. Wilson—808.81 Co

Poetry that provides a refuge of quiet clarity. The diverse group of contributing poets includes contemporary favorites such as Wendell Berry and Naomi Shihab Nye as well as poets of the past such as Pablo Neruda, Li Po, and Rumi. Readers of the poems in this book will begin to find themselves becoming less stressed, more balanced, and more fully present in the world.



When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through; a Norton Anthology of Native American Poetry, ed. By Joy Harjo—811.008 Wh

This landmark anthology celebrates the indigenous peoples of North America, the first poets of this country, whose literary traditions stretch back centuries.

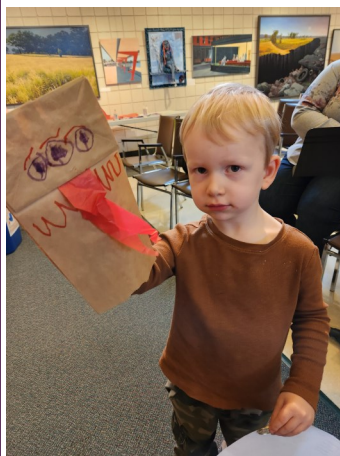
Questions/ comments are welcomed. Please contact Lois Loeffler, chair of the Library Committee, at loisloeffler@gmail.com.

Intergenerational Community Blessings

How many places in your life do a variety of ages of folks come together to connect with one another in meaningful ways?

One of the many blessings of our congregation is the opportunity for people to meet and get to know others that may run in different circles.

At our recent **Reverse Service** when the children remained in the Commons while most of the adults went to their activities, I was awash in gratitude for the teens and adults who remained to help with the kids.



After hearing the Jataka tale of **The Prince and Sticky Hair**, participants were able to engage in a variety of activity stations.

These included acting out scenes from the story, making their own shields of strength and courage, painting posters of peace and love, engaging in hands on mindfulness activities, making monster puppets and releasing negative emotions through lighting flash paper and archery.



It was a fun and meaningful experience where we worked on honing our inner warriors to better face our own

fears and cultivate courage and kindness.

We have the most fabulous group of middle schoolers who are so creative, helpful and such a vital part of our church community. They were invaluable in helping with this service and many of them will help in planning and leading our Intergenerational Earth Day service again this year, so you will not want to miss out on that.



In Gratitude for this diverse community!
Blessed Be, Diane Melvin Religious Education





PEOPLE'S CHURCH IS HOSTING

PEACE AND NATURE CAMP

JUNE 24-28, 2024

DAILY SCHEDULE

Camp runs Monday, June 24 through Friday, June 28 from 9am to 4pm with before and aftercare available.

Rising 1st to rising 6th graders will enjoy a week of outdoor activities: exploring our church grounds, taking nature walks, building forts in the woods, going on a day trip to the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and splashing on the slip-and-slide, as well as daily music, art, and mindfulness practice. All that AND have fun with friends!

COSTS

One child: \$200 for the week*
Additional siblings: \$175 each*

\$25 per week for before-hours care (8-9am)*
\$35 per week for after-hours care (4-5:30pm)*
\$50 per week for both before/after hours care*
*Scholarships available!

FOR MORE INFO

Email: PeoplesPNC@gmail.com

Our Camp Mission is to inspire and practice peaceful interactions with ourselves, each other, and nature.

bit.ly/PeoplesPNC



“Which Way Are We Going?”

featuring the paintings of Conrad Kaufman and Fence Rows Painters
Exhibit March and April, Artist Reception March 31 at noon

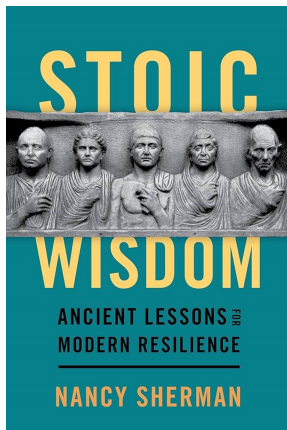
Conrad Kaufman is well known for his masterful landscape paintings and murals, as well as his woodworking, clay, furniture, and metal creations. He regularly shows his work at many prestigious art fairs, and has installations in businesses, universities, and museums. Coming from a strong environmental background, his art is used also to make a statement. These unique pieces are not usually shown or sold at art exhibitions. The Fence Row Painters are a group of people who paint with Conrad weekly and learn from him and share their enthusiasm for art. They also get to see these hidden gems as they are being painted. This exhibit is a platform to allow these paintings to have an audience in a space of people who will understand.



What is art for? There are many reasons to make art. Usually one thinks of showing beauty, and yet making art can be therapeutic. This exhibit shows that art can make a statement. We want people to think beyond what can be hung in your living room.

Fence Row Artist: Conrad Kaufman

Fence Row Painters: Gay Walker, Carrie Lin, Brian Walters, and Susan McBain.



Study Group

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday April 29 at 4 p.m., via Zoom, to discuss: "Stoic Wisdom: Ancient Lessons for Modern Resilience", by Nancy Sherman. Sherman is a philosophy professor at Georgetown who formerly taught at the U.S. Naval Academy. The book attempts to provide an updated version of Stoicism to be more relevant to both individual lives and social action, and illustrates its approach with numerous examples. 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

"Shutter Island" (2010) will be the topic of the group's 4/17 (3-4:30) meeting, reviewed by Amy Meyer.

A Blu-ray version is available from KPL; or it can be rented from Amazon for \$3.99. To receive a zoom invitation, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com 269-716-3623.

Newcomers are welcome.



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Monday	April 1	Afternoon Book Club	1:30pm	Zoom
Tuesday	April 2	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
Thursday	April 4	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	April 7	Sunday Service: The Spiritual Work of Preparedness	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Coming of Age for All Ages	12:30pm	Room L2
Tuesday	April 9	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Thursday	April 11	White Elephant Meeting	10:00am	At Church
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Lois Loeffler's
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Friday	April 12	RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
Saturday	April 13	Youth Pizza & Worship Planning	6:00pm	Room L2
Sunday	April 14	Sunday Service: Poetry Service	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Climate Conversation	12:30pm	Room 19
Monday	April 15	Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	April 16	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	April 17	Film Discussion Group	3:00pm	Zoom
Thursday	April 18	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	April 21	Sunday Service: Earth Day Intergenerational Service	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Monday	April 22	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
Tuesday	April 23	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Dismantling Racism Team	6:00pm	Zoom
Wednesday	April 24	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
Thursday	April 25	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	April 28	Sunday Service: Take Me Out to the Ball Game	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Tuesday	April 30	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church

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."**