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## 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

### May 5: "What's Next?" — Rev. Rachel Lonberg



What happens when we die? While our Universalist ancestors had a very certain idea about this, modern Unitarian Universalists have a variety of beliefs about the afterlife (or lack of one). Rev. Rachel will explore some of the ideas commonly held among us. This service will also feature a child dedication ritual and end with a fire drill for in-person attendees (weather permitting).

### May 12: "Music Service"

Join Peoples' musicians for a service full of stirring music.



### May 19: "Coming of Age Service" — Coming of Age for Adults Participants and Rev. Rachel Lonberg



Over this church year, participants in our coming of age for youth and adults: discerning values and beliefs class have been exploring their beliefs, values, and ethics. In this service, they will share some of their learning with the congregation.

This service will be followed by a potluck and the annual congregational meeting.

### May 26: "Memorial Day Service" — Rev. Rachel Lonberg

In our annual Memorial Day weekend service of remembrance, we will remember those who have died in war and military service. We will also honor church members and others who have died in the past year and the griefs that so many of us carry. (If you would like a photo of someone you love who has died in the past year included in the service, please send it to Rev. Rachel at [minister@peopleschurch.net](mailto:minister@peopleschurch.net) or drop it off at the church.)





Dear Ones,  
Earlier this spring, the board of trustees approved my proposal to take a sabbatical in spring/summer 2025. **I will be on sabbatical from mid-April to mid-August 2025.**

What's a sabbatical?  
A sabbatical for a religious leader is a time of

deep rest, learning, and spiritual growth. It is a time to move through the world more slowly and mend connections to what matters most in my life that have frayed due to the day-to-day demands of ministry.

What am I going to do?

I have several plans for my sabbatical. (Writing about these plans makes me nervous, as my last sabbatical was in 2021 and I spent it facilitating remote kindergarten, not engaging in the projects I hoped for.)

I planning to rest, engage in spiritual practices, read and learn. I am also hoping to write a romance novel. Romance novels have become a source of joy and comfort to me in recent years and I've been slowly working on writing a story. I've never written anything as long as a book before and I'm excited to see what I might be able to accomplish when my best writing energy isn't devoted to sermons, reports, emails and newsletter articles.

I am also hoping to travel to Europe with my spouse and children. My brother and his family moved to Haarlem, The Netherlands almost a year ago (leaving Idaho for a safer place to raise my transgender niece). I want to see them. Depending on our budget, we'd also like to visit one of my spouse's good friends in Belgium and return to Serbia, where I lived for two years twenty years ago and where my call to ministry took shape.

What will happen at People's Church without Rev.

Rachel?

People's Church will thrive in my absence. You all have navigated sabbaticals before and we will use a similar approach to what we did when I went on sabbatical in 2021. You all will fill the 'Rev.-Rachel-shaped-hole' I leave behind in a variety of ways. Diane Melvin and the board will take on the administrative tasks. Guest preachers and People's people will lead Sunday services (look for a sermon writing class adult religious education class coming this fall!) A team of church folks with support from a local clergyperson or minister will support church folks who are facing loss, grief, and other challenging circumstances. We will begin organizing all of this in late summer and early fall.

I wanted to tell you about this sabbatical now so we have plenty of time to ask questions and plan together – and because you will see some of the costs of the sabbatical in the 2024-2025 budget. (The sabbatical will happen across the next two church fiscal years.) Please let me know if you have any questions about this – or if you have ideas for how to make the church's time while I am away especially meaningful.

See you soon,  
Rachel

### **Budget Briefing**

May 5, 20 minutes after the service ends, in The Commons and livestreamed via Zoom



This is your chance to learn more about the proposed budget for the 2024-5 church year.

Treasurer Tom Hackley, members of the Board of Trustees, and Rev. Rachel will be available to answer your ques-

tions and hear your opinions. Feedback received at this meeting could lead the board to make changes to the budget proposed to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting on May 19.

## Annual Congregational Meeting (and Potluck!)

May 19, potluck immediately following the service, congregational meeting begins at 12:45 on Zoom and in person. Bring a dish to share and do the work of our democracy!



A potluck will immediately follow the service on May 19. At 12:45, the congregational meeting will begin. Agenda items include nominees for the board and nominating committee, the budget for the upcoming year, and any business that members of the congregation choose to present. Childcare will be provided. Please note: final votes on all items will happen following the congregational meeting, by mail and online. You do not need to attend to vote, but you do need to attend (in person or online) to speak about these agenda items, offer amendments, or bring forward new business.

## 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 Universalists.

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: ISAAC**

ISAAC, Interfaith Strategy for Action and Advocacy in the Community, is the congregation-based community organizing group that People's Church is part of. We join together with 30 other community organizations to work for a more just and equitable Kalamazoo County. Right now, ISAAC is building the Beloved Community by focusing on anti-racism, housing, and gun violence prevention.



### **Me & White Supremacy Book Circle**

Begins June 9 12:30-2pm, Room L2, and continues on second Sundays for seven months



We are starting a book circle to work through *Me & White Supremacy* by Layla Saad. This is a group for white people as well as People of Color who benefit from white privilege by being lighter skinned, white passing, or white adjacent.

In order to develop the trust necessary for this deep, vulnerable work, we are expecting people to commit to attend at least six sessions and we will have no more than 20 participants. We will collaborate on lunches. Childcare is available by request. The book is available at local stores; if buying it is a financial hardship, reach out to Rev. Rachel and she will get a copy for you. If you have any questions about this, please contact Rev. Rachel.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-49276633-mewhite#/>

### **UUA General Assembly Delegates Needed**

We are seeking several People's Church members to serve as delegates to the upcoming all-online UUA General Assembly June 20-23. At this national gathering of UUs, votes will be taken that shape the future of our Association, including on the revision of Article II of the UUA Bylaws (which would change the principles and sources to values and inspirations). Having daytime availability to stream the conversations about the business of the association is helpful, but not required. (Rev. Rachel will also be hosting watch parties at the church.) If you are interested in serving in this way or have questions, please reach out to Rev. Rachel by June 1.



## 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.



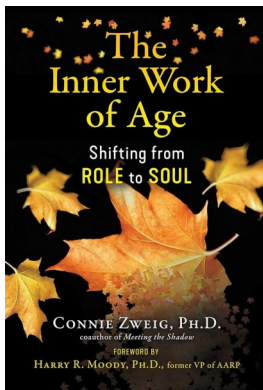
## The Inner Work of Age

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

**Tuesday May 21, 1:30-3:00pm, on Zoom**

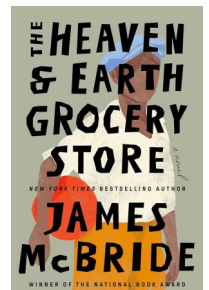
**Zoom link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326>**

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.)



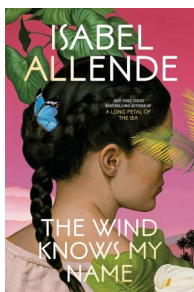
## Afternoon Book Club

We will meet at 1:30 on May 6 at Martha Beverly's home in the Garden Homes at Friendship Village to discuss "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Marj Lightner at [marjlightner56@gmail.com](mailto:marjlightner56@gmail.com) if you want to be on our mailing list.



## Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

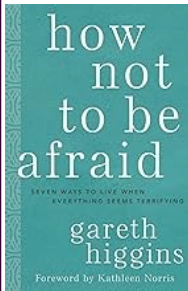
2nd Thursdays, 6-7:30pm, in person at Lois Loeffler's home near church  
Newcomers welcome! "The Wind Knows My Name" by Isabel Allende, reviewed by Mary Montgomery is our topic May 9. You can find the full schedule on the church website ("Learning"). Mid-summer (date tba) we'll choose books for next year. This group focuses on quality fiction.





## Library Corner

Inasmuch as May is Mental Health Month, this month's article highlights several of People's Library books which address mental health issues.

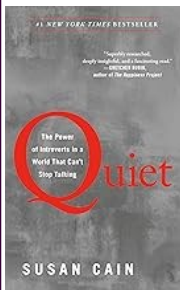
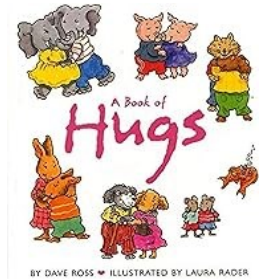


### **“How Not to Be Afraid; Seven Ways to Live When Everything Seems Terrifying”, by Gareth Higgins—152.46 Hi**

Grounded in personal experience and expert reflection on violence, conflict transformation, and trauma recovery, Higgins traces vulnerability as strength to address seven common fears that plague each of us at some point in our lives.

### **“A Book of Hugs”, by Dave Ross,—RE 152.4 Ro**

This delightfully cuddly book gives us a warm and friendly look at some of the best kinds of hugs around.

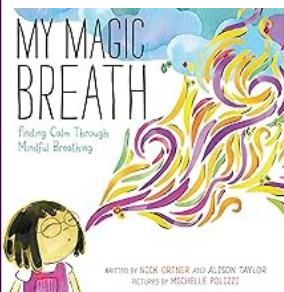
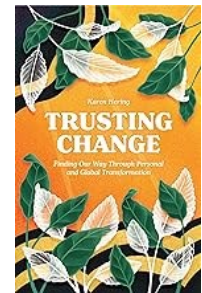


### **“Quiet; the Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking”, by Susan Cain—155.2 Ca**

“Those who value a quiet, reflective life will feel a burden lifting from their shoulders as they read [this] eloquent and well documented paean to introversion--and will no longer feel guilty or inferior for having made the better choice.” Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

### **“Trusting Change; Finding our Way through Personal and Global Transformation”, by Karen Hering—158.1 He**

Whether you are living through significant personal transitions or navigating a world reshaping itself faster than ever, the book offers ten skills for living on the threshold as well as spiritual practices and inspiration for connecting with your own inner wisdom.



### **“My Magic Breath; Finding Calm through Mindful Breathing”, by Nick Ortner and Alison Taylor—RE 158.1 Or**

In a world that is sometimes too busy, with too many things going on, My Magic Breath will help steer children into a serene space of mindfulness, self-awareness, and balance.

**Questions/ comments are welcomed. Please contact Lois Loeffler, chair of the Library Committee, at [loisloeffler@gmail.com](mailto:loisloeffler@gmail.com).**

### Earth Wisdom

When Rev. Rachel and I gathered with the youth to brainstorm ideas for our Earth Day intergenerational service, the teens generated so many creative ideas. After some discussion, we decided to have the youth represent the plants and animals of their choice at a Family Reunion Dinner.

As so often happens at family reunions, each species let us know how they were doing and what was going on in their lives and habitats. Sister Scarlet McCaw, grandfather tree, granddaughter rat, father plant, cousin raccoon, grandmother spider and Aunt ant all gathered around the table together.

They each had important wisdom to share with the congregation about how to live more sustainably with our earth and all the species with whom we share this planet.

One of the many blessings of this intergenerational religious community is the opportunity for all ages to gather together to learn, grow, worship, share wisdom and different perspectives.

Each of us sees a glimpse of the whole and together we can see a broader view of what is true in the world. As young people become aware of the state of our planet and the future they are inheriting, they are highly motivated to increase their understandings and take action. Our youth bring invaluable voices to the table when it comes to protecting our earth. We are fortunate to have them share their wisdom with us.

*Blessed Be, Diane Melvin Religious Education Director*



### RE Program Evaluations

The religious education committee is working hard to get feedback from families about our program this year. Let us know what you appreciate about our program and how we can better meet the needs of your family.

Please click the link to complete the Google form or fill out one of the paper evaluation forms at church.

We care about your feedback!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Ucdo3lcSRSRYxOxEHrCwxj\\_SZupBVMBmYaLJa6iFQ7M](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Ucdo3lcSRSRYxOxEHrCwxj_SZupBVMBmYaLJa6iFQ7M)

### RE Lessons in May

Our K-6th graders will be exploring important topics together in their religious education classes this month. **Peace, love, resiliency, and anti-racism** are all topics in which our children will be engaging in thoughtful and meaningful ways. While deepening connections, we also hope that our kids leave their time at church feeling better equipped to be kind, compassionate and more inclusive in their daily lives.

### 5/6th Grade OWL

Congrats to those who completed this important Our Whole Lives sexuality education class: Lexi Webb, Barb Wilson, Hayden Dibble-Valette, Teddy Ernst, Robyn Shepich, Keller Sparling, Lyra New and Vincent Cavanagh!







## **Child Dedication Ritual May 5**

A child dedication ritual is the special way we welcome children into our church community. The church community dedicates itself to the children and promises to support them and their parents, guardians, and caregivers. We will be having a child dedication ritual as part of the Sunday Service on May 5th. If you would like your family to participate (and haven't already been in contact with Rev. Rachel) or have questions, please contact Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or [minister@peopleschurch.net](mailto:minister@peopleschurch.net)

## **Wanted: Co-Leader for Bazaar Artists and Vendors**

If you are looking for a very enjoyable and engaging way to serve our church, please consider this opportunity. Emily Sipsma will be stepping away from the wonderful work she has done for several years as co-leader of this very important area of our church Bazaar. We are looking for a special person to replace her and train on-the-job this year with co-leader Rochelle Habeck Hunt.

We have found that it an advantage NOT to be artists, but to appreciate lots of kinds of art and artists. This is a very outward-facing role, representing our church in the community with diplomacy and creating relationships. This work starts in late May to review last year's roster and results, determine possible openings, review applications received, and build from there in the early summer by attending area art sales and so forth. The work continues as the roster and space are filled and until the Bazaar ends, with tasks changing as the date comes closer.



This IS a job for a person who is comfortable being in email contact as a partner on a regular and continuing basis in this collaborative work of decision-making and communicating with artists. It is helpful to have writing skills to compose letters, computer skills to maintain lists and documents, Excel familiarity, and capacity for interacting with artists to obtain material for print and social media with our publicity team and to solicit voluntary contributions with our raffle team.

There is quite a bit of work involved, but it is stretched out over time, done at the convenience of the co-leaders' schedules, and truly delightful to work with our artists and our amazing Bazaar team. It is an honor to represent our church in this role and it is a great practice for building patience, discernment, and tact. If you would like to consider this, please call or email Rochelle at 269-341-0381 or [habeck@chartermi.net](mailto:habeck@chartermi.net)



## **Mowers Needed!**

Now that summer is approaching, we need a few more volunteers to help mow the church lawn. If you'd like to meditate an hour or two once a month atop a John Deere rider mower, then this could be the job for you! If interested, please contact Greg Feldmeier (269-760-5723) or Rick Johnson (269-598-8317).



### Join Hope for Creation for our 10th anniversary!



HOPE FOR CREATION - 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

#### How can we be Earth Healers?

Soup Dinner and Climate Conversation  
with Debra Reinstra, author of *Refugia Faith*



May 2 | 6 - 8 PM | RSVP at [info@hopeforcreation.net](mailto:info@hopeforcreation.net)  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
345 W MICHIGAN AVE, KALAMAZOO

You're invited to an evening of simple food, great conversation, thought provoking information, and glad celebration. Together we will mark ten years of networking people of faith and conscience in the work of creation care. Debra Rienstra, author of *Refugia Faith* is our keynote speaker. Her presentation introduces and explores refugia: pockets of diverse and thriving life that emerge amid damaged landscapes. The image of refugia applies to many circumstances in a culture under stress and flux. Our focus will be upon creating and nurturing places of thriving life in the work of addressing climate change and building a just world for all. The evening also includes a silent auction of baskets from local merchants and small works by local artisans. (Auction is

cash or check only). Please RSVP to [info@hopeforcreation.net](mailto:info@hopeforcreation.net) See you there!

### Choosing Dignity: Navigating Your End-of-Life Journey

May Thoughtful Thursday  
Date: Thursday, May 9th  
Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
Location: Online Only - Zoom Event

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/uucccompassionandchoices>  
Join the Unitarian Universalist Community Church on Thursday, May 9th, for a Thoughtful Thursday event: Choosing Dignity: Navigating Your End-of-Life Journey, featuring Elaine Pereira from Compassion & Choices and engage in a heartfelt conversation exploring vital decisions for a dignified end-of-life passage.

Choosing Dignity:  
Navigating Your  
End-of-Life Journey

Thoughtful Thursday  
May 9 at 7:00 PM

Elaine Pereira

REGISTER: [tinyurl.com/uucccompassionandchoices](https://tinyurl.com/uucccompassionandchoices)

Can't make it the night of the event? No worries. Register and we'll send you the recording. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/uucccompassionandchoices>



### UU Women's Retreat

The WomUUn's Community at First UU of Ann Arbor is hosting our annual WomUUn's Retreat on October 11-13, at YMCA Camp Copneconic in Fenton, MI. This year's retreat kicks off on Friday evening with a pot-luck Community Café, book and jewelry exchanges, tile painting and our Welcoming Session and a bonfire with storytelling. Saturday will be packed with small group gatherings; good food; relaxed and fun art and craft workshops; outdoor activities such as zip lining, archery and high ropes course, and a joyful singalong/jam session/dance party. Sunday morning we wrap up with our closing Community Celebration. Registration opened April 1, and all registration materials are available at <https://uuaa.org/womuuns-community/>. Women should register

(and pay) by June 30 to receive early bird pricing.

## Troubled Water Screening in Kalamazoo



**Movie night May 3rd!** Join MiCAN, Oil & Water Don't Mix, Kalamazoo Remembers, and Kalamazoo 350 for a screening of *Troubled Water* – an adventure/conservation documentary filmed in Michigan, by Michiganders – at the Fetzer Center, WMU, Friday, May 3, 6:00 p.m. **The screening is free, even the popcorn!**

We'll have plenty of time to mingle with co-sponsors and hear how they're attempting to preserve the Great Lakes and protect residents from the harmful impacts of fossil fuels. It's safe to say Kalamazoo is no stranger to the [literally] slick moves of big oil companies like Enbridge.

Come out in solidarity with the community to celebrate its strength and resilience in our fight to resist unnecessary fossil fuel infrastructure into the future.

**Register Here:** [https://www.miclimateaction.org/troubled\\_water\\_screening\\_kalamazoo?utm\\_campaign=troubled\\_water&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=miclimateaction](https://www.miclimateaction.org/troubled_water_screening_kalamazoo?utm_campaign=troubled_water&utm_medium=email&utm_source=miclimateaction)

## Loaves and Fishes Collection Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to all the anonymous folks who put food donations in our Loaves and Fishes collection drum by the front door. Your gifts are regularly taken to Loaves and Fishes and are much appreciated!



## 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](http://www.chalicesparx.org). Like us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/chalicesparx/> and join us in Cassopolis, Michigan July 4-7, 2024!



## Art Wall Exhibit for May & June

**Artist: Judy Finnegan**

**Title: When In Our Music God is Glorified**

In an effort to reconcile an interest in music and visual art, I gave myself an assignment to visualize some songs and pieces.

During a Gilmore piano concert in 2015, a performance of Robert Schumann's *Waldszehnen* (Forest Scenes) suggested images recalled from a week I had spent at Beaver Island. A series of paintings came about, first a group of watercolors and then oil paintings. Later, hymns and other songs inspired me.

In my work, I may start with an idea, but quickly it becomes a problem-solving adventure. Many years ago, when I encountered many solutions to one problem, my mentor, Donald E. King wisely said with a wink, "There is more than one problem."



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

The much anticipated annual White Elephant sale is coming up on Saturday June 15th!

Keep an eye on communications in May for more information on how you can help as well as information on how the drop off of items will work this year!

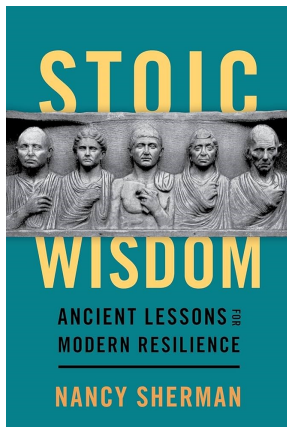
### **Film Discussion**

3rd Wednesday of the month, 3-4:30, on Zoom

"Blue Bayou" (2021) will be our film for May, reviewed by Karen Tinklenberg. 4 copies of the DVD are available from Kalamazoo Public Library, among other sources. Newcomers are welcome. If you'd like to get on the email list for reminders and the zoom invite, contact Pat Nelson, [patnelson348@gmail.com](mailto:patnelson348@gmail.com), 269-716-3623.



### **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](mailto:magelewis@aol.com).

| Day       | Date   | Event                                 | Time    | Place           |
|-----------|--------|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Thursday  | May 2  | Bell Choir Rehearsal                  | 5:30pm  | Commons         |
|           |        | RE Committee Meeting                  | 6:30pm  | Room 19         |
|           |        | Choir Rehearsal                       | 7:00pm  | Commons         |
| Sunday    | May 5  | Sunday Service: "What's Next?"        | 10:45am | Commons & Zoom  |
|           |        | Budget Briefing                       | 12:30pm | Commons         |
|           |        | Coming of Age for All Ages            | 12:30pm | Rm 19 & Commons |
| Monday    | May 6  | Afternoon Book Club                   | 1:30pm  | Contact Marj L  |
| Tuesday   | May 7  | Building & Grounds                    | 10:00am | At Church       |
| Thursday  | May 9  | Bell Choir Rehearsal                  | 5:30pm  | Commons         |
|           |        | Evening Book Club                     | 6:00pm  | Lois Loeffler's |
|           |        | Choir Rehearsal                       | 7:00pm  | Commons         |
| Sunday    | May 12 | Sunday Service: Music Service         | 10:45am | Commons & Zoom  |
| Tuesday   | May 14 | Building & Grounds                    | 10:00am | At Church       |
| Wednesday | May 15 | Film Discussion Group                 | 3:00pm  | Zoom            |
| Thursday  | May 16 | Bell Choir Rehearsal                  | 5:30pm  | Commons         |
|           |        | Choir Rehearsal                       | 7:00pm  | Commons         |
| Sunday    | May 19 | Sunday Service: Coming of Age Service | 10:45am | Commons & Zoom  |
|           |        | Potluck!                              | 12:00pm | At Church       |
|           |        | Annual Meeting                        | 1:00pm  | Commons & Zoom  |
| Monday    | May 20 | <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>            |         |                 |
| Tuesday   | May 21 | Building & Grounds                    | 10:00am | At Church       |
|           |        | Library Committee                     | 10:00pm | At Church       |
| Wednesday | May 22 | Finance Committee                     | 2:30pm  | Zoom            |
| Thursday  | May 23 | Bell Choir Rehearsal                  | 5:30pm  | Commons         |
|           |        | Choir Rehearsal                       | 7:00pm  | Commons         |
| Sunday    | May 26 | Sunday Service: Memorial Day Service  | 10:45am | Commons & Zoom  |
| Tuesday   | May 28 | Building & Grounds                    | 10:00am | At Church       |
| Thursday  | May 30 | Bell Choir Rehearsal                  | 5:30pm  | Commons         |
|           |        | Choir Rehearsal                       | 7:00pm  | Commons         |
| Friday    | May 31 | Sunday Services Committee             | 3:00pm  | Zoom            |

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

Check us out on the web!  
[www.peopleschurch.net](http://www.peopleschurch.net)



## **People's Church Mission Statement**

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