



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

Inside this issue:

Picture Directory	2
Lost & Found	2
White Elephant	3
Library Corner	5
Religious Education	6
Calendar	9



People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 85, Issue 10

June 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

June 2: Milestones Service

This Sunday, we will mark the milestones, transitions, and learnings in our community this year. We will welcome the newest members of People's Church. We will honor our children and youth who completed Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality education this year. We will celebrate our youth who are bridging to adulthood. We will also thank our religious education teachers and leaders.



June 9: Lessons from Dandelions: A Flower Service



In this service to mark the end of the church program year, we will let dandelions be our teachers. What can these nutritious plants, the bane of many gardeners, teach us about depth, abundance, persistence, surprise, and beauty? This service will include our annual flower ritual. All in-person attendees are invited to bring a flower or two to share. After the service, we will deliver flowers to our Zoom attendees (who are within a reasonable driving distance).

Summer Services

This year the broad theme for summer services is "Living Our Values." People's People will speak on this theme in a variety of ways. Each service will include a ten-minute reflection from a speaker followed by group discussion. Summer services will be multiplatform, taking place both in the Commons and over Zoom. Services begin at 10:45.



Our summer speakers are as follows:

June 16: Rochelle Habeck
June 23: Rachel Bair
June 30: Steve & Teresa Cavanaugh
July 7: Tim Sparling
July 14: Rev. Rachel Lonberg
July 21: Denise and Connie

July 28: Book Service/People's Librarians
August 4: Ann Shepich
August 11: Gordon Bolar
August 18: Marty Newman
August 25: Karen Tinklenberg
September 1: George Hrbeck

Rev. Rachel on Study Leave June 10-16

Rev. Rachel will be on study leave from June 10-16. During this time, she will be working from home and engaging in deeper study and reflection. She has a pile of books to read – and hopes to outline a sermon-writing class that she will be teaching in fall and winter 2024. (Stay tuned to this newsletter for details.) If you need to reach her, know that she will be on her email less frequently. As always, phone call and text messages are the quickest way to reach her.



Updated Picture Directory Coming Soon!

After the work of building a Picture Directory last year, this Summer I will be creating an updated version. People change over time! If you'd like to submit an updated photo of yourself or your family for this year's directory, please send to me by NO LATER than August 1st. You can send via email to office@peopleschurch.net or via Google Photos to 'sundayinformation@gmail.com'. If you are unable to send the photo digitally, please feel free to bring it by the church office! If you are a church member and do NOT wish to have a photo of yourself included, please let me know by July 15th! Otherwise, I will be using my best judgement to select the best recent photo I can from the church picture database for each church member who doesn't submit one.



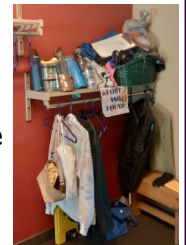
DONATIONS STILL NEEDED! Gryphon Place has served 107 Portage, Pavilion Township, and Texas Township families affected by the May 7 tornadoes at the Donations Management Center (9246 Portage Industrial Drive). Supplies are running very low and THE NEED IS STILL HIGH. Donations of the following items are URGENTLY needed. Can you help?

- **Cleaning Supplies/Housekeeping Items**
 - Paper Towels, Garbage Bags, Disinfecting Spray, Disinfecting Wipes, Laundry Detergent, Sponges, Rubber Gloves, Garbage Bags, Dish Soap, Hand Soap, Floor Cleaner, Ziplock Bags
- **Personal Hygiene**
 - Black Haircare Products, Razors, Shaving Cream
- **First Aid**
 - Band-Aids, Sunscreen, Disposable Medical Gloves, Over-the-counter medications (Advil, Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, Allergy Medication), Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D)



Lost and Found

As we approach the end of the church year, the church lost and found finds itself quite full of the varying items found throughout the church this year. Gloves, coats, hats, sweatshirts, shoes, coffee mugs and more can all be found in the lost and found area of the coat room at the top of the stairs. Please take a look next time your at church!



Any items that remain unclaimed after Sunday June 9th will be donated!



Special Collection June 2: Housing Resources, Inc.

HRI provides housing solutions for individuals and families during a housing crisis. Their mission is the assurance of housing for socially or economically vulnerable persons in Kalamazoo County. Our services are designed to stabilize households experiencing homelessness and help those in jeopardy of losing their housing. HRI is the organization behind 'A Kzoo POD Community: A Place of Dignity' which will include to include fifty ModPod tiny homes. You can learn more about HRI at <https://www.housingresourcesinc.org/>

Upcoming White Elephant

Our annual White Elephant sale is fast approaching. June 15 is the date. This is a great fund-raiser for our church. It's also a great opportunity for you to clean out the basement - or maybe start that downsizing project. The White Elephant volunteer team will help find new homes for things you no longer need or want.

Once again, we will let customers name their price for most items, although there will still be minimum suggested prices for selected items of higher value. This worked very well last year!

The team is looking forward to accepting:

- items that are in gently loved or like-new condition
- toys and games - complete without missing pieces
- small household appliances, lamps, etc. that are clean and in verified working condition
- furniture ... if it can fit in your car
- household decor, including holiday decorations
- books
- kitchen items
- jewelry
- purses & tote bags
- small personal fitness items such as hand weights and bike racks

If you're wondering whether an item is in the right condition to donate, ask yourself "would I give this to a friend?" If yes, we'd love to add it to our White Elephant sale!

We regret not being able to accept clothing, exercise equipment, electronics like TVs and computers, or furniture larger than what will fit in your car.

A member of the White Elephant team will be on hand to accept your donations on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-7 and Sundays from 12-2 starting May 30th.

If those times don't work for you, or if you have any questions, contact our church admin, Melissa. Thank you for contributing to our White Elephant fund-raiser for People's Church by donating items and signing up to volunteer on the sheets in the foyer. We need people to help receive donations, distribute publicity flyers and help with set up, sales and clean up.

And mark your calendar to support our sale by shopping with us on June 15!

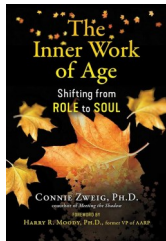
Sign ups are now open to volunteer to help with the upcoming White Elephant Sale. Check out the available spots here:

- **Drop Off Helpers:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-49738069-white#/>
- **Rick's Riders:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-49746589-ricks#/>
- **Day of Sale Helpers:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-49819097-white#/>

Sign up for as many as you are able!! It takes a lot of hands to make the event successful!



The Inner Work of Age



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

Tuesday June 18th, 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 May session, we will read chapter nine 'Elder with a Thousand Faces.' If you have questions about this, please reach out to Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net

Me & White Supremacy Book Circle

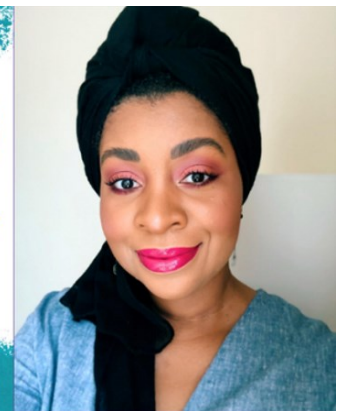
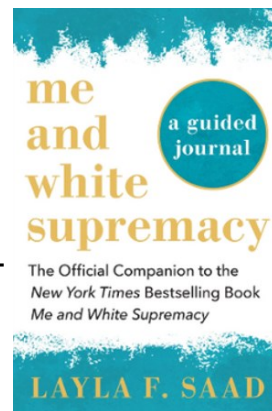
Begins June 9 12:30-2pm, Room L2, and continues on

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. Child-care 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.



Afternoon Book Club



We will not meet in June to allow people to find books to suggest for the next church year. Our next meeting will be at 1:30 on July 1 at Friendship Village when we will decide on what those books will be. People should bring 2 or 3 suggestions. We focus mainly on quality fiction. This is a good time for newcomers to join us. Contact Marj Lightner at marjlightner56@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

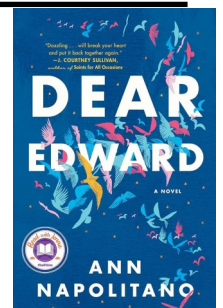
Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

2nd Thursdays, June, 6/13, 6-7:30

in person at the home of Lois Loeffler, near church.

"Dear Edward" by Ann Napolitano will be reviewed by Jennifer Jaksa.

Newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com, 269-716-3623.



Library Corner

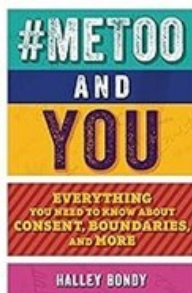
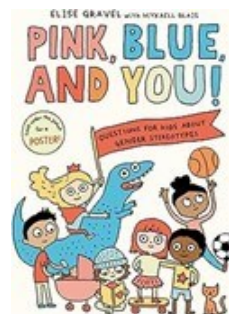


Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out, by Susan Kuklin—306.76 Ku

Six unwaveringly honest young adults tell what it is like for them to be members of the transgender community.

Pink, Blue, and You: Questions for Kids about Gender Stereotypes, by Elise Gravel with Mykaell Blais—RE 305.3 Gr

Includes fun facts about gender and clothing through history and in other cultures. Stereotypes and pronouns are addressed. Brave people who followed their dreams are presented.



#MeToo and You: Everything You Need to Know about Consent, Boundaries, and More, by Halley Bondy—176.4 Bo

The tween reader's one-stop shop for learning all about consent, boundaries, abuse, grooming, victim-blaming and more. Learn how to be an ally and an activist.

Heather Has Two Mommies, by Leslea Newman—RE 306.87 Ne

Heather, a preschooler with two moms discovers that some of her friends have very different sorts of families.



What's the T? by Juno Dawson—306.768 Da

Everything you've wanted to know about labels and identities. Offers uncensored advice on coming out, sex, and relationships. The book is informative, helpful, optimistic, and funny but with a good dose of reality and some of the things that can downright suck too.

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

Gratitude

I have a daily gratitude practice where I try to name three things each day for which I am grateful. It is designed to help rewire my brain to look for the positives regardless of how large or small.

Sometimes life feels really hard but when I focus my attention on some of the many blessings of my life, it helps me to experience balance and perspective.

So much of life it seems, is grappling with holding both the pain, sorrow and grief along side the beauty, love and joy.

Included in my gratitude lately has been the exceptional RE team with whom I've had the privilege of working this year.

The RE Committee has led our RE program beautifully this year beginning with our chair, Brandon Brown. His calm, competent and consistent presence has been such a gift.

RE Committee members have organized the Specialty Classes, coordinated RE Greeters and Sunday point people, led RE Volunteer Appreciation efforts, managed evaluation surveys, organized RE class supplies and fidget baskets, managed childcare for all church events, fed countless people meals after church all year, led an elementary sleepover as well as a church wide game night and potluck.

At our monthly meetings we've discussed a chapter of *This Book is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewell for the past three years. This group of people has been committed to learning and growing as well as serving this congregation through their leadership.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve along side this group and am thankful for each one of them and their countless contributions!

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin Religious Education Director



RE VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

Thank you to everyone who journeyed with our children and youth in religious education classes this year! We couldn't serve our families without the gift of your time, energy and love in working with our kids.

Preschool - Denise Valette, Joe Tourtois, David Wilson, Jen Docsa-Koehler, Justin Koehler, Ann Feldmeier

Kindergarten/1st Grade - Maggie Wilson, Cindy Pietras, Teresa Cavanagh, Lauren Foley

2/3rd Grade - Mary Kate Webster, Dawn

Chamberlain, Chris Measzros

4-6th grade - Rachel Bair, Jeff Harms, Juli Ginn

7/8th grade OWL - Rowan Jakoba, Birdie Stilson, Ben

Jones, Ann Shepich

9-12th grade - Don Miller, Brandon Brown and Missy

Howse-Kurtz

5/6th Grade OWL - Shannon

Rench, Makenzie Martz

Special Helpers - Nancy Mitchell, Annie Hampel,

Dolores Strom

Thank You Fairy RE Godmothers

We have been fortunate that a group of self-labeled "Fairy Godmothers" offered to help out behind the scenes in RE this year.

I cannot express enough gratitude for the the hours these ladies spent sorting and organizing donations of toys and supplies both in the classrooms as well as the RE supply room.

They cleaned toys and tables, they refreshed, organized and labeled supplies. It has been really awesome having our own magical RE fairies working behind the scenes in so many invaluable, unseen and yet vital ways.

Having things so well organized has made running our RE program easier for everyone involved.

Thank You Sharon, Mary and Marty!



Announcing 3 Healing Whiteness Workshops!

If you have not yet participated in one of these circles: Healing Whiteness is an offering for racialized white people that brings embodied practice into the work of untangling ourselves from a culture of dominance. So often our bodies, our words, our actions can be misaligned with our values or what we care about. That is, in part, because we have been socialized into a culture of dominance, and we really have to work purposefully to practice something different.

In organizing this can often show up in our capacity for connection, in conflict and in coordination. We hold that all three are necessary to build powerful coalitions for social change. So:

- How can we bring more authentic, depthful, trustworthy connection into our organizing?
- How can we stay with conflict for the sake of discovering how it can be generative and take us to a new place we wouldn't have found had we not leaned into the tension?
- How can we feel each other more to build stronger coordination that doesn't leave ourselves or others behind?

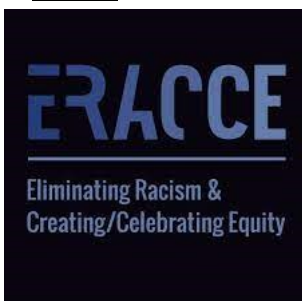
We will consider each theme in turn this year as we offer three 5-hour workshops in Kalamazoo. The locations are still being finalized, but please [take a peek at this information sheet](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sneBL4iE-Xb_Qpz5ykSN05r0tKP-Hy6ZGwf6pxSr4kY/edit?usp=sharing) (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sneBL4iE-Xb_Qpz5ykSN05r0tKP-Hy6ZGwf6pxSr4kY/edit?usp=sharing) and register for one, two or all three!



REGISTER HERE: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckGWI2JPvuu4vq-rxHE3eBLUc4NlaT2OhRKpsHh9VCTP6CEA/viewform>

Once you participate in at least one workshop, you will receive a link to gather virtually for our monthly practice calls. We will hold those June through December where we will revisit some of the embodiment practices from the workshops and continue to harvest what we are learning as we practice letting go of the shaping of white supremacy culture and try on something different.

Two ERACCE trainings coming up at no cost to ISAAC member congregations



Folks interested in either the one day or the full 2.5-day training should register now!!

ERACCE - 1 day Introduction to Systemic Racism Workshop, June 5th

ERACCE - 2.5 day Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism Workshop
AUGUST 21 – 23

Register at their website and list ISAAC as the source of your payment for registration. <https://www.eracce.org/event-calendar>

Art Wall Exhibit for May & June

Artist: Judy Finnegan

Title: When In Our Music God is Glorified

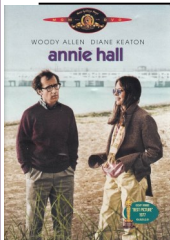
In an effort to reconcile an interest in music and visual art, I gave myself an assignment to visualize some songs and pieces.

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."

It may take years to arrive at a solution. In this exhibit, three paintings were gathering dust, in need of addressing or hitting the trash bin. A muse of sorts arrived and bailed me out. That's how it works if one can only learn to pay attention.



Film Discussion

"Annie Hall" will be the topic this month, June 19, 3-4:30, reviewed by Lori Rupe. It's available from KPL, as well as streaming services.

Newcomers are welcome. To get on the email list for reminders and the zoom invite, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com, 269-716-3623.

General Assembly Watch Parties

Thursday June 20, 4-6pm

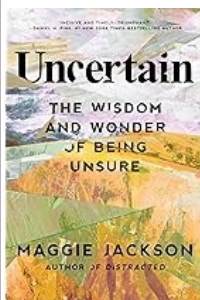
Friday, June 21, 2:30-6pm

Saturday, June 22, 2:30-6pm

The Commons

Join Rev. Rachel in The Commons to watch the Livestream of the business sessions of this year's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, including the revision of Article II of the UUA Bylaws. Stop in for a few minutes or a few hours over any of these three days. There will be snacks.

If you'd rather follow the business of our Association on your own, you can find the link to the livestreams of public events at <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2024>



Study Group

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday June 17 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss: "Uncertain: The Wisdom and Wonder of Being Unsure", by Maggie Jackson. Jackson is a science journalist. "Uncertain" explores why allowing for uncertainty might play a positive role in our individual lives and in our society. 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 Tim Bartik at tim.bartik@gmail.com.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Saturday	June 1	Youth Pizza & Service Planning	6:00pm	L2 & Kitchen
Sunday	June 2	Sunday Service: "Milestones"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		White Elephant Drop Off	12-2pm	Room LI
		RE Volunteer Appreciation Dessert Reception	12:30pm	At Church
Tuesday	June 4	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Room I9
Wednesday	June 5	White Elephant Meeting	10:00am	LI/L2
		White Elephant Drop Off	4-7pm	Room LI
Thursday	June 6	White Elephant Drop Off	4-7pm	Room LI
		RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	At Church
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	June 9	Sunday Service: Lessons from Dandelions—A Flower Service	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		White Elephant Drop Off	12-2pm	Room LI
		Me & White Supremacy Book Circle	12:30pm	At Church
Tuesday	June 11	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	June 12	White Elephant Drop Off	4-7pm	Room LI
Thursday	June 13	White Elephant Drop Off	4-7pm	Room LI
		Evening Book Club	6:00pm	At Lois L. home
Saturday	June 15	WHITE ELEPHANT SALE	9am-2pm	At Church
Sunday	June 16	Summer Service: Rochelle Habeck	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Monday	June 17	Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	June 18	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00pm	At Church
Wednesday	June 19	Film Discussion Group	3:00pm	Zoom
Thursday	June 20	General Assembly Watch Party	4:00pm	Commons
Friday	June 21	General Assembly Watch Party	4:00pm	Commons
Saturday	June 22	General Assembly Watch Party	2:30pm	Commons
Sunday	June 23	Summer Service: Rachel Bair	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Monday	June 24	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
Mon-Fri	June 24-28	PEACE AND NATURE CAMP!	9am-4pm	At Church
Tuesday	June 25	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	June 26	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
Sunday	June 30	Summer Service: Steve & Teresa Cavanagh	10:45am	Commons & Zoom

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."**