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People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 85, Issue 12

August 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

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:

August 4: Ann Shepich
August 11: Gordon Bolar
August 18: Chris Measzros

August 25: Karen Tinklenberg
September 1: George Hrbeck

RE Registration and Volunteer Helper Forms

This year's RE curriculum is going to be World Religions! We know this is a very exciting and popular curriculum so to help with our planning, we're reaching out now to request your completion of our Religious Education Registration form!

You can access the form here: <https://forms.gle/9GbtjZyxANQMC76TA>

The form has been streamlined to be much quicker and easier this year, especially those who have filled out an RE registration form in the past!

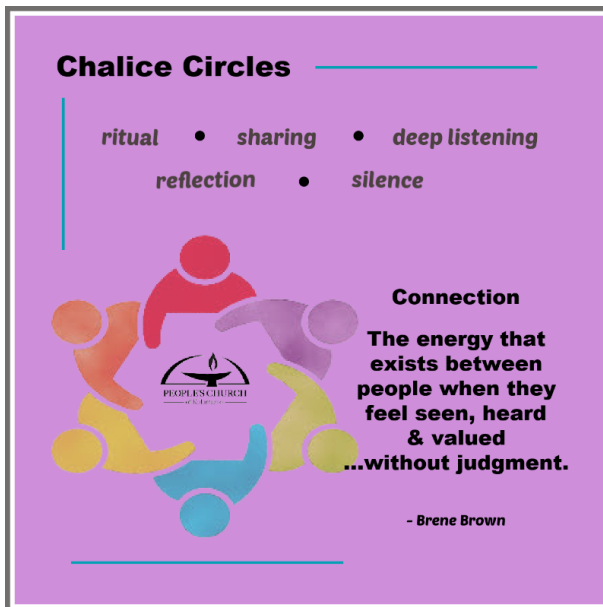
Don't have a child or youth participating in RE this year? Our Religious Education Program is a cooperative effort: it depends on all People's people to share their time and energy. If you are willing to be contacted to potentially help with varying parts of RE, please fill out this form to let us know!!! <https://forms.gle/DMiUNHaNU5CzxkWRA>



If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Melissa at office@peopleschurch.net or Diane at dre@peopleschurch.net!

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

Chalice Circles can enrich your connections



Around two years ago I joined a Chalice Circle, newly formed, of eight people whose ages spanned fifty years, three generations. We met monthly using a UUA booklet with lessons and a volunteer group leader. During our gatherings, we discussed topics and responded to cues, speaking our feelings from our own perspectives and experience, not responding directly to each other. Our age spread was a real advantage and offered us insights into our own times of life and our sharing proved helpful to young and old. Over time we bonded deeply, becoming close friends, offering love, connection and support for each other. And after two years I announced that I was leaving the group.

We developed bonds among us which will last. And now I want to begin again with another

cross-generational group as we open our hearts and share our deepest feelings. I want to get to know more people deeply as those bonds develop over time.

I hope that new Chalice Circle groups will form, a perfect environment for people in our community to really get to know each other through mindful sharing. It's been a very fulfilling experience for me and now I want to build deep bonds with others in our church community.
Martha Beverly

Early Voting!

Michigan voters can vote early and in person for the August 6th primary! Proposal 2, passed in 2022, guarantees 9 days of early, in-person voting for all state or federal elections.

Any Kalamazoo County registered voter (except residents of Pavilion Township) may vote early from Saturday, July 27th until

Sunday, August 4th from 9am to 5pm at any of these sites:

- Kalamazoo County Expo Center 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
- Portage Parks & Recreation Department 320 Library Ln, Portage, MI 49002
- Fetzer Center at WMU 2251 Business Ct, Kalamazoo, MI 49008
- Douglass Community Association 1000 W Paterson St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

For election and candidate information, go to www.VOTE411.org



CALL TO ACTION – VOTE AUGUST 6!

YOU Can Lean in by Showing/Sharing this Video & Passing Out/Collecting Commitment Cards in your Congregation/Organization!

Answer the Call to Action: <https://forms.gle/ztDSJE3oBYaKNhLG6>

Save Date: UU Climate Justice Revival

Saturday September 28: Facilitated Dialogue for Adults, Revival Activities for Children and Youth

Saturday September 29: Multigenerational Worship and Advocacy Hour



Reimagine Together
From An Extractive
Age To A New Era

For the first time in...ever...the entire UU ecosystem is organizing for climate justice action. We all know how desperate the situation is, but even those of us who have been climate and environmental activists for a long time feel powerless. But, there's power in numbers and thousands of UUs around the world are getting ready to join hands in

September for a denominational Climate Justice Revival. Sponsored by the UUA, UUMFE, UUSC and a whole lot of other UU organizations—as well as our own leaders and thinkers on this subject—this Revival is designed to kick-start our activism and ongoing engagement in climate justice work.

These kinds of things don't happen often. Our churches all stand alone and apart. Collaboration is difficult, let alone a decision for every UU congregation to join in this Revival at the same time. We'll all have the same materials, our leaders were trained with other UUs, and when it's over, we'll be part of the national conversation moving our climate work forward. It's exciting just on the face of it, and the day itself is looking like a lot of fun.

Wanted: Co-Leader to Manage Bazaar Mini-Cafe

If you are looking for a very enjoyable and engaging way to serve our church, please consider this opportunity. We are searching for a volunteer to work alongside Donna McClurkan to plan and run the cafe at this year's Bazaar, which will occur on November 23 (the Saturday before Thanksgiving).

The cafe prepares and sells nourishing meals to the artists and volunteers who are working at the Bazaar. Potential co-leaders need not have food prep experience, but should be comfortable managing other volunteers and handling logistics related to filling meal orders in an efficient manner.



Gratitude goes out to Sandy Steele for leading last year's first, successful and easy-to-replicate mini-cafe! She has a lot of travel coming up and may not be avail to help. If you are interested and want to learn more, or if you feel excited take on this position, contact Donna McClurkan at (269) 779-6260 or dcmcclurkan@gmail.com

Summer Religious Education

Summer Sunday activities for kids start June 16. Meet at 10:45 in Room 9 (Buddha room) for our opening, and then we'll be outside for games, crafts, experiments, nature walks, and more! These lean towards elementary age but pre-K through teens are welcome. Play clothes and sneakers, not fancies and flip flops, please.

Nursery is available for babies to preschoolers.

Contact Mary Kate Webster with questions: 269-501-3854

or tomandmarykate@gmail.com.



The Inner Work of Age

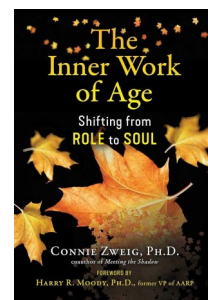
Book Study and Conversation: *The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul* by Connie Zweig

August 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 August session, we will read chapter eleven 'Elder Activism and the Call to Serve Something Larger than Ourselves.' If you have questions about this, please reach out to Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net



New Adult Religious Education Class starting this fall

Sermon Seminar with Rev. Rachel

Beginning September 24

6:30-9pm, Room LI, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays through February 11 (no class in late November or late December)

The class, Rev. Rachel previously offered in the 2018-19 church year, is about writing sermons – and more. It is also a chance to learn about the purpose of Unitarian Universalist worship, get to know others in a more meaningful way, and learn the skill of theological reflection – how do we find meaning in our own experiences. People who complete the program will be invited to preach their sermon in a service, likely during Rev. Rachel's sabbatical. (Public preaching is not required.)

This class will require some homework (writing, reading, and listening to sermons between sessions).

This class is limited to eight participants. Sign up here: (create sign-up genius link)

Childcare and transportation are available with advance notice.

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net



Afternoon Book Club



The Afternoon Book Club has been meeting on the first Monday of the month and will be confirming that schedule for the coming year. Newcomers are welcome. Please contact Marj Lightner at marjlightner56@gmail.com or Martha Beverly at marthabeverly@gmail.com if you need more information.

Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

Reading, reading, reading this month to find books we want to review over the next church year. The planning meeting will be 2nd Thursday of August (8/8), 6-7:30 p.m. at Lois Loeffler's home.

This group leans toward quality fiction. Newcomers are welcome. For more information, feel free to contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com, 269-716-3623.



Library Corner

How to Check Out a Book from the Library

1. Open the front cover of the book.
2. Note the card in the pocket. Remove the card. Occasionally the card and pocket are inside the back cover of the book.
3. Print the full day's date in the left column of the card.
4. Print your name in the right column.
5. Add your email address and phone number. Use another line if necessary.
6. Locate the open wooden box which is on the window side of the far right bookshelf near the double doors to the Commons. A wire basket is above this shelf.
7. Place the book card in front of the right portion of the box.
8. To return the book, place it in the wire basket above the wooden box. Library committee members will replace the card and re-shelve the book.



How to Search the People's Church Library

Catalog from Home

The instructions below are listed in People's Church website (peopleschurch.net). Find

'Learning' in the blue strip above the large photos. Choose Church Library Catalog from the drop down menu.

1. Go to www.librarything.com/catalog/peopleschurchofkzoo
2. Decide which collection you'd like to search (Examples: Main Church Library=adult titles; RE Library=children's titles) and select it from the list in the upper left.
3. Near the upper right in the box next to the yellow word 'Search', enter a title or author or simple desired topic.
4. Use the book's Dewey call number in the left hand column to locate the book in People's library. People's Library collection is located in the upper foyer to the left of the door into the Commons. The books are divided into Main Church Library (adult) and RE Library (children's).
5. The Main Church Library begins to the left of the middle of the back wall and continues (left to right, in ascending Dewey call numbers) across the aisle to the right end of the low bookshelves and then around to the front of the bookcase, ending with B (biographies). The RE Library begins in the middle of the front side of the low bookshelves, ending with RE picture books and fiction (J).

Share UU Values

With Love at the Center, our shared UU values as articulated in the newly passed Article Two of the UUA by laws at this year's Unitarian Universalist General Assembly can serve as a guide. We are embracing the new articulation of our shared values in RE this year.



While the Seven UU

Principles are still relevant and can be used and referred to, the Shared Values help to deepen and expand the ideas.

Interdependence - We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.

We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism - We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice - We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

Transformation - We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is

fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity - We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity - We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

May we live into these newly articulated shared values. May they help guide us in building the Beloved Community within our congregation and within the larger world.

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin Religious Education Director

Our Shared Values and Promises		
Love	Grounded in Love We promise to live our values everyday.	
Equity	Raise Every Person We promise to be an inclusive community.	
Interdependence	Orient To the Web of Life We promise to make the world a better place.	
Justice	Yearn for the Beloved Community We promise to take apart racism and make decisions together.	
Generosity	Give Freely We promise to offer our faith and our resources.	
Pluralism	Believe Your Truth We promise to learn from one another and love our differences.	
Transformation	Value That Everything Evolves We promise to grow, we are never perfect.	

RE Volunteers Needed for Fall

Are you interested in learning more about different **world religious traditions**? Would you like to get to know some of our wonderful children at People's better?

Helping provide a child with the opportunity to learn, grow and connect at church is a rewarding experience. Through sharing engaging stories and fun activities, both adults and kids alike will come away with a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences between a variety of religious values, beliefs and practices.

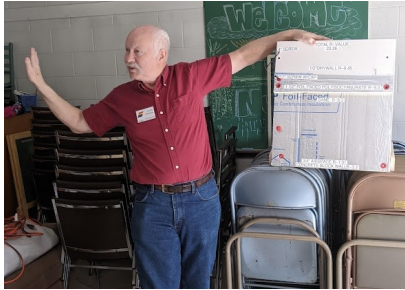
Please let Diane Melvin know today if you are able to lead or help with an RE class this year at re@peopleschurch.net.

Status Report on Net-Zero Project from the Green Sanctuary Committee

For the last several years, based on the Net Zero Carbon initiative from the Green Sanctuary Committee, a small group of dedicated members of the Building & Grounds Team (Thank you Tom, Gary H, Gary L, Steve, Bob D., Bob F., Andy, Roger, George, Martin & Rick!) have been working on upgrading the energy efficiency of People's Church. Everyone has heard about the addition of the solar array on the roof, but that is far from the whole story.



The insulation in our walls has been upgraded, room by room as part of the renovation; air leaks have been fixed as they have been uncovered; light fixtures have been upgraded from incandescent to LED bulbs; new pumps and pipe insulation has been added to the hot water heating system, ventilation in the commons has been improved, and many other details addressed as they have been discovered. This is a progress report on those efforts, including an update on the output of our solar array.



Walls have been re-insulated, and wallboard replaced and painted all the way around to the Southern wing of the old building (rooms 1-8, and 10). This work was temporarily stopped when a serious problem was discovered in the nursery. But these upgrades have had a significant impact on our energy consumption, as well as sprucing up the old spaces. And they will continue as labor time and materials costs are available.

The results have been very significant: Our natural gas consumption over the last 12 months (April 2023 through March 2024), shows a 16% reduction compared to the 2017-19 baseline (pre-solar installation, pre-Covid closure) through these efforts!



Our electricity consumption in kilowatt hours, due both to the solar array addition in 2020 and the other efficiency improvements, has been reduced by 39% since the baseline!

The improved building performance has resulted in a "Cool Congregations" award from Interfaith Power and Light, a \$1000 prize in the planning category, also from Interfaith Power and Light, and a \$500 award from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. This wonderful performance has not been widely publicized among People's Church members and friends!



Based upon current budget levels, we are realizing an estimated net reduction of \$4,000 in annual utility costs. But the job is not yet done! The remaining walls need to be completed, we need to pay off the purchase price of the solar array, and many other details are still awaiting treatment. We also hope in the future to convert our HVAC systems to all electric heat pumps, and perhaps add to the solar capacity as part of our long-range Net Zero Carbon initiative.

Art Wall Exhibit People's Church: "The Summer Collection" July and August, 2024

Reception Sunday July 14 at noon

MRC artWorks – a program of MRC Industries, Inc. – is a professional working art studio and retail gallery located on the historic Kalamazoo Mall in the heart of downtown Kalamazoo. MRC artWorks offers unique and affordable art created by in a way that promotes personal growth, dignity, and self-confidence. We strive to enrich the community with the diversity of art by promoting our artists' work through a variety of venues and partnerships. All artists receive a 75% commission from the sale of their work, which not only serves as their source of income, but also enhances and reinforces their self-esteem and self-worth. MRC artWorks provides a safe, positive, and creative environment that focuses on the individual's abilities rather than their disabilities.



MRC Industries serves individuals in Kalamazoo County with developmental or intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, emotional impairments, and mental illness to achieve their fullest potential through employment, skill building, and active community involvement.

HANNAH AND HER SISTERS



WOODIE ALLEN MICHAEL CAINE
MIA FARROW CARBIE FISHER
BARBARA HERSHEY LLOYD NOLAN
MAUREEN O'SHEA DANIEL STEIN
MAX VON SYDOW IRVING YARFEST
JACQUELINE BUNCE ART... SCENE MUSIC... COSTUME DESIGNER...
KATHLEEN KUNZIN EDIT... KERRY BERNARD PRODUCTION DESIGNER...
HARRIS ALLEN

Film Discussion

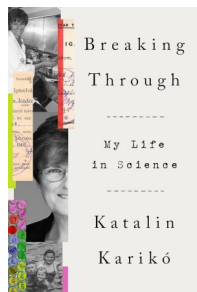
"Hannah and Her Sisters" will be discussed this month, August 21, 3-4:30. It is available for streaming on Amazon.com, as well as from other venues.

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

You are invited to join us for **Breakfast for Dinner with the Fire Department** for the Oshtemo Comprehensive Plan Project on Thursday, **August 8th from 6:00-8:00pm at Firehouse 1**. This event is an exciting opportunity to connect with the community and talk about the future of Oshtemo. This is an open house style event where you can come and go as best works for you; pancakes will be served all evening. We will be sharing project information and collecting feedback through meaningful activities and discussions.



Study Group



The Study Group will be meeting on Monday September 9 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss: "Breaking Through: My Life in Science" by Katalyn Kariko. Dr. Kariko won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine for her research that led to the mRNA vaccine for COVID. This memoir depicts how she overcame the challenges she faced during her career – including being denied tenure and having her lab taken away – and what philosophical and psychological resources helped her overcome those challenges. 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
Mon-Fri	July 29-Aug 2	CHURCH CLOSED FOR FLOOR CLEANING		
Sunday	Aug 4	Summer Service: Ann Shepich	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Tuesday	Aug 6	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Thursday	Aug 8	Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Home of Lois L
Sunday	Aug 11	Summer Service: Gordon Bolar	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Me & White Supremacy Book Circle	12:30pm	L2
Tuesday	Aug 13	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Sunday	Aug 18	Summer Service: Chris Measzros	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Monday	Aug 19	Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	Aug 20	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00pm	At Church
Wed	Aug 21	Film Discussion Group	3:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	Aug 25	Summer Service: Karen Tinklenberg	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Monday	Aug 26	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
Tuesday	Aug 27	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Wed	Aug 28	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom

People's Church
News & Views
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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."**