



A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 86, Issue 2

October 2024



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**

We will begin this church year with a series of services for all ages, gathering in The Commons and streaming via Zoom. Our Religious Education program for children and youth will begin on October 6.

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October 6: "Crossing Paths" - Rev. Rachel Lonberg

As Unitarian Universalists, we celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology. As our programs for children and youth begin (with a focus on world religions this year), Rev. Rachel will reflect on the gift of religious pluralism and how learning about other wisdom traditions can strengthen our faith.



October 13: "Sanctity in Reproductive Justice " - Denise Cawley



Thirty years ago, 12 Black women created a framework for Reproductive Justice that says the right to raise a child, to not to have a child, to raise children we do have in safe and sustainable communities, and to maintain bodily autonomy is a human right. For us as Unitarian Universalists, there is a broader theological and moral calling to share our faith, our sexpositive view points, our dedication to body autonomy, values of antiracism, and pro-abortion positions, with dominative narratives in our communities and in the media. Learn about this history and how we can advocate values of our faith without letting more narrow views in the

national and local conversations, sacrifice these basic human reproductive rights.

October 20: "Becoming People of Love" - Rev. Rachel Lonberg

At a wedding, perhaps you heard the classic text from the Christian Scripture that includes, 'love is patient, love is kind,' but did you know that these words were originally part of a letter to an unruly church telling them to behave themselves. In this service, Rev. Rachel will explore this ancient wisdom about what it means to be a 'People of Love' in conversation with the wisdom of the much more modern teacher bell hooks.





October 27: "Satan and Other (D)evils" - Rev. Rachel Lonberg

In honor of Halloween, Rev. Rachel will trace the surprising history of Satan (he's not a fallen angel; he didn't start out as a villain) and consider how personifying evil might keep us from fully recognizing our own destructive potential as humans.



Dear ones,

Recently, I spoke with a People's person who received a tricky question from a coworker about our community. He wanted to learn how others answer this question. (Some of you might have seen part of

this in our People's Perpetual Coffee Hour Face-book group.) After I responded to him, I thought it might be worthwhile to share my answer to this question in the newsletter for everyone.

Is People's Church part of a Christian denomination?

The short answer is "no" -- People's Church is not part of a Christian denomination.

Here is the longer answer:

People's Church is part of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, which is not a denomination, technically, but lots of people call it one. (The difference has to do with church governance structures.) The UUA is the group of about 1,000 congregations that we partner with on things like training religious professionals, developing curriculum, and best practices for navigating a pandemic that would be very hard to do on our own. We also collaborate with other congregations —

like for the upcoming UU Climate Justice Revival. Both People's Church and the UUA are not Christian organizations, though we have Christian members. We include people with lots of different beliefs who choose to be together, united by shared values, principles, and promises. We do not all believe the same thing — or say that we believe the same thing—which makes us unusual in the American religious landscape.

To make this even more complicated (because that's just what we need, right?) both People's Church and the UUA used to be Christian, though we haven't been a Christian tradition for the last 100 years or so. Because of our Christian heritage many of the words we use (like church and minister) and practices we have (gathering on Sunday

mornings, our order of service) reflect this... and the words 'Unitarian' and 'Universalism' are both words for specific Christian beliefs about God, words we still claim even though those beliefs

aren't what's most important to us now. Understandably, all of this can make us a little hard for a coworker to understand us.

I'm grateful that this People's person brought their question to me. One of the things that I know is true is that whenever someone comes to me with a question, a wondering, or a struggle there are several other people in a similar situation. If you have a question you don't know how to answer, an ethical quandary, a theological conundrum, or anything similar, please send it my way. We can talk it through – and, with your permission – it might become the topic of a future newsletter column or worship service.

Take good care, everyone, Rev. Rachel

Judge Charles J. Pratt Justice Center Dedication

On Saturday September 7th, Rev. Rachel Lonberg, our minister, was one of two clergy who offered blessings at the new Kalamazoo County courthouse.

You can



read her full words here: https://
https://
https://
justice-center-dedication/

From The Board

Dear Congregation,

In our September board meeting, we voted to adopt the 2025 Restatement of the Unitarian Universalist Organizations Retirement Plan. This update aligns with new laws and

enhances equity while ensuring no financial impact on our church. This change allows us to continue supporting our staff's retirement planning. Thanks to your incredible support in closing our recent budget gap, we were also able to convert our administrator's furlough into paid vacation. Additionally, Reverend Rachel will be updating our policy to provide increased paid vacation time for staff after three years of service, rather than five. While reviewing committee reports, we were excited to see the Religious Education (RE) committee's plans for the year, though they are still seeking volunteers



to fill teacher spots. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Diane or Melissa. Lastly, we introduced our new mascot, the JETPIG, embodying our UU values of Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity. Thank you, Laura Bultman, for creating this wonderful symbol! For more information on the updates to Article II, please visit the UUA Article II Study Commission.

Warm regards, The Board



Saturday October 12, 7pm in The Commons

Come join us for a night of music in celebration of our new piano. If you would like to perform, please contact Savannah Ramsey, our music director, at sey.music@gmail.com. Due to the incredible generosity of People's People, this fabu-

lous new piano has been fully paid off! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fund!!!

Help Needed: People's Person Donating Kidney

Gerren Young is donating his kidney on Oct. 2, and we are asking for help during his recovery. His doctors have advised that we have someone with Gerren at all times during the first two weeks. Friends and family can generously help us in two ways: I) by volunteering for shifts on SignUp Genius (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B48ADA628A7F5C34-51704198-gerrens) to care for Gerren and/or our kids ages 10-13 when Elizabeth can't do both, and 2) by sending us dinners/gift cards



self-sufficient, but they sometimes need help getting to the bus stop on time or cleaning up after meals. We also need people to care for Gerren while Elizabeth is at work or taking kids to their after school and weekend activities.

We are a beloved community who cares for each other deeply. Your act of generosity helps add years to the life of a bright young student of kinesiology at MSU. More information about Lucas Santos-Pye, the young man re-

ceiving Gerren's kidney, can be found on his GoFundMe page.

 $(\underline{https://www.gofundme.com/f/donate-to-lucas-kidney-transplant-fund}\)\ Questions\ or\ concerns\ about\ volunteering\ can\ be\ emailed\ to\ Gerren$

at genail.com or Elizabeth at elizabeth.huffwillis@gmail.com. With gratitude and love, Elizabeth Huff Willis (she/her)





A testimonial from Jen Rice about the joys of pasty-making at People's:

"Three years ago, I was seeking a way to connect with more people at church as we slowly emerged from the worst of the pandemic. I signed up for pasty-making because it fit my schedule, and I love to cook. My daughter, Olive, wanted to come too. We showed up that first Saturday of the season and then returned nearly every Saturday after to help make hundreds of pasties.

"The rhythm, the repetition, the idle chatting while hands are busy was almost meditative. It was a lot of work but we really had fun. "Olive was the only person under the age of 50 in most sessions. Fellow church members took an interest in her and asked about school, hobbies etc. Now, as a high school freshman, Olive is still willing to get up early on Saturday morning to head to the church kitchen. She's become one the best fillers and crimpers in the bunch. I may be biased, but other church pasty-makers agree! "The sense of community in the pasty kitchen is lovely. Time flies by. I think we will be participating in pasty- making for years to come. Come join us!"

Bazaar Preparations are in Full Swing - Find Out How You Can Join in Now!

Saturday, November 23rd from **9:00** to **3:00** will be our 22nd Annual People's Church Fine Art Sale & Holiday Bazaar, our largest church fundraiser. Our building will be transformed into a beautiful holiday shopping experience. We expect several hundred people to come through our doors to join us in shopping for unique gifts from 28 local artists and vendors, buying our famous pasties and an array of delicious specialties and crafts that you prepare and contribute.

Please check out all the sign-up opportunities on the Bazaar table in the foyer and on-line and find a spot that interests you. Here are some needing volunteers now:



Make Pasties with Chef Bob. Pasty-making is on pause while Bob Friedel is on vacation, but will resume again starting October 18 (chopping and prep) and 19 (assembling and wrapping). No previous experience necessary, and you are truly needed!. Meet other People's people and help make our famous pasties. Sign Up Here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-51022278-pasty#/

Join the Yard Sign Brigade – We need 25 for \$25. These yard signs and your word of mouth and social media outreach are the best ways to bring new customers to this event. Please sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-51742456-yard or at the Bazaar table and contribute \$25 to order a yard sign to help promote this event each year. If you have nowhere to place a sign, please donate it to the church for the publicity team to place.

Saturday 9am - 3pm
People's Church
1758 N 10th Street

Assemble Decorative Jars of Bean Soup Mix. Enjoy good company while you spend 2 hours helping to support the Bazaar on Sunday October 27th after church. Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22AI3-5I74399I-bean

Other Things to Note.

- It's not too early to plan what you can bake or make for our People's Specialties tables. This is how the church makes money on the Bazaar and we always sell out! Sign-up sheets by categories of items are available here. If you want to offer a workshop for a craft or food specialty you think would sell well, please contact Melissa, our administrator, and she will connect you with the right folks.
- We will not be offering the Café in the Commons again this year, to devote more space to our artists and vendors. As a courtesy to the artists and vendors and our Bazaar volunteers, we will offer a mini-café in the rear of the church with a limited menu of items for sale. Please note that this is not being offered for general use or for the public.
- Start Promoting the Bazaar! Please share our Bazaar date with friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and networks. Invite them to meet you to shop locally. Flyers and social media resources will soon be available.
- Look for many more volunteer opportunities coming in November's newsletter, Friday emails *This Week at People's Church*, and on the sign-ups on the Bazaar table in the foyer and on-line. Thank you!

People's Church Rain Garden



As our new church year begins, it seems a good time for a reminder on the benefits and functions of our People's rain garden.

-to improve stormwater management because climate change means heavier, more concentrated rainfall events and we need to reduce the amount of water going into storm drains;

-ecological restoration, by adding native plants that support biodiversity (insects, birds, toads, etc.), sequester carbon in the soil, build soil health, help water filtrate into the groundwater system, and all those good things that lawns and pavement do not



-provide a venue for education about the ecological and climate benefits of rain gardens (and/or vernal pools).

We have had several planting/weeding sessions this summer, so you might notice a difference in the garden's appearance. Please take time to stop by for a look!

Inquirers Series

Begins Sunday October 20, 12:30-1:30pm, with sessions held every other week until March (with breaks at Thanksgiving and the end of the year). The first session is in Room 6/7. The remainder will be in Room 19.

Visitors, newcomers, members, and anyone who wants more information about People's Church are invited to participate in the Inquirers Series.

A light lunch will be provided and childcare is available with one week's notice. The Inquirers series is nine conversations that provide an introduction to our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. Each session is stand-alone; you are welcome to participate in as many as you're able to attend and interested in.

- October 20: Q&A with Rev. Rachel.
- November 3:Building Tour with Gary Heckman (including going on the roof, weather permitting)
- November 17: Sunday Services with Savannah Ramsey and Rev. Rachel
- December 15: Religious Education for Children and Youth with Diane Melvin
- January 5: Chalice Circles and Pastoral Care with Donna McClurkan and Rev. Rachel.
- January 19: Unitarian Universalist History and Values with Rev. Rachel
- February 2: Social Justice, Green Sanctuary, and Dismantling Racism
- February 16: People's Church History and Governance
- March 2: Membership 101

For more information about this class, or to request childcare, please contact Rev. Rachel at minister@peopleschurch.net or 269-389-9721.

It is helpful for our lunch planning if you register for the sessions that you plan to attend here: https:// www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-51739622-inquirers or by contacting Rev. Rachel.



The Inner Work of Age

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

October 15, 1:30-3:00pm, on Zoom

Zoom link: https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326

This is our final gathering to discuss The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul as our source for conversation.

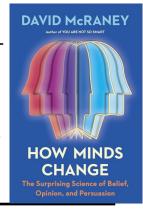
For the October session, we will read chapter thirteen 'Reimagining Death as the Last Rite' and the epilogue. If you have questions about this, please reach out to Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or minister@peopleschurch.net

This group plans to continue meeting after we finish this book with several sessions on topics like grief, memorial service planning, and possibilities for what happens with your body after you die. We will choose a new book to read together early in the new year.

Study Group

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday October 28 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss: "How Minds Change: The Surprising Science of Belief, Opinion, and Persuasion" by science journalist David McRaney. The book explores what psychologists and neuroscientists know about what leads voters and others to change their minds about conspiracy theories, political allegiances, and other be-

liefs. 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.





Afternoon Book Club

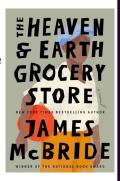
The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Monday, October 14, at 1:30 at the home of Martha Beverly in Friendship Village to discuss "The Good Earth" by Pearl Buck, Contact Martha at marthabeverly@gmail.com or Marj Lightner at marjlightner56@gmail.com for more information. Our November book will be "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon.

Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

"Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride will be the topic at our next meeting, 10/10, 6:00-7:30 at the home of Lois Loeffler, 6536 Winddrift Ave., Kalamazoo 49009, (269) 372-0038.

Dates (2nd Thursday of the month) and books chosen so far for this church year can be found on the church website under the "education" tab.

If you have questions or would like to be added to the email list for updates/reminders, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com, 269-716-3623. If you have questions, or would like to get on the email list for reminders, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com; 269-716-3623.



Library Corner

These are a few of the pamphlets that are available on the Pamphlet Wall which is to the right of the Commons entrance and beneath the clock. Please peruse the titles and take the ones that appeal to you.



"Unitarian Universalist Views on Sex"

Firmly grounded in scientific evidence and with a commitment to social justice, Unitarian Universalism joyfully embraces human sexuality in all of its complexity.



"Environmental Justice"

A helpful introduction to environmental justice, this pamphlet lays the groundwork for anyone interested in this crucial work and provides examples of Unitarian Universalist organizing happening right now.



"UU Views of Evil"

Unitarian Universalists reflect on evil, where it stems from in society and in the individual, and how to challenge its hold.



"UU Views of Jesus"

Six Unitarian Universalists share about their connections with Jesus, demonstrating the variety of views from across the faith.



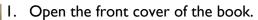








How to Check Out a Book from the Library



- 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.



Connections & Community

Opportunities for connection abound at People's Church. We are beginning our new church program year with a month of Intergenerational Services where all ages are invited to gather together for worship and connection.

Children and youth are a **vital** part of our congregation and we love for them to have the opportunity to experience Unitarian Universalist worship in community with all ages.

This allows families the chance to be together in worship, which is made easier this month by sitting at tables with coloring and fidgets handy. The children and youth get to participate in rituals such as the Chalice lighting, Joys and Sorrows, and Time for All Ages. Becoming familiar with the songs and hymns is an important part of UU faith development. As is feeling as an integral part of a larger community of faith.

The activity stations as a part of the 9/15 service on our new shared UU values proved to be a fun and engaging way for all ages to learn together. Check out the bulletin board in the south hallway that includes many of our shared activities.

Justice - we decorated Heroes for Justice masks

Equity - we traced our hands and glued them

Transformation - we made butterflies

Pluralism - we made trail mix Interdepence - we made an

earth mural

Generosity - we gave away chocolate gold coins
Love - we cut out hearts labled with what we love

May we all work to live out these values in our daily lives with all those we meet and all we do.

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Director of Religious Education

Religious Education Classes Kick Off - 10/6

The first day of our World Religions classes for our Kindergarden through 12th graders iin RE is on 10/6. Don't miss out on the fun!

Game Night Friday October 5 - 6:00-8:00pm

Pizza provided - bring dessert or snack to share Bring your favorite games for an **all ages** game night. Childcare provided for the littles.

PLEASE RSVP: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAEAE23A6FAC16-51774194-game



Save the Date
Nov. 2, 2024, 5-8pm
Game Night and
Haunted House
Costumes encouraged

Who: Everyone's Invited

What: Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults by

Robin Wall Kimmerer

Book Discussion - Chapter 1

When: Nov. 17 at Ipm, Bring

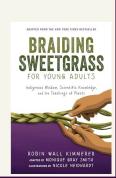
your own Brown Bag lunch

Where: Room 19

Planning to attend? Please

email Diane at

re@peopleschurch.net





OutCloset PopUp Shop

A Thrift Store for the LGBTQIA+ Community
OutFront Office - 340 S. Rose St.
Friday Oct. 18 & Saturday Oct. 19
12pm-5pm

Need low-to-no cost clothing? OutCloset is a pop-up second-hand clothing shop and swap for LGBTQIA+ community members and their advocates. Come as you are, experiment with gender expression and style, and find a supportive community space! Payment is donation-based (pay what you can).

This event would not be possible without help from the community. Sign up to volunteer here: https://forms.gle/rrsdhXuCtDJYKLZE6





Save The Date
ISAAC Public Meeting
Soles To The Polls
Thursday October 24, 2024 Evening



Register Now!
Join us in-person for the
12th Annual ROAR Celebration
(Regional Organizing for AntiRacism)

When: Tuesday October 22nd, 2024 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Kalamazoo: Location details coming soon!

RSVP HERE: https://docs.google.com/
forms/d/e/IFAlpQLSeFdpF-
rhUsEQvuPzQTi-
IR5IB7LaTu0CnvP5iXeyR3S7_93w/
viewform

Retrospective: Ann Terwilliger September-October, Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Sunday Noon

My life in art was transformed in 1973 when I enrolled in a design class at Mt. Mary College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The teacher was a well-known artist and nun, Sister Mary Remy. She was recognized for her creative designs and joyful teaching. She taught design using silk screen printing on fabric as the medium.

CCCO DDD

We were taught in order to create designs, observation was the key, that everything in sight had the possibility to become a creative image, so our sketches evolved into remarkable designs. Organizing the designs on fabric created endless options. I was enthralled with the process and the seemingly limitless opportunities to experiment.

This fascination led me to explore printed, quilted, woven, and tapestry mediums bringing much joy to my life. My designs are sourced from the mountains, waterways, woods, and creatures I encounter while wandering, paddling, or digging in my own garden.

This exhibit brings together many of the creative approaches that I have explored over my years as an artist.

Film Discussion

"Cider House Rules" (2000) will be reviewed at our next meeting, 10/16, 3-4:30 on Zoom. This is available for rental at Amazon for \$3.99; also available from KPL. The group plans to continue meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Newcomers are welcome. Films are chosen month-by-month and we are always looking for interesting new suggestions, which are obtainable without monthly subscriptions. If you have questions or would like to be added to the email list for updates/reminders, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com, 269-716-3623.





UU The Vote 2024 Phonebank

Oct. 29 7-9pm ET

Help reach out to Michigan voters before the November election!

RSVP: <u>bit.ly/uutvmiphonebank</u>

For other phone banking and poll monitoring in MI contact nomijoyrich@gmail.com



Sunday Morning Greeters

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

Volume 86, Issue 2 Calendar			Page II		
Day	Date	Event	Time	Place	
Tuesday Oct I		Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church	
	Oct I	RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	Rm 8	
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Rm 19	
Thursday	Oct 3	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons	
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons	
Friday	Oct 4	Game Night With Pizza	6:00pm	At Church	
Sunday	Oct 6	Sunday Service: "Crossing Paths"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom	
Tuesday	Oct 8	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church	
Wednesday	Oct 9	Bazaar Steering Committee	6:30pm	Rm 19	
Thursday	Oct 10	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons	
		Evening Book Club			
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons	
Saturday	Oct 12	Piano Premiere Party	7:00pm	Commons	
Sunday Oct	Oct 13	Sunday Service: "Sanctity in Reproductive Justice"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom	
		Me & White Supremacy Book Circle	12:30pm	LI & L2	
Tuesday	Oct 15	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church	
		Library Committee	10:00pm	At Church	
Wednesday	Oct 16	Film Discussion Group	3:00pm	Zoom	
Thursday	Oct 17	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons	
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons	
Sunday	Oct 20	Sunday Service: "Becoming People of Love" Common		Commons & Zoom	
		Inquirers Series	12:30pm	Room 8	
Monday	Oct 21	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE			
		Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom	
Tuesday	Oct 22	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church	
		Sermon Seminar	6:30pm	Rm LI	
Thursday	Oct 24	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons	
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons	
Sunday	Oct 27	Sunday Service: Satan and Other (D) evils	10:45am	Commons & Zoom	
Tuesday	Oct 29	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church	
Wednesday	Oct 30	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom	
Thursday	Oct 31	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons	
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons	

The Full Calendar of Events can be viewed online at https://peopleschurch.net/events-2/