

## Optional Homework

### Go

Visit other faith communities!

If you'd like to be a chaperone / driver when our youth visit other congregations, please reach out to Diane Melvin, our director of religious education at [re@peopleschurch.net](mailto:re@peopleschurch.net)

### Read

*God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World* by Steven Prothero - the world religions book that is the basis of our youth program

*The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions* by Philip Novak - a collection of holy texts from many religious traditions

*Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor - a memoir by a Christian clergyperson who teaches comparative religion at a college.

### Talk

There is so much spiritual diversity in our congregation – and beyond. Ask people about their spirituality and practice.

What is a story or practice that is meaningful to you?

Could you tell me about your faith journey?

What holidays and holy days do you celebrate?



PEOPLE'S CHURCH  
— of Kalamazoo —

### Crossing Paths

October 6, 2024

#### Gathering of Community

Music for Gathering	'Whoever You Are'
Opening Words	Rev. Rachel Lonberg
Words of Welcome	Laura Bultman
Announcements	Rev. Rachel Lonberg, Jen Jaksa, Rick Johnson
Introit	'Lead with Love' (DeMore)
Chalice Lighting	Laura Bultman

*If you are lighting a chalice at home, you are encouraged to type in the chat box 'A chalice is lit in (your neighborhood/city/street).'*

Words: from the bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association

#### Affirming our Connections

Blessing of Youth Participating in Religious Education

Diane Melvin, Director of Religious Education

Thank You RE Teachers!

#### Preschool

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

#### K-1st

Teresa Cavanagh, Marti Peters-Sparling, Mary Hrbek, Diana Rankinen

#### 2nd - 3rd

Mary Kate Webster, Maggie Wilson, George Hrbek

#### 4th – 6th

Rachel Bair, Juli Ginn, Cindy Pietras, Chris Measzros

#### 7th-12th

Don Miller, Ben Jones, Steve Cavanagh, Missy Howse-Kurtz

Religious Education Teacher Covenanting

Responsive Reading ‘Covenant for Honoring Children’

**Congregation: We find these joys to be self-evident: That all children are created whole, endowed with innate intelligence, and with dignity and wonder. All children are worthy of respect. As the embodiment of life, liberty and happiness, children are original blessings, here to learn their own song. Every child is entitled to love, dream, and belong to a loving community.**

*Religious Education Teachers: We affirm our duty to nourish and nurture the young, to honor their caring ideals as the heart of being human. We recognize the early years as the foundation of life, and cherish the contribution of children to human evolution.*

**Congregation: We commit ourselves to peaceful ways and vow to keep children from harm or neglect. As guardians of their prosperity, we honor the bountiful Earth whose diversity sustains us. Thus we pledge our love for generations to come.**  
(adapted from The Raffi Foundation)

Children and Teacher Recessional ‘Go Forth’ (Ramsey/Drake)

*Go forth in peace, in search of wisdom,  
With love to guide you on your way  
And may the joy of life surround you  
Wherever you may go.*

Offering Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Support the good and important work of People’s Church:

[www.tinyurl.com/givetopeoples](http://www.tinyurl.com/givetopeoples)



Offertory

Giving Thanks for All That Sustains Us Laura Bultman

*From the countless gifts we each have been given,  
gifts of life and love and sustenance,  
we bring these small portions to share in the works of love  
which none of us can accomplish alone.*

Joys and Sorrows Rev. Rachel Lonberg

#### Searching for Wisdom and Inspiration

Silent Meditation

Spoken Meditation

‘The Richness of Our Differences’ by Julianne Lepp

Musical Meditation

Readings from *Loving Our Own Bones* by Julia Watts Belser

‘Looking for the Differences’ by Tom Hennen

Song ‘We Would Be One’ (#318)

Sermon Rev. Rachel Lonberg

#### Returning to the World

Closing song ‘This is My Song’ (#159)

Closing words Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Postlude

Coffee Quarter breakout rooms

All are invited to stay on Zoom for 15 minutes of small group conversation.