



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

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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

### December 1: "We Need One Another." — cristy cardinal

In these times, which continue to be unprecedented and unpredictable, our interdependence is becoming imperative. It bears repeating at every turn: we need one another.



cristy cardinal (they/them) is a Unitarian Universalist minister recently welcomed into preliminary fellowship. They currently serve as a chaplain resident at Bon Secours Mercy Health's St. Vincent Hospital in Toledo, Ohio. They are a 2023 graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry, and their faith is liberatory with love at the center.

### December 8: "The Right to Change One's Mind" — Rev. Rachel Lonberg



Francis David was a spiritual seeker, the founder of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, and the person who converted the only Unitarian King in history. He died in prison in 1579, after being sentenced to life in prison for changing his mind with regards to religion. This Sunday we will tell Francis David's story and celebrate the right to change one's mind, our commitment to the idea that our ideas about religion can—and should—transform as we gain wisdom, knowledge, and experience.

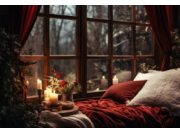
### December 15: "Hope as Science Fiction" — Rev. Rachel Lonberg

'Hope is a sort of time travel,' a friend recently told Rev. Rachel. 'It is a practice of imagining a better future and letting that vision inspire you to act.' In this service, Rev. Rachel will reflect the lessons that science fiction and speculative fiction can teach us about hope in this challenging season.



### December 22: "Winter Solstice Extravaganza All Ages Service" — Diane

#### Melvin and People's Church Youth



Mark the solstice, the shortest day of the year, with an all-ages service led by the youth of our congregation. Everyone is invited to dress in their coziest clothes for this service exploring dormancy, rest, and hibernation.

### Tuesday December 24, 5pm: "Christmas Eve Service" — Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Join us to retell the story of the Nativity and the Christmas Truce of World War I as we hope for the rebirth of love and peace in the present day. This service will feature music, poetry, storytelling and candlelight.



### December 29: "Burning the Old Year: An All Ages Service" — Rev. Rachel Lonberg



In this service, we will mark the end of 2024 with rituals to let go of what we do not want to take with us into the coming year (by dramatically burning it up using magicians' flash paper!) and to set our intentions for the year ahead.



Dear People's people,

A few weeks ago, on the Sunday after the election, I shared wisdom for navigating this moment. It is worth repeating:

Take exquisite care of yourself. Drink more wa-

ter. Grief and worry are dehydrating. Take a nap. Get outside. Move your body, whether that's a few gentle stretches or running yourself to exhaustion or lifting heavy things or dancing by yourself to favorite music turned up loud. Turn to art that is meaningful to you or makes you feel good – we need moments of beauty, wonder, and joy right now. Eat French fries or your personal French fry equivalent, a food that makes you feel good. Wear your coziest clothes or the clothes or jewelry that will make you smile every time you see yourself in a mirror.

Do what seems right. Remember what has helped you before. Do that again or try something new. Maybe caring for yourself and your most immediate circle is all you can do right now. That's how it is sometimes. Sometimes just getting to the next day is all we can manage. Do that. There will come a time when you can do more.

If you have more capacity right now, I have further instructions.

Hold fast to our values and our vision. 'But today, the invitation is clear: / to be ridiculously courageous in love. We live lives with love at the center. Our faith calls us to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. Our faith calls us to recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Our faith calls us to work for a vision of the Beloved Community, where all can flourish. Our faith calls us to live out the words on our banners. This will be what we hold true regardless of who the president is.

Next, we hold fast to each other. This is not a time to go it alone. With the storms coming, we need to be like the oaks of New Orleans whose

roots were so intertwined they survived through a hurricane. This is the slow work of relationships. We reach out to those in our circles, our neighbors and friends or families of chance and choice. We strengthen our connections. We build relationships at the speed of trust. We don't know what will be needed, but we know that the more people we are in trusting relationship with, the safer we all are. We keep each other safe.

Know that our church as an institution and me as your minister are doing this work of relationship on a larger scale. Some of you are embedded in other networks making plans. If the church as an institution can be a useful partner, please reach out to me. The board and I have started conversations about how we live our values now.

We don't know what's ahead. But we know we are called to live with love at the center in this moment. To hold fast to our values and to each other. To be exquisite in our care for ourselves.

Take good care, everyone,  
Rachel

**People's Church Survey**  
Access the Survey Here: [https://forms.gle/](https://forms.gle/BsjnSBYjBYrGD659)

[BsjnSBYjBYrGD659](https://forms.gle/BsjnSBYjBYrGD659)

Help us capture a snapshot of who People's Church people are right now. We'll be comparing the data we collected here with data from surveys from 10 years ago & 25 years ago. We'll be sharing results and trends with the congregation in early 2025.

If you consider yourself part of People's Church, you are encouraged to fill out this survey.

None of the questions are required. If there is something that you don't want to answer, please skip it.

If you have questions related to this survey, please reach out to Rev. Rachel at 269-389-9721 or [minister@peopleschurch.net](mailto:minister@peopleschurch.net)

Please complete the survey by January 1, 2025.



## Goal: Most Successful Bazaar Ever Outcome: ACHIEVED!

Dear People's People,  
Together, you knocked it out of the park!  
This year's Fine Art Sale and Holiday Bazaar was our most successful in all the ways we could hope for and that matter to us all:

1. Surely the best-attended Bazaar since pre-COVID years, maybe ever.
2. Engaging more people than ever from our congregation – elders, youth, long-timers, newcomers, members and friends. You helped in all the ways needed: making 700 pasties; publicizing and promoting the event in so many ways; preparing a huge variety and an even huger volume of your handmade goods and baked goods to laden our specialty tables, which constitute our earnings from this event; and volunteering for all the roles needed in the work of putting on the event – from Monday madness and set-up, to staffing all the specialty tables, pasty sales, raffle sales, cashiering, greeting, shuttle driving, emergency personnel presence, kitchen workers, cooks and runners, to the last task of the miraculous clean-up; and supporting the event with your purchases.
3. Building community within the church through our work together and expanding our outreach to the wider community by opening our doors wide.
4. Supporting the work of 29 tremendously creative artists from our local community, who always list our people, the warm and friendly tone of this event, and the great food, as reasons this is one of their favorite shows.
5. And now, for the bottom line, (drum roll...) making \$17,500! This will be adjusted for expenses, expected to be under \$3,000. In our work together, netting about \$14,500 to support our church and our mission.



The Steering Committee for this event is made up of tremendous people, who bring their diverse talents and spirit of collaboration to make this event work. It is a big project that is done with love for this community. Deep appreciation for the members of this team who lead each of the following work areas: Past-

ies – Bob Friedel; Artists and Vendors - Jen Jaksa and Rochelle; Publicity - Rachel Harmes, Rick Johnson and Elijah; People's Specialties – Lori Rupe; Café - Donna McClurkan; Raffle - Lori Rupe and Diana Lundquist; Monday Madness, Set-Up and Shuttle: Tim Keiffer and Gary Leadley; Cashiers and Finance: Dolores, Diana, and Barb; Greeters - Rev. Rachel; Clean-Up - Margaret Wilson and Jen Docsa-Koehler; Communications and Coordination - Dolores, Rochelle and Eli. We could not have done this without Eli's help in just about every aspect of this whole production!



We extend our heartfelt thanks to you all and our wishes for a restful and thankful season.

*Dolores Strom and Rochelle Habeck-Hunt*

p.s. Don't forget to bring back your loaner yard signs and buy a few of the remaining frozen pasties for sale in the foyer while they last!





## 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.



- **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](mailto: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.



### Safety & Medical Teams 2025

People's Church needs volunteers for our Emergency Preparedness Safety and Medical teams for 2025. Training and orientation will be provided. Team members are encouraged to sign up for 4 to 6 Sunday morning services during the year. If you are interested please contact Gordon Bolar at [gordon.bolar@wmich.edu](mailto:gordon.bolar@wmich.edu)



### Meet Bartlett, the Jetpig!

The votes have been tallied! Our Jetpig is named Bartlett, in honor of Caroline Bartlett Crane, who was the minister of People's Church 130 years ago. Thank you to all who participated in our very low-stakes election. We hope that Bartlett will help us all remember the UU values of Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity, with Love at the center.

For more information about Caroline Bartlett Crane, Bartlett's namesake, you can read *A Just Verdict*, a biography of her available in the church library or visit <https://www.kpl.gov/local-history/kalamazoo-history/biographies/crane-caroline-bartlett/>.



## **Climate Action in a Time of Despair**

Since the election, some of my college students are despairing about their futures. They know steep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions must take place by 2030 to avoid acceleration of the climate crisis. One said the election 'made me think a lot about the uncertain future. I've been especially trying to make my impact on this planet a positive one, but there are times (like yesterday) where it's hard to feel like there's meaning to what we strive for; one step forward, ten steps back.' Here is what I've been telling my students.

The Biden administration enacted policies to develop US industrial capacity for clean energy, increase adoption of agricultural practices that store CO<sub>2</sub> in soil, and help communities become more climate resilient. Many of these investments will probably survive because they provide jobs in red states. And automakers are lobbying to preserve electric vehicle mandates that help them compete in a global car market.

More importantly, despite negligible federal climate legislation from 1990 to 2020, the nation made strides in developing green energy and reducing energy demand. That progress came from states and cities that said 'we are still in' the Paris Climate Agreement. They changed building codes to increase energy efficiency, required utilities to add renewable energy, installed EV chargers, built bike lanes, trained young people as solar installers and wind turbine technicians, and began moving people out of flood-prone areas. They are also providing support so disadvantaged communities get access to the new green jobs and infrastructure improvements.

This local action is where I will focus my energy for the next four years. There are great opportunities to engage with Kalamazoo's Imagine 2035 planning process, development of the Kalamazoo County climate action plan, and the state's Healthy Climate Plan.

Finally, one of the most important things for those of us working for better environmental/climate/justice conditions is to have a supportive community. That was true before the election and is even more necessary now. It's long-term work, steps forward and back politically while also dealing with annual data reports that are sometimes positive and often terrifying. Having a community helps sustain us so we don't burn out or melt down. These blessed companions share the burdens, laugh and cry with us, and tell us it's okay to take a break while someone else steps up for a while. Most important, they remind us that to live in accord with our values is to live a good and meaningful life, even if we do not achieve all that we strive for in the world around us.



### **Special Collection: Ministry with Community**

**MINISTRY WITH  
COMMUNITY**  
rebuilding lives

#### **Sunday, December 8 during the service**

Ministry with Community is a daytime shelter and resource center in Kalamazoo, Michigan. It is open 365 days per year to anyone who needs our services, including those experiencing homelessness, poverty, substance use disorder, and other crises.

### **Special Collection: Minister's Discretionary Fund**

#### **Tuesday, December 24, during the Christmas Eve service**

The minister's discretionary fund is a special fund within People's Church dedicated to helping People's people in times of financial hardship. This fund has helped People's people pay medical bills, avoid eviction, and navigate times of crisis with care and support. Should you need the support of this fund, please contact Rev. Rachel.



## Grief for the Holidays: An Inner Work of Age Gathering open to all

Tuesday December 17, 1:30-3pm

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

People's person and retired marriage and family therapist Jackie Himelright-Smith will lead a conversation about the grief process, handling grief, and the challenges around holidays for those who are grieving. All are welcome to join this Zoom gathering.



On  
Freedom  
Timothy  
Snyder

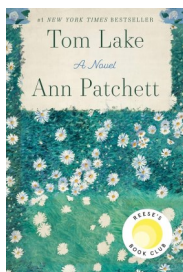
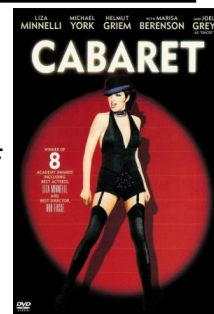
#1 New York Times bestselling author of  
ON TYRANNY

### Study Group

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday December 16 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss: "On Freedom" by well-known Yale historian Timothy Snyder. The book explores the meaning of freedom and how our society can best achieve it, given current political and economic 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](mailto:tim.bartik@gmail.com).

### Film Discussion

"Cabaret" (1972) will be reviewed by Mary Montgomery, December 18 (3-4:30). Amazon.com rental is \$4.99; or KPL has a blu-ray version; or Portage Library or [mel.org](http://mel.org) have DVDs. 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 contact Pat Nelson ([patnelson348@gmail.com](mailto:patnelson348@gmail.com); 269-716-3623).

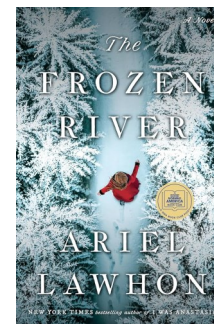


### Afternoon Book Club

The Afternoon Book Group will meet on Monday, December 9, 1:30- 3:00 at Martha Beverly's home in Friendship Village's Garden Homes. We will be discussing "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett. If you have any questions, contact Martha ([marthabeverly@gmail.com](mailto:marthabeverly@gmail.com), 269-382-4288).

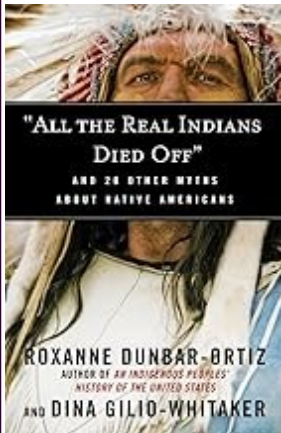
### Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

"Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon will be reviewed by Nancy Stern at our meeting, Dec. 12, 6-7:45 at the home of Lois Loeffler. The group continues to meet each 2nd Thursday of the month. The schedule for this church year is on the People's Church website. Newcomers are welcome. If you have questions or want to get on the email list, contact Pat Nelson ([patnelson348@gmail.com](mailto:patnelson348@gmail.com); 269-716-3623).





## Library Corner



“All the Real Indians Died Off”: and 21 Other Myths about Native Americans, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker—370 Du

Tracing how these ideas evolved, and drawing from history, the authors disrupt long-held and enduring myths such as:

“Columbus Discovered America”

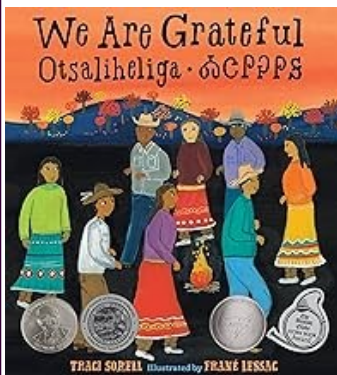
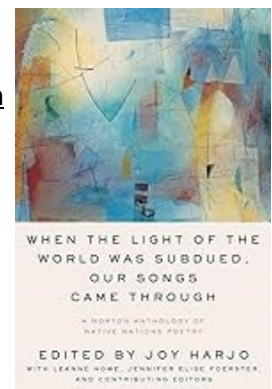
“Thanksgiving Proves the Indians Welcomed Pilgrims”

“Sports Mascots Honor Native Americans”

“Indian Casinos Make Them All Rich”

Each chapter deftly shows how these myths are rooted in the fears and prejudice of European settlers and in the larger political agendas of a settler state aimed at acquiring Indigenous land.

When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through; a Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry, edited by Joy Harjo—81 I.008 Wh  
Opening with a blessing from Pulitzer Prize–winner N. Scott Momaday, the book contains powerful introductions from contributing editors who represent the five geographically organized sections. Each section begins with a poem from traditional oral literatures and closes with emerging poets.



We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga, by Traci Sorell—RE 975 So

The word otsaliheliga (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences.

Young Native Activist: Growing Up in Native American Rights Movements, by Aslan Tudor—RE 976.4Tu

This is 11 year old Aslan's story. An activist is someone who tries to make changes or raise awareness about political or social issues. As Native Americans we fight for our rights as the first people of this land. Aslan has been protecting rights since he was just a youngster.



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

## World Religions

Our children and youth are exploring World Religions this year in religious education. Our K-6th graders have just finished their unit on Hinduism and begun exploring Buddhism.

Through wonderful stories and engaging activities, our kids are learning what people in various faith traditions believe, value and worship. Learning about different rituals, Gods/Goddesses, and how each religion encourages adherents to be good people and comparing and contrasting those with our Unitarian Universalist values and traditions offers rich opportunities for spiritual learning and growth.

Our 7-12th grade class enjoyed an interesting visit to a shabbat service at Temple B'nai Israel to culminate their unit on Judaism. They are now delving into their study of Catholicism. *Crossing Paths* curriculum offered through 'Soul Matters' includes a unique perspective to help youth learn, experience and reflect on those learning experiences together.

I hope this exploration of many of the world's religious traditions will provide our children and youth opportunities to deepen their own faith journeys as Unitarian Universalists. May it also provide insights into various religious traditions to plant seeds of understanding of different beliefs and practices to help combat religious intolerance and prejudice.

*Blessed Be, Diane Melvin Religious Education Director*



## Game Night & Potluck

January 3, 2025 6-8pm

All are invited to come and enjoy fellowship and fun. Bring a potluck dish to share and your favorite game to play.



## WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted to have so many new visitors in our RE classes this fall. If it feels like People's Church is a good fit for your family, we invite you to register your children in our program. This helps us get to know your kids a bit better so we can be aware of any allergies or special needs. Families receive weekly emails of what is happening in our Religious Education classes each week with links to resources to further the learning at home. We recognize that parents/caregivers are their child's primary religious educators and we are grateful to partner with you to provide structured opportunities for spiritual learning and growth as families together.

Our World's Religions curriculum pillar is among our most popular for kids and parents alike. The additional links and resources found in the weekly emails offer opportunities for you to engage with your children and youth about what they are learning and experiencing in their RE class at church. There are also some resources that are just for adults to learn more about each of the religions we are studying this year.

As you are checking out our congregation, I invite you to reach out, introduce yourself and ask questions. I am always available to answer any

questions at [re@peopleschurch.net](mailto:re@peopleschurch.net)

You can access our registration form here: <https://forms.gle/FYmav3gZJ4nIvg4BA>



## **Donations Needed for The Friends' Free Store for Refugees**

The Friends' Free Store for Refugees sponsored by our Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Team needs donations of clothing, personal care items, cleaning products, toys and fabric.

For almost three years now, volunteers from the Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Team, made up of members of People's Church, Temple B'Nai Israel, and The Congregation of Moses and community members have been overseeing distribution of clothing donations to the hundreds of refugees that have arrived in our community since the large influx of Afghan families came to Kalamazoo in Nov/Dec of 2021 and spring of 2022. Many arrive with very little clothing and no warm clothes and boots.

The huge undertaking of organizing the clothing donations that come into the Friends' Free Store, graciously housed by the Congregation of Moses, has required many volunteers and many, many volunteer hours! Colleen VanSlambrouck, of People's Church and Janet Nykaza of Temple B'Nai Israel have spearheaded this project and keep things organized and functioning well. There are several hard working and dedicated volunteers from the community. They have done an amazing job!

As more and more refugees arrive to Kalamazoo from many unstable and unsafe countries around the world, the free store is always busy! Visits to "shop" are made by appointment as the space is somewhat small and too many "shoppers" can make

it too crowded. The donated items help the refugees stretch their limited resettlement funds.

Below is a list of items needed:

- Men's coats, boots, belts
- Women's coats, boots
- Teen girls' and boys' coats, boots
- Children's warm clothing & outerwear
- Gloves/hats - any size
- Blankets & towels
- Toys, especially dolls, trucks/cars & balls of all types
- Fabric
- Umbrellas
- Laundry baskets
- Personal care items, such as shampoo, tooth paste, bar soap, lotion, feminine hygiene products (pads only), deodorant, etc. and fragrance-free laundry soap.



Donations of clothing, blankets and towels need to be dropped off at the Congregation of Moses. Drop-off time needs to be arranged with Colleen 269-341-0573 or with Janet Nykaza 269-861-1531. Personal care items and smaller non-clothing items can be brought to church and left on the table at the top of the stairs marked for "Friends Free Store for Refugees Donations".

Thank you for continuing to show support for these new members of our community.

## **Holiday Caroling**

Do you enjoy singing holiday songs? Do you enjoy spreading holiday cheer to those who might be feeling depressed? If so, please join us Sunday December 22nd as we go Christmas Caroling to members of People's Church who are presently home bound due to a serious illness or injury. We will meet at the church at 2PM and then form car-pools and then we'll let you know who would like to be caroled to. Everyone is welcome regardless of age or singing ability. Questions? Contact David Greenquist at (269) 569-5442 or at [davidgreenquist@icloud.com](mailto:davidgreenquist@icloud.com) or Rick Johnson at (269) 598-8317 or at [paywala@aol.com](mailto:paywala@aol.com). Hope to see you there.



## Join Us for Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition Annual Celebration!

Mark your calendars and be part of an exciting evening as we celebrate our community's climate action progress and look ahead to new possibilities!

- **Date: Thursday, December 12**
- **Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
- **Location: Kalamazoo Nature Center, Cooper's Glen Auditorium**

Come join us for an evening full of fun and community at the Kalamazoo Nature Center! Our annual celebration is a time to come together, celebrate accomplishments, and take action. Enjoy live music, engaging speakers, and interactive activities. Connect with individuals and organizations who are passionate about protecting our planet. Let's celebrate our successes and inspire each other to keep fighting for a sustainable future. Don't miss out on this opportunity to engage with others in your community!

**KALAMAZOO CLIMATE CRISIS COALITION**

**ANNUAL CELEBRATION**

Live Music + Delicious Food + Fun + Inspiring Talks + Community

**December 12**  
**6:00 – 8:00pm**

**Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
**Cooper's Glen Auditorium**

**RSVP Here**  
[KCCCcelebration24.eventbrite.com](https://KCCCcelebration24.eventbrite.com)

Kalamazoo Nature Center | Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition

- **What's Happening:**
  - **KCCC Year in Review:** Reflect on the strides we've made together and celebrate key accomplishments.
  - **New Beginnings:** Meet our incoming board members and honor those stepping down.
  - **Inspiring Talks:** Our keynote speaker will share insights on critical climate issues.
  - **Panel Discussion:** Participate in a collaborative conversation with KCCC affiliates and hear about the inspiring work from community leaders and organizations making a difference.
  - **Your Voice Matters!** We want to hear from you. Share your thoughts, ideas, and feedback in our facilitated discussion to help shape the future of our work.
  - **Music, Food & Fun:** Enjoy live music, delicious food, and activities to connect with fellow attendees!

### We Need Your Voice!

This celebration is all about community. Join us to share your ideas, learn how to get involved, and help shape the future of climate action in Kalamazoo.

**RSVP Direct Link:** <https://KCCCcelebration24.eventbrite.com>



### The Stories of People's People

Our website has an area for personal testimonials/stories from People's People. If you would like to share something about why you love People's Church, please email it to Elijah at [office@peopleschurch.net](mailto:office@peopleschurch.net). For space reasons, please keep any testimonials no longer than 1-2 paragraphs. For privacy, unless requested otherwise, testimonials will be credited with the person's first name and last initial.

Open House Theatre Company is thrilled to present *The Night Before Christmas*, a heartwarming holiday play by local playwrights Deborah Ann Percy and Arnold Johnston. Performances will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, located at 10441 Shaver Rd in Portage.

Mark your calendars and join us for the performances!

December 13th and 14th at 6:00 PM

December 15th at 2:00 PM

#### About the Play

*The Night Before Christmas* is based in part on the classic poem by Clement C. Moore, offering a comic and highly interactive twist on how the famous verse came to be written. Originally commissioned by the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in 2012, this long one-act play features imaginative elements like cows turning into reindeer, toys coming to life, a visit from Santa Claus, and festive seasonal music.

Set in 1823 on the Moore family's Manhattan estate, the play follows the Moores as they prepare a surprise for their children on Christmas Eve. The audience—especially children—is invited to participate, making this a truly engaging experience for the whole family.

#### Tickets

As part of our commitment to making sure that theatre is accessible to every member of our community, Open House Theatre Company is offering tickets to *The Night Before Christmas* on a Pay-What-You-Will basis. They may be purchased at the door or in advance using a credit card at [tinyurl.com/OHTCtickets](http://tinyurl.com/OHTCtickets). The suggested donation is \$15 per person; \$5 for children under 12.

## The Night Before Christmas

*A family-friendly, interactive play*  
by Deborah Ann Percy and Arnold Johnston  
Directed by Mary Roscoe



December 13 at 6 PM

December 14 at 6 PM

December 15 at 2 PM



**LET IT BE A DANCE!**



**REV. RACHEL'S 10 YEAR  
CELEBRATION**

**2.15.25**



save  
the date



**Let It Be A Dance!**

**Rev. Rachel's 10 Year Celebration**

**Save The Date!**

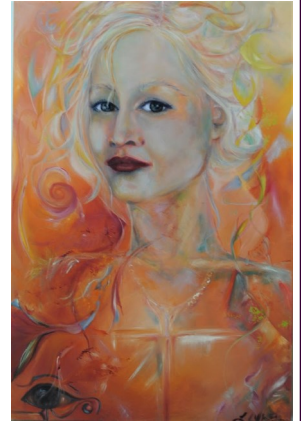
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## Art Wall November December

### **Artist: Launda Wheatley These Are Our Stories**

My work/life is an assembly of interests and curiosities: artist/psychologist/teacher/storyteller/writer/adventurer/yogi/gardener/partner/mother/grandmother. They all have a voice in my life and work. There isn't a single component that stands on its own, without the others feeding it with fresh energy to see the world anew. The art I create is about the people and environments I've been exposed to and what is inspired by them, which drives curiosity, creativity and new perspectives. My life/work continues to evolve and grow with each body of work and phase of life subtly interconnecting to the last.



Images of the series can be found on my website: [www.laundawheatley.com](http://www.laundawheatley.com) Each painting is accompanied by the story of the human being represented. These stories are drawn from personal encounters, history and other formats of communication. A journal book is placed with the exhibit, where anyone willing to share their story can write it in the book; if the story speaks to me on a visual level, I will paint it. This series of paintings has been used as part of a curriculum project drawing on communication, history and art in order to inform and inspire creative works.

### Sunday Morning Coffee Helpers

Coffee on Sunday mornings after service is a beloved tradition here at People's Church but it doesn't happen by magic. We're looking for additional volunteers to help make this happen every week! Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-45217221-coffee> if you're interested in learning the ropes and joining the rotation of folks who make the coffee & clean up afterwards!



### 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#/#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ba9ac22a13-health#/)

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Sunday	Dec 1	Sunday Service: "We Need One Another"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Tuesday	Dec 3	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	Rm 8
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Rm 19
Thursday	Dec 5	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	Dec 8	Sunday Service: "The Right to Change One's Mind"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Me & White Supremacy Book Circle	12:30pm	L1 & L2
Tuesday	Dec 10	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Sermon Seminar	6:30pm	L1
Thursday	Dec 12	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Home of Lois L
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	Dec 15	Sunday Service: "Hope as Science Fiction"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Inquirers Series	12:30pm	Room 8
Monday	Dec 16	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>		
		Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	Dec 17	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00pm	At Church
Wednesday	Dec 18	Film Discussion Group	3:00pm	Zoom
Thursday	Dec 19	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	Dec 22	Sunday Service: "Winter Solstice Extravaganza All Ages Service"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Tuesday	Dec 24	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Christmas Eve Service	5:00pm	Commons & Zoom
Sunday	Dec 29	Sunday Service: "Burning the Old Year: An All Ages Service"	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](http://www.peopleschurch.net)



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

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