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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

January 5: "Beginning with Questions" - Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Let's begin 2025 with questions! It is our annual question service. Bring your questions about meaning, ethics, People's Church, Unitarian Universalism and more (but please no math problems). Rev. Rachel will do her best to answer as many of them as she can during the service – and all of them will help shape the focus of our worship services and church programming over the coming year. Please bring your questions with you to church, either in person or via Zoom.



January 12: "Survey Says..." - Rev. Rachel Lonberg



In late 2024, we asked People's people to complete a short survey. On this Sunday, Rev. Rachel will share the results with you. We will learn about who we are (including demographic information and spiritual background and identity) and how this has shifted from surveys conducted in 10 and 25 years ago. We will also share some of People's people's favorite memories from the last ten years.

January 19: "Remembering Duane Roberts" - Rev. Rachel Lonberg

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, Rev. Rachel will continue her series honoring lesser known Civil Rights heroes. This Sunday, we will honor the life and legacy of Duane Roberts, a local Civil Rights leader. In addition to being a leader in the fight for school desegregation and other efforts for equity in Kalamazoo, Duane Roberts was one of the first Black members of People's Church. This Sunday we will remember his efforts and commit ourselves to carrying his legacy forward. (If you are a People's person who knew Duane Roberts, Rev. Rachel would love to have a conversation with you. Please reach out to her!)



January 26: "Rest as Resistance, Community as Resistance" - Diane Melvin



Exploring why well rested self care and community care are essential for the work ahead, how do we best lean into those practices and people who help to nurture and sustain us? As we work to dismantle unjust systems and decolonize our minds and world, how can we best support and depend upon each other?

Day-after-the-Inauguration Check-In

Tuesday, January 21 1:30-3pm on Zoom



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

On the day after the election, gather with other People's people for conversation. We will focus on how we are doing spiritually and emotionally, less on the steps we are taking to keep ourselves and those we love safe, though there might be time for that too. All are welcome to come to this time to be together.

MARK YOUR FEBRUARY CALENDAR

"Let It Be A Dance" Join us for an evening of celebration, dancing, and community fun for all ages as we honor and show our love for Rev. Rachel's 10 incredible years at People's Church!

When*: February 15th, 2025, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Where: People's Church

How You Can Help:

- Musical Requests: Let us know your favorite songs to add to the playlist!
- Décor Needs: If you have clear holiday lights we can borrow, please let us know.
 - Color THEME IS RED AND PURPLE
- Set-Up Volunteers NEEDED:
 - o Friday, February 14th, starting at 3 PM.
 - o Saturday, February 15th, starting at 4 PM.
- Kitchen & Clean-Up Volunteers:
 - o We need 2–3 folx for kitchen clean-up after the event.
 - o Another 2–3 volunteers to help reset the church for Sunday service.



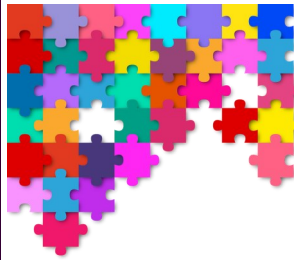
If you're able to assist, please contact Brian Lewis at brianlewis@bhsmi.com or 541-870-6658. Let's make this a memorable event! Thank you for your help and support!

*Backup Date: February 22nd, 2025 (same time planning - in case of severe weather)

Collecting Christmas lights for Rev. Rachel's 10th Anniversary Dance Party



Before you put those lights away for next year can you help? We are in need of several 100 strand clear Christmas tree lights to decorate for Rev. Rachel's dance party. If you have clear lights and are willing to donate them ,(they will be returned to you) please make sure your name is on them and place them in the box in Eli's office. If you have any questions please contact Sharon at sssauter@gmail.com. Thank you.



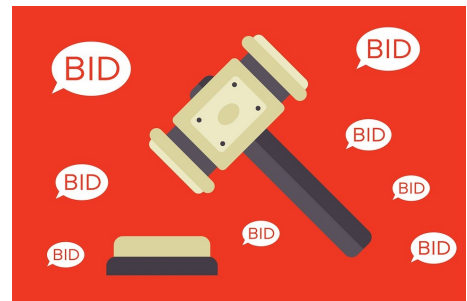
January Puzzle Exchange. January 5

Bring in your finished puzzle and pick up a new one to you. Or just get a new puzzle to do during the winter. We have a lot of puzzles left over from the last exchange, so no “exchange” is needed. Winter is a grand time for puzzling. See you January 5th!!!!

Coming Soon: People's Church Silent Auction

The People’s Church silent auction is returning in February with the bid sheets in the halls! We need volunteers to help make this happen. If you're interested, please let me know at office@peopleschurch.net or 269-375-3262.

Now is the time to start thinking about what you may wish to donate. In the past People’s people have donated a wide range of services, goods, and events for auction including homemade seasonal



pies; a poetry brunch; an ice cream party; cooking lessons; dinner parties; game nights; boat rides; child care; a haircut; a home appraisal; tax preparation assistance; framed photographs; original art; plants; skilled (and unskilled) labor; a dairy tour; pet care; accommodation at a lake house, and so much more.

If you value it, someone else will too and they’ll be willing to bid on it (with proceeds to benefit our church). Many of these activities also bring people closer together and work to build community. Join us as we build community one bid at a time by sharing our talents and treasures and raising money for the church.

The Reckoning Team

In our November 10th service, *An Honest Thanksgiving*, Rev. Rachel told a truer story about Native American history than what is traditionally portrayed in our culture. As the service description noted, “*An honest history invites us all to begin moving toward right relationship with Native communities.*” The Reckoning Team* is a newly formed group exploring what this might mean for People’s Church in general and in the context of the land on which our building sits - the land we steward - as a way to live into the truer story. This may develop into a land acknowledgement statement and will take other forms as well.

The Green Sanctuary Committee is pleased to participate in this initiative by offering three events during winter and early spring to help guide our understanding of the indigenous connection to land as a living entity.



These events are in the planning stage. All will be held following church in Room 19. Details coming soon.

*To be part of this effort, please contact Rev. Rachel.

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.

- **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.



Lincoln School Needs Reading Coaches

Lincoln International Studies School principal, Mrs. Dionna Roberts, is looking for Global Reading Challenge coaches. This is a battle of the books type of program sponsored by the Kalamazoo Public Library.

This would involve coaching a team of no more than seven 4th and 5th grade students. Meetings would be once a week at school during their lunch/recess in January, February, and part of March. A school-wide competition would take place with the winning team going on to a Kalamazoo Public Library Branch Challenge. The winning team from the Branch Challenge would go on to a city-wide Challenge in April to determine the 2025 champion.

All books are provided by KPL.

To volunteer or to find out more about this project, please contact Mrs. Roberts, Lincoln School Principal, at 269-337-0640, or robertsdn@kalamazoopublicschools.net. People's Church member, Judy D'Arcangelis, may also be able to provide information at 269-744-0128 or darcangelisjbl@gmail.com.



Thank you for considering this opportunity to contribute at our partner school. It is a fun and relatively short-term way to be involved.

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: January 9th**
- **Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
- **Location: The Xperience By LuXury Escapes Event Venue**

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

January 9
6:00 – 8:00pm

The Xperience By LuXury Escapes Event Venue
145 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

RSVP Here
KCCCcelebration25.eventbrite.com

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>

Special Collection: Care Collective of Southwest Michigan



Care Collective of Southwest Michigan provides free diapers and period supplies to people in our community. These products are essential for health and well-being, but half of children in Kalamazoo live in households with an income too low to meet their basic needs. Care Collective prioritizes BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and immigrant youth and caregivers in their work.

In addition to financial contributions, we will be running a period product drive. In addition to financial contributions, we encourage people to bring in period products for our Kalamazoo neighbors.

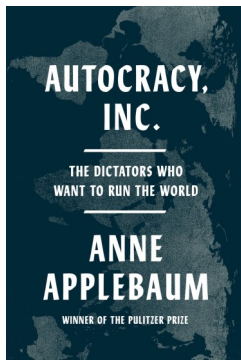
After Service Discussion

David Isaacson will host a discussion/conversation of Sunday's sermon beginning at 12:15 in Room 9 (Buddha room). If enough people are interested this will be a usual practice after most Sunday services. Other people who would like to be discussion leaders are most welcome, as David won't be available some Sundays. These discussions are for the regular Church year, not Summer services.



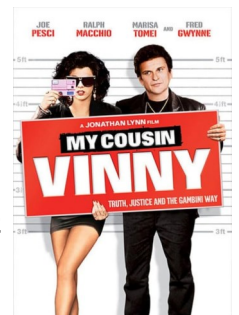
Study Group

The Study Group will be meeting on Monday March 31 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss: "Autocracy, Inc.: The Dictators Who Want to Run the World" by Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and historian Anne Applebaum. The book explores how we can organize to oppose autocracies around the world that are working together to undermine democracy. 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 ad-



Film Discussion

"My Cousin Vinny" (1992), reviewed by Martha Beverly, will be our focus on January 15, 3-4:30, on Zoom. 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; 269-716-3623).



Afternoon Book Club

The Afternoon Book Group is taking a break in January but will be meeting again in February. If you have any questions, contact Martha (marthabeverly@gmail.com, 269-382-4288).



Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

The group is taking a break for January but 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; 269-716-3623).



Library Corner

These seasonal books are currently on display on top of the library's low shelving.

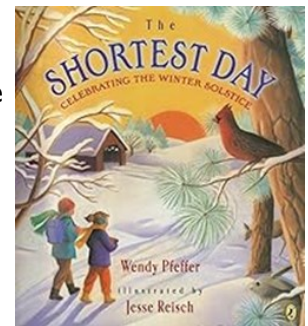


Seven Stories of Christmas Love, by Leo Buscaglia

Through true personal stories retelling Christmas memories, the author demonstrates that the values of caring and love are essential far past Christmas day. By considering what Christmas means to them, readers can begin to understand how to incorporate these positive emotions in their lives throughout the rest of the year.

The Shortest Day, by Wendy Pfeffer

The beginning of winter is marked by the solstice, the shortest day of the year. Long ago, people grew afraid when each day had fewer hours of sunshine than the day before. Over time, they realized that one day each year the sun started moving toward them again. In lyrical prose and cozy illustrations, this book explains what the winter solstice is and how it has been observed by various cultures throughout history. Many contemporary holiday traditions were borrowed from ancient solstice celebrations.



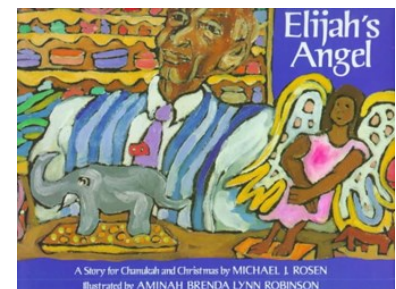
Wombat Divine, by Mem Fox

Wombat loves everything about Christmas--especially the Nativity play. He's wanted to be in it for as long as he can remember. At last he's old enough to try out. But at the auditions, the first part goes to someone else. So does the next. And the next . . . Will there be a part left for Wombat?

This year Hanukkah will be celebrated from the evening of December 25, 2024 until January 2, 2025.

Elijah's Angel; a Story for Chanukah and Christmas, by Michael J. Rosen

At Christmas-Hanukkah time, a Christian woodcarver gives a carved angel to a young Jewish friend, who struggles with accepting the Christmas gift until he realizes that friendship means the same thing in any religion.



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

World Religions

Our children and youth are exploring World Religions this year in religious education. Our K-6th graders have finished exploring Buddhism. In January they will learn about Taoism, and earth-based traditions of Paganism and Pantheism.

Our 7-12th grade class enjoyed an interesting visit to St. Thomas More to culminate their unit on 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

Religious Education Registration

If your family is new and you would like to be informed, please complete this form and we will add you to our communications.

<https://forms.gle/DmTgWrnrsrYGpDZLA>

Game Night & Potluck

January 3, 2025 6-8pm
All ages are invited to come and enjoy fellowship and fun. Bring a potluck dish to share and your favorite game to play.



Kindergarten/1st Grade OWL

We are beginning our Kindergarten/1st grade OWL Class with an Orientation on February 2. In this age group of *Our Whole Lives* sexuality education classes, children will learn about safe touches, correct names for body parts, different kinds of families and healthy communication skills.



If you don't get a letter in the mail in January, please let me know at re@peopleschurch.net so we can add you to our contact list.

Youth at visit to St. Thomas More



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".



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



From the Board

Dear Congregation,
 At our November 2024 board meeting, we were excited to hear that our attendance has been up in the last couple weeks. In review of committee reports, we celebrate new trees. Buildings and Grounds obtained a new Sugar Maple tree to provide shade in the back and 4 redbud trees. Discussion ensued regarding the state of Religious Education (RE) for youth. This was prompted by an article written by a UUA regional staff person about what she is observing in religious education throughout the Midwest. People's Church is facing many of the same challenges, especially the decline in volunteers. The board will meet jointly with the RE committee in December to further understand the needs and create a brief task force to brainstorm additional ideas and solutions.



Thanks to Tom Hackley and team, Alan Hunt, Cybelle Shattuck and Rev. Rachel, for working diligently on an Energy Efficiency grant. It would allow for original building ceiling and wall insulation as well as some new bay windows and heat pumps. The Board approved calling for a congregational meeting to ask to use matching funds if the grant is approved.

The board approved the task force's Congregational Survey, available now! Questions were derived from The People's Church surveys from 1997 and 2014 to create this brief survey; open to all. Help us gather a snapshot of our congregation: how have we grown? how have we changed? who are we now?

We received an update on plans for Rachel's 10 year anniversary party. We welcome all to celebrate; save the date for "Let It Be a Dance" Feb. 15, 2025. (snow date Feb. 22)!

With warm regards,
 The Board

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#/>

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Thursday	January 2	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Friday	January 3	Game Night and Potluck	6:00pm	Commons
Sunday	January 5	Sunday Service: "Beginning with Questions"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		After Service Discussion	12:15pm	Room 9
		Puzzle Exchange	Before & After Service	Foyer
Tuesday	January 7	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		RE Committee Meeting	6:30pm	Rm 8
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Rm 19
Thursday	January 9	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	January 12	Sunday Service: "Survey Says..."	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		After Service Discussion	12:15pm	Room 9
Tuesday	January 14	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Sermon Seminar	6:30pm	LI
Wednesday	January 15	Film Discussion Group	3:00pm	Zoom
Thursday	January 16	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	January 19	Sunday Service: "Remembering Duane Roberts"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Monday	January 20	Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	January 21	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00pm	At Church
		Day After the Inauguration Check In	1:30pm	Zoom
Thursday	January 23	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	January 26	Sunday Service: "Rest as Resistance, Community as Resistance"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Tuesday	January 28	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Sermon Seminar	6:30pm	LI
Thursday	January 30	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons

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."**