



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

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People's Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 86, Issue 11

July 2025

Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

The Zoom link for People's Church services is: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326> or
By phone: 1-646-876-9923, ID: 552 766 7326

Summer Services

Summer services will once again be reflections from People's People. Each service will include a ten-minute reflection from a speaker followed by discussion in small groups. Summer services will be multiplatform, taking place both in the Commons and over Zoom. Services begin at 10:45.



July 6: "Critical Thinking as Self Care" — Rebecca Staffend



Dealing with overwhelms and intense emotional situations on an ongoing basis can be harmful to our sense of self worth and decision making processes. As a highly sensitive person, I'll discuss how I've learned to analyze my emotional responses and remain functional through high stress situations – as an act of love.

July 13: "Participatory Creation" — Ed Smith

This service builds on the scientific story of creation and our place in it.



July 20: "Hymn Sing Service" — John MacLellan & Laura Bultman

Our service on July 22nd will be a hymn sing! Music covers all sorts of situations and emotions and we invite you to consider which songs or hymns have had special meaning to you over the years - either UU hymns or other songs for singing. Please send in your hymn/song choice along with a few sentences about why it's meaningful to you. You can speak in the service to introduce your hymn (or we can read it for you) and



then we will sing it. Please submit your requests to Laura

(lauramariabultman@gmail.com) by July 15th.

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III has said: "When the people sing together something happens that can't be replicated by singing alone..." We invite you to our hymn sing service; People's people will reflect on hymns and songs that have had special meaning to them over the years and then we will sing a few verses from each together. Music connects us, expresses our emotions, lifts us up, and heals us. Come, sing a song with us.

July 27: "Orienting to the Sacred With the Seven Directions" — Gerren Young

During this service we will explore the seven directions to honor the time and place we find ourselves in.



Our annual poetry service was held on March 30, 2025 and what a treat it was to hear People's people and friends share their poems on the theme, Poetry of Predicament. A special creative exercise for those in attendance was an invitation to contribute to a community poem during a timed "free write" by making a list of things they love. Whew - we love a lot of things! We collected all those contributions from which Elizabeth Bullmer assembled a gorgeous community poem incorporating lines from every one of the sixty-one submissions. We - the poetry service planning team - hope you love it!

- Don Miller, Leeanne Seaver, Elizabeth (Eli) Bullmer, and Donna McClurkan



People's People Love: Community Poem 2025

~written by congregants, assembled by Elizabeth Bullmer

I love chicken enchiladas & tamales; family; warm tea in my belly; fresh bread; clean sheets; my new comforter; soft light & crawling into bed at night; sleep; dreams that linger; quiet days at home; complete silence; warm laundry; being alone.

I love tomatoes from the garden & oranges in winter; BBQ chicken; family dinner; white cake & reunions; unpredictable weather; early morning at my bird feeder; anything with fur, scales or feathers; tree frogs; farmer's markets; fresh asparagus; reading a good book; going out for breakfast; gluten-free muffins & rhubarb pie.



I love generous people; patience; forgiveness & laugh lines; solitary moments; sitting quietly; holding hands; sharing; full custody; swordfish with black olives & onions; truffles; a new hobby.
I love understanding; Persian food; voices in harmony; sweat & solidarity; listening to Dad tell a story; remembering those who walked before me; wind in my hair; eating great dessert; goat cheese; cream-filled pastries; curiosity; courage & honesty; fountain pens; a new word; memories.

I love cinnamon; dates & Key lime pie; ice cream on a warm day; French fries; lattes & pistachios; green gumdrops; snowdrops; Aha! moments & being alive; I love the cowlick in my sweetheart's hair; when my grown children grin; finding joy; listening; wonder; new beginnings & seeing a child win; cookies; my grandson's smile; a baby's laugh; watching children play; hugs; love stories; late night calls & the first conversation of the day.



I love simple beauty; meditating; spiral stairways; safe space; sunflowers & spearmint; smiling at strangers; taste of black licorice on my tongue; the first snow; shoveling; family pictures & crocuses; smell of fresh popcorn; puppy breath; Grandmother's biscuits; honey; laughing together; texture; dark chocolate; love itself & morning coffee.

I love gut-wrenching laughs; vulnerability; feeling physically strong; feeling free to share; my new apartment; long soaks in the tub.

I love common awareness & unplanned days; my beloved; tender touch;
walks at Asylum Lake; myself for all my failings & friends who I trust;
roasted root vegetables; Indian & Thai food; burn of spice on my tongue;
feeling full of life; sunsets & crystals; sacrifice; justice for everyone.



I love a quiet evening; stillness of morning; dancing & dancing & dancing;
running with wild abandon; searching for the Big Dipper; all the seasons;
thunderstorms; baba ghanoush; black raspberries & Hunan Gardens.
I love the gifts of the universe; opportunity; crunching lemon drops; creativity;
connecting with nature; taking deep breaths; bonfires; holding community;
the smell of fall leaves; lavender; daffodils & lilacs; trillium; tulips & goofy pansies;
sound of waves on the beach; chickens talking to themselves; native plants; chicka-
dees.

I love adventure movies; sighing; gratitude; lying in the sun; live bands & comfortable shoes;
being in the moment; new experience; beach sand; fishing; Netflix & The Moody Blues.
I love working with my hands; spoken truths; good government; cooperation;
sunshine on water & Lake Michigan; a completed task; physical labor;
volunteering; appreciation; taking action together. I love napping & cuddling & rainy days;
my old red wagon; escalators; bridges to nowhere; over-specific play-lists;
humming; fuzz balls; fireworks; lip-syncing to Chappell Roan; magic & Jesus.



I love singing in a choir; new crafts; The Kingston Trio & Sting; jigsaw puzzles;
cars & The Gypsy Kings; poetry; art; spirit animals; building things;
the bursting of bubbles; trampolines; woodpeckers; seagulls & hearing Darryl sing;
I love hellebore; paddle boarding; soft tee-shirts; baking; camping;
making it through greenlights; squirrels & ferns unfurling in early spring.

I love the hour before dawn & day-long trips; distant train whistles; a cardinal's song;
weeding; planting bulbs; dirt under my feet; smell of earth after rain; the Pacific air;
swimming; swelling buds on a maple; fruit; the full moon; flannel & flickering fire.
I love my Goldendoodle's endless joy; travel & discovery; Harry Connick, Jr. & British TV; watching cats
sleep; Depression glassware; forests; waterfalls & Ocean City.



I love angels; wet dog noses; animal tracks in snow; warm water; Easter
baskets;
good ideas & Pinot Grigio; Brandenburg Concertos; sharing with friends;
Yeats;
Braham's German Requiem; Dua Lipa; tricycles; vibrations & squeaky gates.
I love Biebl's Ave Maria; Christmas lights; Bach; watering plants; musicals;
knitting socks;
this beautiful, fragile planet & People's Church; sailing; cedar swamps & all kinds of rocks.

Call For Card/Letter Writers

As we all know, a lot of things happen in life—good, bad and otherwise. We are looking for a group of volunteers who would like to reform our church Arms Around group to send cards/letters to church members when a big life event happens. If you are willing and able to be a part of this effort, please reach out to Elijah at office@peopleschurch.net



Summer Religious Education

Fun summer Religious Education experiences for children happen during the Sunday morning worship service. Activities include stories, crafts, games, science experiments, nature walks, and plenty of fun. All ages are welcome from tots to teens. Any grown-ups who are willing to help please contact Mary Kate Webster, tomandmarykate@gmail.com. Kids can meet in Room 9 (the Buddha Room) at 10:45 on Sundays. Nursery available in Room 10 for babies and toddlers.



Voting Complete — Thank You!

The voting period closed on Monday, and we're pleased to share that all items passed with strong support.

Please join us in congratulating our newly elected board members: Elizabeth Huff Willis, Tim Kieffer, and Martin Sauter. We also welcome our newly elected Nominating Committee members, George Hrbek and Brianna Wurtsmith, and thank the board for appointing Brian Lewis to complete the team. The new Board appointed Martin Sauter as the Board Representative to the Finance Committee.

At their first meeting, the new board selects their officers: Congratulations to Laura Bultman (President), Elizabeth Huff Willis (Vice President), and Tim Kieffer (Secretary) And finally, we're grateful to report that the 2025–2026 Budget was approved. A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in the process. Your engagement helps strengthen our shared ministry and community.



We need your help!



Our Religious Education Program is a cooperative effort: it works because People's people share their time and energy. Any contribution, big or small, is always deeply appreciated!

Scan the QR code to access our RE volunteer sign-up form!



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Scan the QR code or click the link to access our RE volunteer sign-up form! <https://forms.gle/FIxbgoVxHU5K5aj9>

Nature Therapy Opportunity!

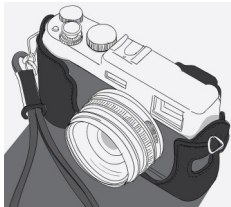
Our rain garden is in its second season. Native gardens take 3 years to establish. So what does that mean? We will tend the garden more closely this and next year. Years following, the maintenance time will be much less.

Join in for some very informal education about native-to-Michigan plants as we work on the rain garden. Over this season we'll pull weeds, observe plant growth, learn about the Chelsea Chop. We will regularly take deep cleansing breaths and work on creating a border around the garden so our mowers have an easier time of it.



Drop in on any 3rd Saturday of the month (the 4th Saturday will be our rain date). 9:30-11:30
Bring your favorite garden tools and gloves and dig in!

Photos At Church

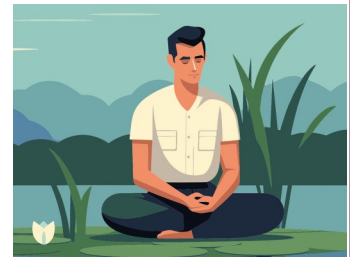


Do you enjoy taking pictures? Do you have an eye for great photo opportunities? People's Church has a nice camera but we are in need of a few volunteers who are willing to go around on certain Sundays and take photos of People's People and activities happening. This is not something that would be needed every Sunday but if you are interested in potentially helping out with capturing memories, please reach out to Eli in the office!

Meditation Class with Dave Wurtsmith

Do you suffer from intrusive thoughts? Would you like to cultivate some peace of mind? Ever wished that voice in your head would just shut up for a minute so you can think? Well unfortunately there is no cure for that, it's just the human condition; but there IS a way you can at least *become aware* of your mind's tendency to get stuck in recursive loops, and how to break out of those loops when you notice them. It's called mindfulness meditation, and our own Dave Wurtsmith would be happy to teach you how it's done.

On Sundays, about half an hour after the service ends and the conversation peppers out, Dave and any students who would like to join him will be meeting in Room 9 (The Buddha Room) for a class which will teach the basics of mindfulness meditation practice.



Drivers Needed!

Are you willing and able to drive our refugee friends to and from the summer ESL program on one or more days each week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from July 8 to Aug. 14, at 9:00 a.m. and/or 12:30 p.m.?

The ESL program is at the Westwood United Methodist Church, 538 Nichols Road, on the corner of West Main St. There will be childcare for kids from newborn to age 6, so we may be transporting preschool children or infants in car seats along with their parent(s).

If you can help out even occasionally this summer, please send me your contact information and your availability.

I will send out emails with the weekly schedule of drivers and assignments according to who is available. We also need substitute drivers who are contacted only when necessary.

Thank you so much! Peace, Vicki Konzen, 269-491-0570



In Later Years

Finding Meaning and Spirit in Aging
by
BRUCE T. MARSHALL

New Book Group on Aging

In Later Years: Finding Meaning and Spirit in Aging by Bruce T. Marshall
Tuesday, July 15, 1:30-3pm on Zoom

Link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326>

This book, by a Unitarian Universalist minister who is a chaplain at a retirement community, will provide a jumping off point for conversations about topics such as change, legacy and memory. For this session, we will read Chapter 4 on Help.

Introduction to White Supremacy Culture

Have you heard the term "white supremacy culture" and wondered about it? Have you engaged with the concepts before and would like to delve into them further? Join others on Friday, July 11th for a facilitated Zoom session from 6:00-7:30pm. This is the same link as for Sunday services: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326>. To prepare for discussion, please read the introduction of this article (pp. 7-15): https://socialwork.wayne.edu/events/4_-_okun_-_white_supremacy_culture_-_still_here.pdf Questions? Please contact Sam at fignewtonsmile@gmail.com.

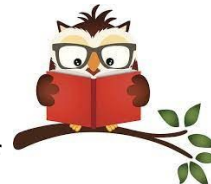


Afternoon Book Club

This group continues at maximum participation. Contact Martha Beverly (marthabeverly@gmail.com) if you'd like to get on a waiting list. During the summer, a meeting will be scheduled to set the calendar for the upcoming year.

Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

Looking forward, we'll take a break in July and gather in August at a date tba to choose monthly selections and set the calendar for the coming church year. If you are interested in participating, get in touch with Pat Nelson (patnelson348@gmail.com; 269-716-3623) to get reminder emails. She can also tell you if a book you have in mind has previously been reviewed. Anyone interested in reviewing a title one month (optional) is asked to recommend 2-3 books for consideration. This group leans toward quality fiction.



Women's Retreat

In 2024 a few folks from People's Church attended the AAUU Women's Retreat at Camp Copneconic in Fenton, MI. We had such a great time doing nature walks, art, yoga, high ropes, bonfires, and a folk song sing-along! Hopefully you can join us this year!



The theme for this year's retreat is Building a Community of Hope. We'll kick off on Friday evening with a pot-luck Community Café, book and jewelry exchanges, sale of woman-made products, our Welcoming Session and a bonfire with storytelling. Saturday will be packed with small group gatherings; social justice and heart-healing workshops, good food; fun craft workshops; outdoor activities such as zip lining, archery and high ropes course, and plenty of joyful singing. Sunday morning we wrap up with our closing Community Celebration.

All registration materials are available at: <https://uuaa.org/womuuns-community/>. Women should register and pay by June 30 to receive early bird pricing.

Library Corner

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT PEOPLES' LIBRARY — Part I

1. It includes two collections: the RE (Religious Education) for children and the Main Library for adults.
2. The adult collection contains only non-fiction. Facts (truth as it is understood)...no novels.
3. Anyone in the church (members or not) can check out library books.
4. To check out a book, open the cover and locate the book pocket and card. It's just like the old days since the library doesn't have an automated check-out system which would be very expensive and unnecessary for the library's size and number of clientele.
 - Print or write your name and email address or phone number on the card. Use the method in which you'd like to be contacted if that becomes necessary. Legibly please. Eli doesn't yet recognize everyone's name but he's getting pretty good.
 - Place the card in the right hand side of the wooden box that's below the wire basket near the center door into the Commons.
5. Try to keep your goal of finishing the book to about three weeks which is the same period as in the public libraries. There is no system of renewing our library books but you probably won't be reminded that you still have the book until nearing the two month date.
6. To return a book, simply place it in the wire basket. That's it. The library committee members will check in the book and shelve it.
7. You can use your home computer to check whether or not the library owns a title or author in which you're interested. You can also look up a subject but it must be a simple word or phrase. *Adoption*, not *multi-cultural adoption*, for instance. Go to the church website (peopleschurch.net). Click on the drop down menu under Learning. Choose Church Library Catalog and follow the steps to reach Library Thing, the catalog program. Remember that the church library contains primarily books that reflect our values and principles so not all subjects are represented.*



**The selection policy and where the library obtains its books will be explained in Part 2 in a future newsletter.*

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

Summer Time

I deeply appreciate summer time. It gives me a chance to step back from the overly full pace of church life during the regular program year. As I step back I relish to opportunity to deepen into my spiritual practices that flourish with a bit more time.

A slower morning with coffee on my deck combined with a longer meditation session, gentle stretching and yoga are invaluable in soothing my nervous system and nourishing my weary spirit. Simply not rushing does wonders for my mental health.

The busyness of life is always creeping in with so many opportunities to go and do. It takes a measure of self discipline to carve out the extra time and space for longer spiritual practice. When I succeed, the benefits are enormous. I feel calmer, more centered and connected. Connected to myself and to nature and to a larger essence of love. I find my perspective shifts from one of feeling harried and overwhelmed to a deeper sense of gratitude for my many blessings.

I hope that each of you are able to carve out some time of your schedules this summer to engage in the practices that nourish your spirits and help you to feel most grounded and centered. These are difficult times and the more grounded we can be in our most well regulated, best selves, the more skillfully we can respond to the world.

May it be so and Blesseed Be, *Diane Melvin*
Director of Religious Education

People's Church Peace and Nature Camp

This is the first year that our summer camp will be offer for two weeks. Our June camp was an enormous Success!

A Huge thank you to our camp director, Dolores Strom and the amazing camp staff for all the time and love and energy they

devoted to our children. Thank you Dan Bair, Luke Holwell, Lucy Cutler, Teresa Cavanagh, Maggie Marr, Tillie Fagen, Brandon Strom, Ian Webster, Charlie Henderson!



Looking forward to the August 18-22 camp session!



Douglass Day of Racial Healing

The Douglass Community Association cordially invites you to celebrate our 106th Anniversary on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, with a special breakfast from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM.

We are proud to host our inaugural Douglass Day of Racial Healing, in partnership with **ISAAC** and the **Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations**. Together, we will recognize our shared humanity and celebrate the rich history of the Douglass Community Association. This complimentary event offers a welcoming space for community members to connect, build relationships, and bridge across communities.

Please be encouraged to share this event with your organization and network.

You can RSVP using the following link: bit.ly/DouglassDayofRacialHealing

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at info@douglasscommunity.org.

SOLIDARITY SESSION: LGBTQIA+ IMPACT

Thursday, July 10 • 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Ministry with Community—500 N Edwards St, Kalamazoo 49007

Join us at Ministry with Community as we gather for our next Community Solidarity Session, focused on the impact of the current administration's policies on the LGBTQIA+ community, especially as it relates to LGBTQIA+ folks with additional marginalized identities. First, we will meet as a whole group to discuss the LGBTQIA+ community and the policies of the current administration. We will then split into breakout sessions where we will discuss the way the following identity groups are particularly vulnerable and how we can offer solidarity to them:

- LGBTQIA+ Youth
- Disability and LGBTQIA+ Identities
- LGBTQIA+ People of Color
- Transgender and Nonbinary Rights

We look forward to continuing to come together in these spaces of support and alliance. We encourage you to share this invitation with LGBTQIA+ community members and allies in your network. Please note that registration is required for all of our upcoming events due to venue capacities.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjMzNjgx

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Logan Stoner, Events Manager, at lstoner@ywcakalamazoo.org.



Art Wall

The Traveling Hen House Exhibition

Artist: Brian Walters

Brian Walters is a Kalamazoo native who started painting with acrylics in 2003 at the age of 46. His work is best described as eclectic and quirky. It runs the gambit from being silly and fun to dark and serious.

"Art is very much a part of who I am."

This exhibit includes several themes which focus on: Social Justice, Airstream Trailers, Footwear Collection, Chickens in Famous Paintings, and more.



Meal Train for Jenna Losey

Jenna had an open abdominal surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN to remove a large mass that was compressing part of her liver and pushing out her rib cage causing great pain! The surgery went well, however, she has had a difficult post op. After spending 9 days in the hospital, she flew home to finish her recovery. Jenna is off of work and recovering at home alone. She would love support with meals and surmounting medical expenses as she recovers. If you are able to help, please reach out, sign up, or donate to her medical debt/cost of living fund here! <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/y55dwe> Thank you! (Her email is jenna.b.losey@gmail.com)



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



Do you like to smile at people and say hello? Do you like to meet new people at church? Come join the greeters in making every person's first moment at church a warm one. 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.

Ideally, we would like to have two people available to greet each Sunday. This would give greeters an opportunity to better know their partner for the day and to provide two people to connect with visitors or personally show them where to find orders of service, coat racks, coffee, and help them feel at home at People's. Ideal times for greeting are from 10:10 am to 10:50 am.

Please consider signing up below to help make People's the warm and inclusive community we all know and enjoy. Or talk to the greeter on Sunday to learn what they love about being a greeter.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ba9ac22a13-health#/>

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	July 1	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Friday	July 4	CHURCH CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY		
Sunday	July 6	Summer Service: "Critical Thinking as Self Care"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Meditation Class	12:15pm	Room 9 (Buddha Room)
Tuesday	July 8	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Friday	July 11	Introduction to White Supremacy Culture	6:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	July 13	Summer Service: "Participatory Creation"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Meditation Class	12:15pm	Room 9 (Buddha Room)
Tuesday	July 15	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00pm	At Church
		Book Group on Aging	1:30pm	Zoom
Saturday	July 19	Rain Garden Work Day	9:30am	Church Grounds
Sunday	July 20	Summer Service: "Hymn Sing Service"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Meditation Class	12:15pm	Room 9 (Buddha Room)
Monday	July 21	Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom
Wednesday	July 23	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
Sunday	July 27	Summer Service: "Orienting to the Sacred With the Seven Directions"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Monday	July 28	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
Monday-Friday	July 28-Aug 1	CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED FOR FLOOR CLEANING		

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."**