



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

## 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

### Inside this issue:

From the Minister	2
Auction	3
Nominating Committee	3
Green Spot	5
Library Corner	7
Religious Education	8
Calendar	11

### March 1: “The Works of Love: A Stewardship Service” — Rev. Rachel Lonberg

People's people are generous people and have a long tradition of caring for one another and the wider community. As we kick off our stewardship season and ask People's people to make their financial commitments for the coming year, we will celebrate how we have done the work of love within our building and beyond and explore how our generosity and commitment will keep us ready for what lies ahead.



### March 8: “When the Ground Beneath Us Falts ” — Rev. Rachel Lonberg

In trauma theory, there is the concept of ‘the assumptive world’ – the things we assume can count on without having to think about them. When we experience a significant loss, change, or trauma, our assumptive world disintegrates and we need to rebuild something in its place. Rev. Rachel will explore these ideas further in this sermon.



### March 15: “Fingers Pointing at the Moon” — Rev. Rachel Lonberg

In the Buddhist tradition, there is a teaching that truth is the moon and teachings are the fingers pointing at the moon. One must not mistake the fingers for the moon, the teachings for the truth they are gesturing toward. Rev. Rachel originally preached on this concept in the fall 2017.



### March 22: “Building Beloved Community During Troubling Times ” — Dr. Charlae Davis

In 2024, at a Fireside chat hosted by ISAAC, author Layla Saad said, “The Beloved Community. We want to live there. And a lot of times we want to skip over the work it takes to get there. The beloved community is not a destination that we are walking towards or arrive at, it’s actually something that we must build within ourselves and together collectively.’ In this service, Dr. Charlae Davis will reflect on the work of building Beloved Community in this challenging moment.



### March 29: “Fill in the Blank” — Rev. Rachel Lonberg

For this service, auction winners were each invited to submit two words for inclusion in this service. As this newsletter goes to press, the words have not been submitted. Stay tuned to see how this experiment comes together!





Dear People's People,

A few notes as we prepare for spring at People's Church:

**March is stewardship season.**

This is when we ask people to make their financial

commitments to the church for the fiscal year that begins in July. This year, we are working to both fund our yearly budget and shore up our capital reserves. We anticipate our building will require about \$850,000 in repairs and upgrades over the next 20 years. Please sign up for a grateful gathering (more details about that in another part of this newsletter) and keep an eye out for pledge materials at church, in your email, and in a mailbox.

In the recent question box sermon, someone asked for more potlucks. The frequency of all-church potlucks has declined in recent years.

**Here's how to host a potluck at People's Church:**

1. Gather a group of 5 or so people committed to making it happen and willing to devote some time to this.
2. In conversation with Eli, our wonderful church administrator, set a date. It's generally best to schedule this several weeks to a month in advance so we can use all of our church communications to spread the word.
3. Make sure you know a few things: how to set up tables in The Commons, where the dishes and silverware is kept, and how to use the dishwasher.
4. On the day of the potluck, you team will take the lead in setting things up and cleaning up. Other People's people will surely help, but it's best if there's a small team who takes responsibility for making sure things happen.

5. Bask in your success and all of the deliciousness and community you helped to create.

For the next three months, **I will be re-using some of my favorite sermons & service topics** once per month. All of these services originally happened at least 8 years ago, so I imagine that most of us either weren't here the first time these topics were explored – or don't remember the details. Some things are worth returning to – and I need a bit of a break. Given everything unfolding in our world, our church, and in the lives of individual People's people, I am devoting more time right now to pastoral care for People's people, institutional leadership and administrative tasks, and building and maintaining our partnerships in the wider community. Reworking and re-preaching previous sermons will allow me to be a bit less overwhelmed, I hope. If you are in a similar overwhelmed place, I hope you find ways to make things a little easier on yourself too.

There is **no second Sunday potluck and programs in March**. Much of the church building will be in use by community organizations who have rented the building that day. Watch for a return in April.

**I will be co-leading worship at this June's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly.** This is an honor and I am already busy co-creating worship with Rev. Katie Romano Griffin, who serves All Souls Unitarian Church in Indianapolis. The service we are leading will happen in Louisville, KY on Friday June 19 from 8-9:30pm. It will be livestreamed as well.

Take good care, everyone,

Rachel

## The Auction was a Huge Success This Year!

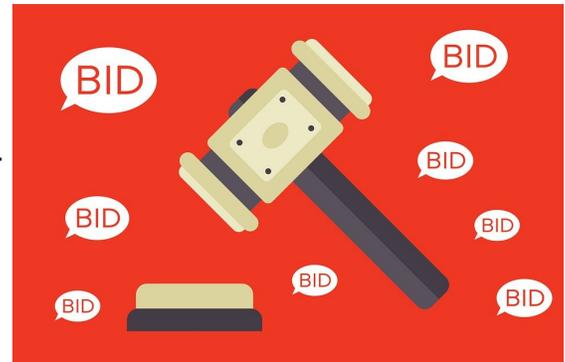
They say it takes a village to raise a child, but we believe it takes a village to keep a church thriving. At People's Church, we are so incredibly blessed to have such a dedicated village. We are thrilled to share that this year's silent auction was a huge success! From the unique treasures to the one-of-a-kind experiences, it was a joy to see everyone come together.

Because of your generosity, we didn't just meet our \$4,000 goal—we surpassed it by \$1,500! We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to every bidder and donor who participated. We couldn't have done this without you.

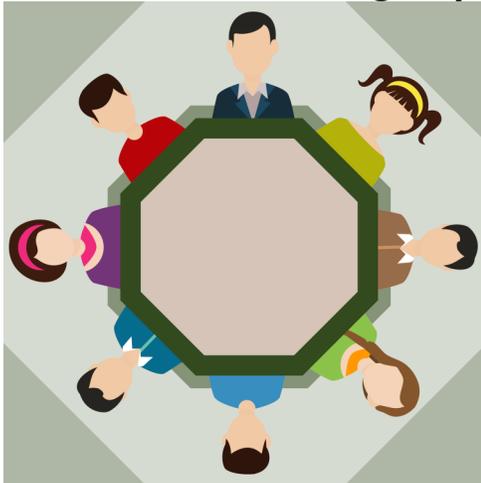
Looking forward to next year!

With gratitude in our hearts,

*Sharon , Donna And Eli*



## Sign Up to Attend a Grateful Gathering



Grateful gatherings are small groups that will meet together for conversation about the role of People's Church in our lives, the church's financial realities, and generosity. This is a chance to build connections, learn, and make the decision that is right for you.

(No high pressure sales, we promise!)

Grateful gatherings are for anyone connected to the church. If you are newer around here, you are especially encouraged to sign up. Hearing how the church talks about money is a good way to figure out if this is the spiritual community for you.

**To sign up, follow this link or visit the tables in the foyer:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-62464947-grateful#/>

## Board Member Recruitment

People's Church is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees that plays an important role in strategic planning, decision-making, and matters brought to the congregation for vote. Board members serve three-year terms, with three members rotating off each year.

The Nominating Committee is now seeking volunteers and suggestions as we develop recommendations for new Board members, as well as for the Nominating Committee itself. If you are interested in being considered or would like more information, please contact a Nominating Committee member. You may also be contacted if you are listed in the church directory.

Current Nominating Committee members are Bob Friedel, George Hrbek, Brian Lewis, Mike Leonard, Lori Rupe, Ken Tindall, and Brianna Wurtsmith.



**Special Offering Recipient: OutFront**

**During the service on March 15**

Since 1987, OutFront Kalamazoo has worked to advance social justice, build coalitions, change hearts and open minds in Kalamazoo County so that all people can live authentically and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.



You can learn more about OutFront at <https://www.outfrontkzoo.org/>



**Yarn Lover's Unite**

Fiber arts are fun and meditative and have been bringing groups together for centuries. They can include all sorts of activities, like crochet, knitting, weaving, spinning, embroidery, cross-stitch, etc. Do you enjoy any of these activities? Let's get together to celebrate our own creativity while creating a supportive community. **Please join us the fourth Monday of the month in Room LI from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Bazaar Artist Committee Recruiting New Volunteer!**

The Artist and Vendor Bazaar Team is looking for another member to join us. The role for this person would be primarily coordinating our tasks according to our timeline as part of our shared leadership team. Learn with us this year, lead with us next year. Qualities: organized, timely follow-up; communicate effectively, represent the church; team player; appreciates art (prefer not artist); computer literate; main work is from May-August. Questions? Contact Rochelle Habeck-Hunt, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Judy Whitman



**Be Blessed: A Transgender Day of Visibility Gathering**

**Saturday March 7, 2pm at People's Church**

Members of the Faith Alliance – the religious leaders connected to OutFront – will offer blessings to trans folks. Local musicians will also participate in this gathering.



Even if you don't think this event is 'for you,' please come if you are able. It is a meaningful event for all who attend and showing up is a small act of solidarity with trans folks, many of whom are especially vulnerable now.

Our own director of religious education, Diane Melvin, is among the featured speakers.



## Faith. Climate. Action.

**March 21, 2026, 1:00-5:00pm.**

An afternoon of workshops, education, and community-building on climate resilience and action.

Spring awakens the senses. Bird calls, soil scents, and emerging bits of green urge us to head outside, to be doing things in the yard. However, spring in Michigan is usually a two-steps forward, one step back process that requires patience.

If you are feeling impatient while waiting for sunlight to take over and stabilize the warm-up, consider spending an afternoon at the second annual *Faith. Climate. Action* event organized by Hope for Creation.

We'll gather for a series of workshops, reflection, and discussion on themes related to climate resilience and action. Workshops include:

**Quyen Edwards**-- Start Small: An Introduction to Native Plants

**Steve Wasko**-- Resilient Together: Faith Communities as Climate Resilience Hubs

**Nancy Hoy Nott**-- Poetry as Action: Exploring Climate Change Through Reading and Writing About Nature

Snacks and drinks will be provided throughout the day with vegan appetizers from 4-5 pm.

**Location:** Portage United Church of Christ, 2731 W Milham Ave., Portage

**RSVP:** <https://www.hopeforcreation.net/events/faith-climate-action>



### Join Us - All Are Welcome!

**Intro to Reform Judaism**

**Tuesdays at Temple B'nai Israel—7:00-9:00pm**

**Feb 17th & 24th & Mar 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th**

Introduction to Reform Judaism is designed for those who would like to learn about the foundations of Reform Judaism or for those who may be searching for an entryway into Jewish life.

More information at registration at: [https://tinyurl.com/](https://tinyurl.com/IntroTBI2026)

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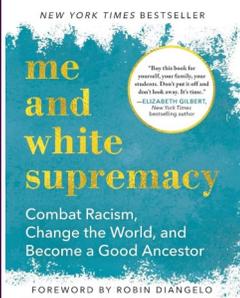
**JOIN US**  
**INTRO TO REFORM JUDAISM**  
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
 Tuesdays at Temple B'nai Israel  
 FEB 17th and 24th  
 MAR 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th

*Introduction to Reform Judaism is designed for those who would like to learn about the foundations of Reform Judaism or for those who may be searching for an entryway into Jewish life.*

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### Dismantling White Supremacy from Within

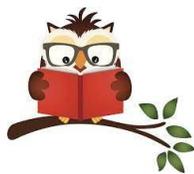
Layla Saad offers her book, *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* (2020) as a guide to people seeking to reduce the harm of their white privilege.



The book leads readers through a step-by-step reflection process that works well when done as a group.

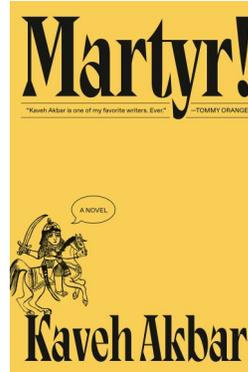
If you are interested in joining a reflection group that meets on the third Sunday of the month after church about 12:15pm in Room L1, or if you have questions, please contact Denise Hartsough at [denise.hartsough@gmail.com](mailto:denise.hartsough@gmail.com).

**The group has met just once and welcomes additional participants! Next meeting is March 15.**



### Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

"Martyr" by Kaveh Akbar will be reviewed by Marijo Steenstra at our next meeting, March 12, 6-7:45 at the home of Lois Loeffler. We will continue to meet every 2nd Thursday (barring emergencies) at the home of Lois Loeffler.



Newcomers are welcome. If you would like to get on the email list for updates and reminders, contact Pat Nelson, patnelson348@gmail.com, 269-716-3623. The remainder of this church year's schedule is posted on the church website, under the "Learning/Adult Programs" tab. This group leans toward quality fiction.

### A Mindful Moment



The Dali Lama has been known to say “not all of your thoughts have your best interest in mind.” What would it be like to see our thoughts as ‘just thoughts’? Not the truth of who we are, but just as tiny electrical impulses traveling down neurons. Not phenomena that bully and delude us, but just little events that we can step back and watch with awareness.

We meet the first and third Sundays (March 1 and 15) at 12:30 in Room 9, the Buddha Room.

Carolyn / [carolynheineman@aol.com](mailto:carolynheineman@aol.com) / 269-547-7113 , Su / [suacutler@gmail.com](mailto:suacutler@gmail.com) / 269-353-3654

### Senior Readers Theater Presents...

Senior Readers Theater will perform the One-Act play “The White Caps,” written and directed by Gordon Bolar. The play will be performed in the People’s Church commons on Wed., March 4, 2026, at 1 p.m. This presentation by is part of the programming for the “In Later Years Group” at People’s Church and is free, and open to all members of the community. A discussion will follow the performance. “The White Caps” addresses what it means to grow older and depicts a Senior woman’s sometimes humorous, sometimes dramatic quest to banish fears related to her annual cognitive test.



### In Later Years: A Conversation with a Death Doula



Tuesday March 17, 1:30-3pm, on Zoom.

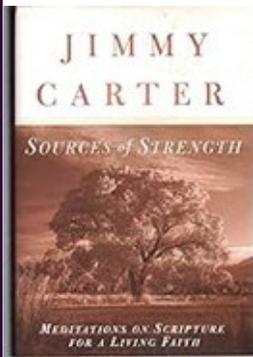
Link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5527667326>

The elders circle has finished their shared reading and will be exploring different topics related to aging, death, and dying in upcoming months.

For our March meeting, we will be learning about the work of a death doula with church member Donna McClurkan. All church members are welcome to this conversation. Participants are encouraged to watch the Ted Talk ‘Why Thinking About Death Helps You Live a Better Life’ by Alua Arthur before the gathering. That talk can be access here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkeuKPZxEhM>

## Library Corner

Many people are not used to looking UP to browse library shelves. The titles below were ones waiting (patiently?) for someone to discover them on the top shelves of People's library shelving along the back wall. Use the nearby stool to reach the many titles that may surprise you.

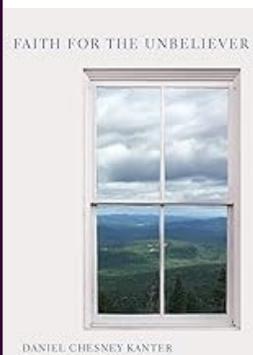
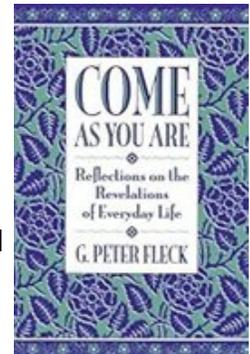


### **Sources of Strength; Meditations on Scripture for a Living Faith, by Jimmy Carter — 248.2 Ca**

For decades, President Jimmy Carter was an avid student and teacher of the Bible. The adult Sunday school classes he led at his hometown Baptist church became famous the world over. As The New York Times put it, "These weekly sessions...are remarkable for the ability of regular folks to walk in, grab a seat and exchange views with the 39th President of the United States. But they are also remarkable for what Mr. Carter has to say." This most admired American selected fifty-two of his favorite Bible meditations from these Sunday gatherings to share in this book.

### **Come As You Are; Reflections on the Revelations of Everyday Life, by G. Peter Fleck — 242 FI**

The author offers reflections on making peace with ourselves and our parents, learning to expect the unexpected, growing up and growing old, and other contradictions and harmonies of life. Chapters include "Don't Fret the Little Stuff", "Having Fun", and "God or Whoever You Are".

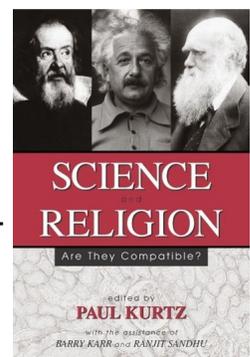


### **Faith for the Unbeliever, by Daniel Chesney Kanter — 202 Ka**

With simple poignancy, Kanter says that we can understand faith to be less about what we believe in, and more about how we live and the choices we make. This small book of wisdom helps to make faith more accessible for the increasing number of the spiritual but not religious.

### **Science and Religion; Are They Compatible?, Edited by Paul Kurtz — 291.1 Ku**

In this stimulating collection of articles on the subject, Paul Kurtz, with the assistance of Barry Karr and Ranjit Sandhu, have assembled the thoughts of scientists from various disciplines. Among the topics discussed are the Big Bang and the origin of the universe, intelligent design and creationism versus evolution, the nature of the "soul," near-death experiences, communication with the dead, why people do or do not believe in God, and the relationship between religion and ethics.



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

## Change and Transition

I am in my last semester at Meadville Lombard Theological School. On May 2nd, I graduate as a certified Spiritual Director. I have been learning so much and am excited about this new endeavor. Spiritual Directors accompany people and can serve as supportive companions on this journey of life. They can help us more skillfully navigate and often make sense of it all.

In order to create some space in my life for new possibilities to emerge in this realm, I have decided to transition to 3/4th time beginning Sept. 1. I began this position in 2001 at 3/4th time. As the RE program grew, so did my hours. At this juncture, I am hopeful we'll have at least a half-time RE Assistant to manage many of the administrative tasks so I can step back out of the weeds to the balcony to better serve as Director of Religious Education.

This transition also aligns better with how I can best serve our congregation with the gifts I bring in this stage of my life and career. The wisdom and experience I have to offer our often overshadowed when the pace is too fast with too many details to manage.

Rowan Jakobah has done a fabulous job as RE assistant since September and has expressed desire to grow in this role. I am ecstatic to share my experience with her and to mentor her into gradually taking on more and more responsibilities in the RE program. I am confident our RE program is in excellent hands!

*Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Religious Education Director*

## Children's Religious Education

**1st Sundays - Specialty Classes** - 1st—6th graders choose the activity in which they wish to participate. Choices vary monthly; they often include art, crafts, baking, games & large motor activities.

**2nd & 3rd Sundays** - Age based lessons learning and practicing mindfulness and meditation. Captivating stories combined with meaningful discussions and engaging activities.

**4th Sundays** - Adventure, Wonder & Exploration (**AWE**) **Labs** for 1-6th graders - Children can rotate at their own pace through a variety of hand-on interactive stations designed to practice and hone their mindfulness skills.

## 5/6th Grade Our Whole Lives (OWL)

### Sexuality Education Class

We have twenty families registered for this invaluable class that will take place at 9:00 AM most Sunday morning this spring.



Children explore information about puberty, consent, staying safe on social media, healthy decisions and more.



Percussion exploration in AWE Lab with Chris Measzros

## We need your help!



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



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!

## **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 or click the link to access our RE volunteer sign-up form! <https://forms.gle/F1xobgoVxHUsK5aj9>

## **Plans for Summer at People's Church Peace & Nature Camp are Emerging!**

We will hold 2 sessions in 2026

**Session 1: June 15-19**

**Session 2: August 17-21**

Registration will open in March.

Priority Registration in Session 2 for campers who cannot attend Session 1.

**More Details Coming Soon!**



PLANS FOR SUMMER AT  
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PRIORITY REGISTRATION IN SESSION 2 FOR  
CAMPERS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SESSION 1.

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON...



## **Chalice Circles**

*"People come to church longing for, yearning for, hoping for ... a sense of roots, place, belonging, sharing and caring. People come to a church with a search for community, not committee."* — Glenn Turner

**Chalice Circles** are small group ministries that enrich our spiritual community. The practices of holding space and deep listening create mutual trust, and support personal and spiritual growth through sharing our experiences and bearing witness to the lives of others.

Interested in learning more? Check out our FAQ here: <https://peopleschurch.net/connection/small-group-ministry/>

Opportunities to join a Circle are periodically available throughout the church year. **Sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-61339427-chalice#/> to get your name added to the list of folks interested in joining and/or leading a Chalice Circle!**

**Chalice Circles**

- ritual
- sharing
- deep listening
- reflection
- silence

**Connection**  
The energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard & valued ...without judgment.

- Brene Brown



## Church Building Rentals

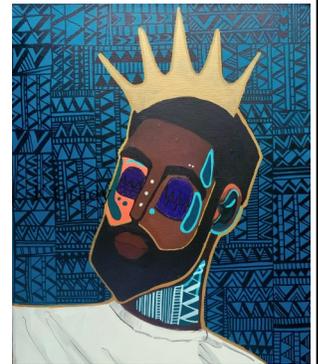
Did you know that rooms in our church building are available to rent for events and meeting? We regularly host groups and organizations from our wider community in our church space for modest rental fees. Please spread the word! We can accommodate groups from a few to a few hundred at nearly any time except Sunday mornings. It is good for our church building to be used – the rental income supports our ministries and programs and people sometimes first learn about our congregation when they attend an event or meeting here hosted by a renter. Word-of-mouth is our best way to let people know that our building is available to them. If you (or someone you know) wants to host a gathering at People's Church, please contact Eli, our church administrator.

### **Art Wall: Crazy Blessed**

**Artist: Kandy Grady**

**Artist Reception: Sunday February 8th at 12:15pm**

This series is styled in the fashion of African-American Folk Art. My choice of bold colors and patterned backgrounds are used to convey a message. Oftentimes subjects lack full facial details in hope that the audience can relate to them without the concern of race or skin color. The theme of Crazy Blessed is to encourage inclusion, equality, encouragement, and compassion for one another.



I relish the endless design and color combinations that mixed medium gives us artists. There is a lot of freedom in mixed medium/media. Finding a good mixture of both is my desired effect. Determined to push boundaries and explore challenging subject matter, I have developed a unique style of collage and color. I combine master techniques with unconventional media. I make mono prints on paper using acrylic, ink, watercolor and stencils to create passionate portrayals of faith, and God's love of man.

Artist Kandy Grady creates art in her home studio in Kalamazoo and has exhibited extensively in the area. She is an active Creative Companion volunteer in the Expressive Arts Program at the Bronson Cancer Center (organized by Gay Walker and funded by Molly Vass and Rob Lehman of the Fetzer Institute) which offers patients who are getting chemo some art related activities. She is a cancer thriver.

### **I Wish Someone Would...**

When's the last time you took a look at the "I Wish Someone Would..." board?

You can access the board online here: <https://padlet.com/PeoplesChurch/lvo4v0pcvh14ck70>

Reminder on how the board works:

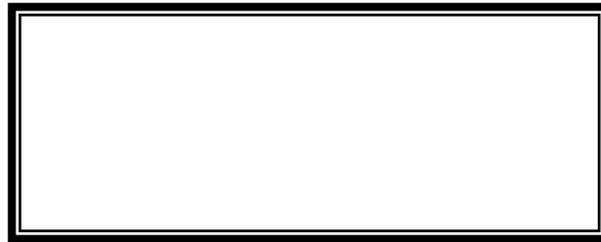
- Review ALL of the great ideas posted
- Add your name to the comments if you are willing and able to help make the idea happen
- Hit the heart/like button if you think it's a great idea but aren't able to make it happen.
- Post your own ideas to the board (you can do so anonymously if desired!) because chances are, someone else has had the same idea or there's someone who can help make your idea a reality. Adding an idea does NOT mean you are volunteering to make the idea happen!
- A number of ideas that have been posted on the board have already been implemented!



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Sunday	Mar 1	Sunday Service: "The Works of Love: A Stewardship Service"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Mindfulness Class	12:30pm	Room 9
Tuesday	Mar 3	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
Wednesday	Mar 4	Senior Readers Theater Presents	1:00pm	Commons
Thursday	Mar 5	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Saturday	Mar 7	Transgender Day of Visibility Gathering	2:00pm	Commons
Sunday	Mar 8	Sunday Service: "When the Ground Beneath Us Falts "	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Tuesday	Mar 10	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		AWE Lab Meeting	6:00pm	Room 5
Thursday	Mar 12	RE Committee Meeting	6:00pm	Room 19
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
		Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Home of Lois L
Sunday	Mar 15	Sunday Service: "Fingers Pointing at the Moon"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Mindfulness Class	12:30pm	Room 9
Monday	Mar 16	Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	Mar 17	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00pm	At Church
		In Later Years	1:30pm	Zoom
Thursday	Mar 19	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	Mar 22	Sunday Service: "TBD"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
Monday	Mar 23	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>		
		Yarn Lovers Unite	6:00pm	Room LI
Tuesday	Mar 24	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	Mar 25	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
Thursday	Mar 26	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	March 29	Sunday Service: "Fill in the Blank"	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."**