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Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Phone: 269-375-3262
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Volume 87, Issue 10

Summer 2026

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

June 7: "Pride Service" — Rev. Rachel Lonberg and People's People

On the weekend of the Kalamazoo Pride festival, we will bring the party celebrating LGBTQIA+ folks to church, with joy, music, and blessings. If you are a LGBTQIA+ People's person and would like to participate in ritual leadership (there are both speaking and non-speaking ways to lead), please reach out to Rev. Rachel. We would love to have you help lead this service.



Inside this issue:

From the Minister	2
White Elephant	3
Library Corner	7
Religious Education	8
Calendar	11

June 14: "Flower Service" — Rev. Rachel Lonberg



We will close our church year with our annual flower service. This ritual at the core of this service was created by Rev. Norbert Čapek, a Czech Unitarian, in the 1920s as a celebration of community and diversity. In the years since, especially after Čapek was killed by the Nazis, it has become our anti-fascist holiday. If you are attending this service in person, please bring a flower with you. This is also a great day to wear a floral print.

Summer Services June 21 – September 6

From June 21 through September 6, we will have summer services on Sunday morning. These services have lower production values, usually, but greater intimacy. Most weeks, People's people will share reflections on things that matter to them and there will be time for small group conversations. The speakers' schedule is not available as the newsletter goes to press – it will be shared in weekly emails.



Eli Away for Six Weeks!

Beginning on Monday June 29th, Eli will be away on medical leave for approximately six weeks. I am expecting to be returning in mid-August. Because of this, there will be NO monthly newsletter for July or August. The Friday weekly email will still be going out so please keep your eyes on that for any church news.



Have something to share? Please send items for the weekly emails to our wonderful RE assist, Rowan while I'm away:

re_assist@peopleschurch.net



Dear People's people,

In early May, I participated in the installation of Rev. Aaron Stockwell Wisman at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. In our tradition, an installation is the ceremony that recognizes and affirms the congregation's call of a minister to serve them. Those of you who have been here for a while might remember the installation service for my ministry in May 2016. Those of you who have been here even longer might remember the installation of Jill McAllister or other previously called ministers at People's Church.

At this installation, I was asked to offer the 'charge to the congregation.' This is a part of the ritual that offers advice and encouragement to the congregation. (It is parallel to a 'charge to the minister,' in which the clergyperson is given advice and encouragement.)

I wanted to share some of how I 'charged' the Grosse Pointe Unitarians, as I think it is good encouragement for any congregation in this moment:

'Your first optional homework from me is to have more fun together. I'm assigning you 200% more fun. Maybe that's a game night or a pickleball tournament or an all ages coloring party or having dress up days on Sundays. Wild socks day or favorite color day or everyone in tweed Sunday [the Grosse Pointe minister is known for his bright socks and fondness for tweed]. More ice cream or sweet summer corn or poetry or karaoke or water balloons. I don't know what your fun is –but I know you do. Have fun. At least twice as much as you are having right now. Maybe Rev. Aaron is part of it. Maybe he's not. This joy is for you. The world needs more joy desperately. We need to be joyful together desperately.

And then, as you're having fun together, tell the truth about your life. Name what is hard and beautiful. Ask for help when you need it. Asking for help is one of the quickest ways to build community. So when the hard times come, as they come for each of us, and you need someone to

bring you a meal or give you a ride or mow your lawn or walk your dog or give you a rocking chair or just listen without trying to fix it, turn to each other. The connections that are made in fun are sustained by vulnerability. Telling the truth about what is hard and imperfect and letting others show up for you makes the burdens slightly less burdensome. That is religious community at its best.

And then, reach out. As you become more practiced at joy, truth telling and showing up for others in hard times, reach out. Who beyond the bounds of this religious community needs the joy and the care you can give? They might not be here yet, they might not ever come here for worship, but they still need what you have to offer – the joy and truth telling and care. Maybe it's your neighbors. Maybe it's other Unitarian Universalists. I don't know. You will know. This work will take you to unexpected places. And it will be beautiful.

So to recap, good people of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, this is your entirely optional homework:

Have twice as much fun, at least.

Tell the truth about your life and ask each other for help when you need it. Offer help when you can. Once you have created a circle of joy, truth-telling, and care here, draw that circle as wide as you can.

You can do it. I believe in you. And know that there are small circles of like-hearted people doing this work alongside you. You are not alone and we're all cheering you on.'

People's people, if you need any optional homework this summer, feel free to join the Grosse Pointe Unitarians in having lots of fun,

See you soon,
Rev. Rachel



**Ellie Killinger Memorial
Service
June 20, 2pm**

Upcoming White Elephant Sale

Our annual White Elephant sale is fast approaching. June 27 is the date. This is a great fund-raiser for our church. It's also a great opportunity for you to clean out the basement - or maybe start that downsizing project. The White Elephant volunteer team will help find new homes for things you no longer need or want.

Once again, we will let customers name their price for most items, although there will be minimum suggested prices for selected items of higher value. This worked very well last year!

The team is looking forward to accepting:

- items that are in gently loved or like-new condition
- toys and games - complete without missing pieces
- small household appliances, lamps, etc. that are clean and in verified working condition
- furniture ... if it can fit in your car
- household decor, including holiday decorations
- books
- kitchen items
- jewelry
- purses & tote bags
- small personal fitness items such as hand weights and bike racks
 - We discourage people bringing sports equipment that is specific to a person's size (such as size 7 women's skates or ski boots)



If you're wondering whether an item is in the right condition to donate, ask yourself "would I give this to a friend?" If yes, we'd love to add it to our White Elephant sale!

We regret not being able to accept clothing, exercise equipment, electronics like TVs and computers, or furniture larger than what will fit in your car.

A member of the White Elephant team will be on hand to accept your donations on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-7 and Sundays from 12-2 starting June 11th.

If those times don't work for you, or if you have any questions, contact our church admin, Elijah. Thank you for contributing to our White Elephant fund-raiser for People's Church by donating items and signing up to volunteer on the sheets in the foyer. We need people to help receive donations, distribute publicity flyers and help with set up, sales and clean up.

And mark your calendar to support our sale by shopping with us on June 27!

Sign ups are now open to volunteer to help with the upcoming White Elephant Sale. Check out the available spots here:

- Drop Off Helpers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054BA9AC22A13-64351627-white#/>

Sign up for as many as you are able!! It takes a lot of hands to make the event successful!

Special Collection:YWCA Kalamazoo

**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca

June 14, during the service

The YWCA of Kalamazoo empowers women and eliminates racism through services to our community such as supporting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking; a reproductive health fund; legislative advocacy and community education; and early childhood education. You can learn more here: <https://>

Legacy Giving Seminar: Build a Lasting Future for Peoples Church

Sunday June 7th, after service

We invite you to join us for an informative seminar on legacy giving and learn how you can help ensure the long-term stability and growth of Peoples Church. This session will explore estate-planning strategies and show you simple ways to include Peoples Church in your legacy plans.

What to Expect:

- Insights into the importance of legacy giving
- Introduction to including Peoples Church in your estate planning
- Basics of legacy giving
- A look at the history of Peoples Church's existing legacy funds
- Q&A session to answer any questions

Your generosity today will help secure the future of our church for generations to come. Attend the seminar to discover how you can make a meaningful and lasting impact. To arrange a one-on-one presentation (in-person or via Zoom), please contact: office@peopleschurch.net



New Art Wall exhibit for May and June

Reception June 14 at noon.

***The Heroine's Journey* by Karen Godfrey**

This body of artwork was created after having gone through open heart surgery in April of 2024, to repair my mitral valve which was regurgitating 55% of blood back into my upper chamber. Then 5 months later, after having a successful operation and going through cardiac rehab, I found a lump in my right breast and discovered I had HER 2 positive breast cancer. The standard of care and recommendation for a full cure was 6 rounds of chemotherapy and a mastectomy. I successfully made it through chemo and surgery with the help and support of my husband. Fortunately, with much gratitude, I was officially considered to be cured and cancer free in April of 2025.



As a former Social Worker and facilitator of expressive art support groups for women with cancer, I felt a need to explore and express how I navigated my own Call to Adventure. My belief in the power of art and its healing abilities, has helped me to navigate challenging times in my life.

Refugee Children are in Crisis

Your home can be a safe place for a teen who needs love and support.. Across the world, war, natural disasters, or persecution have forced families to flee their homes. Before they flee or along the dangerous journey to a refugee camp, children and teens can become separated from their families. If family members cannot be located or are unavailable to provide care, teens could be resettled in the United States as unaccompanied refugee minors.

As a refugee foster parent, you can provide a safe and supportive home for a teen to heal from past trauma and prepare for future independence.

Get answers to FAQs and learn how you can help:

[Bethany.org/HelpGRRefugees](https://bethany.org/HelpGRRefugees) or Join us for a no-commitment information meeting. [CLICK HERE](#) for our upcoming meeting schedule. Virtual Meeting:

A link to the meeting will be provided upon registration.

For questions and to register today Grace Drost (616) 826-2088 gracedrost@bethany.org



Summer RE Volunteers needed!

Mary Kate Webster makes amazing summer RE plans and needs a 2nd adult each week to help out!

Complete this RE Volunteer form to express your interest in helping a

Sunday morning this summer:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/>

[e/1FAIpQLSeWQ7Si_TSgYlWfHZqvCHQbAjc6qm3rLB3Cnqlbl78s0XoG5A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWQ7Si_TSgYlWfHZqvCHQbAjc6qm3rLB3Cnqlbl78s0XoG5A/viewform)

Tornado Aftermath work party

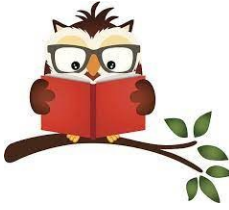
Sunday June 7 1-5pm at Diane's house

865 106th Ave. Plainwell, MI 49080

269-686-6031

come on over and bring your chain saws and work gloves to help cut up more down trees. Also, I need help moving everything out of my garage back to my shed so they can demolish the garage. Pizza provided.





Evening Book Club—Newcomers Welcome!

Our June 4 (6-7:45) meeting discussion is on "Tell Me Everything" by Elizabeth Strout. The planning meeting for the next church year is scheduled for August 7, same time. Newcomers are welcome to bring suggestions. This group leans toward quality fiction. We continue meeting at Lois Loeffler's home, which is near church. If you have questions or want to get on the email list, contact Pat Nelson (patnelson348@gmail.com; 269-716-3623)



A Mindful Moment

In difficult situations, am I able to pause without immediately reacting? We meet the first and third Sundays from 12:30-2:00 in Room 9, the Buddha Room (June 7 and 21).

Carolyn / carolynheineman@aol.com / 269-547-7113 ,
Su / suacutler@gmail.com / 269-353-3654



In Later Years

No In Later Years gathering in June. Instead of gathering in June, the group has decided to assign themselves the optional homework of getting rid of stuff in their homes. Perhaps some of it will go to the white elephant sale, the recycling bin, or the garbage can. Regardless, there will be less for group members to manage. All are welcome to join in this project.



The next 'In Later Years' Gathering will take place on July 21. We will be discussing what it means to hold love as a central value. If you'd like to be added to the email list for this group, please reach out to Rev. Rachel at minister@peopleschurch.net

Gaming Group!

Are you a roleplayer, or interested in trying it out for the first time? Do you enjoy structured creativity, improvisation, and telling stories with your friends? People's Church's own Dave WurtSmith will be running one-shot gaming sessions immediately after summer services, so feel free to drop in to room L1 and try it out. I have experience with a variety of systems including Dungeons & Dragons 5th Edition, Avatar Legends, and Star Wars: Force and Destiny. If the same people show up from week to week we can continue the story where we left off last time; if different people show up we can run a different adventure or just play board games or cards. Come on down! Any questions, reach out to Dave at dave.wurtSmith@gmail.com



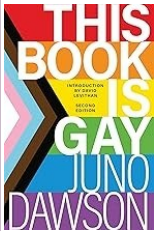
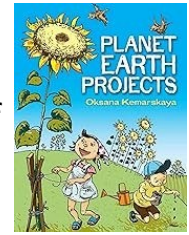
Yarn Lover's Unite

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 L1 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Library Corner

Planet Earth Projects, by Oksana Kemarskaya — RE 333.72 Ke

Kids can transform ordinary household items into fun-filled science projects with the help of this book — and an occasional assist from an adult. They'll experience the satisfaction of recycling as well as the thrill of creativity with dozens of charmingly illustrated activities.

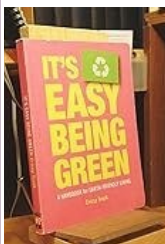
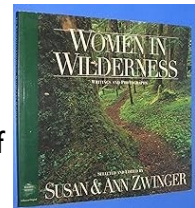


This Book Is Gay, by Juno Dawson — 306.76 Da

This book is a candid, funny, and uncensored exploration of sexuality and what it's like to grow up LGBTQ, providing answers to all the questions you ever wanted to ask about the LGBTQIA+ community.

Women in Wilderness; Writings and Photographs, selected and edited by Susan and Ann Zwinger — 508.7 Zw

Essays and photographs explore modern women as they discover the beauty and power of the natural world and make a place for themselves in it.

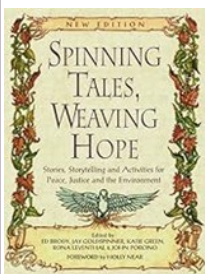
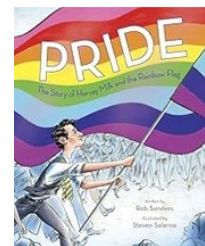


It's Easy Being Green: a Handbook for Earth-Friendly Living, by Crissy Trask — 333.72 Tr

Provides a comprehensive guide to adopting greener buying habits and identifying earth-friendly products, shopping for green products online, participating in online activism, and learning tips for cultivating a sustainable environment.

Pride: the Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag, by Rob Sanders — RE 921 Mi

In this deeply moving and empowering true story, young readers will trace the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings in 1978 with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's world. Award-winning author Rob Sanders's stirring text, and acclaimed illustrator Steven Salerno's evocative images, combine to tell this remarkable - and untold - story. A story of love, hope, equality, and pride.



Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope: Stories, Storytelling, and Activities for Peace, Justice, and the Environment, edited by Ed Brody — 398.2 Sp

From the mythic and the fantastic, to the silly and the serious, these timeless tales encourage conflict resolution, compassion, and sensitivity to the Earth and all living things. An incredible sourcebook for storytellers, teachers, parents and healers, each story is followed by suggested activities and exercises, storytelling tips, and resources, all designed to deepen the storytelling experience.

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

HUGE THANKS TO THE RE COMMITTEE!

Thank you so much to the Religious Education Committee and their amazing work this year and their oversight of our wonderful Re program.

Committee Members: Chris Moore, Jen Rice, Bird Stilson, Dan Bair, Jackie Himelright, Joe Tourtois , Jen Docsa-Koehler, Rowan Jakobah, Lenore Yaeger.



Another HUGE THANK YOU to all of the people who made the RE program function in all of the ways it does. It takes a community and every bit of volunteer assistance is appreciated!

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, Religious Education Director

Thank You Awesome RE Volunteers!

Preschool/K- Denise Valette, Jen Docsa-Koehler, Joe Tourtois, Rachel Harms

1st/2nd - Marti Peters-Sparling, Teresa Cavanagh, Diana Rankinen

3rd/4th - Mary Kate Webster, Maggie Wilson, Ann Feldmeier



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.

5/6th - Rachel Bair, Juli Ginn, Cindy Pietras

7/8th OWL - Rowan Jakobah, Ben Jones, Missy Howse-Kurtz, Brenna Dawson, Mike Bultman

9-12th - Don Miller, Dakota Jakobah, Lenore Yaeger, Steve Cavanagh

5/6th OWL - Laura Bultman, Kelly Henderson, Rachel Bair

Monthly AWE Lab Guides: Julie Schneeberger, Tim Kieffer, Chris Measros, David Moore and Becki Moffet-Moore

Get involved with Peace and Nature Camp!

Did you know that during a week of Peace and Nature camp, elementary-school-aged children spend 36+ hours in the care of People's Church, exploring the wonders of nature, building friendships, and experiencing what is possible when a community grounded in love is committed to practicing peaceful interactions together? Each week of camp concentrates more time than children spend in our RE program through the entirety of the regular church year, providing us with an amazing opportunity to share our values with families within and beyond our congregation. And it is so popular that we have expanded to hold two sessions of camp, to accommodate all of the children who wanted to join us.



Our Peace and Nature Camp is possible because of the generosity of People's People.

We are able to provide a high quality day camp for a lower fee than other local camps because People's Church allows us to use the building and grounds, People's people volunteer their time and talents and/or donate to our scholarship fund. Last year we were able to provide scholarships for 8 campers who otherwise would not have been able to attend camp. We are committed to being accessible for campers who need additional support to flourish at camp, and People's generosity allows us to hire extra support staff to help us meet that goal.

Volunteer Opportunities at Peace and Nature Camp:

Prepare and serve nutritious snacks: During camp week, we provide campers with two nutritious snacks every day, including fresh fruits, vegetables, proteins and grains. We rely on volunteers to help us prepare and serve these snacks and to clean up afterwards.

Supervise children's free time during lunch: We need volunteers to supervise children while the staff gets a break at lunchtime. During this time, we provide materials for simple crafts such as beading and coloring, and we need adults to sit in the shade with children and engage with them as they craft. We also need adults to monitor children as they engage in more active play on the outdoor play structures during this free time.

Clean the dishes or help to put away materials: We need folks to wash all of those dishes from snack time and to help us put away our supplies and store completed artwork.

SIGN UP HERE ([https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48A4A92EA7FD0-64285310-peace#/\) to volunteer during our June Session, from June 15-19,](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48A4A92EA7FD0-64285310-peace#/)

or **MAKE A MONETARY DONATION** to help us hire folks to do these jobs! <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8YK/campaign/C-13E56>

Please contact Dolores Strom and Luce Cutler at peoplespnc@gmail.com with any questions.

Helping on Sunday Mornings

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!



A/V & Zoom



We are calling for more volunteers to be trained on our A/V and Zoom set up! If this is something that you are interested in and willing to learn, please reach out to Elijah at office@peopleschurch.net or sign up for a training spot here: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4CA5AD2EA4FE3-58145378-church/5865393#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4CA5AD2EA4FE3-58145378-church/5865393#/)

While running A/V can seem overwhelming, it is all set up to be as user friendly as possible! Our existing AV team will help train you to make sure you feel comfortable! **Curious what it's like? Sign up for a training shift to see what it's like to be 'in the A/V booth' during a service!**

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



Safety & Medical Teams Are Recruiting!

People's Church is seeking volunteers to serve on the 2026 Safety and Medical teams. Each member could sign up for several Sundays (5 to 7) of their choice in 2026. If you are interested, please contact Gordon Bolar at gordon.bolar@wmich.edu for further information. Orientation and training will be provided.



Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	June 2	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Board Meeting	6:30pm	Room 19
Thursday	June 4	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm	Commons
		Evening Book Club	6:00pm	Home of Lois L
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	June 7	Sunday Service: "Pride Service"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Mindfulness Class	12:30pm	Room 9
		Gaming Group	12:30pm	Room LI
		Me & White Supremacy	12:30pm	Room 18
		Legacy Giving	12:30pm	Room 19
Tuesday	June 9	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Thursday	June 11	RE Committee Meeting	6:00pm	Room 19
		Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Sunday	June 14	Sunday Service: "Flower Service"	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Gaming Group	12:30pm	Room 19
		Art Wall Reception	12:30pm	Commons
Mon-Fri	June 15-19	PEACE & NATURE CAMP!		
Monday	June 15	Green Sanctuary	4:00pm	Zoom
Tuesday	June 16	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
		Library Committee	10:00pm	At Church
Thursday	June 18	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm	Commons
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Commons
Saturday	June 20	Ellie Killinger memorial	2:00pm	At Church
Sunday	June 21	Summer Service	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Gaming Group	12:30pm	Room 19
		Mindfulness Class	12:30pm	Room 9
Monday	June 22	Yarn Lovers Unite	6:00pm	Room LI
Tuesday	June 23	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church
Wednesday	June 24	Finance Committee	2:30pm	Zoom
Thursday	June 25	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm	Room 9
		Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm	Room 9
Saturday	June 27	WHITE ELEPHANT SALE!	9am-2pm	At Church
Sunday	June 28	Summer Service	10:45am	Commons & Zoom
		Gaming Group	12:30pm	Room 19
Tuesday	June 30	Building & Grounds	10:00am	At Church

The Full Calendar of Events can be viewed online at <https://peopleschurch.net/events-2/>

People's Church
News & Views
1758 N. 10th St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

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."**