



Verses and Curses: What Should We Do with the Bible?

September 27, 2026

Gathering of Community

Music for Gathering

Opening Words

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Words of Welcome

Sharon Sauter

Announcements

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Special Bazaar Announcement

Introit

'Lead With Love' (DeMore)

Chalice Lighting

Sharon Sauter

If you are lighting a chalice at home, you are encouraged to type in the chat box 'A chalice is lit in (your neighborhood/city/street).'

Words: 'For our Ancestors, for our Children, for Ourselves'

by Jennifer "Jaye" Brooks

Affirming our Connections

Time for All: Commissioning Our Religious Education Leaders

Diane Melvin, Director of Religious Education

Director of Religious Education: Teachers, we thank you for your commitment to this church, to our shared values, and especially to our children and youth. You will help our children learn, wonder, and grow. You will be their guides as they develop their own religious and spiritual identities. We respect and honor

the commitment you have made and are deeply grateful for your service to People's Church and Unitarian Universalism.

Minister: The time you spend teaching and caring for our children is among the most important ministries of this church. To your ministry to our children, bring love and care, curiosity and courage, flexibility and fun. Remember that they will learn from your words and deeds how to be faithful Unitarian Universalists.

Religious Education Teachers and RE Committee: We accept the responsibility to serve as teachers, mentors and role models. We will respect our students and treasure their unique gifts. We ask the congregation for their support and their blessings.

Children and Youth: Thank you for being our teachers. We will respect you. We ask you to respect us. We will learn from you and you will learn from us.

Congregation: We celebrate the role that you have chosen. We will support you and work with you. May your teaching foster love, courage, wonder, and joy in the hearts of our children. May your teaching foster love, courage, wonder and joy in your hearts as well.

Children and Teacher Recessional 'Go Forth' (Ramsey/Drake)

Go forth in peace, in search of wisdom,

With love to guide you on your way

And may the joy of life surround you

Wherever you may go.

Special Offering to Benefit Care Collective

Sarah Koestler, Executive Director

Support the good and important work of People's Church:

www.tinyurl.com/givetopeoples



Offertory 'The 23rd Psalm (Dedicated to My Mother)' (#1038)
People's Singers
Giving Thanks for All That Sustains Us Sharon Sauter

*From the countless gifts we each have been given,
gifts of life and love and sustenance,
we bring these small portions to share in the works of love
which none of us can accomplish alone.*

Joys and Sorrows Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Searching for Wisdom and Inspiration

Silent Meditation

Spoken Meditation 'The Lord's Prayer'
from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Musical meditation 'Breathe In' (Mayer)
Readings from *Lower than the Angels:*

A History of Sex and Christianity by Diarmaid MacCulloch
'At the Smithville Methodist Church' by Stephen Dunn
'God wrote a book' by Cynthia Rylant

Music 'Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire' (#34)
Sermon Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Returning to the World

Closing song 'Life Calls Us On' (Shelton) People's Singers
Closing words Rev. Rachel Lonberg
Postlude

Thank You RE Teachers!

K-2nd grade: Marti Peters-Sparling, Heather Renter, & Diana Rankinen

3rd-4th grade: Teresa Cavanagh, Maggie Wilson, Ann Feldmeier & Pat VanSlambrouk

5th-6th grade: Mary Kate Webster, Cindy Pietras & Jeff Strom

7th-8th grade: Rachel Bair, Juli Ginn, Missy Howse-Kurtz & Don Miller

9th-12th grade: Ben Jones, Lenore Yaeger, Dakota Jakobah, Steve Cavanagh

SCAN HERE
TO
**REGISTER KIDS FOR
PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION 2026-27**

