



News & Views



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SUNDAY SERVICES - 11:00 A.M.

May 20 "New Traditions: Singing the Journey" Jill McAllister, Thom Mienk

Songs and hymns are part of nearly every religious tradition, adding many dimensions to religious rituals and gatherings, including our own. In recent years, liberal religious composers and musicians have been writing and collecting music to enrich our wide diversity of practices and beliefs. This morning, under the direction of Thom Mienk, People's choir, band, and soloists share some of the newest music in our movement. New members will be introduced and welcomed on this festive morning.

May 27 "The Wheel of Life"

In our annual Memorial Day Service, we will acknowledge our losses and honor important people in our lives who have died in the past year. If there is someone you would like to remember in this service please bring a picture and/or a reading to the church office by Sunday May 20nd, or call Jill.

SUNDAY CENTERING

9:15 – 9:45 A.M. in the Commons

Join Jill for this weekly practice of quiet centering, including spoken and silent meditation. May 20 will be the last centering service of the church year.

People's Church Mission Statement

"People's Church strives to inspire intellectual, spiritual and religious growth, to encourage freedom of thought, and to promote personal quests for meaning and religious challenge.

Wishing to provide opportunities for fellowship and community involvement for all people, in a nurturing and supportive environment, we will continue to function as a role model of diversity for the community and to serve as a base for active outreach to benefit the world around us."

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Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

BETWEEN US ...

Sometimes, no matter how good you've been, no matter how hard you've worked, no matter how much you hope or how hard you try, things just don't go your way. Have you noticed that? Things can go along quite well for awhile, so that you begin to think that maybe, just maybe, you have finally paid your dues and the time for smooth sailing has come. And then things shift. Maybe a little, maybe a lot. Your back goes out, or someone you love dies. Someone steps on your toes, or in your turf, and suddenly you are fighting. A depression arrives, or despair knocks at your door. A tornado flattens a town, in a few minutes.



Of course we know this is the way things are. We know that we are not in control of Life as it moves. We know that there is both sorrow and joy, life and death, good times and hard times. Yet, we still don't like to believe it. It is so easy to let ourselves be lured away from this truth, and be lulled into thinking we are now OK, or that it will only get better from here on out. Sometimes we even begin to believe that we ourselves are beyond reproach, or deserving of only the good stuff.

Rabbi Harold Kushner, many years ago, following the death of his son from a rare premature-aging disease, wrote a book titled "When Bad Things Happen to Good People." His thesis is straightforward: Hard times will come, and do come, in all lives, and the proportion of good to bad has nothing to do with human expectations. The aim of the religious life is to learn how to live well in all times. To let yourself believe any differently is to believe in an illusion. Worse, to believe that you deserve only what you judge to be good, is not only an illusion, but selfishness, which can destroy your capacity for compassion.

I remind myself of these things on another beautiful spring day, when flowers are opening to the sun and warm wind, one of those few days of the year when lilacs are in full bloom and I am intoxicated by their beauty. I write because amidst the flowers and hope and the pull of summer, I know that many people are struggling, and many are suffering, I among them. I write to remind myself to remain aware of the truths of Life that I know, and to continue to practice to hold the paradox everyday. Today I give thanks for all the blessings that are mine – more than I can count. And I look again for the strength and courage to face and to accept all that challenges me.

See you Sunday – *Jill*

PS. I will be away from May 25 through the first week in June. I'll preach an ordination sermon in Prague, make a short visit to our Partner Church, then help facilitate a conference of women ministers from four countries, in Kolozsvár, Transylvania. Chris will know how to reach me in case of emergency.

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

You mustn't be frightened
if a sadness
rises in front of you,
larger than any you have ever
seen;
if an anxiety
like light and cloud-shadows,
moves over your hands and over
everything you do.
You must realize that something
is happening to you,
that life has not forgotten you,
that it holds you in its hand
and will not let you fall.

Rainer Maria Rilke

WE HAVE A WINNER!

Congratulations to Dick Heintz, who won the \$50 drawing on Sunday, April 15, for all those who had turned in their pledges by that day. And many thanks to all you early-bird pledgers! You help make life easier for your fellow People's people who look after the finances of the church.

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PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Men's Discussion Group

On **May 19** **Tim Tesar** will lead the discussion "**Top 10 Pros and Cons on the Euthanasia Debate: Should euthanasia be legal?**"

Charlie Glatt will conclude our season on **June 2** with the subject "**Things I wish I learned in school.**"

If there is material you would like to see discussed, either initiated by yourself or some knowledgeable person, please contact our Group leader, Bill Goodman. Perhaps there might be a topic raised during one of Jill's sermons which you would like to see discussed further.

Summer Camping

Come one, come all to Van Buren State Park (3 miles south of South Haven) on **July 13-15**. Sign up in the Foyer of People's Church, or call Jeffrey Klan or email for a site.

Cost: \$55 for two nights of camping

Come join us and experience fun, fellowship, sand and socializing!

An Invitation to Join

Three times a year People's Church welcomes new members. The next Welcoming Sunday is scheduled during our **May 20** service. If you've been attending People's and even supporting the church with a pledge, you may want to consider signing the Bond of Union. Why? Because after 60 days, you can vote on church policies, budgets, and programs. This gives you a voice in how we set our priorities, live our values in the community, and envision the future of our church. As a member of People's Church you'll receive the UUA World magazine quarterly. But even if you choose to remain a 'Friend-of-the-Church' you know you are always welcome and your continued support is valued and appreciated. Stop by the Information Desk in the foyer for further guidance, speak to Jill, or contact Lula Palmer.

Wyoming Summer Retreat

There is still room for anyone interested in joining the People's Wyoming Retreat in August. Flyers and registration forms are available in the foyer. Registration is needed by June 10.

Forum Notes

(Forum is held at **9:55 a.m.** on Sundays in room 6)

May 20 "Proposal for a New Juvenile Home for Kalamazoo County" Frank Weichlein

As Superintendent for Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, Frank Weichlein has worked in the juvenile justice field in a variety of capacities in Kalamazoo for over 28 years. He has been Director of the Juvenile Home since 2005. He will talk about the new Juvenile Facility which is presently in the planning stages.

May 27 "Depression: Definition, Causes and Treatment" Michael Kruk

Although ten percent of the population will suffer from depression at some time in their lives, depression is often undiagnosed and untreated. Michael Kruk, a licensed Clinical Social Worker, will provide information about the symptoms and causes of depression and will explore how depression may be treated and relieved. He will discuss coping strategies, activities and other tips for healthy living to prevent depression.

June 3 "The Inscrutable Relationship of Adult Children and Their Aging Parents" Murray C. Schwartz

Murray Schwartz is a retired psychotherapist following thirty years of private and public practice in Boston as clinician, lecturer and family life educator on relationships within the family. He will consider this intriguing topic that is pertinent for many persons.

Church Workdays

We are calling all People's people to help finish cleaning up the grounds and to work on the inside of the church. The dates are **May 26** and **June 2** from 9-3. Lunch will be provided. There is something to do for everyone - woodworkers, mowers, floor cleaners, window washers, floor washers, plumber types, gardeners, pruners, clippers, mulchers. If you can't come on one weekend, please come on the other. Denise Valette and the Building & Grounds Committee have found much work to do including pulling up garlic mustard (it needs to be pulled with the root attached, put in plastic bags until 3/4 full, tied up, and put in the dumpster. Since it is classified as a noxious weed it is ok to do so.)

People's Parenting Group

We will meet this month on Monday, **May 21st** from 6:30 - 8pm. In addition to discussing whatever topics happen to come up, we will view and discuss another section of the video, "The Intelligence of play," www.tffuture.org/services/play/index.htm with Joseph Chilton Pearce, who has been writing and lecturing internationally for the past 30 years on human development and the changing needs of children. We will also talk about organizing a clothing & toy exchange (and other family stuff) at People's in the very near future. Childcare will be provided at this meeting. Please join us! For more information, call Kristi Beebe or Teresa Klan.

NEWS AND NOTICES

\$MONEY MATTERS\$

The Canvass is in the final stage, the budget for next year is under refinement, and the Commons Project is nearly complete. It has been a very exciting year at People's Church! As we wind down into the summer, I want to urge committee leaders **NOT** to feel obligated to spend all of your budget for this year. Unspent funds are a critical determinant of the year-end financial outcome; and we will need everyone's cooperation if we are going to end the year in the black, despite the significant outlays for the Commons Project and other special activities.

Summer Mowing & Watering

The Building & Grounds Committee needs help with mowing and watering this spring and summer. The church grounds need to be mowed at least once a week. We hope to find enough people so that no one feels that they are being overworked. We have two mowers and a weed whacker, and the people mowing would work in teams of two with a set schedule of mowing. Also, the Building & Grounds Committee has planted approximately 150 trees in the back of the church as a noise barrier. They are small seedlings and need to be watered (probably once a week) all summer. The trees are in the back under the pines and beyond the fence to US-131, so the waterers would need to be relatively agile. Please contact Catherine Niessink by phone or email if you feel you can help with these efforts.

Green Spot:

Tips for walking lightly on the earth

Why not bring your own thermal mug to your favorite coffee shop instead of using their paper of polystyrene ones? Don't be a part of the throw-away society.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROJECT

Thanks to Marj Spradling for being our first volunteer to help clean up a two mile stretch of highway. We still need 11 more volunteers before we can receive training from MDOT. Just think how nice it would be to see "People's Church" on one of those highway cleanup signs. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the lobby or you can call or email Jack Urban for more information. The sooner we get all 12 volunteers, the sooner we can start keeping Michigan beautiful.

"There are no passengers on spaceship earth, only crew"

-Buckminster Fuller

People's Classifieds

Cottage for Rent

On Duck Lake near Traverse City.
 Sleeps 6, 1-1/2 baths, \$580/wk.
 Contact Sandy and Wade Adams, 352-8873.

Looking for Housing and Work

I am looking for affordable housing in the Kalamazoo/Portage area-one bedroom or efficiency. I am also looking for jobs such as Spring yard cleaning, gardening, etc. I am experienced and meticulous as a gardener. I have very flexible hours. Please contact Dana Kubinski at (269) 382-9920.

Members' Birthdays

- May 1: Charlie Glatt
- May 2: Rebecca Culver, Kelly Smith
- May 4: Zoe Granberg, Tim Tindall
- May 8: Helena Dyer, Jill McAllister, Liana Nichols
- May 9: Quinn Skarich
- May 11: Leslie Cronenwett, Dottie Goodwin
- May 12: Sally Padley
- May 14: Charles Lawesson
- May 15: Andrew Stoll
- May 20: Lizzie Kimmel
- May 21: Barbara Dahlberg, Evelyn Husser, David Kimmel
- May 22: Clarice Tsang
- May 24: Sue Caulfield, Mark Notten
- May 26: Tatem Warner
- May 27: Jeffrey MacLellan
- May 28: Donna Clark
- May 29: Evelyn Anderson, Jim Jaksa

- June 1: Nathan Adams
- June 2: Dave Curl, Emily Pearson
- June 3: Ingrid Gardner
- June 4: Dick Fowler
- June 5: Pat Pratt, Captain John Shaul
- June 8: Rachel Henderson, Scot Henderson
- June 9: Michelle Clark, Gerald Martin, Kyra Niehus
- June 12: Isabel Measzros
- June 15: Natalie Hosfeld, David Smallcombe
- June 16: Linda Myers, Ulee Webster
- June 17: Galileo Iaderosa Desroches
- June 21: Mark Slambrouck
- June 23: Murray Schwartz
- June 25: Emma Houtrow, Thom Mienk
- June 28: Emily Schreur

OFFICE NOTES

I want to thank the committees for being so timely with the Annual Reports. It makes my job that much easier and I really appreciate everyone's efforts.

The new website is up and running. Anybody who is interested in accessing the Member Area please either call me at the church or email me and I will give you the Username and password. There are some useful features on that part of the site that might interest people.

I should be caught up with most of the recordings of services by now. If you have signed up for a copy of service, please check the basket in the office to see if it has been completed. Take care.

Chris

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Bagels 'n' Books

We have Bagels 'n' Books sessions in 6 schools throughout the month of May in Kalamazoo Schools. Through the generosity of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, we have over 600 books to give to children in the schools. Each school will have a number of books available and volunteers come in at the assigned time. The children will come and choose a book and bring it to you, at which time you and the child will share the reading of the book.

You will need to sign up with Coco Cook but this program does not require a training session.

- Thurs. May 17 4:40-5:30 pm Milwood
 Elem. 1st thru 5th grades
- Tues. May 22 1:00-2:30 pm Edison
- Thurs, May 24 9:00-10:30am Parkwood-Upjohn
- Wed. May 30 9:00-10:30am MLK-Westwood
 3rd grade

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL WITH YOUR NAME AND PHONE # TO: COCO COOK, Project Director, 337-1601, ext 218, ccook@kciskidsfirst.org

Socially Responsible Investing

Looking to put your money where your heart and mind are? Attend this free, informal discussion on investing in environmentally and socially responsible companies.



Thursday, **May 24**, 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Fetzer Center on WMU's Campus. Speakers will be Calvert Social Research Analyst, Lora McCray and Regional Vice President, Calvert Funds, Steve Yoon.

Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Upcoming Events at the KIA

May 15 – Jeff Woods: My Journey from Painter to Animator

May 22 – Animals and Articulate Ornament: Visual Thinking in Sacred Architecture

May 29 – Lorna Simpson

June 5 – Artemisia Gentileschi: the Female Perspective and its Modern Day Controversy

June 12 – Experimental Film

June 19 – American Photography: A Century of Images (Part III) Photography Transformed 1960-1999

June 26 – Laurie Pruitt and Joseph Smigel: Photography as Creativity and Craft



These free, informal art programs occur every Tuesday at 12:15pm. People are encouraged to bring their own lunch

Upcoming Class Offerings

Class/Workshop	Date
<p>Living from our Center: Tools for untangling our stuck places</p> <p>Paul Ginter & Karen Horneffer</p>	<p>Weds 6:30-9:00 June 6-June 27</p>
<p>Shambala Training Level II: Birth of the warrior</p> <p>Robert Walker</p>	<p>Sat/Sun June 23-24</p>
<p>The Gift of Vision and The Art of Perception</p> <p>Mark Nepo</p>	<p>Tues 6:30-9:00 Sept 11-Nov 20</p>
<p>Mindfulness for Living</p> <p>Patti Frawley & Paul Ginter</p>	<p>Weds 6:30-8:30 Sept 19-Nov 14 & Sat Nov 10</p>
<p>Juicy Yoga: Moving from the inside-out</p> <p>Karen Horneffer</p>	<p>Fridays 12:00-1:15 Sept 28-Nov 16</p>
<p>Deepening Mindfulness: Application in day-to-day life</p> <p>Patti Frawley</p>	<p>First Monday of each month 6:30-9:00 Oct '07-June '08</p>

Patti Frawley, M.A., Patricia Huston Kamerman, M.A., Paul Ginter, Ed.D., & Karen Horneffer-Ginter, Ph.D. are pleased to welcome Seth Jones /Harmony Acupuncture (269-488-2151) to the

Center for Psychotherapy and Wellness

*900 Peeler Street, Kalamazoo 49008
(269-492-6471)*

Religious Education Notes
By Diane Melvin, Director

*Happiness cannot be found in great effort and willpower, but is already there in relaxation and letting go.
 Don't strain yourself, there is nothing to do.
 Whatever arises in the mind has no importance at all, because it has no reality whatsoever.
 Don't become attached to it.
 Don't pass judgement.
 Only our searching for happiness prevents us from seeing it. It is like a rainbow which you run after without actually catching it. Although it does not exist, it has always been there and accompanies you every instant.
 Don't believe in the reality of good and bad experiences, they are like rainbows.
 Waiting to grasp the ungraspable, you exhaust yourself in vain. As soon as you relax this grasping, space is there – open, inviting and comfortable.
 So, make us of it. All is yours already. Don't search any further.
 Don't go into the inextricable jungle looking for the elephant who is already quietly at home.
 Nothing to do, nothing to force, nothing to want – and everything happens by itself.*
 ~Venerable Lama Gendun Rinpoche

Catching our Breath

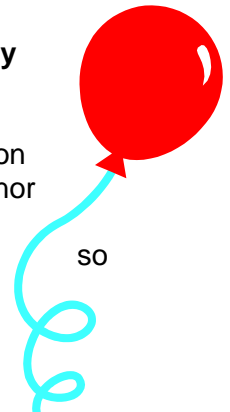
In the midst of so much busyness and activity, it is meaningful to ponder such sentiments. It feels as if too much of life is focused on to-do lists and productivity at the expense of “relaxation and letting go.” To find that elusive balance between time for work and time for play and relaxation is an ongoing challenge for many of us in this day and age.

For so many children and adults today, we run from one activity to the next with hardly a chance to catch our breath. Hopefully, when we are at People’s Church we have a chance to slow down, settle in and connect with others in a deeper way that feeds our spirit rather than further depleting it with just one more activity.

People’s kids seem to really be enjoying their time at church this year and for that I am glad.
 ~Blessed Be, Diane

RE Volunteer Appreciation Party
Sunday June 3rd 12:30-2:30

ALL are invited to attend this luncheon and celebration to recognize and honor the essential volunteers who make our Religious Education program successful.
 Enjoy a slide show of RE activities during the year, RE class attendance awards and RE Teacher and committee acknowledgements.



KUULS

The Kalamazoo UU Liberal Students group has just wrapped up their 6th year. Thank you to **Megan Bourland** for doing a great job as KUULS coordinator this past semester.

RE Teachers needed for Fall

Next fall the pillar topic for the Religious Education program will be “Our Jewish and Christian Heritage.” If you are interested in helping to teach bible stories to our kids next year, please contact Diane Melvin to express your interest.

Congratulations OWL Participants

Congratulations to these kids for completing the Kindergarten/1st & 2nd Grade Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education class:



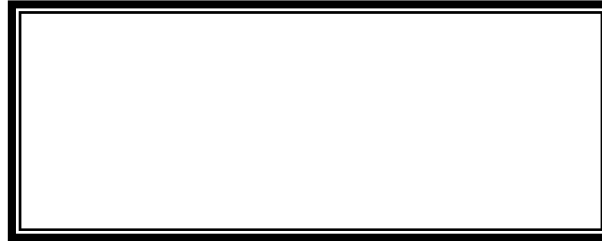
- Duncan Wallis
- Ronan McConnell
- Liz Culver
- Gavin Rutherford
- Connor
- Kiernan Dean-Hall
- Jordan Beebe
- Ethan Stilson
- Manny Tsang

Thank you to Peg Clausing, Bree Bird and Sheri Notten for all the time and work they put into teaching the class!

Special Thanks go to Kelly Henderson for volunteering one day a week all year in the RE office. You are Great!

People's Church
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 1758 N. 10th Street
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May/June 2007 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Day	Time	Location
May 14	News & Views Mailing	Monday	9:00 a.m.	Room 2
May 15	Library Committee Crone Circle	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Library Library
May 16	Speaker Series – Justin Trahant	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Commons
May 19	Men's Discussion Group	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Library
May 20	Recognition Sunday Annual Meeting Softball	Sunday	11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Commons Commons VS-2
May 21	News & Views Deadline Membership Committee Parenting Group Pranayama Breathing	Monday	12:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Room 2 Room 2 Room 6
May 22	Forum Committee Chalice O	Tuesday	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	@ the Zelders' Library
May 23	Mentors/Tutors Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	Wednesday	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Room 6 Commons
May 26	All-Church Work Day	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Whole Church
May 27	20s & 30 +/- Craft Day/Potluck	Sunday	12:30 p.m.	Room 2
May 28	Memorial Day	Monday		
May 29	News & Views Mailing	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Room 2
June 2	All-Church Work Day Men's Discussion Group	Saturday	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Whole Church Library
June 3	RE Volunteer Appreciation Party Softball	Sunday	12:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Commons VS-2
June 4	News & Views Deadline	Monday	12:00 p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net
June 5	Talking Pots	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Room 2
June 6	Archives	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.	Archives