



# News & Views



Jill McAllister  
Minister  
minister@peopleschurch.net

Connie Ferguson  
Board President  
conniekzoo@hotmail.com

Diane Melvin  
RE Director  
re@peopleschurch.net

Chris Schleuder  
Administrator  
office@peopleschurch.net

Sue Caulfield  
Data Base Manager  
dbmchurch@peopleschurch.net

Allan Hunt  
Treasurer  
hahunt@gmail.com

Thom Mienk  
Music Director  
tmienk@gmail.com

Roger E. Greeley  
Minister Emeritus

Newsletter Submissions  
news@peopleschurch.net

1758 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009-9157

(269) 375-3262  
www.peopleschurch.net

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:00 A.M. in July and August . . .

. . . the service topics are drawn from the book *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey toward and Undivided Life*, by Parker Palmer. Each service will consider aspects of Palmer's work around weaving community in a wounded world. Several copies of the book are available for sale at the Sunday book table. Reading the book is not required for attendance or for participation.

### August 5 - Learning to Speak and Listen

Chapter VII Facilitator: Sue Caulfield

*Potluck Lunch following the service today- bring something to share.*

### August 12 – Experiments with Truth

Chapter VIII Facilitator: Hilary Lake

### August 19 – Laughter and Silence: Not-So-Strange Bedfellows

Chapter IX Facilitator: Hilary Lake

**August 26 – Rev. Dennis McCarty** We take a break from reading *A Hidden Wholeness* to welcome our former ministerial intern to the pulpit. A reception for Dennis will follow the service.

### September 2 –The Third Way: Nonviolence in Everyday Life

Chapter X Facilitator: Jill McAllister

## 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 ...

I have been busy editing (with lots of help!) a collection of papers from the international Unitarian and UU theological symposium held last summer in Transylvania. The focus of the symposium was the effects of globalization and post-modernism on UUism around the world. Several things emerged clearly during the week of discussions: first, that we all, in every country, face the realities of global warming and globalization – we share one home, the Earth. Second, that values honed in the modern era, especially our perspectives on individualism, are challenged in the post-modern era by the physical realities of the home we share. That is, the common good is once again becoming a matter of survival.



I have come to understand individualism in this way: that freedom of individuals is the only way to build true bonds of community, and that the highest aim of individual freedom is to be able to truly choose for the common good. Freedom as autonomy and independence could be understood as adolescent (and necessary) forms of freedom. Mature freedom is freedom used for the common good. I would say that the liberal religious tradition is a history of striving for mature forms of freedom, and a history of too often getting stuck in adolescence. More on this in the coming year....

At the moment at People's, there is lots of planning going on for the church year ahead, and we are faced with lots of issues which relate to the common good. For example, space use: our RE classes are growing so much that we must make more changes in room use. This will mean changes for other groups ---so I ask all who are faced with changes to step back a bit and consider the common good, in order to work together for win-win solutions. Another example is time: there are often many good events going on at People's at the same time, especially on Sundays. The long-range planning committee is preparing a survey to gather information about your needs and wants relative to these pressures of time and space we are experiencing --- please be part of the decision-making process and complete the survey when it is available.

Other changes are coming this year. One you'll especially want to plan for is an earlier starting time for the Sunday Service. Due to so many things happening after the service, we want to try starting the service 15 minutes earlier – at 10:45 am instead of 11 am, so that we can usually be finished around noon, and post-church activities can begin closer to noon than 12:30. This will be a trial – we will try it for several months, and then evaluate whether it is working or not. So please make a note, and be game to try.

I hope that you are enjoying these beautiful summer months (have they not been glorious the past few weeks?) I hope that you are finding time to commune with other people and other parts of nature, to read for pleasure, and to meditate on growing in wisdom and compassion. The new church year will begin on Sunday, September 9 with our Intergenerational Homecoming Service, including the Joining of the Waters ceremony. Remember to collect a very small amount of water from somewhere special to you to bring with you on that day.

See you soon— **Jill**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

It may be that when we no longer know what to do  
We have come to our real work,  
And that when we no longer know which way to go  
We have come to our real journey.  
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.  
The impeded stream is the one that sings.

*Wendell Berry*

## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday September 22 – Come Celebrate the Fall Equinox and the New Church Year**

Let's join together for a day of centering and celebration in preparation for the year ahead. There will be time for meditation, dancing, drumming, singing, sharing of food, a labyrinth walk and more. As busy fall schedules commence, take this time for yourself, with others, for centering and rejuvenation, led by Jill and several others. Details about time will be in the next newsletter.

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## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### GKA NSP

Friday, August 3, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.

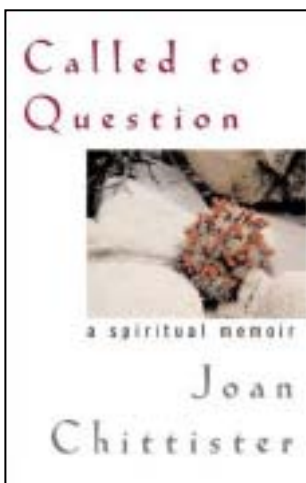
The Greater Kalamazoo Area Network of Spiritual Progressives (GKANSP) invites you to gather around the fire pit at People's for an informal, one-time discussion of Called to Question by Joan Chittister.

KAZOO Books is offering a 20% discount on the purchase of this book if you identify yourself with the GKANSP book discussion.

[In case of inclement weather, the book discussion will be moved inside to Room 6.]

For more information about this event or the GKANSP, please contact Jacqueline Boddy-Luczak (Book Discussion Coordinator) at email

[GKANSP@hotmail.com](mailto:GKANSP@hotmail.com)



### Crone Circle

Tuesday, August 21

The Crones will gather again on August 21, in the library. The social hour, a time to get caught up on all the personal news, is at 1:00 with the discussion beginning at 2:00. The topic for this month is "Crones are fierce about what matters to them." Let Marj Lightner know if you want to be added to the email reminder list.

### Green Sanctuary

Monday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m.

At the next Green Sanctuary meeting, we'll have an update on the progress of the audit. Additionally, we will discuss possible fall projects including conducting a leaf composting workshop, hosting a First Sunday Lunch with an emphasis on local foods, sponsoring an Alternative Gifts booth at the Bazaar, circulating ways to simplify the holidays, and facilitating a "No Junk Mail" campaign. If you are interested in helping with any of these projects but don't want to attend yet another meeting, contact Phyllis Thayer or Marj Lightner. We need your help!

## People's Book Group

Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 7:00 at Jan Crosby's

*Thirteen Moons* by Charles Frazier

"Gorgeous...*Thirteen Moons* calls *Cold Mountain* to mind in its wonder at the natural world; its pacifist undercurrents; its dismay at the dismantling of what matters, and its conviction that one love, no matter how tortured and inexplicable, can be life defining... fascinating... vivid and alive."

—*Newsweek*

Available at Kalamazoo and Portage Libraries and also in paperback

## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Board Highlights—6/14/07—Outgoing Board

The 2006-07 Board and our three newly elected members (Dale Abbott, Su Cutler, and Bob Wallis) enjoyed a potluck dinner at the Davis home. The outgoing Board met immediately after dinner and took the following actions:

- Treasurer Allan Hunt reported that both 2006-07 pledge income and overall expenditures were below budget. He anticipates ending the year with a small surplus.
- The Board learned that the Canvass wrap-up is still underway, with about \$12,500 of anticipated pledges still outstanding.
- The 6/10 special collection yielded \$2615 for the Commons project.
- The Board appointed Judy Mayo to the Planned Giving Committee. They also accepted Bob Davis's resignation from the Long-Range Planning Committee and appointed him to the Stewardship Committee.
- The proposed committee description for the Green Sanctuary Committee was adopted.
- Staff goals for 2007-08 were reviewed and tentatively accepted. Final approval is expected at the next Board meeting.
- A review of church goals for 2006-07 showed that substantial progress had been made in most areas, including promoting connections and religious growth, developing and supporting leaders and planning for potential growth.
- Merit bonuses of 2% were awarded to the Minister and DRE, as proposed by the Personnel Committee.
- Expressed thanks to outgoing Board members Bob Davis, Mark Gernsback and Pat Nelson for their leadership and hard work.

## Board Highlights—6/14/07—Incoming Board

The 2007-08 Board met immediately after the Outgoing Board meeting at the Davis home and took the following actions:

- New officers were elected: Connie Ferguson, President; Bob Wallis, Vice President; Suzan Ayers, Secretary; Allan Hunt, Treasurer (appointed by Board).
- New liaison roles were appointed by Ferguson:

Church Operations (Aesthetics, Archives, IT, Association Affairs)

**-David Smallcombe**

Plant Operations (Buildings and Grounds, Memorial Garden)

**-Connie Ferguson**

Outreach and Community Relations (Art Wall, Green Sanctuary, Partner Church, Publicity, SJCC, Women's Retreat)

**-Mary Lewis**

Financial Affairs (Endowment, Finance, Planned Giving, Stewardship)

**-Allan Hunt**

Education (Adult RE, College Outreach, Forum, Youth)

**-Su Cutler**

Church Services (AV, Music, Sunday Services)

**-Bill Ginn**

Congregational Services (Arms Around, Library, News & Views, Membership)

**-Dale Abbott**

Personnel and Recruitment (Committee on Administration, Committee on Ministry, Nominating, Personnel, Recruiter)

**-Bob Wallis**

Handbook Maintenance - **Suzan Ayers**

Treasurer- **Allan Hunt**

-Interested parties may contact the Intern Minister to provide feedback on the UUA Principles & Purposes in the fall (due to Heartland District by 10/7/07).

-Heartland request to field test UUA Spirituality materials will be spearheaded by French.

## Correction to Forum Time

In the last newsletter, we printed that beginning in September Forum would start at 9:45 a.m. After some further discussion, it has now been decided to move Forum ahead an additional fifteen minutes to accommodate the new service start time of 10:45 a.m. The new start time for Forum will now be **9:30 a.m.** This will make for a smoother transition between Forum and the service. Sorry for the confusion.

## Practicing Hospitality

The Membership Committee submits the following excerpt from an article by [David Rynick](#), entitled, "Welcoming people to our congregations isn't a duty; it's a way to encounter the mystery and wonder of life". It is from the UU World, Summer 2007 5.15.07. The entire article can be picked up at the Information Desk in the foyer or read online at

[www.uuworld.org/life/articles/23685.shtml](http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/23685.shtml).

*When we hear the term "spiritual practice," most of us think of something radically different and more exotic than our everyday lives and actions. But I believe the Sufi poet Hafiz points to the heart of the matter when he says, "Everything is sacred." In other words, spiritual practice is what we do here and now with the intention of moving closer to what is most true and alive for us.*

*I want to suggest an approach to the ongoing question of how we welcome people into our communities that I call "the spiritual practice of hospitality." Practicing hospitality is not something we can appoint people to do, nor is it a set of techniques or behaviors we "use" on new people. Rather, it is an individual work of intentional action, action that creates the quality of relationships in our churches that will nourish newcomers and longtime members alike.*

*Practicing hospitality expresses our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of each person. Through our actions of hospitality we move towards creating a world in which we are all treated with justice, equality, and compassion.*

*In choosing this spiritual practice of hospitality, I live out the longing of my heart—creating a new reality for myself and the people around me. I reclaim my power to create the kind of world I want to live in. Gandhi was speaking of this kind of radical act when he said, "We must be the change we seek."*

*We may have little control over conflicts in another part of the world, but we can practice truly honoring the preciousness of all human life by how we enter into relationship with each other. If we are serious about creating a more just, equitable, and compassionate world, we have to start with the room we are in.*

by [David Rynick](#)

If you have questions contact Kim or Lula Palmer at 269-721-3524 or [kalpal2@mei.net](mailto:kalpal2@mei.net).

**Michael Dowd DVDs**



The Sunday Service and workshop presented by Rev. Michael Dowd on July 1 were provocative, informative and inspiring! If you weren't able to attend, you can still learn more about "The Great Story of Evolution" as he presented it, thanks to his several DVD's.

There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for anyone interested in a copy of the Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow DVDs. (Michael gave us permission to copy and distribute them freely and widely.) If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Beebe.

**OFFICE NOTES**

Hi everybody,

My summer has been going well. I just came back from a week in Austin and San Antonio and had a real nice time seeing family and friends. Around the office, I have been working on organizing and getting things ready for the new year. I look forward to seeing everybody in the fall. Hope you've been having an enjoyable summer.



Also, a pair of missing prescription sunglasses was found in the kitchen in June. If anyone has lost these, please contact me in the office. Thanks!

*-Chris*

**Happy  
August  
Birthdays!**



**UU History**

**William Ellery Channing** (1780-1842), minister of the Federal Street Church in Boston, Massachusetts, 1803-42, was a spokesman during the Unitarian controversy for those liberal—or Unitarian—churches within Massachusetts' Standing Order of churches. His published sermons, lighting a path between orthodoxy and infidelity, were widely influential abroad as well as throughout the United States. His Christian humanism inspired both religious and literary features of the Transcendentalist movement. An exemplar of Christian piety and a champion of human rights and dignity, he effectively fostered social reform in areas of free speech, education, peace, relief for the poor, and anti-slavery. His pulpit orations made him, according to Emerson, "a kind of public Conscience."



Excerpt from: <http://www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/williamellerychanning.html>

## SOCIAL ACTION

### Adopt-a-Highway Project

On July 18 and 21, ten people picked up fifteen bags of trash in two and a half hours total to complete our first Highway Project clean-up. For some reason, MDOT asked for age on the sign-up sheet, so it was possible to calculate the average age of participants -- 60.5 years. Many thanks to Andrea Huff, Marjory Spradling, Matthew McCormick (who worked both days so we could complete our stretch of the road), Tomme Maile, Jack Urban, Carol Urban, Holley Lantz, Lea Kunze and Tracy Cobb who brought along her out-of-town friend. The last pickup days for this year will occur between September 8 and 16. If you are interested in helping and didn't sign-up, contact Marj Lightner.



### Habitat for Humanity

Our remaining volunteer build-dates are August 11, September 6, and October 13<sup>th</sup> (the second Saturday of each of the months). We work from approximately 8:30 am to 4 pm. Be prepared to work outside; we don't usually know what kind of site we will be on, and none of them are air-conditioned! I will need to provide Habitat with the number of people who will be working about a week in advance, so I will send out an RSVP e-mail for each date shortly before that. We provide lunch for our own workers on all of these dates and will ask for volunteers to help with the food donation and preparation in the RSVP email.

If you've never volunteered for Habitat before, don't be nervous! All ability levels are welcome; you don't need to have any kind of construction experience and tools are provided at the job site. If you do have your own tools, feel free to bring them, but make sure that everything is labeled. For more info, here is the local Habitat website:  
[http://www.habitatkalamazoo.org/get\\_involved-volunteer.php](http://www.habitatkalamazoo.org/get_involved-volunteer.php)

Invite friends! Feel free to give them my contact information as well. Also, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for all of your help!

--Zoe Valette

## THE WIDER COMMUNITY

### Volunteers Needed



Vineyard Outreach Ministry needs the help of adult volunteers at Tuesday Kids Klub Supper Hour, Wednesday Evening Kids Program, Thursday Evening Kids Playtime, Sunday and weekday prayer. We also need the help of a summer/fall gardener.

For more information, call Catherine or contact us through [www.vineyardoutreachministry.org](http://www.vineyardoutreachministry.org)

### Caregiver Support Group

The Covenant Senior Day Program is sponsoring this event on Tuesday, August 14, from 1-2:30pm at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7211 Oakland Dr., Portage. This is an open group that addresses the needs of anyone who cares for an elder and feels the need for support and information. Please phone ahead if respite care is needed that afternoon. All are welcome! Please call 324-3250 for more information.

### Vermont Fall Escape

Sept. 21-23, 2007

Last year Don and Carol Beveridge took advantage of this notice appearing in our News & Views and thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of the members of the UU Church of Rutland, Vermont. This annual event is their major fund raiser, and over the years they have put together an amazing choice of events to choose from around the beautiful fall Vermont area, complete with guides, transportation, and so much food! Everything is included in the cost to you, and is provided by members of the church, which is in itself a lovely setting. There is a brochure for the 2007 weekend in the church office, or e-mail the church at [uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com](mailto:uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com), or check with Don and Carol for a rave revue.

**Religious Education Notes**  
**By Diane Melvin, Director**

*We yearn for a moment's peace and quiet, only to turn on the radio, make a phone call, or run an errand as soon as an opportunity for solitude presents itself.*

~Ronnie Polanezcky

**AUGUST**

It is during the summer that the insane pace of my life slows a bit. Through out the year I often find myself yearning for a moment of peace and quiet and I constantly struggle with making time to sit and be vs. getting things done.

This past week I have been sitting out on the deck in my backyard with my laptop writing the environmental curriculum for the elementary students to use at People's next February. The process has become a delightful mixture of doing and being.

When I look up for a moment to think about what I am writing, I become cognizant of the pair of bluebirds flitting around my backyard, the beautiful blue sky with big white wispy clouds, and the various bird songs all around me.

Those moments of being fully and completely in the moment deepen and enrich the process of writing an environmental religious education curriculum for UU kids. Ironically, those magical moments of mindfulness are at the heart of what I want the children to get out of the weekly lessons. What a blessing that I can experience moments like these while writing!

As challenging as it is to steal away some moments to just be, it certainly is imperative in order to continue to do so much with continued joy and enthusiasm.

Blessed Be ~ Diane

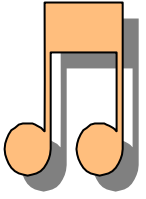
**Religious Education Teacher Orientation**  
**Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> – 10:00-3:00**  
**Lunch and Childcare Provided**  
**Please RSVP**

All preschool and elementary teachers are requested to mark your calendars to attend the RE Teacher Orientation. You will receive your curriculum binders for the year and have a chance to connect and plan with your team teachers. Be sure to bring your calendars.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

All 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to participate in weekly children's choir practice immediately following church each week in Room 1. The children will perform a song monthly in the beginning of the service.

They will also perform additional songs occasionally throughout the year. Older and younger children who are interested are welcome to participate on a trial basis to see if it is a good fit for everyone. Please email [dianemelvin@earthlink.net](mailto:dianemelvin@earthlink.net) to indicate interest in participating in a children's choir.



**BRONCO BASH**

Anyone interested in helping to staff a People's Church booth at WMU on September 7<sup>th</sup> between 3:00 and 8:00pm please contact Diane Melvin to express your interest.

Also, we are collecting old UU World magazines again this year to distribute to interested young adults at Bronco Bash. Please leave them in the basket by the church mailboxes.

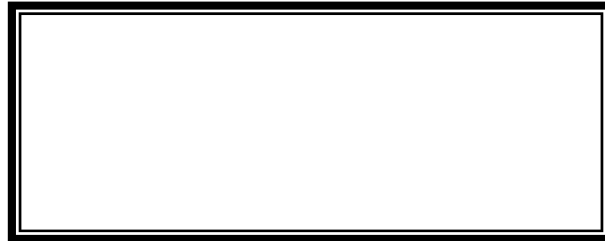
**THANK YOU** to everyone who continues to make our summer programs for children at People's Church so fun and successful!

Thank you to Bree Bird for working in the nursery each week and Diane Downing for coordinating and overseeing the children's program. Huge thanks go to the many volunteers who share their time and talents with the kids each week!

**Thank You!**

People's Church  
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 1758 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49009

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**August 2007 CALENDAR**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
July 30	News & Views Mailing	Monday	9:00 a.m.	Room 2
July 31	Chalice Circle (Bullmer)	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Library
August 3	The Network of Spiritual Progressives Book Discussion	Friday	8:00 p.m.	The fire pit (Room 6 if it rains)
August 5	Service Potluck Lunch for all RE Committee Retreat	Sunday	10:00 a.m. 11 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Commons
August 7	Talking Pots	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Kitchen
August 11	Habitat for Humanity	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Contact Zoe Valette
August 12	Service	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Commons
August 15	Be-in-the KNOW film Long Range Planning Committee	Wednesday	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Commons Room 6
August 16	Board Meeting	Thursday	5:30 p.m.	Jill's House
August 19	Service	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Commons
August 21	Crone Circle Chalice Circle (Bullmer)	Tuesday	1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Library Library
August 26	Service	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Commons
August 27	Newsletter Deadline Green Sanctuary Meeting	Monday	12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<a href="mailto:news@peopleschurch.net">news@peopleschurch.net</a> Library