



People's Church is a Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.



News & Views

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M-Th 9:00am-4:00pm

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Sunday Services—10:45 a.m.

May 26 “The Great Mystery” Jill McAllister

The final sermon in a three-part series on teachings of world religions which illustrate the project of religion itself. This week, *Who Am I in Relation to Life?* (God, the cosmos, the universe, ultimate reality, or other names.) These teachings address questions of ultimate existence—where do we come from, where are we going, what is the meaning of life? It is an appropriate theme for our annual day of remembrance of those we have lost in the past year—People’s people, or others special to you, who have died. Please let Jill know if there is someone you would like to have remembered in this service.



June 2 “The Adventure of Life” YRUU (High School Youth)

Members of our High School class will share what they have been studying and exploring this year, including music, stories, and reflections. Their insights on UUism and the religious life are always worth hearing and pondering. Graduating seniors will be recognized, and “bridged” on to young-adulthood, and several 8th-graders will “bridge” into YRUU.



Introduction to our Interim Minister

By Sue Caulfield, Board President



Dear People’s People,

On behalf of the Interim Minister Task-Force and Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce that we have contracted with the Reverend Pam Allen-Thompson to serve as our Interim Minister for the next two years.

Reverend Allen-Thompson spent the last year as an interim minister at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, MN.

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Between Us



This is the way transitions seem to go—first there’s a time of news and flurry, fear or excitement, surprise or shock. Then the reality begins to settle in, little by little, and the transition begins to unfold and become itself. If I let myself remember, there have been no transitions in my life that I could have scripted ahead of time—once a decision had been made, I could not have predicted how things would actually unfold. I’m remembering that now as this new change unfolds within me and around me, I’m doing my best to simply remain open, and curious, and gentle with myself and others.

I’m looking forward to this new adventure—going back to a place I love, and also “back” to a place that will be new in many ways. And, I become more aware every day of the costs of this change—which include leaving People’s Church, leaving Kalamazoo and Michigan, saying good-bye to so many people that I love and respect. None of these things is easy! But I want to do them all as well as I can, and I definitely need your help.

Here are several ways we can do some of this work together:

First, for those of you who have never known any other UU ministers, or ministers at People’s Church, a chance to meet and talk with other people who have known several or many, and who can talk about the benefits and gifts of knowing different ministers. We’ll try to schedule at least two dates to start with.

Second, I’ll make time for you to simply ask me any questions you want to ask—about where I’m going,

what it’s like, what I’ll miss here, whether I’ll ever come back to visit, etc. Here are two sessions for this so far: **Sunday, May 26**, following the service, and **Monday evening, June 3**, at Phil and Drue Kramer’s house.

For me, the more we talk about how we are feeling and what we are thinking, the better. Thank-you to all who have made time to get together with me so far—I’m hoping to spend time with many, many more of you.

Meanwhile, our transition at People’s Church is not the main news of the world! There is still plenty to pay attention to. At the moment, after the wake-up call of the building collapse in Bangladesh, I am reviewing my clothes-buying habits and looking for American-made clothing, so that I have a better chance of not contributing to the horrors of sweat-shops until some of the huge corporations which own those businesses step up to demand safer and more humane working conditions. (Which we have a part in—we cannot expect everything to be dirt-cheap, at the expense of people’s lives.)

I’m also trying to become more informed about the movements to build political will to take action against climate change—I hope to join other UUs at the General Assembly in moving this work forward.

What are you thinking about and working on, as spring continues to unfold luxuriously around us and summer is just around the corner? Something in the world? Something deep in your soul? A little of both? I’d be happy to hear about it, whatever it is.

See you Sunday—*Jill*

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“If at some point in your life you should come across anything better than justice, honesty, self-control, courage—than a mind satisfied that it has succeeded in enabling you to act rationally, and satisfied to accept what’s beyond its control—if you find anything better than that, embrace it without reservation—it must be an extraordinary thing indeed—and enjoy it to the full.”

—*Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor and Stoic philosopher*

From Page 1, Introduction to Interim Minister

Prior to that, she served as a consulting minister, interim minister, and settled minister in Florida, Virginia and California. Among other things, Pam served as a UUA trustee, on the Pacific Central District Board, the national board for PFLAG, and United Way of Northwest Ohio. She has been active in anti-oppression work and interfaith activity.

Prior to ministry, Pam earned a Ph.D. in German Studies and has co-authored two books and published numerous scholarly articles.

She and her partner of 21 years, Di Allen-Thompson, are proud grandmas and together they have renovated seven homes and three duplexes. Pam is fond of bold colors and interesting hats, enjoys making tasty meals from leftovers, and likes to ride her bike to work and anywhere that is possible.

For more information on Pam, please go to the member's section of the web page. Pam begins her work with us August 1, 2013 and as we get closer to the new church year, there will be more information on how we can, as a community, welcome her to our shared ministry.

In peace and community,
Sue Caulfield



Green Spot
By Mark Mackay

Many People's Church members are interested in alternative energy and energy conservation for a variety of reasons. Some cite sustainability, others—lower environmental impacts (relative to conventional energy technologies and fuels) and perhaps some just like feeling virtuous. The church's Green Sanctuary Committee encourages a sustainable lifestyle for both individual church members as well as the broader faith community, which includes our infrastructure. This article is the first in a two-part series (second in late June/early July) regarding energy efficiency.

In 2008 the UU Church Assessment Team partnered with the Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) Assessor to assess and evaluate what could be done to decrease pollution, reduce waste and conserve energy. Numerous energy-efficiency projects were identified and have been implemented already at the church

through retrofitting existing and building infrastructure, but also as a part of the new building design.

The following projects were intended to improve the energy efficiency of the old building:

1. Replacing old single-pane windows with more efficient double-pane windows
2. Supplementing insulation in the roof when it was replaced
3. Considered insulating the concrete block walls (but decided it was not cost effective)
4. Modified hot water heat system in old building
 - a. Added check valves to create four independent loops
 - b. Added a programmable thermostat able to control loops independently
 - c. The heat in the building can now be controlled according to need and use with an eye toward avoiding waste
 - d. New high-efficiency boiler added during renovation
5. Lighting
 - a. Four-foot fluorescent tubes were placed in both offices and classrooms
 - b. Old ballasts are currently being replaced with electronic ballasts
 - c. T12 tubes being replaced with T8 bulbs
 - d. More efficient bulbs in hallways
6. Motion detectors were considered, but are not likely cost-effective because members are good at turning out the lights

The following projects were included as part of the design of the new building, so no retrofitting was necessary, yet the following efficiencies were achieved:

1. Energy-efficient windows
2. Foam insulation added outside, and frame and drywall were added on the inside of walls.
3. A long-life metal roof with insulation
4. Efficient gas forced air heat and efficient air conditioning were both also included

In the next article we will discuss how you can be more engaged in further energy efficiencies at home or help continue the tradition already established at the church.

Wrapping Up the Church Year

Greetings from the RE Office on this sunny May day. It is amazing how quickly the RE year has flown. It seems we've just gotten started and then it's time to say so long. We've spent time getting to know each other and the major faiths of the world, beginning and ending with Unitarian Universalism.

This Sunday, the 19th of May, we will come full circle and return to where we started, the Seven UU Principles. The classes will spend some time looking at where our beliefs match those of the religions we have studied and where they differ. We will also look at the messages that are common to all the faiths we have studied. It may be a time to ask ourselves and our students to imagine how we can carry those good things with us during the summer and into our lives beyond.

The next Sunday, the 26th, will be the last day of regular RE classes. There will be wrap-up activities and chances for the students to process what they have learned.

Sunday, June 2nd will be the Youth Service for students in 5th grade and above; there will be Specialty Classes for the younger classes.

June 9th will be the last Sunday of the regular church year, one which the congregation will spend together in a multigenerational service. We will celebrate the summer and the flower communion and each other.

Wishing you all good things,
Carol Betz-Williams, RE Volunteer

Opus 2013: Fragile Strands, Strong Web Young Adult UU Retreat - Aug. 7-11 in Ontario

The annual five-day, spiritual retreat of the Continental Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network. Wonderful week of spiritual growth in loving community for anyone between 18-35 years old. Opus offers amazing fellowship, fun activities, workshops, and deep, soulful & participatory worships!

Interested? Check it out at <http://cuc.ca/young-adults/opus-2013-fragile-strands-strong-web/>



Specialty Classes

Though we normally discourage the use of technology by the children during church, we are lifting that ban for one special day. On the final specialty class, held June 2nd, we will be holding a class titled: "**Share Your Favorite Apps.**" If you are interested in attending please bring your favorite appropriate apps to share amongst friends in addition to an ipad, ipod or smart phone. Though if you don't have a device, there should be plenty to share. Please come early, space is limited to the first 10 children who sign up!

Note that on June 2nd the specialty classes are for kindergarten through 4th grade as the 5th- & 6th-graders will be in the Youth Service that Sunday.

THANK YOU 2012-13 RE Teachers!

Preschool - Denise Valette, Teresa Klan,
Carol & Jack Urban
Kindergarten - Cary Betz-Williams, Rich Wojtas,
Sheri Notten & Kim Gheen
1st Grade – Missy Howse, Wendy Dawson,
Beth Bullmer & Sharon Caron
2nd Grade - Dawn Chamberlain, Jen Lyle,
& Karen Friedel
3rd Grade – Nicky Gates, Julia Koestner,
Jeff & Jennifer Crouse
4th Grade - Mary Kate Webster, Nicki Barnes,
& Gwen Abney-Cunningham
5th/6th Grade - Chris Semelbauer, Deb Wickman,
Jeff Klan & Jana Watson
7th/8th Grade – Joy Gardner, Vincent Desroches,
Gerren Young & Ben Jones
9th Grade –Peg Clausing, Sheila Reuther, Dick Granberg
& Meghan Grabemeyer
10-12th Grade - Don Miller, Zoe Valette,
Mark Gernsback & Mackenzie Hatfield-Johnson

The RE Committee made beautiful prayer flags with symbols from some of the world's religions as a thank you gift for all these wonderful teachers!

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES!!!

- **Sunday, June 9—Last service of the regular church year** (Jill's last regular sermon) Pie and Ice-Cream Social to follow the service.
- **Sunday, July 28, evening—Good-bye party for Jill**
- **Wednesday, July 31—Jill's last day at People's**
- **Thursday, August 1—First day for Interim Minister Pam Allen-Thompson**



The Study Group

The Study Group will be discussing the Buddhist writing called the *Dhammapada* (translated by Valerie Roebuck) at its next meeting, **Monday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m.** at the Fountains. Newcomers welcome. For more information contact Tim Bartik.

\$MONEY MATTERS\$

We have had a successful Stewardship Drive at People's Church this spring. Despite losing some pledging units, our annual pledges are up 12.4 percent over last year, and we qualified for all of the \$25,000 in matching funds. This means that we will have \$36 thousand more to spend next year than this year. However, there will be several unanticipated expenditures associated with the Interim Minister. These include the health insurance premium, payroll taxes, moving costs and additional professional expenses totaling over \$14 thousand dollars.

At the Annual Meeting on May 19 a budget with a deficit of \$5,142 will be proposed for 2013-14. This will allow our pledge income to pay the increased personnel costs and one-half of the projected interest costs on our building loan. The rest of the budget will be covered by the Palmer Fund. We will use Feeding Our Flame proceeds to reduce the principal on our loan. Come to the Annual Meeting after the service on May 19 for more details.

Chalice Circle Leader Orientation Saturday, June 1, 9am-1pm

Save the date if you are interested in becoming part of a chalice circle, and would be willing to be trained as a facilitator. Chalice circles are small groups of 7-8 people, who meet on a regular basis, to discover and share the life experiences which have shaped us. The format is structured, and the process becomes a shared discipline. Chalice circles have been loved by many People's people for many years. If you have questions, contact Diane Melvin or Jill McAllister.



Overtone Chanting Class

Overtone chanting is a spiritual and healing practice. As a spiritual practice it does not require you to be able to "carry a tune," but it's used to "attune" the body with itself, with others who are chanting, and with the universe. It is thought that the connection between the physical and the spiritual is the voice, and the vibration created in the body by overtone chanting "tunes" one with the universe. While it has strong benefits as a solitary practice, when done in groups the experience is quite different and can be intense. It is also used as a form of meditation.



I learned overtone chanting from Jill Purce in 2008; she learned it in Mongolia in the 1960s. I would be delighted to share the techniques with those who are interested here at People's. Please contact me, Lynetta Carnes, at lynettacarnes@hotmail.com if you would like to participate. To hear Jill Purce chanting, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJdmTqRMvVM>

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	May 21	Building & Grounds Work Group Library Committee	9:30a.m. 9:30a.m.	Meet at Church Meet in Foyer
Wednesday	May 22	Archives Committee	1:00p.m.	Archives Room
Thursday	May 23	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	May 24	Percussion Workshop (from Service Auction)	7:00pm	Room 19
Saturday	May 25	Full-Moon Drum Circle	8:00p.m.	Fire pit
Sunday	May 26	Meditation Session O.W.L. Sexuality Education Class—K/1st Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Q & A Session with Jill Roasted Peanuts (children's music group)	9:00a.m. 9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 12:30p.m.	Room 18 Room 19 Foyer Commons Room 19 Room 9
Monday	May 27	OFFICE CLOSED <i>Memorial Day</i>		
Tuesday	May 28	Building & Grounds Work Group Newsletter Deadline	9:30a.m. 12:00p.m.	Meet at Church news@peopleschurch.net
Wednesday	May 29	Beloved Conversations	7:00p.m.	Room 19
Thursday	May 30	Bell Choir Choir Rehearsal	6:15p.m. 7:15p.m.	Room 9 Commons
Friday	May 31	Newsletter Mailing Beloved Conversations	9:00a.m. 7:00p.m.	Room 8 Room 19
Saturday	June 1	The Discussion Group Chalice Circle Leader Training	10:00a.m. 9:00a.m.	Room L2 Room 19
Sunday	June 2	Meditation Session O.W.L. Sexuality Education Class—K/1st Hospitality / Coffee and Refreshments Sunday Service Roasted Peanuts (children's music group) High School Youth Group	9:00a.m. 9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 10:45a.m. 12:30p.m. 6:00p.m.	Room 18 Room 19 Foyer Commons Room 9 Room L2

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Victorian Tea

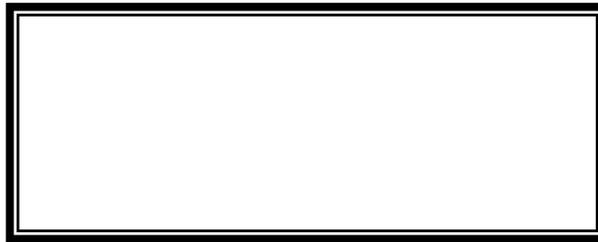
A Victorian Tea is scheduled for **Saturday, July 27**, from **2-4p.m.** at the Skyrise Community Room. Nine places were sold at the auction and we have room for eight more places. This is a High Tea with sweets, savories and fruit. It also has a musical interlude. In addition, tours of two apartments in the Skyrise building will be available if anyone is interested. One being Jean Bright's on the 16th floor, with spectacular views, in four directions, of Kalamazoo, including East Hall of WMU. One is on the 21st floor, Donna Grath's, with her wonderful art displayed on her walls. We can also view her quilting room. Cost is \$35 per person. Proceeds go to the church. For reservations or information call Jean Bright or Joann Dodson.



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People's Church Mission Statement

“People's Church is a welcoming religious community drawing on wisdom and inspiration from many sources to discover and live out our highest values.”

