



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



News & Views

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Summer Services—10:00 a.m.

July 7 “How Do I Manage Change?” Jill McAllister and Rochelle Habeck Hunt

We have different needs, skills and styles when it comes to facing change—and none of us escapes facing it! In an organization, different skills, styles and needs can either clash or collaborate, or both. Let's discover what we have to work with, between us.

July 14 “The UUA: What it Looks Like Today” Jill McAllister

As an organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association is constantly evolving, as each generation of UU's in congregations and beyond, across the country, strives to face and respond to the world in which we live. Where is the UUA now, and where is our movement heading? These are good questions to ask as People's faces the present and future here in Kalamazoo. (Service will include sharing of some of the great sermons and presentations at the General Assembly, just completed in Louisville.)



July 21 “Threat and Opportunity” Sunday Services Committee

The Chinese symbol for the concept of crisis includes the characters for both “threat” and “opportunity.” This morning we will give voice to these two aspects of the present transition at People's. What are you most afraid of losing? What new opportunities do you think are coming, or do you look forward to?

July 28 “Transition as an Act of Faith” Jill McAllister

Since life is a process of constant change, and of continual transition, how can we be anything other than people of faith? If we understand faith as trust in the very best sense, then we are people who trust that we are aiming for good goals, heading in the right direction, able to hold both the old and the new, and willing to go forward without all the details. To live otherwise is to limit our capacities to fully live.

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Between Us



When our youngest child was quite small, just 3 or 4 years old, he surprised us one afternoon with a deeply insightful comment. “Nothing is forever,” he said, as casually as if we had been discussing the weather. “Yes,” I said, wondering where in his experience this knowledge had come from. “But how do you know this?” I asked. His reply only added to the mystery: “Only forever is forever.”

This is one of the deep and lasting truths of human life—nothing is forever. Fifteen years is a good, long time, and now my time here as minister to People’s Church is coming to an end. I’m excited about the new chapters about to begin in my life, even as I am very sad to be leaving People’s Church and all of you. That is what new beginnings usually require—a willingness to let go, and to grieve the loss.

In November of 1998, when I was installed as your minister, we entered into a covenant—a promise of how we would aim to work together. These were the words you spoke:

“With mutual respect for one another, and commitment to the ideals we strive to uphold, we do freely enter into this covenant, pledging ourselves to the cause of liberal religion and our heritage of freedom, reason and tolerance. We pledge ourselves to share the ministry of People’s Church: we will work together to nurture and maintain the resources of this congregation—physical, financial and human—that they may be used in the service of our ideals.

We will share with our minister the responsibilities for stewardship, for pastoral ministry, and for the religious growth of all members. We will be present, and participate in the life of the congregation. We will support our

minister as she strives to inspire us in worship, comfort us in times of need, and give voice and shape to our vision. We will encourage her in the wider ministry of strengthening our global Unitarian Universalist faith.”

This was my response: “...I pledge to the best of my ability, to devote myself to the duties of this office and to share with you the ministries which belong to all of us, as we strive toward our common goal—building a strong and diverse religious community which can model harmony, wisdom and justice to a world in need. I pledge to live my life in the spirit of truth, compassion and love. This is my covenant with you.”

Looking back now on these years we have worked and walked and lived together, I feel a great joy in knowing that our covenant has been honored and carried out over and over again. We have been good for each other, and so we have been able to be good for the community and the world. My gratitude to you and for you is deep, and will remain with me always! You have blessed me in so many ways. No matter where I am and what life may bring to me, I will always be sending my love to you.

I’m still eager to visit with as many of you as I can, through the end of the month. Two evening potluck suppers are scheduled, at church, from **5:30-7:30 pm on Monday, July 8 and Wednesday, July 24.** Please bring your whole family if you can! Call or e-mail me if you’d like to get together—minister@peopleschurch.net. I’m looking forward to all we still can share.

With gratitude—

Jill

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

Blessing for a Time of Change

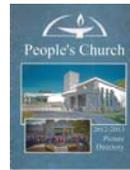
“May you be safe and may you be happy.
May you know that you are loved
May friends surround you
May you have courage to live for peace,
and for justice.

May you always reach out a hand
to help others.
I’m sending my love with you.”

—Jill McAllister

Picture Directories Now Available

The Picture Directories have arrived and can be picked up in the Volunteer Office in the Reception Area. We only have a limited number, so please only one per family.



People's Church Website Redesigned

On Monday, June 25, the newly redesigned People's Church website made it's official launch online. To access the new website, just go to www.peopleschurch.net as you always have.

Improvements include:

- The use of updated images of People's Church and People's people—thanks to Dave Curl and Rick Johnson!
- Updated and refreshed visitor's section
- A "Love in Action" section which contains a new Social Justice section as well as more information on committees such as ARAOMC and Green Sanctuary.
- A People's Church blog soon to be populated by thought-provoking curated articles on Unitarian Universalism and other related topics.
- Improved technology with the ability to update the website more efficiently and easily
- A Green web host....and much, much more.

...Article continued on Page 7

Jill's Farewell Roast

Sunday, July 28,
5:00 p.m.

The Farewell Roast will be held in The Commons with a social time from 5-5:30. Dinner will be served family-style at 5:30 p.m. Wine, beer, iced tea, and water will be available.



There is no charge for the dinner, but we are accepting donations. Please see Andrea Huff after church or send a check to Dana Kubinski at the church office if you'd like to contribute.

Although we are purchasing part of the dinner, we do need volunteers to bring salads and/or a blueberry dessert. There are sign-up sheets available after church each Sunday, or you may contact Marj Lightner to volunteer.

The program will consist of music, gifts, and the roast with several roasters. The dinner and roast will last from 2-2 ½ hours. Children are welcome, and childcare will be provided. The dinner and roast are a more structured event than the family potlucks happening July 8th and 24th.

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with set up. We will be setting up The Commons on Saturday morning, July 27. Please contact me if you can help.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you.

—Sarah Renstrom

Summer Religious Education Schedule For children 5-12 years of age

Every Sunday Sheila Reuther will be providing childcare for babies and toddlers in the nursery this summer.

June 30: Self-Esteem - Body tracing and affirmation activities.

July 7: Drama - Make masks and acting out How the Moon Regained Her Shape.

July 14: Music - Make rain sticks, drumming, and dancing.

July 21: Science - Moon phases, and creating calendars or flip books.

July 28: "I Can" - Make "I CAN!" cans, playing beanbag self-esteem games and writing name poems.

August 4: Nature - Go on a nature scavenger hunt and making crayon resist paintings.

August 11: Overcoming Bullying - Read One by Kathryn Otoshi, colored water and caring chain activities.

August 18: Art- bead bracelets & sand paintings.

August 25: Having Self-Esteem - Read I'm Gonna Like Me by Jamie Lee, creative movement and dream collages.

September 1: Wrap up - music, making special snacks, kindness wheel activity.

Accepting Applications for RE Program Assistant

The RE program assistant works closely with the DRE and the RE Committee to provide administrative assistance for the RE program.

Requirements include fluency in Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher, experience with accounting, excellent communication skills, and a meticulous eye for detail in financial spreadsheets and databases. Duties include: managing RE Database, creating spreadsheets and documents as well as maintaining financial records and accounting.

This position is approximately 8 hours per week and generally includes working on Wednesdays.

Please send a letter of application and a resume to Diane Melvin, People's Church 1758 N. 10th St. Kalamazoo, MI 49009 by **July 19**.

UUA General Assembly—Louisville

It was great to have 20 People's people at GA this year. For the first time in my tenure, a group of eight youth attended together. It was quite an adventure.

General assembly is a fantastic gathering of thousands of UUs from around the world who get together for fellowship, educational workshops, inspiring worships, public action and advocacy as well as conducting the business of our democratic association which includes much debate, discussion and voting on the issues.

It is exhilarating and exhausting, spiritually renewing and yet physically depleting all at the same time.



This photo was taken at the public advocacy march on mountain top removal coal mining, where 2,000 of us marched in downtown Louisville from the convention center to the river to draw attention to this horrible practice so prevalent in the mountains there. It was an empowering afternoon Standing on the Side of Love!

Huge Thanks go out to my fellow youth sponsors: Kelly Henderson, Sonja Dean and Mackenzie Hatfield-Johnson! We couldn't have done it without you!

Blessed Be, Diane Melvin, DRE

Thank you Jeme!

Special Thanks to the RE Assistant for the past five years! Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the RE program! You will be missed.

Book Group

Want to help us decide on the books we will discuss during the next church year? This year our reading took us to England, Ireland, Seattle, Canada, New York, Pakistan, the Balkans, North Dakota, and down a rabbit hole. Who knows where we will go next year. Join us on **August 4 at 11:30** in Room 8 (across from the kitchen) for a potluck lunch and discussion. Bring something light to share (salad, fruit, cheese, crackers/bread, etc.) and several ideas for books you would love to discuss. Our focus is on fiction so think of some good novels you have read or want to read. You might want to bring your own dishes if you don't want to help wash up afterwards. We love to have new people join us. If you have questions contact Pat Nelson or Marj Lightner.

The Study Group

The Study Group will be discussing the Tao Te Ching (any translation) at its next meeting, **Monday, July 8**, at **7:30 p.m.** at The Fountains. Newcomers welcome. For more information contact Tim Bartik.

Saying "Goodbye" to Jill

The month of July will be filled with opportunities to say our farewells to Jill and send her on her way with our best wishes.

These occasions are listed below:

1. **Sunday Services** – Don't forget the Sunday services where Jill will be present on July 7, 14 & 28.
2. **Family Potluck Suppers – Monday, July 8 and Wednesday, July 24** – Please bring the whole family and a dish to pass. Supper will start at 5:30 p.m. at the church.
3. **Farewell Roast – Sunday, July 28** – The roast will be held at 5:00 p.m. in The Commons. Dinner will be served family style at 5:30. Reservations are requested, and there will be no charge for the dinner. Beer and wine will be available, as well as iced tea and water. The dinner and program will last between 2-2 ½ hours. The program will be more structured than the potlucks happening on July 8th and 24th. Children are welcome, and childcare will be provided. Please indicate your need for childcare when you make your reservation for dinner.

Let's take advantage of these various occasions to say our fond goodbyes to Jill! —Sarah Renstrom

Kitchen Clean-Up



On Tuesday mornings this summer, we will be sorting through the cupboards in the kitchen to make sure everything is where it should be and getting rid of things that are not needed. We will also be taking an inventory of the dishes and silverware in preparation for Jill's farewell party. The refrigerator and freezer need to be cleaned out as does the spice drawer. If you are willing to help contact Marj Lightner or come between 10 and noon. If Marj isn't there, she will leave a checklist of what needs to be done. Many hands make light the work and make it more fun too.

Save Items This Summer for Bazaar

People's Church is asking everyone this summer to keep an eye on any items that might be donated to the fall Bazaar. Set aside outgrown toys and games, tools and appliances, kitchen items, glassware and decorative pieces, jewelry, books and pictures, sports equipment, gizmos and gadgets—everything clean and in working order please. We no longer take any furniture due to lack of space. This is a good chance to give your home more space and help the church reach its fundraising goals. Thank you.

Barbecue Dinner Sale Fundraiser

The Homeless Relief Campaign Initiative and Kingdom Minded Ministries is partnering together for a Summer Barbeque Dinner Sale for the homeless. We will be taking orders for lunches and dinners from **June 1, 2013 until September 7, 2013**. This fundraiser is a delicious and convenient way to get barbeque soul food dinners delivered right to your home or workplace.



All orders for dinners must be placed no later than 6 pm the night before. Dinners will be sold on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Lunch options are available during the work day Monday-Friday between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Pickup is preferred but delivery is available for an extra \$3.00 fee. Orders can be picked up at 111 Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Orders can be placed over the phone by calling LaShana Jones (269) 779-5572 or David Gholston at (269) 312-0931.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
Tuesday	July 2	Building & Grounds Work Group Talking Pots	9:30a.m. 3:30p.m.	Meet at Church Kitchen
Thursday	July 4	<i>Independence Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED		
Sunday	July 7	Summer Service	10:00a.m.	Room 19
Monday	July 8	Family Potluck The Study Group	5:30p.m. 7:30p.m.	Meet at Church Fountains at Bronson Place
Tuesday	July 9	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Sunday	July 14	Summer Service Holiday Bazaar Preparation Meeting	10:00a.m. 11:30a.m.	Room 19 TBD
Monday	July 15	Facing Life, Facing Death	12:00p.m.	Room LI
Tuesday	July 16	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Sunday	July 21	Summer Service	10:00a.m.	Commons
Monday	July 22	Newsletter Deadline Full-Moon Drum Circle	12:00p.m. 8:00p.m.	news@peopleschurch.net Fire pit
Tuesday	July 23	Building & Grounds Work Group	9:30a.m.	Meet at Church
Wednesday	July 24	Family Potluck	5:30p.m.	Meet at Church
Friday	July 26	Newsletter Mailing	9:00a.m.	Room 8
Sunday	July 28	Summer Service Jill's Going Away Dinner & Roast	10:00a.m. 5:00p.m.	Commons Commons

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Redesigned Website...continued from Page 3

Please note that the members section of the website remains unchanged—username / password are the same as always—we hope to make some more improvements to this section over the summer. There are also little things that still need to be done including a full editorial review of the content. We've enlisted some volunteers to help us with those activities—as well as keeping information updated as time goes on and things change. Chris Schleuder remains the primary contact for website changes going forward.

A BIG thank you goes to the entire PR/Media Task-Force—Anna Shade, Bob Wallis, Tim Bartik, Megan Reynolds, Ben Jones, Kristi Montgomery and Chris Schleuder for all of their help in getting it launched. And thanks to Dawn and Sarah Shilts and Tracy

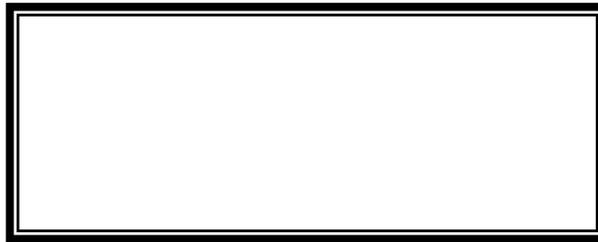
Klinesteker for helping on our website content input day. And an even HUGER thank you to Marc Shade (Anna's husband) for all the time and effort he put into the design and technical side—we couldn't have done it without him—he is truly a WordPress wiz! And thanks to Diane Melvin and Jill McAllister for their support throughout the process.

Many visitors and members are now finding People's through our website. We think the website helps to portray the fullness of who we are at People's to newcomers—we hope you do too! Please go visit the website and let us know what you think! Leave a comment on an article or a post or email office@peopleschurch.net.

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Check us out on the web!
www.peopleschurch.net



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.”