

VALENTINE'S DAY: SAILING INTO THE HEART OF THE MATTER



In his small volume of big frustration with the organized church, *Include Me Out*, Colin Morris recalls an episode from the late 1950s, when Great Britain was about to explode its first atomic bomb in the South Pacific. “[T]he Churches yelled bloody murder, passed frenzied resolutions, protesting, deploring, expressing grave concern, etc., etc., and delegations of ecclesiastical dignitaries and political pundits waited on the Prime Minister to threaten and plead. But it was a 60-year-old Unitarian who quietly withdrew his life savings, bought a little boat and sailed it into the center of the Test Area as his personal protest.” As Morris reminds us, politicians aren’t worried about petitions and phone calls (or in today’s world, e-mails and tweets). What they worry about is someone who is willing to “sail right into the heart of big issues in total disregard for their [own] lives.”

For many couples, Valentine’s Day seems to be their once-a-year chance to do the equivalent of what the church was attempting to do in the 1950s to stop things from blowing up. It’s a day to run around in worried frenzy, trying to find the perfect gift that will prove that one’s love runs deep and true. Unfortunately, no matter how big the gift, even if it’s the six-foot bear from the Vermont Teddy Bear Company (\$199.95, delivery guaranteed by 2/14), it can’t guarantee that your relationship won’t blow up. For that, you have to sail your boat into your partner’s heart each and every day, regardless of the personal cost.

The same is true with our faith in God. When we put little personal investment into it—maybe a Sunday here and there, maybe a prayer or two in an emergency—our return will also seem meager. It’s not that God loves us any less because of our inattention; on the contrary, because of Christ, God couldn’t love us any more! We could also run around like our pants are on fire, frantically petitioning God, attending every church activity, reading every Christian book and listening to every Christian song; but if our heart isn’t in it—again, not much return. We’re unlikely to be aware of God’s love, because we’ve never set sail into the heart of God.

Perhaps the best gift we can give to the people we love—and to God—this Valentine’s Day is a renewed commitment to set a daily course toward the things that matter, no matter the personal cost. Seriously, who would want a six-foot teddy bear (the thing creeps me out every time I see it online), when what they really want is you?

Quick updates: **Commuting miles since June:** 13,420. **Best Christmas news:** a fifth grandchild on the way! **Search Team progress:** excellent; actively reviewing candidate profiles, listening to sermons and preparing for interviews. **New interim invitations declined:** 2; one in Wisconsin, one in Toronto. The Peoples Church has spoiled me!

Pastor Case

DEALING FAITHFULLY WITH DEMENTIA with DR. SUZANNE MCDONALD



Dr. Suzanne McDonald’s passion is helping people learn ways to continue showing the love of Christ to those with dementia and to their caregivers.

The Peoples Church is proud to present her two part series, “Dealing Faithfully With Dementia,” on **February 6 and 13** at 6:30 p.m. in the Robertson Room. This series has something to offer everyone; it is designed for congregations who want to be faithful to God and the Gospel, and also faithful to the very difficult realities of the disease.

Dr. McDonald’s series first looks at Holy Saturday (the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday) as a theological space that mirrors dementia. In part two of the series, participants think about issues of personhood, image of God, and how they can walk with people in a pastoral sense. Suzanne emphasizes the importance of not just a person’s mind but their body as well.

Dr. Suzanne McDonald is Professor of Historic and Systematic Theology at Western Theological Seminary (where she was one of Pastor Betsy’s favorite professors) and the author of, *John Knox for Armchair Theologians* and *Re-Imaging Election: Divine Election as Representing God to Others and Others to God*, in addition to several articles and essays on historic and systematic theology.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

*80 & OVER

2/1 - Alice Crist
2/11 - Eleanor Chapin
2/15 - Thelma Hansen
2/15 - John Wales
2/17 - Ann Heisey
2/18 - Roger Grove
2/19 - Irene Cantlon
2/22 - Shirley Noetzold
2/27 - Gary Wegenke

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARYS

2/8 - Dale & Carolyn Schuster (50)
2/22 - Albert & Yvonne Hafner (65)

If we missed you, please accept our apology. Contact the office to make sure we have your correct information on file.



EDGEWOOD VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP

SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLES CHURCH OF EAST LANSING

Members and friends of The Peoples Church again showed their generosity for Edgewood residents this holiday season! Prior to Thanksgiving, 16 Edgewood Village households were recipients of a turkey meal and all the trimmings from church families and friends who shopped and paid for the food.

A week before Christmas, 19 Edgewood households were recipients of food for a Christmas meal. This time 17 church families and friends did the shopping, purchased the healthy fresh food and dropped it off at the Edgewood Village Network Center. Again the Edgewood Scholars made the deliveries directly to the door of each recipient household—an important part of our ongoing partnership!

More than half of the households served at Thanksgiving and Christmas were one or two person households. According to Barb Dunlap, Coordinator of the food basket project, many organizations that provide holiday food require the families served have children 17 years and under in the household. "I am pleased," said Dunlap, "that we are so generously serving many who are seniors on very low fixed incomes." A single senior resident said, when she received the bountiful gift of food for the holiday and was wished a Merry Christmas, "Well I know one thing about my Christmas, I sure will eat well!"

Once again the Edgewood Christmas gift project was a huge success, according to Emily Anderson, the gift project Coordinator. This year 66 gifts were wrapped by 15 gift wrappers and distributed to 24 families. What kind of gifts did they wrap? They wrapped everything from baby dolls to a unicorn stuffed animal, Lego sets, art supplies, a Slime Kit, hats and gloves and so much more. The packages were delivered to Edgewood on December 19 in time for Christmas.

An additional \$400 from our budget for Edgewood was spent on needed or requested items for the elderly and handicapped seniors residing in the Edgewood Tower facility, providing the only gifts these folk received.

WHAT A BLESSING for both givers and receivers!

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES

The Sexual Assault Committee is currently focused on education and awareness. We think it is important for people to know that there are several organizations in the Lansing area who help survivors of sexual assault, domestic abuse and related trauma. Here are some in the region:

End Violent Encounters - 517.372.5572 (eveinc.org)

MSU Safe Place - 517.355.1100 (safeplace.msu.edu)

MSU Sexual Assault Program & Crisis Intervention - 517.372.6666 (endrape.msu.edu)

Women's Center of Greater Lansing - 517.372.9163 (womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org)

Firecracker Foundation - 517.742.7224 (thefirecrackerfoundation.org)

Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence - 517.347.7000 (mcedsv.org)

In the upcoming months, we'll bring in speakers from various organizations, so keep reading *The Portal* to learn more. If you would like to be part of the Sexual Assault Committee at The Peoples Church, please contact Pastor Betsy at eaho@thepeopleschurch.com or 517.332.6074.

PORTAL DEADLINE:

The deadline for submissions to the March 2019 *Portal* is February 15. Submit content to Rachel Giddings at, rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com.

The *Portal* is a monthly newsletter that is mailed each month to opt-in subscribers and also included in the Friday email.

REBEKAH/HANNAH CIRCLE

Rebekah/Hannah Circle will meet on **Wednesday, February 27** in the Robertson room at 1:00 p.m. We begin with snacks and socialization. Following a few announcements our program speaker, Ginger Ogilvie, will speak on "Memories in Family History." Ginger will share some wonderful ideas on preserving precious family memories. Everyone is invited!

DORCAS CIRCLE

Dorcias Circle will meet on **Tuesday, February 19** at 7:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. The program will be "Another Kind of P.K. (Preacher's Kid)." For more information, contact Phyllis Gauden at 517.482.0930.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle will meet **Wednesday, February 13** in the Fishbach Library. New people are always welcome to join us! Please contact Jess Eysselinck at 646.244.2102 or jess@eysselinck.com for more information.

Future Meeting Dates for 2019:

March 13, April 10, May 8, and June 12

DOING OUR PART FOR ANIMALS

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool



Every year in February our Preschool Families and Staff participate in a Penny War to raise funds for the Nottingham Nature Nook. In a Penny War, money is worth "points" based on its monetary value. But there's another key rule: pennies give your classroom positive points—while nickels, dimes, quarters, and any dollar bills take points AWAY from the total. So, students can add pennies to their own classroom's jar and any other coins or dollars to the jars in other rooms, all while raising money for a good cause. At the end of the month, each classroom gets to have a pizza and fruit party to celebrate their efforts. The preschool has been able to raise close to \$500 each year for this important program.

The Nottingham Nature Nook (NNN) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) wildlife rehabilitation center in East Lansing. Its mission is to raise, and eventually release, wild baby animals and birds, as well as care for injured adult animals that are brought to them from the public. Director, Cheryl Connell-Marsh says,

"After working as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for the past ten years I have come to realize that the wildlife I heal also heal the people that they connect with. I have found that people will go to extraordinary lengths to save a wild creature and bring it safely to me. The connection that exists between all living beings is felt even stronger when an animal or bird is injured or orphaned. If we look at people, wildlife and nature separately we ignore the energy of life that connects us to one another. In order to bring peace and healing to one, we must embrace the whole. When we work to save wildlife we ultimately save ourselves."



Peoples Church Preschool



Est. 1951 (517) 332-2885

PEOPLES FORUM

Join us each Sunday for interesting and informative "Voices of the Community" at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room.

FEBRUARY 3**KRISTEN MAYVILLE, ASL INTERPRETER**

Sign Language: Because Actions Speak Louder Than Words

FEBRUARY 10**RABBI BECCA WALKER**

MSU Hillel

FEBRUARY 17**NO FORUM****FEBRUARY 24****MICHELLE RICK**

Clinton County Circuit Judge

TPC VISITATION TEAM

The Peoples Church Visitation Team visits our members who can no longer attend church on a regular basis. They make contact with our homebound members at least once a month and help keep them up-to-date on what is happening at The Peoples Church. This can be a rewarding ministry and an opportunity to get acquainted with some of our long time members.

If you are interested in joining our team or if you are aware of anyone who would appreciate a regular visitor, please call Gretchen Rosenbrook at 517.332.5132 or Pat Brogan at 517.337.1446.

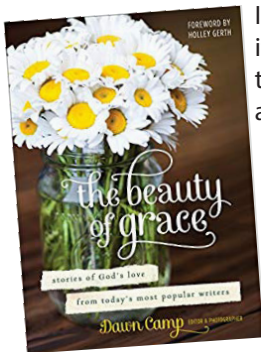


SUGGESTED READING

FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

THE BEAUTY OF GRACE

by Dawn Camp



In our hectic lives it is easy to forget that God is always at hand, surrounding us daily with reminders of God's Grace. Examples such as the beauty in a mess, a few well-timed

words from an important person in our lives, encouragement from a friend, memories that fill our hearts—are but a few of the ways God extends his love for us. But we need to pay attention or we miss, or misinterpret, God's Grace for us.

In this collection of stories, you're invited to read about cultivating friendships, choosing joy, staying connected, being patient, keeping the faith. The author has included some of her photographs to inspire the reader. A brief pause to experience our own surroundings envelops us in *The Beauty of Grace*. Enjoy the read.

VOLUNTEER POSITION

Building & Grounds Ministry is looking for the next Grounds Clean-up Coordinator. The coordinator identifies tasks needed to be done, organizes volunteers and handles scheduling. Matt Gosselin, our current coordinator will serve as a mentor and work alongside the person (for 2019) who volunteers for this role.

If interested please call Rob Privette at 248.804.1354 or email at rmpagain@yahoo.com.

FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS RECIPES BY GERRI LYNN



Gerri Lynn Nichols, our talented Hospitality Coordinator, shares a recipe with us each month. Enjoy!

ONE POT VEGETABLE RICE WITH BELL PEPPER & PEAS

This one pot vegetable rice with bell pepper and peas is ready in only 20 minutes. It's super healthy and so yummy! Even great as a leftover, served cold the next day. Prep time: 5 minutes; Cook time: 20 minutes; Total time: 25 minutes; Servings: 4 people.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup parboiled rice (uncooked)
- 1 onion, chopped & 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into small pieces
- 1 teaspoon each of paprika, dried thyme & basil
- 1 cup vegetable broth
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1/2 cup chorizo, cut into cubes (optional) or ham, chicken, sausage
- 3 green onions, cut into rings
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley to serve; salt to taste; black pepper to taste; red pepper flakes to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Heat some oil in a pot and sauté the onion for about 2-3 minutes or until it becomes translucent. Add the garlic and the red bell pepper. Cook for one more minute. Then add the rice, the ajvar, the paprika powder, and the vegetable broth.

Cook for 15 minutes (without the lid). Then add the frozen peas and cook for 5 more minutes. Two minutes before the cooking time is over, stir in the green onions and the vegan chorizo (if using).

Season with salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes. Sprinkle with fresh parsley!



Come and enjoy lunch and fellowship; a great opportunity to meet new friends and catch up with familiar ones. No need to RSVP! The Welcome Ministry will have a section of tables reserved for The Peoples Church after the 10:30 a.m. worship on the following dates:

February 24: Dublin Square - 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing

March 24: Reno's East - 1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing

April 28: Coral Gables* - 2838 E Grand River Avenue, East Lansing

*At Coral Gables: must order the breakfast buffet.

WE HUNGER FOR YOUR TALENT!

The Peoples Church Talent Show and Empty Bowls fundraiser to fight hunger are happening on **February 3, 2019!** Everyone should plan to join us for a chili lunch (with all the fixings), talent show, and Pottery guild bowl sale following the 10:30 a.m. worship service! The Pottery Guild is generously donating bowls so all proceeds go to local hunger charities!

WPC ANNUAL JEWELRY SALE

The Women of Peoples Church annual jewelry sale will be held in May 2019. Stay tuned for more details to come soon, but in the meantime, bring in your donations of jewelry, scarves, purses, tote bags, and other accessories to the church office during normal business hours.

ADDITIONAL PARKING

The Lansing Psychology Associates, located directly across the street from The Peoples Church and behind Jonna's, has graciously offered additional parking in their lot for those attending services on Sundays.

GREAT DECISIONS

SPONSORED BY THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION



Great Decisions is America's largest discussion forum on world affairs and you can participate in the discussion right here at The Peoples Church. All meetings take place in the Robertson Room from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28: THE STATE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT & DIPLOMACY

Dr. Matt Zierler, MSU Associate Professor, International Relations

During the Trump administration, the usual ways of conducting diplomacy have been upended. Many positions in the State Department have never been filled, and meetings with foreign leaders such as Kim Jong-un and Vladimir Putin have been undertaken with little advance planning. What effect are these changes having now, and how will they affect ongoing relationships between the United States and its allies and adversaries?

THURSDAY, MARCH 21: THE U.S. AND MEXICO—A PARTNERSHIP TESTED

Dr. Manuel Chavez, MSU Journalism Professor & Associate Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

The United States and Mexico have a long, intertwined history, with both countries prominently featured in each other's politics and agendas. The war on drugs, immigration and trade issues have taxed the relationship over the years. What impact will new leadership in both countries have on this crucial partnership?

THURSDAY, APRIL 25: THE MIDDLE EAST—REGIONAL DISORDER

Dr. Russell Lucas, James Madison College, MSU

As the presidency of Donald J. Trump passes the halfway point, the Middle East remains a region in turmoil. The Trump administration has aligned itself with strongmen in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, which along with Israel have a common goal of frustrating Iranian expansion. What will be the fallout from policy reversals such as withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear accord and moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem? Does the United States see a path forward in troubled states such as Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq? Is the United States headed toward war with Iran?

PEOPLES 101

Interested in learning more about The Peoples Church? Contemplating Membership?

Peoples 101 is a 30-minute informal discussion about The Peoples Church. Bring your questions and meet with a Pastor and Welcome Ministry Members in the Robertson Room. New Members Classes take place in the Centennial Room and last roughly an hour and a half. Child care is provided.

This meeting explores the history, governance, mission and values of the church as well as programming and volunteer opportunities. Membership is also discussed, but there is never any obligation to join. For more information, call Diane Shafer at 517.388.0437 or email at dm-shafer2001@gmail.com. You can also call Robin Matheson at 517.290.3223 or email at matheso4@msu.edu.

SCHEDULE:

(Upcoming Peoples 101 or New Membership Classes dates and times)

February 3 (located in Centennial Room)
Peoples 101

March 3
Peoples 101

April 10
New Members Class during WNL!

April 7
New Members Class

May 5
Peoples 101

June 2
Peoples 101



THE PEOPLES CHURCH COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Council of Elders meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Robertson Room at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are open and there is opportunity for guests to comment. You can be in touch with Jodi Cook, Chair of the Elders, at elders@thepeopleschurch.com.



Presenting the 2019 Council of Elders

L to R, standing: Julie Pierce, Dottie Spousta, Cal Kerr, Dave Brower, Beth Lundy, Rev. Drew Filkins, Brad Williams, John Lindley, Bob Cantrell, Rev. Case Van Kempen

sitting: Kari Naghtin, Nancy Wilson, Diane Shafer, Jodi Cook, Stacy Gronowski, Rev. Betsy Aho

Not pictured: Kate Jones, Thad Morgan, Rob Privette, Barbara Scott



Winter Retreat February 8-10, 2019

For this year's Winter Retreat, the PCYG will be participating in Winter Fest at the United Church of Big Rapids. We will be gone over the weekend of February 8th. We will be skiing, snowboarding, making crafts and participating in a weekend mission-project with other progressive church youth programs throughout the state.

The cost to participate in this trip will be \$80, with ample scholarships available should you require it for ANY reason. We would never want the cost of an event to make it exclusionary to any of our PCYG students.

Contact Joe Kennedy with any questions at jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com.



WNL! WINTER PROGRAMMING

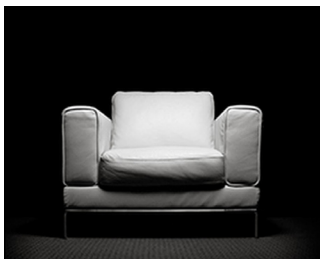
The WNL! community meal takes place in the Snider Social Hall downstairs. Join us!

FEBRUARY 6 & 13:



The Peoples Church is excited to welcome Dr. Suzanne McDonald, who has been studying and reflecting on the topic of dementia for 20 years. Her series, "Dealing Faithfully with Dementia," is for those who want to be faithful to God and the Gospel, and also faithful to the very difficult realities of the disease, as they walk beside those with dementia and their caregivers. Join us the first two weeks in February at *Wednesday Night Live!* at 6:30 p.m. in the Robertson Room.

FEBRUARY 20 & 27:



On February 20 and 27, Pastor Case will present White Chair films from the "I Am Second" project. Each brief film features well-known athletes, politicians, or celebrities, explaining how they have come to understand that they are not first in their own lives--they are second. Films

will include Chip and Joanna Gaines, Tony Dungy, Shawn Johnson, and many others, followed by a time for discussion and reflection.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! SCHEDULE

5:30 pm - Dinner

6:00 pm - Youth Choir (Youth Den)

6:30 pm - Adult Programming (Robertson Room)
Middle School Youth Group (Youth Den)
Yoga (Yellow Room, 3rd Floor)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! MENU



February 6

Cream of Chicken Soup ~ Crackers
Baked Ham ~ Sweet Potatoes
Mixed Greens Salad
Assorted Muffins
Fresh Fruit & Cookies

February 13

Tomato Bisque Soup ~ Crackers
TACO NIGHT!
Tacos ~ Taco Salad (with all the fixings)
Chips & Cheese
Seasonal Fresh Fruit Trifle

February 20

Ham & Bean Soup ~ Crackers
Italian Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes ~ Green Beans
Cornbread ~ Strawberry Shortcake

February 27

Vegetable Soup ~ Crackers
Beef Stroganoff ~ Noodles
Tri Color Carrots
Dinner Roll ~ Fresh Fruit
Assorted Cakes



MARCH 1-3, 2019



Join Pastor Drew as he leads a Couple's Enrichment Retreat at The Grand River Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids, March 1-3, 2019. The cost is \$200 per couple which includes a relationship inventory, Friday evening activities and the cost of the accommodations. Meals are on your own. Scholarships are available to help with the cost should you need it.

Whether you have been together for one month or sixty years, there are always things to work on and a need to get away. If you are interested email Pastor Drew at dfilkins@thepeopleschurch.com.

FEBRUARY 2019 PORTAL

ThePeoplesChurch.com

517.332.5073

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East Lansing, MI 4882

