

PRAYER IN THE TIME OF DISCERNMENT

Now that the polar vortex is past, the Saab replaced (it had 200,000 miles on it), and our house is put back together (after our post-holiday paint and carpeting projects), I can worry more about the thing I'm supposed to be worrying about: the pastoral search!



As chair Jim Kelly reported to the congregation, the Senior Pastor Search Committee did a lot of excellent preparatory work and is now in the heart of the search: sorting through more than 60 profiles so far (I'm writing this in mid-February), communicating with every candidate, listening to many sermons, and getting to know candidates via phone interviews (in-person interviews will begin soon). The committee will receive new profiles for as long as the search takes—we always want new candidates "in the pipeline" in case one of those who is farther along withdraws or accepts a call elsewhere.

What Jim didn't say was how much energy this has required on the part of committee members. The reading alone takes hours (candidate profiles can be as long as 17 or 18 pages), the meetings can be an attention challenge (how many sermons would you like to hear in one sitting?), and each member has been the communication point person for seven or more candidates—which also means that they have to let candidates know when they are not going any further in the process. That's never an easy message to write.

I know that I have asked this of you before, but I will ask it again: please keep the search team members in your prayers. They are: Jodi Cook, Brian Gronowski, Haley Hansen, Aram Kabodian, Jim Kelly, Cal Kerr, Susan Kilmer and Beth Lundy (we always list Ruth Ann Ference on our roster as well, thankful for the time she was with us). When you see them, offer them an encouraging word. Wrong: "Aren't you guys done with that search yet?" Right: "Thank you for all the hard work you've been doing. How can I pray for you?"

If you were to ask me that last question, I would ask you to start praying that God will reveal what's next for me. I promised the Council that I will stick around until the search team has named a candidate, but I'm also curious to know what God will have me doing next.

More importantly, pray that God will protect the search committee from anything that might prevent them from perceiving God's will for our church. They have been one in Spirit, one in prayer, and one in their desire to see God's hand on the right candidate. Ask God to help them hang in there just a little longer, until they see clearly the one candidate that God has chosen for The Peoples Church.

Pastor Case

HOUSE OF WORSHIP REWARDS PROGRAM

All people of faith are called to care for God's Creation. Because Michigan still generates more than 1/3 of its electricity by burning coal, conserving energy is one important way The Peoples Church can help repair the world. The Peoples Church is hosting an Energy Efficiency workshop on **Sunday, March, 17** at 11:30 a.m. in the Snider Social Hall, as a part of Caring for God's Creation. Learn how to save money, how to take advantage of free Consumers Energy's Home Energy Analysis program, and how to earn a gift of up to \$5,000 cash for The Peoples Church!

Yes! Consumers Energy's *House of Worship Rewards Program* will save us all energy and teach members of our congregation and community about the great advantages of a FREE Home Energy Audit. Each of you has an opportunity to help our congregation out!

We have an obligation to show our love and appreciation for creation; Consumers Energy is going to assist us with that by reducing our carbon footprints in our homes.

Join us on **March 17 at 11:30 a.m.** in the Snider Social Hall (lunch is provided) to learn more! Or go to www.HomeAnalysis-ConsumersEnergy.com and schedule a FREE home energy consultation. Use promo code: PEOPLES19. Contact Andy Mayville at amayville@thepeopleschurch.com with questions.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

*80 & OVER

3/4 - Emily Henderson
3/8 - Dorothy Thomas
3/9 - Dr. Robert Ward
3/18 - Lt. Col. Carol Grams
3/18 - Barbara McMillan
3/21 - Joanne DiFranco
3/21 - Mary Grace Jackson
3/23 - Margaret Metzger
3/24 - Margaret Balesky
3/24 - Mary Hill
3/25 - David Ronk, Sr.
3/26 - Joyce Aldrich
3/30 - Marilyn Leppek

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/27 - Harold & Betty Weaver (70)

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

KIDS CORNER

by Ann Harvey, Children's CE Director

Hello! I am Ann Harvey and I am excited to be joining The Peoples Church as the Children's Education Director. My family (husband, Mark and children, Ava, Asa and Anna) have been attending The Peoples Church since 2017. Mark and I have enjoyed getting to know people through volunteering for the coffee ministry and the children enjoy being involved in Bible exploration, youth group, Carol Choir, youth choir, Coppertones and Sunday School (Whew!).

I am fully enjoying getting to know the kids and helping them grasp God's love. I hope that by facilitating a nurturing environment of caring Sunday School teachers and youth volunteers that their love for Jesus will grow. We are starting the process of making Vacation Bible School another fun-filled year. Of course, no event is great without excellent volunteers! I am looking forward to getting to know many more adults at The Peoples Church because of their heart for service. Thanks for giving me this opportunity to serve the little people of Peoples.

In March we start the Spring semester of Sunday School. We will learn about the life of Jesus and his ministry as the Lenten season is here already! The kids have been enjoying, and will continue to delve into, the *Deep Blue* Curriculum from the United Methodist Publishing House. The children's memory verse for the month is Mark 1:15:

"Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives and trust this good news!"

I hope that as the children repeat this verse that they will encourage us to be an excellent example as they learn and grow.

REFUGEE BENEFIT CONCERT

March 16, 2019 • 7:00 p.m.

University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI

The University Lutheran Church is hosting a concert to benefit our local refugee community. Proceeds will benefit St. Vincent Catholic Charities' Refugee Services and the designated refugee resettlement agency for adults and families in Lansing and Mid-Michigan.

The event will feature choirs from: Grace Lutheran, First Christian, University Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Faith Lutheran, Presbyterian Church of Okemos, Lansing Children's Choir, and more!

Visit the Refugee Benefit Concert page on Facebook for more information.

This event is sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial and Presented in Partnership with:

- **Global Institute of Lansing**—provides educational services to adult refugees enabling them to earn a high school diploma
- **Refugee Development Center** —provides English classes, after school support, summer camp and other services for adults and children
- **Samaritas** —provides foster care services for unaccompanied refugee minors
- **All Faith Alliance for Refugees (AFAR)** —working together to welcome refugees in the Lansing area

PORTAL DEADLINE:

The deadline for submissions to the April 2019 Portal is March 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.

THE READING PEOPLE

The Reading People meets on **Thursday, March 21** at 1:30 p.m. in the Fishbach Library to discuss "Unlearning God: How Unbelieving Helped Me Believe" by Philip Gulley. America's favorite Quaker storyteller explores the terrain of faith and doubt as shaped by family, church, and young love, finding his way to a less convenient, but fully formed adult spirituality. Discussion will be led by Mary Anne Larzelere. Everyone is welcome; Book Club meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Upcoming featured book discussions include:

April 18 - "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe; Carol Bryson, discussion leader

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle meets on **Wednesday, March 13** in the Fishbach Library. Everyone is welcome to join us! Please contact Jess Eysselinck at 646.244.2102 or jess@eysselinck.com for more information. **Future Meeting Dates for 2019:** April 10, May 8, and June 12

THE KNITTING PEOPLE

The Knitting People will meet **Thursday, March 28** from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Join us to knit and crochet baby blankets, prayer shawls, hats and mittens. We have yarn and needles, and just need your willing fingers!

SUMMER CAMP: ENROLLING NOW!

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool



Summer is almost here and if you haven't already, it's time to sign up for Peoples Church Summer Camp! There are two camps available: Junior Camp is for students who have completed kindergarten, first grade or second grade. Senior camp is for students who have completed third, fourth, fifth or sixth grade.

Campers can enroll for one day or 10 weeks, but reserve your days early to be sure there is still space available. Camp opens at 7:10 a.m. and ends at 5:45 p.m., however, students may arrive and leave with their parents at any time.

This summer all campers will enjoy:

- Cooking with Ms. Gerri
- Weekly field trips and/or Special Visitors
- Lego/Robot engineering instruction
- Binder Park Zoo and Nature Centers
- Keeping up with school work without realizing it
- Summer End Talent Show
- East Lansing Aquatic Center
- Lazer Maze at Spare Time Bowling

Did you see how we snuck that 5th item in there? Also this year, students may enroll in on-site professional soccer instruction! For more information, call Dana Johnson at 517.332.2885 or visit The Peoples Church website, where you will find a Summer Camp application, Parent Fees Agreement, Reservation Schedule, Family Questionnaire and a Curriculum page.

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.

MARCH 3**ANDY MAYVILLE**

Consumers Energy

MARCH 10**GENE CORNELIUS**

WWII Marine Survivor

MARCH 17**EDGEWOOD VILLAGE DESIGN TEAM**

Peoples & Edgewood: A Partnership

MARCH 24**TASHMICA TOROK, Firecraker Foundation**

Healing services to child survivors of sexual Trauma

MARCH 31

TBA

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE VACATION SPOT?

The Fine Arts Committee wants to know about your favorite vacation destinations. The Committee is planning a special exhibit for the summer, "My Favorite Vacation Spot," that will highlight our members' favorite places to travel. The committee is looking for photographs, (matted and framed) as well as purchased artwork that best capture the flavor of your treasured travel memories.

Submissions will be "juried" and **must be received by July 1**. If you are interested in contributing to the exhibit, or have questions, please contact Sue Mills at suemills@comcast.net or 517.332.5535 or Jan Reed at reed-jan7@gmail.com or 517.337.3222.



"INSPIRATIONS"

The latest art exhibit, "Inspirations," is now on display—through **April 18**. You're invited to walk the halls bordering the church Sanctuary and near the Thomsen case, across from the library, to view the artwork. The exhibit features the work of two Williamston-based artists, Cindy Evans and Marge Clay, who bring a shared sense of the importance of art to our daily life. The title "Inspirations" reflects how the artists react to what they experience around them through their art, bringing attention to the beauty in nature, scripture and the art of story-telling.

They work in a variety of media and techniques, including stained glass, fused glass, watercolor, acrylic, as well as ink and collage to capture the mood and message inherent in each artistic concept. Their work has been exhibited in local, regional and national galleries around the country.

"Inspirations," includes 29 pieces from joint collections and was curated and installed by members of the Fine Arts Committee. Pick up a catalog for the exhibit in the NW entrance of the church. Several of the pieces are available for purchase; price information is available through the church office.



Come enjoy lunch and fellowship and the 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:

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.



PORTALS & BULLETINS & WEBSITES, OH MY!

The good news is The Peoples Church has numerous streams of communication! The tricky part is figuring out where to turn for which information, and where your announcements and articles should be published. Here are some guidelines to help:

The Portal, which comes out at the beginning of each month, is the most useful and comprehensive source for up-to-date happenings! If you are only going to read ONE THING, make it The Portal! If there is a group, a class, a fellowship opportunity, an all church event, a special worship service or a volunteer need during the month, it should appear in The Portal. This is also a good place to find reminders of recurring events, updates on past projects, notes of thanks, a letter from the Senior Pastor and more!

The Sunday bulletin announcements have very limited space. Therefore, these announcements are generally reserved for all church events or staff-led events, programs that require pre-registration, information on special worship services (during Holy Week, for example), and reminders of events that are coming up through the following Sunday.

ThePeoplesChurch.com is for general information that remains consistent. The permanent links are mainly focused on people who are seeking a church or are new to The Peoples Church and want to find out more. However, the News & Events section on the homepage is dynamic, and there are subtle updates made to other pages as needed. You can also access recent sermons, find updated Portals and bulletins, find the building calendar by clicking in the upper right corner, and sign-up for the Friday eblast by scrolling down and filling in your email address.

If you follow us on **Facebook** (The Peoples Church of East Lansing), **Instagram** (@thepeopleschurchel) or **Twitter** (@Connect2TPC) you will find reminders about Wednesday Night Live! meals and classes, Sunday sermon previews (sometimes), fun photos of happenings around the church and more! You can also comment on posts and share your own thoughts.

If you have something you would like to see published in The Portal, please submit it to Rachel Giddings, our Communications Specialist, at rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com by the 15th of the month for the upcoming publication. Remember, impact is lost on volume so succinct articles are appreciated. You can also request items be put in the weekly bulletin, but space is limited so Pastor Betsy and Rachel must make decisions based on availability.

Pastor Betsy

RINGERS & SINGERS

Clarion Ringers (the adult bell choir) and the Sanctuary Choir are looking for new (adult) members to start immediately! Whether you want to make music with your hands or with your voice, we welcome you to be part of The Peoples Church Music Ministry! All you need is to be able to read music and make the practices.



Practices for the bell choir are on Wednesday nights from 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Practices for Sanctuary choir are on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Contact Liz Reed at lizreed@aol.com if you are interested in becoming a member of the Clarion Ringers. Or, if you are interested in becoming a member of the Sanctuary Choir, email office@thepeoplechurch.com or just come to rehearsal.



REFUGEE COLLECTION

Thanks to all who contributed to the Winter Refugee Collection of feminine hygiene products. This collection was greatly appreciated. For the spring Refugee Collection, St. Vincents refugee services has requested men's and women's underwear. **We will be collecting March 17 through March 31.** You can place your donations in the red basket at the Welcome Center.

WPC STRAWBERRY BREAKFAST

The Women of Peoples Church will host their annual Strawberry Breakfast on **May 4, 2019** from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Snider Social Hall. A full breakfast will be served and will include strawberry shortcake! Pastor Case will present on our continuing theme of "Kindness." Tickets are \$8 for an individual or \$40 for a table of eight. Tickets will be sold each Sunday following worship services beginning April 14.

WPC ANNUAL JEWELRY SALE

The Women of Peoples Church annual jewelry sale will be held the weekend of **May 18-19, 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, 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)

March 3

Peoples 101

April 10

New Members Class during WNL!

April 7

New Members Class

May 5

Peoples 101

June 2

Peoples 101



ALL CHURCH CARNIVAL

MARCH 24, 2019 • SNIDER SOCIAL HALL

Everyone is invited to participate in the Carnival following 10:30 a.m. worship on March 24 in the Snider Social Hall.

This popular event is perfect for the young and young at heart!

Games, prizes and food!



JEWELRY & USED BOOK SALE

MAY 18-19, 2019

**MORE DETAILS
ANNOUNCED SOON!**



Presented by:
The Women of Peoples Church &
The Peoples Church Fishbach Library Committee





WNL! PROGRAMMING

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

MARCH 6:

Ash Wednesday services. See back panel of this Portal for more information.

MARCH 13, 20 & 27:

God is active and alive and inviting. God has not stopped shaping humanity, we are works in progress—a wholeness process that we are made to respond to by our own transmission of Love on earth. That's "mission" in a nutshell - To get out of the way enough to let God happen through us. Join Pastor Drew March 13, 20, 27 as he leads us through a video series entitled Transforming Through Love where we will tackle the mission God has created us for and how we might accomplish it in this world.

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)

The WPC Annual Strawberry Breakfast

May 4, 2019 • 10:00 a.m.
Snider Social Hall

Join the Women of Peoples Church for fellowship, a presentation and of course a full breakfast, including a classic, strawberry shortcake!

Special Guest: Pastor Case

Tickets: \$8 each or \$40 per table of 8.

(Tickets will be sold beginning April 14)

MARCH 6, 2019



Ash Wednesday

8:00 a.m. & Noon—McCune Chapel

5:30 p.m.—A soup & bread supper held in Friendship Hall

6:30 p.m.—Sanctuary

Imposition of ashes at all services.