

IS IT NOTHING TO YOU WHO PASS BY?

Jeremiah's question for people passing by the ruins of Jerusalem, recorded in Lamentations, may have come to mind for those few who closely watched Jesus' death on the cross. "Is it nothing to you who pass by?" The majority of those making their way past Golgotha on that Friday would have hurried their steps a bit, or turned their faces away from the gruesome scene. Perhaps a few paused to read the sign over the head of the criminal in the middle. "King of the Jews? I don't think so."



We pass by the scene nearly as quickly, and with nearly as little regard. Yes, a few of us will join for worship on the evening of Maundy Thursday, and maybe a few more will come to the Good Friday service; but truthfully now, can you say that every year on the Friday of Holy Week, you pause midday to remember the death of Jesus?

It used to be that even the secular world honored this day. We had the afternoon off from school; most businesses closed; my dad came home from work at noon, and didn't go back until three. It was the only day of the year that he did that, and the oddity of him being at home always set that day apart.

Quite a few years later, I was asked to speak at a noon time community Good Friday service. I began my message by talking about the Detroit Tigers—what their prospects were for the season, how their pitchers were developing, who the hot hitters had been during spring training, and so on. About five minutes into the message, with the congregation growing more and more fidgety, and thinking me more and more disrespectful, I finally paused and said, "Are you surprised by my words? I'm just saying what's on most people's minds. Do you think all those people passing by this church today are thinking about Jesus? They're not. Most of them have no idea what Jesus did on this day."

If you're like me, even though I intend to spend some time thinking about Jesus on Good Friday, I know how easily the hours can get away from me. So I'm going to do this (and you can do this, too). I'm going to set a reminder on my phone to ring at noon on Friday, April 19, and when it goes off, and after I spend a moment wondering, "Why is this thing going off now?" I will read the reminder, and I will pause and remember that Jesus went to the cross for me.

It is something to me, as one who is passing by.

Pastor Case

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS NEXT DOOR!

Construction is moving ahead with the property directly east of The Peoples Church. Work on the Graduate Hotel will begin Monday, March 25 with construction hours established as Monday - Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. for the duration of the project.

Because the property being developed is immediately adjacent to church property, and because the sanctity of the Memorial Garden is so important, open communication is key. Both the developer and church leadership know this. To ensure continued communication, Andy Mayville, Facility Director of The Peoples Church, is speaking weekly with the construction superintendent of the project and scheduling monthly meetings with the developer and contractor. In addition, the Building & Grounds Ministry and the Development Committee of the church are also keeping close tabs on the progress.

While construction next door may provide The Peoples Church with some challenges and inconveniences, it is also an opportunity to be a beacon of hospitality and welcome to new neighbors.

To hear more about what to expect during construction, please plan on attending The Peoples Forum on **Sunday, April 7 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Robertson Room. Time at the beginning of the Forum will be a construction update and Q & A.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

*80 & OVER

4/1 - Gary Calkins

4/2 - Audrey Martin

4/11 - Al Leppek

APRIL ANNIVERSARYS

4/2 - Joel & Jennifer Eddy (25)

4/13 - Bill & Julie Cawood (30)

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



We are excited to teach the children some stories of Jesus on our journey through Lent. The children will be hearing Mary Magdalene's words "I have seen the Lord!" in the weeks leading up to Easter. They will be learning about Peter as he denied Christ and was forgiven and they will understand why people declared Christ as King on his ride into Jerusalem.

The kids and I have been blessed with great volunteers who teach Sunday School! They have started sending Bible Story Sheets home with the Sunday School children to help them remember the lesson from the week. I hope that this will be helpful for parents and children as they grow in their faith.

We had a good time sharing food and fun with all ages at the Kid's Carnival on March 24th. The games were led by Joe, Stef and helpful Peoples Church Youth Group members. Thanks to all who helped setup, lead games, and also to the wonderful participants!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE!



The Peoples Church Campus Ministry had a fantastic and productive spring break trip to Florida! Eight MSU students, from freshman through doctoral candidates, journeyed with Pastor Betsy to work with Habitat for Humanity of St. Lucie County.

Not only did the team work hard each day to accomplish everything on the home construction

site to-do list, they also found time to grow in friendship, have meaningful devotion time, relax on the beach and worship together on Ash Wednesday.

The Peoples Church can be proud of how our students represent the love of Christ to the campus, community and the world. Thank you for your generous support of Peoples Church Campus Ministry!



PORTAL DEADLINE

PORTAL DEADLINE:

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

ThePeoplesChurch.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In January, the Preschool staff participated in its annual Professional Development Day. In addition to retraining on emergency drills, safety procedures, and other important information, the group traveled to the Dahlem Nature Center in Jackson where they observed Little Acorns, the nature center's new nature preschool.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool



"The largest indicator of our nation's future is in the way we treat our babies." -Zero to Three

The Peoples Church Preschool teaches and cares for not just preschool-age children, but for infants and toddlers too. One of the areas of our curriculum that begins in the youngest classrooms and continues throughout, is the focus on teaching the children about their emotions. Social-emotional health in young toddlers is so important because they are starting to develop a sense of self-awareness—that they are separate and independent from others. This new knowledge helps them understand that other people have thoughts and feelings that may be different from their own. Realizing this helps children begin to develop empathy—the ability to put one's self in another person's shoes and imagine what he is feeling.

Providing nurturing and positive relationships with young children provides them with a sense of comfort, safety, confidence, and encouragement. By providing these nurturing connections, toddlers learn how to form friendships, how to communicate emotions, and how to deal with challenges. Supportive relationships with parents, teachers, and friends also help children to develop trust, empathy, compassion, and a sense of right and wrong.



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.

APRIL 7

REV. CASE VAN KEMPEN

"The Will of God as a Way of Life"

APRIL 14

JIM POCOCK

Major General, U.S. Army

APRIL 21

NO FORUM - EASTER

APRIL 28

REPRESENTATIVE FROM BWL

Earth Day

TO MARS AND BEYOND!



JUNE 17 - 21, 2019

WOLDUMAR NATURE CENTER

Blast off with the first VBS to land on the moon! *To Mars and Beyond* will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. Beginning in your Assembly area—an outpost on Mars—they'll lift off to distant planets on special missions to collect power sources. Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. It will be an out-of-this-world, fun learning experience! Contact Ann Harvey, Children's Education Director at aharvey@the-peopleschurch.com with any questions.

EASTER BRUNCH BASKETS

Each Easter The Peoples Church members and friends have the opportunity to serve Edgewood Village residents by providing Easter brunch baskets. It is as simple as 1-2-3 to participate.

1. Each participant will receive, via email, a specific grocery shopping list on Wednesday, April 10th. The email will include a general instruction sheet with delivery information.
2. Each participant shops at the grocery store of her/his choice for one Edgewood household. Plan to spend no more than \$65.00.
3. Each participant delivers purchased groceries on Wednesday, April 17th between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to Edgewood Village Activity/Network Center.

So simple, yet so appreciated by the recipients! If you are interested in providing a nutritious Easter brunch basket for an Edgewood Village neighbor, please email Barb Dunlap at bdunlap1953@gmail.com **no later than noon on Wednesday, April 10.**



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:

April 28: Coral Gables*

2838 E Grand River Avenue, East Lansing

*At Coral Gables: must order the breakfast buffet.

APRIL SHOWERS AND MAY FLOWERS!

by Julie Pierce, Worship Committee

It seems fitting to submit an article about the Flower Ministry for the April *Portal*, as the adage goes "April showers bring May flowers." As chairperson of the Worship Committee, I would like to encourage everyone to consider dedicating Chancel flowers, while keeping the following tips in mind.

1. Please indicate your desired date and the wording of your dedication by filling out your request in the three-ring binder located at the Welcome Desk. The cost is \$85. Envelopes are in the binder to submit payment.
2. On the Sunday of your floral dedication, after the service you may either:
 - Take the flowers with you to enjoy in your home, share them with friends or take them to a senior care facility or hospital to brighten someone else's day. If you use a vase to transport them, please remember to return the vase(s) to the church.
 - Leave the flowers at the church for the enjoyment of the staff and visitors.

The loveliness and fragrance of fresh-cut flowers is a blessed addition to the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings and a meaningful way to recognize a joyous occasion, honor the passing of a loved one, or give glory to God. Many of you know that there has been a faithful team of congregants who have made sure that the Chancel flowers found a good second home after the service and that the vases were returned to the church. However, those dedicated volunteers are ready to turn the responsibility over to new volunteers. Therefore, until the Spirit touches the right people to revive the after-service floral deliveries, those making a dedication are asked to decide how best the flowers might be enjoyed when the service is done.

With Easter right around the corner, you can help beautify the Sanctuary by dedicating an Easter Lily to a loved one. Dedications are \$20 and you can fill out the form found in the weekly Sunday bulletin or stop by the church office.



EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Help families in the greater Lansing area have a wonderful meal on Easter Sunday. Volunteer drivers are needed to help deliver Easter Food Baskets on **Saturday, April 20 at 9:00 a.m.** We will meet at Market Fresh on the corner of Jolly and MLK. Interested? Sign up on the form below.

YES! I WANT TO HELP DELIVER EASTER FOOD BASKETS ON APRIL 20.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Return sign-up form to the church office.

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**. Bring in your donations of jewelry, scarves, purses, tote bags, and other accessories to the church office during normal business hours.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE USED BOOK SALE

The Library Committee is collecting gently used books for their annual used book sale to be held in conjunction with the WPC annual jewelry sale, **May 18-19, 2019**. Take your book donations downstairs to the Snider Social Hall and place them at the back of the stage.

THE READING PEOPLE

The Reading People will meet on **Thursday, April 18** for a discussion on the book, "Things Fall Apart," by Chinua Achebe. The author's daughter is on the faculty at MSU and will be joining us to discuss this story of a man in Nigeria and what happens to his community after the arrival of British colonialism and Christian missionaries. Join us from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room; everyone is welcome to attend!

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 10** from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Centennial Room. Everyone is welcome to join us! Contact Jess Eysseleinck at 646.244.2102 or jess@eysselinck.com for more information.

DORCAS CIRCLE

Dorcas Circle will meet on **Tuesday, April 16** at 7:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Our program will be on Pottery Making with Margie Steinkamp. For more information, call Phyllis Gaulden at 517.482.0930.

KNITTING PEOPLE

The Knitting People will meet **Thursday, April 25** from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Fishbach Library. Join us to knit and crochet baby blankets, prayer shawls, hats and mittens. New knitters welcome!

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, 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

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:**April 7**

New Members Class

April 10

New Members Class during WNL!

EARTH DAY

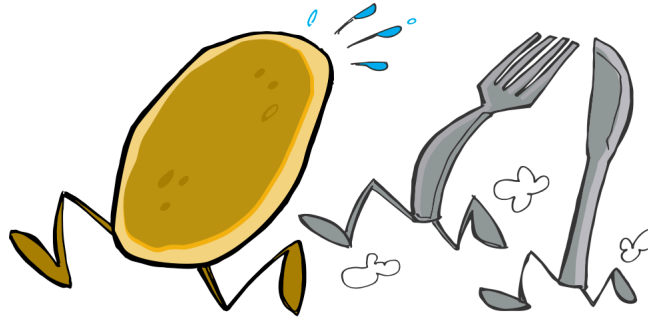
The Earth Stewardship Committee invites you to celebrate Earth Day on **Sunday, April 28**. Be sure to stop by Friendship Hall before or after worship for information and opportunities to be a good steward of God's creation. The Peoples Forum at 9:30 a.m. also keeps a focus on earth day as we welcome Leah Wiste, Director of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light.



TROOP 2 AND VENTURE CREW

Pancake Brunch

Fund Raiser
Sunday, April 14th, 2019



At the Peoples Church of East Lansing
200 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing, MI

Please Join Us In The Snider Social Hall
Following The Sunday Service,
Beginning At 11:30am

Pancakes & Sausage, Applesauce,
Coffee, Tea, Milk & Juice Will Be Served.



JEWELRY & USED BOOK SALE

MAY 18-19, 2019

HOURS:

SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



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!

APRIL 3:
No WNL! (Spring Break)

APRIL 10:
Join Joe Kennedy, Youth Director, and the Peoples Church Youth Group for an evening of sharing stories and activities with one another. WNL! usually features separate adult and youth programs, but tonight we will combine for double the fun!

APRIL 17:
No WNL! (Holy Week)

APRIL 24:
Visiting Houses of Worship (more details to follow)

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)

HOLY WEEK 2019



PALM SUNDAY | APRIL 14

8:30 a.m. - Chapel

10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary



MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 18

6:30 p.m. - Chapel (with communion)



GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 19

6:30 p.m. - Sanctuary (with Choir)



EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 21

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service in Chapel (with communion)

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary (with Brass; ASL Interpreter at 10:30 a.m.)