



## READY TO BLOOM!

I love the feel of grass underneath my feet. If you ever see me walking across MSU's campus in the summer when I am wearing flip-flops, you will probably see my sandals in my hand and my toes in the grass. It is such a wonderful feeling.

But there was a problem when we first moved to our house in Lansing. The front yard was no longer a yard but a "garden" with a few shrubs and a lot of wood chips. While this makes for much easier lawn maintenance, it is a lot less fun to play yard games without a lawn. As I often do, I got a crazy idea one day that I was going to remove all the shrubs and woodchips and plant grass.

But first, I had to get the ground ready. I transplanted the shrubs to another location in our yard (they are doing great in their new location). I raked up all the wood chips and disposed of them as well as the garden fabric that was holding back some of the weeds. What I found underneath was highly compacted soil. So, I borrowed a neighbor's rototiller. For the next few days you could find me in my yard dragging the rototiller in every direction across the yard. Once the soil was loosened up, I added fertilizer. It was finally ready for the seed.

Within a few weeks, after watering the lawn a couple times a day, I had the beginning of a beautiful lawn and today, you can find me out there playing catch with my kids or teaching them to fly cast. But, if I hadn't taken the time to prepare the soil, I am not sure I would have had the wonderful lawn that we have today.

God has been preparing us, The Peoples Church, over the past year to be ready for a new season of growth. We have changes around the building, in personnel and in our congregation, and I believe it is through God's hand that we were being prepared for such a time as this. Seeds are being planted and sprouts are beginning to show through the soil, and we are ready to BLOOM and see new GROWTH all around us!

I cannot wait to see what God does next here at The Peoples Church. God has been with us for 112 years, guiding and directing us. And God will be with us this year as we continue to trust and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. I know that Pastor Shawnthea is praying for us as she prepares to come and lead us, just as we are praying for her as she departs her current call. My friends, the soil is ready! Let's GROW and BLOOM together!

*Pastor Drew*

Henry & Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture  
Series 2019 Presents:

## ***UNLEARNING GOD: HOW UNBELIEVING HELPED ME BELIEVE***

**October 13, 2019**  
The Peoples Church



### **Featuring Philip Gulley**

Quaker Pastor, Author and Speaker

The Peoples Church is excited to welcome Philip Gulley in October! Gulley is a Quaker pastor and writer and speaker from Danville, Indiana where he lives today with his wife, Joan, and two dogs, Ruby and Jack.

An eclectic writer, Gulley has published 22 books, including *Unlearning God: How Unbelieving Helped Me Believe*, which is the book The Peoples Church will be widely studying. It explores the process of spiritual growth, especially the re-interpretation of the earliest principles we learned about God.

Gulley has served as a Quaker pastor for 30 years, currently pastoring Fairfield Friends Meeting in Camby, Indiana. Join us October 13 for this terrific event!

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.—Worship Service  
Noon—Luncheon, Snider Social Hall  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.—Presentation,  
Philip Gulley

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

\*80 & OVER

9/1 - Janet Ronk  
9/4 - Lois Bauer  
9/4 - Crary Grattan  
9/5 - Jeanne Cargill  
9/7 - Judy McCalla  
9/14 - Mary Lou Johnson  
9/15 - Clare Mackey  
9/20 - Arylie Campbell  
9/22 - Renate Carey  
9/23 - Louise Bailey  
9/23 - James Panetta  
9/24 - Vera Gerhardt  
9/24 - Marion Bird  
9/28 - David Smith  
9/29 - Marilyn Grove  
9/30 - J. Clyde Spencer

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/12 - Darold & Judy McCalla (60)  
9/13 - Michael & Jeanie Cain (50)  
9/20 - John & Charlene Merten (25)

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

## PORTAL DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the October 2019 *Portal* is September 15. Submit content to Rachel Giddings at, [rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto: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.

# "WATER, WILDLIFE, SKY AND EARTH"

"Water, Wildlife, Sky and Earth,"—a new exhibit featuring the work of Western Michigan photographer, Jim Carney, is now on display in the halls by the welcome center and includes 33 pieces from his collection of waterfowl, flowers, lakescapes and skyscapes of Michigan and Florida.

The exhibit includes a wide variety of images rendered on metal, canvas, and paper. They include striking shots of owls, hummingbirds, Red-Shouldered Hawks, an Eagle attack and a Snowy Egret tending its nest. Colorful images of tropical flowers, butterflies and Michigan water scenes also highlight the display.

The exhibit will be on display through October 17, 2019. Be sure to pick up an exhibit catalog inside the NW entrance of the church.



Jim Carney, a long-time Detroit resident, relocated to Pentwater, Michigan in 2012 with his wife when they retired. They chose Western Michigan "because of its natural beauty, slower pace and photographic opportunities," he said. Jim and his wife spend eight months in Pentwater and four months in Florida. Of his work, Jim says, "My first real interest

in photography developed in my college days when I took several photography courses. My early subjects were mostly places and people, but since 2000 it has been our natural world that has give me the greatest photographic inspiration."

## RINGERS & SINGERS WANTED

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.

If you are interested in helping to make joyful music and are college-age or older, please consider coming to a pratice to check it out and see how much fun it is!

Contact Liz Reed at [lizreed@aol.com](mailto:lizreed@aol.com) with any questions about becoming a member of the Clarion Ringers. Or, if you are interested in becoming a member of the Sanctuary Choir, email [office@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:office@thepeopleschurch.com) or just come to rehearsal.

We look forward to having you join us!







# 'Z' IS FOR ZOOLOGY

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool

One of the great things about being a nature preschool is, that as adults that love animals and other creatures, we can share that interest with children.

The Peoples Church Preschool curriculum has two areas of focus: one is *nature* and the other is *STREAM*. Since the "R" in *STREAM*\* stands for *Respect for Nature*, the focus on caring for animals is well woven into lesson plans. Caring for classroom pets is something all of the children can be involved with on a daily basis.

Zoology is the study of animals and their behavior. In preschool the children learn about animals, including their interactions with ecosystems. They learn with hands-on experiences, field trips, and classroom visitors, things like animal's physical characteristics, diets, and behaviors. To make things maximally meaningful and relevant, there is a strong focus on Michigan animals.

One of our Character Builder areas of focus is *empathy*, which can be a challenge for very young children. However, when it comes to animals, three year olds have lots of ideas on how to be helpful to them. To foster this, the preschool has a close connection with the Nottingham Nature Nook, which allows the children to learn about and see people taking care of orphaned or injured animals.

\*Science – Technology – Respect for Nature – Engineering – Art – Math

Peoples Church Preschool



# PEOPLES FORUM

A new season of The Peoples Forum begins **September 15** with an exciting lineup of speakers from the Greater Lansing Area community!

Jody Knoll of WKAR will start our speaker series off at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room on the 15th. Be sure to join us!

**SEPTEMBER 15**  
**JODY KNOLL, WKAR**  
*"The Man Behind WKAR"*

Stay tuned for a complete schedule of Peoples Forum speakers in the next *Portal*.



This year our mission partner, Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project, is showing an exciting new documentary, *Victors*. This documentary showcases how our support in Uganda contributes to the building of a civil society through education and advocacy.

Studio C! is once again hosting this exciting event/fundraiser on **October 10**, at 6:30 p.m. Seats can be reserved for \$25 by calling 517.575.6623 or by visiting [nyakaschool.org](http://nyakaschool.org).

The creators of the documentary will be on hand to share their experience. Plan to join us for this fundraising event and help support the grandmothers and children of Uganda, while enjoying a movie! Popcorn and drinks are included!



# "WATER, WILDLIFE, SKY AND EARTH"

The Fine Arts Committee has a new, special exhibition, "BookWorks," which is now on display in the Kiosk located in the East Hall, adjacent to the Rotunda. The exhibit features the work of Book Artist Eric Alstrom and includes 7 amazing pieces from his collection. Eric's artwork is focused on the medium of the book, which presents a 3D canvas to work on. He creates both "fine bindings," where an interpretive cover is placed on an already-printed book, as well as "artists books," where he creates the whole book—from designing the pages to the binding itself.

Eric Alstrom has been involved with the book arts since 1989. He began his training in conservation and bookbinding in Ann Arbor, Michigan, first at the University of Michigan under James Craven and then at the Bessenberg Bindery. He received his Masters of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from U of M. He previously served as the book conservator at both Ohio University and Dartmouth College. Eric currently holds the position of Head of Conservation and Preservation at MSU Libraries. This exhibit will be on view through October 15, 2019.

Learn more about Eric and see more of his artists books and fine bindings at: <https://webalstrom.wordpress.com/about/>

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR!

Hello! I am so excited to introduce myself to you as your new children's CE director! My name is Kathi Mitchell and I have been a member at The Peoples Church for several years. My daughter and I were baptized here and she grew up through the fabulous youth program. We are very thankful to have found this as our church home!

Isn't it funny how things happen in life? Especially if you open your heart to God's plan for you? I had decided to cut back from my full time job as a photographer. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, but I kept feeling the pull to work with children. At the exact same time, this opportunity became available and I don't think it was a coincidence! After much thought and prayer, I felt the call to accept the position. I'm thrilled to be part of such an outstanding program and am excited for what the future holds!

A little about me: our daughter, Jessie, is away at college, so now my husband and I are just taking care of 2 cats and a dog; all very needy creatures that keep us busy and entertained! In my free time I love to garden, knit, and go for long walks in my neighborhood.

This year brings us some fun changes as we have designed a couple of new classrooms and are planning family events throughout the year. We hope it is a year of growth as we continue to welcome all into our wonderful church. I look forward to meeting you and your children and helping them learn and grow in Christ!



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Peoples Church continues to BLOOM and GROW in membership! The following were inducted as new members of our congregation during the summer months of May and June. Join us in welcoming them to The Peoples Church family!



Deb Hager



Amy Moore



Michael Smith &  
Stephanie Aguilar-Smith



Ashley, Ryan & Adam Prew



Grimaldo, Yvonne, Nora, Carmen,  
Javier & Gabe Robles



**DORCAS CIRCLE**

The September meeting for Dorcas Circle will kick-off with an ice cream party on **September 17** at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Dee Toth (please note the new location for this meeting). For more information, call Dee at 517.482.4414.

**DEBORAH CIRCLE**

The Deborah Circle will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, in the Snider Social Hall, at 6:30 p.m. after the *WNL!* community meal. Our first meeting will be held on **September 18**; see you there!

**THE KNITTING PEOPLE**

The Knitting People will meet on **September 26** from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. We invite new knitters to join us as we knit and crochet baby items, prayer shawls, hats and mittens for local children and adults.

**CHICs BIBLE STUDY**

The CHICs (Connected Hearts in Christ) women's Bible Study will start again on **September 12** from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and will continue to meet weekly in the Robertson room. We will be studying Philip Gulley's book, *Unlearning God: How Unbelieving Helped Me Believe*. Philip Gully will be at TPC on October 13 and will speak at both services; there will be a lunch and a lecture after. Please contact Beth Lundy at [Lundybb@comcast.net](mailto:Lundybb@comcast.net) or 610.246.0029 with any questions.

**THE PEOPLES CHURCH VISITATION TEAM**

The Peoples Church Visitation Team is under our Caring Ministry. Our volunteers visit members of our church who are in retirement homes or who are still at home, but unable to attend church on a regular basis. Our mission is to help these members feel connected to the church. We ask visitors to make a contact at least once per month. If you would like to be a part of the Visitation Team and this rewarding ministry, or if you know a member who would appreciate a visit, please contact Pat Brogan at 517.337.1446 or Gretchen Rosenbrook at 517.332.5132.

**SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE**

The Peoples Church rents solar panels from the City of East Lansing's Burcham Community Solar Park. Below are the latest stats on how The Peoples Church helps to reduce our carbon footprint:

- 1,885 KWH generated
- 3,092 LBS of CO2 avoided
- 1,535 LBS of coal not burned

**TPC 24/7: ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!**

The Peoples Church is BLOOMing in many ways! Stay tuned for more details in upcoming bulletins and *Portals* about how you can connect, GROW, serve, and share with us 24/7, anytime, anywhere!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Confirmation class is an important part of a students' life in the church.

At The Peoples Church, we encourage our students in 8th grade or above to join us. In this class, we explore the Christian faith through conversation, study, and relationships.

Confirmation classes take place on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Centennial Room. We meet beginning mid-September and continue through early April. If you have a student that is interested in being part of confirmation class, please contact Pastor Drew.

**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](mailto:dm-shafer2001@gmail.com). You can also call Robin Matheson at 517.290.3223 or email at [matheso4@msu.edu](mailto:matheso4@msu.edu).

**SCHEDULE:**

- OCTOBER 2** New Members Class during WNL!
- OCTOBER 6** New Members Class
- NOVEMBER 3** Peoples 101
- DECEMBER 1** Peoples 101
- JANUARY 5** Peoples 101
- FEBRUARY 2** Peoples 101
- MARCH 1** Peoples 101
- APRIL 1** New Members Class during WNL!
- APRIL 5** New Members Class
- MAY 3** Peoples 101
- JUNE 7** Peoples 101
- JULY 8** New Members Class during WNL!
- JULY 12** New Members Class
- AUGUST 2** Peoples 101



## PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

The Peoples Church Youth Group is for 6th - 12th graders who like to have fun and are looking to grow in their faith. Meetings include fellowship time (hanging out), a short devotional time (talking about God), and group discussions. There's also plenty of fun, food, music, and games.

The youth group has special events throughout the year, including lock-ins, retreats, a mission trip, and many opportunities to serve in our community.

PCYG meets regularly on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. You are invited to join us whenever you are able.

### WEEKLY PCYG PROGRAMS

#### SUNDAYS

**9:30 a.m.** Bible Exploration in the Youth Den

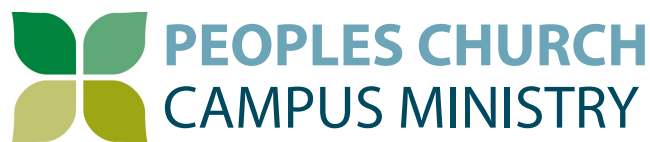
#### WEDNESDAYS

**5:30 p.m.** Community Meal for everyone

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** Youth programming in the Youth Den



Check out [ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://ThePeoplesChurch.com) or email Joe Kennedy at [jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com) for more information.



### WELCOME COLLEGE STUDENTS & YOUNG ADULTS!

Peoples Church Campus Ministry is a welcoming place for college students and young adults to explore faith and grow. All students—undergrads through doctoral candidates—are welcome.

Campus Ministry offers weekly programs, special events focused on fun and service, and worship at the church. We also have service trips, fun adventures and many more opportunities to get involved, most at no cost!

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AND LUNCH & LOUNGE

**10:30 a.m.** - Worship Service in the Main Sanctuary.

**11:30 a.m.** - Lunch & Lounge

Lunch & Lounge takes place following worship throughout the school year. We gather for lunch (FREE!) and a variety of discussions and activities in The Lounge, a comfy space dedicated to Campus Ministry at The Peoples Church. Look for 'The Peoples Church Campus Ministry' sign after worship in the back of the sanctuary (in the space we call Friendship Hall). Just show up and we will welcome you and feed you.

### THURSDAY EVENINGS: DINNER & BIBLE STUDY

Beginning in September, Peoples Church Campus Ministry gathers in The Lounge in the church's lower level for conversational Bible Study that is open to people in every stage of their faith journey. We will study the passages that will be preached on the following Sunday as a way of enriching our worship experience and understanding. Our style of Bible Study invites questions and answers, conversation and wonderings.

Check out [ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://ThePeoplesChurch.com) or email Joe Kennedy at [jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com) for more information.



## WNL! PROGRAMMING

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

### SEPTEMBER: WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Join us as WNL! comes back from summer break. We will kick it off with our community dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Snider Social Hall and at 6:30 p.m., Kate Jones will be teaching on "The Women of the Bible." We will be learning and exploring the stories of the women who shaped Moses' life, some "shady" women of the Old Testament as well as heroines in the New Testament. There are a lot of amazing women in the Bible that we often don't know or talk about. Join us for this series through October 2.

### 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

## ~MENU~

### September 11

Chicken Tortellini Soup ~ Crackers  
BBQ Ribs ~ Rosemary Pork Loin  
Sweet Potatoes  
Mixed Greens Salad  
Cornbread  
Apple Crisp ~ Ice Cream

### September 18

Ham & Bean Soup ~ Breadstick  
Roast Beef ~ Red Skin Potatoes  
Roasted Carrots  
Assorted Rolls  
Seasonal Fruit ~ Cup Cakes

### September 25

Corn Chowder ~ Crackers  
Beef ~ Chicken Tacos  
Chips & Cheese ~ Fresh made Salsa  
Ice Cream Sundae



# BLOOM

## A New Season Of Growth!

Kickoff Sunday:  
September 8, 2019

**8:30 a.m.** Worship Service, Chapel

**10:30 a.m.** Worship Service, Sanctuary &  
Children's Sunday School, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

**11:30 a.m.** Chicken Dinner Celebration,  
Snider Social Hall



SEPTEMBER 2019 PORTAL

ThePeoplesChurch.com

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East Lansing, MI 4882

