



## REPAIR AND RESTORATION

*"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give you will become in you a fount of water springing up to eternal life." John 4:14*

For anyone who has a subscription to Netflix, I highly recommend you watch "The Repair Shop." This BBC show is exactly what it sounds like: it's about a team of exceptional craftspeople who can fix anything. As the narrator says in the opening sequence, "they will resurrect, revive, and rejuvenate treasured possessions and irreplaceable pieces of family history, bringing both the objects and the memories that they hold back to life."

Every episode begins with people bringing in family heirlooms in need of repair: a damaged violin owned by a grandfather who survived Auschwitz, a cracked teapot that was a gift from a beloved great aunt, or a cherished 17th century painting punctured by young children playing with light sabers. The owner presents the broken treasure to the experts who always say, "Tell me about this piece." Stories come flooding out as people explain who gave them the object and what it meant when it was whole, how terrible they feel now that it's broken. Usually they want the item repaired so they can pass it on to the next generation. Then the owners walk out and leave the experts to work their magic.

It is pretty magical watching the restorers do their work. With precision and expertise, they take things apart in order to put them back together. They know what needs to be done: they clean and patch, mend and straighten, repair and paint. The point is not to make things look like new, but to bring them back to life. As soft toy restorer Amanda Middleditch puts it, "We don't want to erase all the signs of wear. That's how you know the toy is yours!"

I love watching the experts work, but my favorite part is not the repairs but the reveals—the moment when the restored object is reunited with its owner. Each person returns to the shop, anxious to see if the experts were able to fix their treasured possession. The item is always draped in cloth and then—pause for effect—the heirloom is revealed...restored to its former glory! People gasp in wonder. Tears are shed. Even the restorers get emotional. In one of my favorite episodes, a clock chimes for the first time in half a century and the owner whispers, "It's like my father is alive again." That is why I watch The Repair Shop.

Or maybe I watch The Repair Shop because it reminds of the Church. Think about it. We come in with our broken hearts, our wounded egos, our tangled allegiances. We are cracked and wobbly, rusty and worn, with some pieces missing. We remember a time when it wasn't like this, when there was music in our hearts, light in our eyes, hope in our souls. But no matter how hard we try to do our own repairs, it's not the same...we're not the same.

So we come to Church to meet the Creator, the One who knows what's wrong and how to fix it. We tell God how much it would mean to us if we could be made whole again, if somehow we could be put back in working condition...restored to life. Then we leave it to the Restorer to do his magic. And he does. He always does. No matter how broken we are, how flawed we have become, or how far we have wandered, Jesus puts us back together and makes us whole.

Do you know why we stand for the benediction? Because it is a tangible sign that we have been renewed, revived and restored. We entered The Repair Shop worse for wear. We leave with a spring in our step and light in our eyes, back on our feet. Thanks be to God!

*Dr. Monroe*

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

\*80 & OVER

2/1 - Alice Crist  
2/11 - Eleanor Chapin  
2/14 - Bob Cantrell  
2/15 - Thelma Hansen  
2/15 - John Wales  
2/15 - Thomas Wilbur  
2/17 - Ann Heisey  
2/18 - Roger Grove  
2/19 - Irene Cantlon  
2/22 - Shirley Noetzold  
2/27 - Gary Wegenke

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 March 2020 *Portal* is February 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 weekly email.

[ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://ThePeoplesChurch.com)

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION PRESENTED BY THE WOMEN OF PEOPLES CHURCH

Welcome back Pastor Case Van Kempen for a special presentation and signing of his new book, "The Jericho Effect: What if We Tried it God's Way, for a Change?"



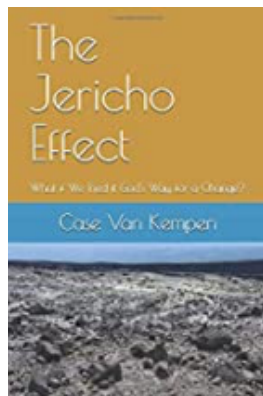
**FEBRUARY 18, 2020 • 10:00 a.m.**

### ROBERTSON ROOM

(Light refreshments will be served)

When Joshua was leading God's people into the Promised Land, he suddenly saw a man with a drawn sword. "Are you one of us, or one of our adversaries?" Joshua asked. "Neither," the man replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."

As Joshua and the people of Israel would soon learn, the question wasn't



whether the commander of the Lord's army would be on Israel's side, but whether Joshua and the people would choose to be on God's side. Would they be willing to do things God's way as they entered the land of Canaan?

So begins *The Jericho Effect*, a new book about the unexpected ways in which God calls us to obedience. Like the story of Jericho itself, it's not only about the unconventional nature of God's instructions, but it's also about the many walls of separation that we can help bring down if we choose to follow God's way.

## LEANING INTO LENT

### LENT: A Season of Renewal



The season of Lent is just around the corner.

During this time people often give something up or take on new habits. We are encouraging people to pick up a new habit by *Leaning into Lent* and join a small group this year. We are looking for people to host small groups—6-10 people—for 6 weeks and facilitate the conversation. We will be using April Yamaski's book, *Lent: Christ is for Us*. There are readings that go along with the lectionary passages for the coming Sunday and questions to help encourage conversation.

If you are interested in hosting or attending a group, look for a sign-up form in the weekly bulletin or contact Pastor Drew at [dfilkins@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:dfilkins@thepeopleschurch.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!

### CHICKEN AND HAM PASTA BAKE

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 8 oz. cooked pasta
- 1 cup diced ham
- 1 cup cooked diced chicken
- 2 cups fresh baby spinach leaves (tear into bite size pieces)
- 1 (15 oz.) jar of alfredo sauce
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tbsp. mustard
- 2 cups Monterey Jack cheese (or your favorite cheese)

#### DIRECTIONS:

Heat oven to 350 degrees; spray a 13x9 inch glass baking dish with cooking spray

In a large bowl, mix all ingredients until well mixed; spoon evenly into baking dish; cover with foil

Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until heated through and cheese is melted; let stand, covered, for 5 minutes before serving

Serve with garlic bread; Enjoy!

# PEOPLES FORUM

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

**FEBRUARY 2**

**ARAM KABODIAN**

*"Stephen Ministry"*

**FEBRUARY 9**

**CAROLINE JACOBS**

*"Edgewood Village"*

**FEBRUARY 16**

**APRIL CLOBES, CEO, MSUFCU**

*"MSUFCU Outreach"*

**FEBRUARY 23**

**PROF. EMERITUS CARL LIEDHOLM**

*"The Economics of Intercollegiate Sports"*

## JEWELRY SALE DONATIONS

The Women of Peoples Church are gearing up for their annual jewelry sale in May. As you clean out your closets this winter, please consider donating your jewelry, purses, scarves, housewares, antiques and more to the jewelry sale. Drop off your donations to the church office during business hours, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



# CARNIVAL

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**FEBRUARY 23 • All-Church Carnival**

Come one, come all on **February 23** for our family fun event—The Peoples Church Carnival! Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, join us downstairs in the Snider Social Hall for lots of carnival games, food, and FUN! Everyone is welcome and bring your friends!



# CHILDREN'S EDUCATION UPDATE

by Kathi Mitchell, Children's Education Director

The children have been a joy to work with this year! We have been busy creating crafts and having a lot of fun in Sunday School while learning our Bible lessons. This month we are learning about the *Leaders of the Community*, including the stories of Deborah, David and Josiah.

Our next Family Fun Event will be the church carnival, on **February 23**, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in Snider Social Hall. There will be hotdogs, corndogs, games and other carnival snacks. Our fabulous youth group members will be running the games for the younger children to enjoy. If you're a big kid and want to join the fun, we will have a mission table making blankets for those in need. Come join us!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Save the date for the following upcoming events:

**March Family Fun Event—Family Game Night** on **March 28** from 4:00p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

More details to come in future weekly bulletins and in the next *Portal*.

**Vacation Bible School** will be held the week of **June 15-19** at Woldumar Nature Center. Our theme *Knights of the North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor*, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power! I am so excited for this! Look for more information in the coming weeks.



## 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 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

### FEBRUARY 27: CLIMATE CHANGE

*Dr. Jeffrey Andresen, MSU Professor of Geography & State of MI Climatologist*

Climate change has become one of the defining issues of our time. As much of the world bands together to come up with a plan, the U.S. remains the notable holdout. What is the rest of the world doing to combat climate change? What impact will the effects of climate change have on global geopolitics?

As an additional opportunity, we will meet at the church on **March 3** at 4:00 p.m. to drive together to the MSU Museum to see their new Biosphere and learn more about past and future events affecting our earth. Nick VanAcker, MSU Museum staff member, will demonstrate a great variety of options on this new and amazing model of our planet. If you are interested in joining us, please email Mary Anne at malarz@aol.com to help us have an accurate count of attendees and vehicles needed. We are hoping to avoid parking issues at the Museum by carpooling!

And finally, the 2020 Great Decisions books will be available at our February meeting. Books are \$20 each, and packed with information about this year's topics.



**DEBORAH CIRCLE**

The Deborah Circle will meet on **February 19** at 6:30 p.m. in the Snider Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**REBEKAH/HANNAH CIRCLE**

The Rebekah/Hannah Circle will meet on **February 26** at 1:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe and our program will focus on "A Vision of The Peoples Church and Women's Circles." All are welcome.

**READING PEOPLE**

The Reading People will meet **February 20** from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Join us for a lively discussion of John Pavlovitz's book, *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community*. Pavlovitz is a pastor, writer, and activist from Wake Forest, NC. A twenty-year veteran in the trenches of local church ministry, he is committed to equality, diversity, and justice, both inside and outside faith communities. All are welcome!

**KNITTING PEOPLE**

The Knitting People will meet **February 27** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. All are welcome to join us and help knit prayer shawls, baby blankets, hats and mittens, and slippers for church members, friends, and local missions.

**CHICs BIBLE STUDY**

The CHICs (Connected Hearts in Christ) women's Bible Study takes place each Thursday from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Contact Beth Lundy at [Lundybb@comcast.net](mailto:Lundybb@comcast.net) with any questions.

**SERMON PREVIEW BIBLE STUDY**

Join Dr. Monroe on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Robertson Room for a lively discussion and study of the scripture text for the upcoming sermon. All are welcome!

**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE**

Join Pastor Drew on Monday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Robertson Room for discussion on John's Gospel. All are welcome!

# 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:**

<b>FEBRUARY 2</b>	Peoples 101
<b>MARCH 1</b>	Peoples 101
<b>APRIL 1</b>	New Members Class during WNL!
<b>APRIL 5</b>	New Members Class
<b>MAY 3</b>	Peoples 101
<b>JUNE 7</b>	Peoples 101
<b>JULY 8</b>	New Members Class during WNL!
<b>JULY 12</b>	New Members Class
<b>AUGUST 2</b>	Peoples 101



The Empty Bowls Chili Cook-Off is back on **February 9**, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Snider Social Hall!

Members of the Greater Lansing Potters Guild have generously donated some of their best hand-crafted bowls for sale with proceeds benefiting Southside Community Kitchen. We need chili entries, volunteers, and of course bowl buyers and chili tasters! Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 vote-getters in two divisions: Youth and Adult (18+). To sign up to be a volunteer, go to The Peoples Church website (homepage), click on the Chili Cook-Off news event and sign up. Don't miss this fabulous event!





# THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool

Peoples Church Preschool



Est. 1951 (517) 332-2885

Some parents feel pressured that their children need to be ‘productive’. That somehow being a good parent means providing constant opportunities, entertainment, and experiences in order to prepare children for the future. To the contrary, current developmental theory and research supports that children need down time. Our children need opportunities TO BE BORED, for just being, and simply PLAYING.

Skills, like the ability to think critically and solve problems creatively, are skills that can only be developed if a child has opportunities to build their imagination. These opportunities must be provided to children when they are very young. If we want to raise the next generation of thinkers, problem-solvers, entrepreneurs, and inventors, we need to foster our children’s imagination and creativity.

As parents or educators, opportunities like these will inspire a child’s imagination and creativity:



- Spend time outdoors engaging with nature
- Allow lots and lots of time for unstructured/undirected play
- Encourage art activities that nurture your child’s creative expression (rather than following instructions for a specific outcome)
- Ask open-ended and thought-provoking questions, (“What do you think would happen if?”)
- Engage in verbal activities—riddles, rhymes, silly games (“I spy”)
- Tell stories to your child and have them tell you stories
- Limit screen time
- Don’t buy plastic toys; a block of wood can be anything a child imagines it to be

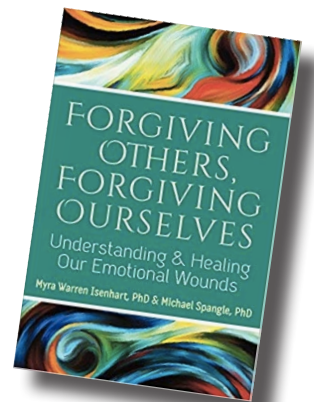
## READING NOOK

SPONSORED BY THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

### **FORGIVING OTHERS, FORGIVING OURSELVES**

by Mary W. Isenhardt, PhD & Michael

In this recently published book, the authors take a look at the process of forgiveness, apology, reconciliation, and conflict resolution. What keeps us or groups from forgiving or seeking forgiveness? The book provides insights into the differences between forgiveness, apology and reconciliation; identifies conditions that make forgiveness happen; provides information on effective apologies; assists us in our own forgiveness journey. In addition to the soulful benefits of forgiveness, they draw from other fields psychology, communication, counseling, theology and their own original research. Enjoy!



P.S. Please check to see if you have any book(s) that need to be returned. Thanks!



## WNL! PROGRAMMING

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

### FEBRUARY:

Join us each Wednesday for our community meal followed by adult programming in the Robertson Room. Topics for February are below:

- February 5: Personal Prayer Books
- February 12: A Study of Dorothy Day
- February 19: Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story
- February 26: Ash Wednesday (Soup and bread dinner at 5:30 p.m.)

### 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~

### FEBRUARY 5

Cream of Potato Soup ~ Crackers  
Pulled Pork Grinders  
Mixed Greens Salad  
Seasonal Fruit  
Cup Cakes

### FEBRUARY 19

Wild Rice Soup ~ Crackers  
Pizza  
Mixed Greens Salad  
Seasonal Fruit  
Brownies

### FEBRUARY 12

Vegetable Beef Soup ~ Crackers  
Chicken Alfredo  
Broccoli ~ Breadsticks  
Peaches ~ Cookies

### FEBRUARY 26

~ ASH WEDNESDAY ~  
Vegetable Soup  
Cream of Chicken Soup  
Assorted Breads



# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

## FEBRUARY 26, 2020

**8:00 a.m. & Noon**—McCune Chapel

**5:30 p.m.**—A soup & bread dinner held in Snider Social Hall

**6:30 p.m.**—Sanctuary

Imposition of ashes at all services.

FEBRUARY 2020 PORTAL

ThePeoplesChurch.com

517.332.5073

200 W. Grand River Ave.  
East Lansing, MI 4882

