



## ON LIMITS AND REGRETS

Some years ago, I asked my youngest children if they planned to do anything special for Lent. Clara responded with, "Lent?! Already?" Ren said, "Great. Here comes the season of regret." Regret? I asked him what he meant. "Every year I try to give something up and by the second week, I've completely failed. It just makes me feel bad about myself."

I didn't know what to say to Ren, but I knew exactly how he felt. I've been at this Christian thing for nearly 35 years and every time I have taken on a Lenten discipline – either giving something up or doing something special – I, too, have failed. It's like New Year's resolutions but with spiritual implications. One year I tried to give up chocolate and found myself eating Hershey kisses for breakfast. Another year, I vowed to read a book each week and ended up with a pile of unread volumes sitting by my bed, mocking me; a season of regret indeed.

It seems like Lent is a wilderness of our own invention: you create your own demons and then drive yourself crazy with temptation. If anyone is keeping score, it is Shawnthea 0, Temptation 35.

The good news is that no one is keeping score. No one. No one cares if you can't go 40 days without chocolate. No one will frown in disapproval if you eat meat on Fridays – or Mondays. No one is going to judge you if you choose not to do anything special for Lent. As Jesus says, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath," by which he meant that our religious practices are meant to nourish and strengthen us, not make us miserable. Life is too short for that.

My friend Debra Dean Murphy, who writes a wonderful blog called *Intersections*, once wrote this about Lent: "Living with limits is Lenten theology at its best. We are finite creatures. We are dust and to dust we shall return. Yet in our finitude, in the boundaries set by our being human, lie the possibilities for experiencing the fullness of life we were created for. During Lent we ponder this paradox."

We are finite creatures with only so much time on this earth. How do you want to spend your time? What will nourish and strengthen you? What gives your life shape and meaning? And how does God enter in to your plans? Those are the questions raised by Lent. In this season, give yourself some time to ponder these questions, because an abundant life will be found in your answers.

Lent: recognize your limits so you can live with no regrets.

*Dr. Monroe*



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

\*80 & OVER

- 3/8 - Dottie Thomas
- 3/9 - Rebecca Blair
- 3/9 - Robert Ward
- 3/11 - Susan Kropschot
- 3/18 - 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
- 3/26 - Joyce Aldrich
- 3/30 - Marilyn Leppek

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

# NEW ART EXHIBIT: "BRASS RUBBINGS"

A special exhibit, featuring work from the permanent collection of The Peoples Church, "Brass Rubbings" by Jane Linnell and Patricia Thorpe, is now on display throughout the halls bordering on the church Sanctuary. The display includes 13 pieces from the collection and consists of hand-rubbings of historic monumental brasses or carved stone slabs that are memorials for the deceased.



The rubbings, which were done from the original brasses, were made by church members Jane Linnell and Patricia Thorpe during their visits to historic churches and cathedrals throughout England. The memorial brasses, which date back to the 1200's through 1400's, provide a rich source for studying the history of armor, costumes, hair styles and use of lettering and language. They can be found in such historic churches as London's St. Martin-in-the-Fields and Westminster Abbey.

Both Jane and Patricia were dedicated to the preservation of these images. They spent countless hours creating the rubbings, laying paper or cloth on the brasses then lying prone next to them to capture detailed negative images of the original brasses by rubbing them with gold and black crayon on paper and cloth. Now, the rubbings have become pieces of art in their own right. Jane and Patricia's rubbings were donated to the church by their respective families after their deaths.

An accompanying exhibit to "Brass Rubbings," which features a collection of facsimile *Medieval Books of Hours* and related publications from the library of members Susan and Wes Reedy, can be found in the Kiosk. These items depict *The Little Hours of the Virgin*, an abbreviated and highly illustrated version of the *Daily Office* (the eight daily prayers that were chanted and/or recited by medieval monastics and the clergy).

"Brass Rubbings" was curated and installed by The Fine Arts Committee. It will be on display through April 15. Pick up a catalog for the exhibit in the NW entrance of the church.

## PORTAL DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the April 2020 *Portal* is March 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)



## 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, 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.

# FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

## RECIPES BY GERRI LYNN



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

### EASY CHEESY SWEETCORN BAKE

#### INGREDIENTS:

- Cooking spray or butter, for the baking dish
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 (15-ounce) can corn kernels (drained)
- 8 ounces sour cream (1 cup)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 (15-ounce) can creamed corn
- 1 (8.5-ounce) box Jiffy corn muffin mix
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat the oven to 350°F. Coat an 8x8-inch or other 2-quart baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Melt 8 tablespoons unsalted butter in the microwave in a large bowl or on the stovetop. If melting on the stovetop, pour it into a large bowl after melting. Set aside until warm to the touch.
3. Add 8 ounces sour cream and 2 large eggs to the butter and whisk to combine. Add the corn and the can of creamed corn and stir to combine. Add 1 box Jiffy mix & shredded cheese, stir until well combined. Pour into the baking dish and smooth the top.
4. Bake until the casserole is puffed, slightly browned, and the center is firm, 45 to 50 minutes. Can add extra shredded cheese on top as soon as it is done. Cool for 10 minutes before serving.



**PEOPLES CHURCH**  
**CAMPUS MINISTRY**

Our Campus Students want to extend their thanks for all of the congregation's support during Campus Sunday and throughout the rest of the year! Our envelope fundraiser, following the Campus Sunday services, was a tremendous success! Our next stop is Asheville, NC on March 1. Ready or not, here we come!



# PEOPLES FORUM



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

**MARCH 1**

**MARK CRISS**

*"City Rescue Mission"*

**MARCH 8**

**AMY MORRIS**

*"Potter Park Zoo"*

**MARCH 15**

**CHARLES BLACKMAN**

*"Packard Cars"*

**MARCH 22**

**BARBARA BYRUM**

*"Ingham County Clerk"*

**MARCH 29**

**TBA**

## REDUCING FOOD WASTE

*by The Earth Stewardship Committee*

As new members of the Earth Stewardship Team we offer a recent *New York Times* article (from December 11, 2019) on the impact of food waste on Climate Change.

It outlines that food waste is the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter and what leadership in other cities around the globe are already doing to reduce the related greenhouse gas emissions. Little did we know that in the United States alone, food waste generates the same amount of gas emissions equal to the pollution of 37 million cars! We encourage you to go online ([nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)) and read the entire [article](#) to learn how you can do your part in reducing food waste.





# CHILDREN'S EDUCATION UPDATE

by Kathi Mitchell, Children's Education Director

Once again, we all seem to be enjoying Sunday School, children and teachers alike! We have an amazing cadre of teachers and it has been a delight to see their energy in the classrooms. Recently our Kindergarteners and 4th Graders received Bibles to help them on their learning journey, and this spring, all classes will be exploring Lent, Resurrection and the first Christian Communities.

Plan to join us for our next Family Fun Night, **March 28** from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. We'll have board games, crafts, minute-to-win it games, and fort building in the Youth Den. There will be plenty of food and fun! Look for a registration link in your email or [click here](#). Bring your family and friends!

**Save the Date for VBS: 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. To register, [click here](#), or go to [thepeopleschurch.com](http://thepeopleschurch.com) and click on the VBS Image on the homepage. If you'd like to help make this a great week for our children, we are looking for adult volunteers to be station leaders, help with registration, decorations, set up and more! Middle and high school students are needed for counselors. Please contact me, Kathi ([kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com)), if you would like to join the fun!



## 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.*

### MARCH 3: CLIMATE CHANGE

In follow up to our February 27 Great Decisions meeting and discussion on climate change, 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](mailto: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!

### MARCH 19: CHINESE INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

*Dr. Gerald Urquhart, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs, MSU*

Dr. Gerald Urquhart, Associate Professor in the Lyman Briggs College will discuss the Chinese Influence in Latin America, and particularly his involvement and criticism of the plan to build a Chinese funded canal in Nicaragua.

**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!

**DEBORAH CIRCLE**

The Deborah Circle will meet on **March 18** at 6:30 p.m. in the Snider Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**DORCAS CIRCLE**

Dorcas Circle will meet **March 17** at 7:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Our program will be "Movement as Medicine." For more information, contact Jessica Eyselinck at 646.224.2102.

**KNITTING PEOPLE**

The Knitting People will meet **March 26** 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.

**READING PEOPLE**

The Reading People will meet **March 20** from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. The book we will discuss is *Next Year in Havana*, by Chanel Cleeton. All bibliophiles are invited!

**REBEKAH/HANNAH CIRCLE**

The Rebekah/Hannah Circle will meet on **March 18** at 12:30 p.m. This month's meeting will take place at Coral Gables Restaurant in East Lansing for a lunch social.

**REFUGEE SERVICES COLLECTION COMING SOON!**

Our spring refugee collection for St. Vincents Refugee Services is coming soon. We will be collecting travel-size items that will be arranged into personal hygiene packets. Starting **March 29**, bring in your donated, travel-size items of shampoo, body wash or soap, deodorant, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc., and place them in the red donation box (located at the Welcome Center). Collection dates will be **March 29** and **April 5**. Thank you for your generosity!

**THANK YOU TO OUR COFFEE FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS!**

A heartfelt Thank You to all of our Coffee Fellowship volunteers and snack providers this Fall: Abby Barr, Robin Matheson, Barb Free, Diane Shafer, Beth Lundy, Amy Moore, Ann Lindley, Kari Naghtin, Jodi Cook, Julie Pierce, Shirley Fisher, Mary Nowack, Joan Wright, Phyllis Grummon, Jan Perron, Staci Gronowski, Sue Townsend, Dottie Spousta, Kate Jones, Jamie Kelly, Kim Gools, Matthew & Hannah Rick, Bob Cantrell, Nancy Wilson and Emily Anderson. Many of you provided this service multiple times and we are so thankful. We are also very excited that we have been blessed with some new volunteers. We could not have provided this wonderful time of fellowship without you and your service is appreciated more than you know!

Please consider joining this amazing group of volunteers! We provide the training and you will still be able to attend most of the worship service. You can volunteer once, once a month or whenever it fits your schedule. Contact Mary Nowack at msumax@comcast.net if interested or call the church office to provide your contact information.



# 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>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

## 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!





# WHY IS PROCESS ART SO IMPORTANT?

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool

Process Art means that the process involved in creating the piece of art is more valuable than the outcome or what the product looks like. Providing process art opportunities allows children to express their creativity, enhance fine motor skills, explore their senses, and so much more. At Peoples Church Preschool, there is a daily plan that always includes time for Creative Expression. Teachers have the responsibility of providing experiences that involve a rich variety of materials.

A piece of artwork that is considered "process art" will not look like another child's art or even look like you think it should. It may use the same materials, but it will not follow an example from a teacher or peer. Creating process art allows children to explore and have a greater sense of ownership over their art because it is all their own work. Process art is wonderful for supporting the development of self-control and self-regulation when children are focusing, making choices, taking risks and feeling successful.



Peoples Church Preschool



Est. 1951 (517) 332-2885



For this year's PCYG Winter Retreat, our team of middle school and high school students took a weekend to travel to the city of Flint. While there, we worked with Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministries, served up a meal at the Saint Andrews Soup Kitchen, caught a show at the Sloan Planetarium, and even found a little time to go bowling together! After the trip ended, Haley Phillips, one of our eighth grade students said, "The whole weekend was a lot of fun! I really enjoyed meeting the people at the soup kitchen and hearing their stories. I also liked that we just had a whole weekend to hang out as a youth group and play games." Well done PCYG!





## WNL! PROGRAMMING

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

### 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~

#### MARCH 4

Vegetarian Chili ~ Crackers  
Tacos (Beef or Chicken)  
Chips & Cheese  
Seasonal Fruit  
Ice Cream

#### MARCH 11

Tomato Bisque Soup ~ Crackers  
Oven Roasted Turkey & Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes ~ Dinner Roll  
Green Bean Casserole  
Fresh Fruit Trifle

#### MARCH 18

Chicken Tortellini Soup ~ Crackers  
Hamburger ~ Brat ~ Hot Dog  
Potato Salad ~ Coleslaw  
Baked Beans  
Apple Crisp

#### MARCH 25

Vegetable Soup ~ Crackers  
Rosemary Pork Loin  
Wild Rice ~ Corn  
Assorted Muffins  
Seasonal Fruit ~ Cookies

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Recently, Aram Kabodian led a Peoples Forum about Stephen Ministry in order to share information and lead a discussion about the feasibility of renewing the Stephen Ministry program at The Peoples Church. The notes, below, summarize that information and the discussion.

From the Stephen Ministries Q & A sheet: "Stephen Ministers are laypeople trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they're equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. A Stephen Minister typically has one care at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support."

The group decided that all of us could benefit from a Stephen Minister's caring, confidential care at certain times of our lives; death of a loved one, divorce, job loss, long-term care, a spiritual crisis, loss of a home—a Stephen Minister offers his or her presence and listening ear at times like these.

Years ago, the church offered this service, but it waned for various reasons; since we have support from both of our pastors and our Caring Ministry, now may be the time to renew it. Aram and a few Forum participants were Stephens Ministers in the past and spoke about the helpful, thorough training they received. We watched a video from the perspective of church members from other churches which spoke to the spiritual and emotional benefits they received from participating in the program.

Aram will be attending a Stephen Leader training in St. Louis, MO, in April to learn how to train a new group of Stephen Ministers; possibly a second member from The Peoples Church will attend leader training this summer. Several people at the Forum voiced interest in being a part of the program and more are welcome; a Stephen Ministry training will begin in the fall. Training will be one night a week for a few months and culminates with a retreat. Stephen Ministers commit to stay in the program for two years after the training. For more information, check out the website at [stephenministries.org](http://stephenministries.org) or contact Aram after church or at [akabodian@gmail.com](mailto:akabodian@gmail.com).



# HOLY WEEK 2020



## **PALM SUNDAY | APRIL 5**

8:30 a.m. - Chapel

10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary



## **MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 9**

6:30 p.m. - Chapel (with foot washing)



## **GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 10**

6:30 p.m. - Sanctuary (Service of Tenebrae: The Extinguishing of Light)



## **EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 12**

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

**MARCH 2020 PORTAL**

**ThePeoplesChurch.com**

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