



## On My Mind

I recently saw a commercial for an athletic club that features scenes of people hunting for their workout clothes. A woman pulls a lost tennis shoe out from under the bed. A man finds an athletic shirt in the dog's bed. Another woman blows dust off her gym bag. As the people search, you can hear the song "Pick Yourself Up" from the 1936 musical *Swing Time*. The cheerful tune is the perfect accompaniment to the ad's message: come back to the gym!

*Pick yourself up/dust yourself off/start all over again!*

That song has been stuck in my head as I've been working with the staff, getting ready for the fall at The Peoples Church. When the church shut down in March of 2020, many things were cleared away and put into storage for the short term. We never imagined the "short term" would last nearly 18 months! Now we are planning (and hoping) that everything is back to normal in September. But before that can happen, there is much to do.

We need to put the bibles back in the pews. The choir robes need to be aired out. The bell tables need to be reset. The Sunday school classrooms need to be cleaned out. The comfortable chairs need to be returned to the Robertson Room. The library is in need of a good cleaning. Even the water fountains need to be turned on.

Beyond putting the church building back in order, we need to restore some of the programming that was shelved in March of 2020. The Forum will be up and running in September. The Wednesday morning Bible study will return to meeting in person (9:00 am in the Robertson Room – everyone is invited). We also hope to have Wednesday Night Dinner in Snider Social Hall once again, though it may look a little different. What Wednesday night programming looks like is still under discussion. Look for details in the Fall Portal.

Some things we had to do during the pandemic we will continue to do. We will continue to live-stream our Sunday services even after we return to business as usual. God has blessed us with a virtual congregation and we give thanks for this new ministry. We have also developed the technological capacity to do hybrid meetings, so if there are ministries that need to "zoom" in members, we can do it.

There have also been some exciting changes in the last few months. We have a new Associate Minister (Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell) who will bring passion and energy to our Campus Ministry. We've added some new faces to our support staff, including a new Finance Administrator and a new Membership Coordinator. In addition, the construction on the north side of the church is finally complete!

Yes, the staff and volunteers are busy getting everything ready for the fall. The question is, are YOU ready? Are you ready to pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again?

In some ways, going to the church is like going to the gym: you don't have to go, but you feel so much better when you do! Plus, once you get into the habit, you feel better and you get stronger. The good news is that you don't have to locate your gym bag or dig your tennis shoes out of storage to come back to church. Come as you are and join us at The Peoples Church. We can't wait to see you again!

*Dr. Monroe*



Technology  
of Peoples Church

## REALM CONNECT APP

The free **Realm Connect App**, found on either the Google Play Store or the iPhone App Store, is an easy way to stay connected with The Peoples Church. The on-line directory, calendar of events, and records of your giving, are all features easily accessible at the touch of your fingers. If you have any questions about connecting to The Peoples Church contact Beth Lundy, [blundy@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:blundy@thepeopleschurch.com), or call the church office.



Realm Connect -  
For Our Church  
Connecting Our Community

## Join Our Team

We are now hiring for the following positions:

- Full-Time and Part-Time Teachers. Applicants must have a degree in Early Childhood Education or equivalent. Please contact the preschool at [djohnson@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:djohnson@thepeopleschurch.com)
- Full-time (30 hours) support position: Communications Coordinator (requires expertise in Microsoft Suite). Please contact personnel [@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:@thepeopleschurch.com) for more information.



## CHiCs Fall 2021

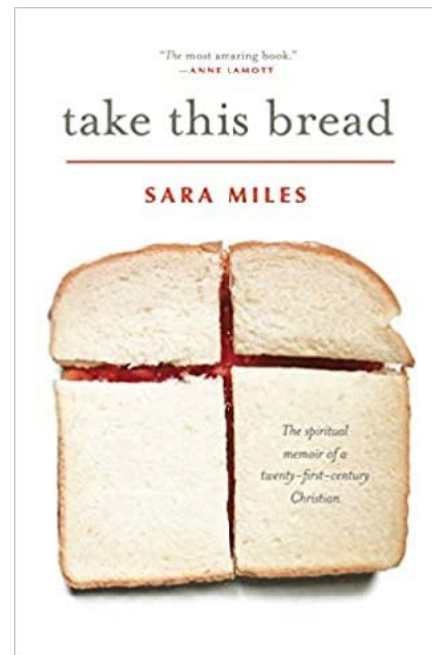
### The Connected Hearts in Christ Group Returns!

CHiCs Fall 2021: The CHiCs (Connected Hearts in Christ) Woman's Small Group meets on Thursday evenings in the Robertson Room from 7-8:30pm.

We will resume meetings on September 9th, 2021. Our book for the fall will be *Take This Bread: The Spiritual Memoir of a 21st-century Christian* by Sara Miles.

This book is a true, often funny, faith story of her radical conversion to Christianity.

If you are interested in more information about joining the CHiCs group in September, contact Beth Lundy at [Lundybb@comcast.net](mailto:Lundybb@comcast.net) or 610-246-0029 (text or voice).



## Howell Nature Center Outing



### Hello PCYG Students and Families!

What a wonderful retreat we had at Howell Nature Center this past month. Thank you to all the students and parents who participated and made the trip so memorable. While we were at HNC, we got to kayak, swim, canoe, zip-line, hike, and shoot archery! We also completed a low ropes and high ropes course, and learned about many of the different animals that HNC is rehabilitating.

Mark your calendars for August 14th when we will be heading to Michigan Adventure! **We are in need of volunteers to drive vans on August 14th**, so please reach out to me if you are available and would like to join us (plus earn a free ticket to Michigan Adventure for the day!)

To stay up to date with PCYG events, please contact Elisha Smith to be connected with our Facebook page or email list.

Thanks,  
**Elisha Smith**  
Email: [esmith@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:esmith@thepeopleschurch.com)



## Finance Administrator, Jess Beurkens

Our new Finance Administrator is Jess Beurkens (rhymes with Perkins). Jess was born and raised in mid-Michigan. A graduate of Northwood University, she has always loved to travel and has a deep appreciation for different cultures. She has lived and worked all over, from Maryland to Australia to Spain, where Jess recently spent two years teaching English as a second language. Jess is delighted to be back in her hometown, closer to family and friends. In January, Jess became a foster parent as well as an aunt. As Jess says, "Life has been busy ever since!" On weekends, Jess likes to head to her camper in West Michigan, where she enjoys kayaking, reading and hiking. We are delighted to have Jess Beurkens on staff at The Peoples Church. She looks forward to getting to know all of you and helping the church grow and thrive. Jess is in the office M-F, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Welcome Jess!

## Membership Coordinator, Beth Lundy

We are delighted to have Beth Lundy join our staff in the new position of Membership Coordinator. Her primary responsibilities are updating and managing the membership database (REALM), tracking individual attendance for Sunday morning worship and other church events, identifying visitors and sending out welcome letters, as well as keeping the REALM calendar up-to-date with events. Beth will also be organizing a new pictorial directory that will be available on-line and in print. Beth and her husband Jon are active members of Peoples Church and we feel fortunate to have such a talented and joyful person joining our team. Beth Lundy is in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

## New Faces at The Peoples Church

### Associate Pastor, Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell

At their June meeting, the Council of Elders unanimously voted to call a new Associate Pastor. The candidate accepted the position and so we are delighted to introduce the Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell. Rev. Herrell is a Michigan native, raised in Fennville. She is a graduate of Ohio Northern University and Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. In May of 2019, Rev. Herrell completed her Doctor of Ministry at Claremont School of Theology, focusing largely on young adult spiritual growth and development.

Rev. Herrell was ordained an Elder in The United Methodist Church in 2008. Since that time, she has served as an Associate Pastor, Solo Pastor and Senior Pastor. In addition, Rev. Herrell was the director of campus ministry for the Wesley Foundation of Ferris State for five years. Currently, Rev. Herrell is working as a clinical chaplain at the University of Alabama-Birmingham Hospital where she also completed 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education.

Rev. Herrell was the unanimous choice of the Associate Pastor Search Committee. We were impressed with her energy, her faith and her passion for ministry. As one of her references put it, "Look no further. You've found an exceptional candidate." She will begin her ministry at The Peoples Church on September 7, 2021.

We asked Rev. Herrell to tell us something about herself. She said: "I love to be outside. I enjoy hiking, biking, and kayaking. Growing up as the daughter of a church organist, I have a deep love of music and I enjoy playing the piano. I am looking forward to getting back to the Mitten, cheering on MSU Women's Basketball, **and getting to know all of you!**"

## PARKING UPDATE

### Good News!

The construction on Albert Avenue is nearly complete. When it is done, we will have a fully accessible drop off at the north entrance to the church. As in years past, we believe parking at the metered spaces on Valley Court will be free on Sunday mornings. We are still trying to clarify how many of the parking spaces in the lot north of the church will be open for public use. If you are able bodied, we hope you'll consider parking a little further away from church. This will help ensure our older folks will be able to park in the church lot.

*Thanks for your patience and consideration!*

## NEW MEMBERS

We are blessed to have so many visitors attending The Peoples Church virtually and in person and so many interested in learning more about our wonderful faith community! We are thankful that technology gives us the opportunity to share God's word and offer programs and classes virtually! Are you interested in learning more? Contact Robin Matheson at [matheso4@msu.edu](mailto:matheso4@msu.edu) or 517-290-3223.

## WEDNESDAY NOON MEN'S GROUP

This group is presently taking our usual summer break. We will reconvene on Wednesday, September 15th, and will begin discussing the book *The Tyranny of Merit* by Michael Sandel.

## TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

As men of faith, we read the Bible and other books, listening for God's voice and direction for our lives. We also listen to each other, looking to support and challenge each other's walk of faith. As we endeavor to do so, we find ways to put God's word into action in our lives and in God's wider kingdom on earth. If you are interested in participating in this group, they meet each Tuesday at 7:30 am in the Robertson Room. They are beginning the book, *They Were Christians: The Inspiring Faith of Men and Women Who Changed the World* by Cristobal Krusen and sharing how mentors in their lives inspired their faith journeys.

## BSA TROOP 2 and CREW 2 UPDATE!

While Scouts BSA Troop 2 and Crew 2 were very successful in keeping our youth engaged virtually during the pandemic, we are ecstatic to be meeting in-person once again! Troop 2 meets every Tuesday evening, late August through June, in the church gym at 7:30 pm. Crew 2 meets monthly at 6:30 pm in the same location during the same months. Our summer has gotten off to a great start with a Crew 2 contingent completing a high adventure trip. The week-long trip began with kayaking along the Manistee River and ended with hiking 20 miles. Troop 2 sent a boy contingent and a girl contingent to a week-long scout camp in Alger, MI. Many merit badges were earned and much fun was had! As we begin to plan for the fall, we look forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary with The Peoples Church on September 18. If you have had any past involvement with Troop 2 we'd love to hear about it.

**Visit our [troop2el.org/100yearSurvey.html](https://troop2el.org/100yearSurvey.html) to share your memories!**

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

On July 6th the Preschool marked it's 1-year anniversary for reopening after the Covid 19 shutdown in 2020. We were fortunate to be able to open, as so many programs in the state did not do so. After a year of working very hard to keep everyone healthy, those efforts slowly continue. We have been able to get back to some of our old routines and traditions. On June 29, the classrooms participated in International Mud Day.

On this day children around the world explore the particular joys of mud. Among the many mud-based experiences, some of our youngest learners explored the mathematical concept of conservation when pouring mud from one container to another.



# VBS

Children's Education

Wow! What a great week we had at VBS this June! It was wonderful to finally get some of our Sunday School kids together! Thank you to the volunteers and staff that helped us put on a fun, exciting and safe week. I think a great time was had by all!

I'm so excited to announce Sunday School is back in the fall! Until then, we will continue to gather occasionally with craft days. We are currently continuing our outreach projects and making cards to send to members of the congregation in special need.

I will also be starting Sunday School fairy visits soon! If you would like me to stop by for a short visit with a fun summer toy, please text or email me. I will make a route and visit as many of you as I can!

Peace to you all and I can't wait to hear those Sunday School rooms alive with your children's voices!  
~Kathi

## PEOPLES CHURCH STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our Stephen Ministry program is now active. Several of our Stephen Ministers are meeting with Care Receivers regularly; they are providing a listening presence to members of our community dealing with grief and loss of many different kinds. We are offering monthly supervision and professional development opportunities to our Stephen Ministers. Applications for those wishing to become Stephen Ministers will be available this fall. Applicants will be interviewed by the end of the year with training to start in 2022.

If you or a loved one could benefit from an on-going relationship with a caring Stephen Minister, please contact our church office, either of our pastors, or our Stephen Ministers, Aram Kabodian ([akabodian@gmail.com](mailto:akabodian@gmail.com)), or Chuck McNeil ([chcomcneil@yahoo.com](mailto:chcomcneil@yahoo.com)).

## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Many people find a traditional Sunday worship service feeds their soul. Others leave feeling not quite satisfied. A labyrinth is but one of many spiritual tools to assist in spiritual nurturance. For some, walking a labyrinth is a way to find within themselves an experience that identifies the soul's longing and intention. There's something about walking a path that simultaneously takes us toward a center, then guides us gently away from that center, in a repeating pattern – like the very in-and-out of breathing – that calls us to keep going until the center is reached. Perhaps the labyrinth is an apt metaphor for spiritual life, in that sometimes we feel closer to God, and sometimes we feel farther away, yet the experience of a centering moment with God continually beckons.

The Peoples Church is fortunate to have a permanent labyrinth located downstairs in the Snider Social Hall. Many church members are unaware of its existence because it is so often hidden underneath tables and chairs. Fortunately, it is now available for walking on the first Sunday of every month, from 9am to 2pm. A facilitator is present to answer questions and help first time walkers, except during the hour of worship in the sanctuary (10:30-11:30am). Church members, friends, and the general public are welcome.

*Pastor Penny*



## June

Jeanette Minkel  
Dee Toth  
Valerie Nilson  
Tony Bauer  
Mary Culham  
Sylvia Rundquist

## July

Nancy Wilson  
Lary Hill  
Jim Dalley  
William Walworth  
Helen Ramsey  
Martha Bristol  
Connie Close  
Rosemary Walker  
Marilyn Harding

## August

Vivienne Creer  
June Toth  
Evelyn Davis  
Carol Bryson  
Barbara Scott  
Suzanne Goodrich  
Charles Blackmam  
Ken West  
Dorothy Boettcher  
Barbara Lott  
Marge Lott  
Eleanor Heusner  
Charlotte Sprinkel  
Barbara Potter  
Donald Bailey

## Anniversaries

### 25 Years

David & Kary Devereaux  
Jim & Lisa McMahon

### 30 Years

Thomas & Traci Dudley

### 60+ Years

Don & Evelyn Davis  
Lary & Mary Hill  
Robert & Helen Ward  
Sal & JoAnne DiFranco  
Denny & Gretchen Rosenbrook  
Lois & Tony Bauer  
Clifford & Doris Weil  
David & Pat Brogan  
Irene & John Cantlon

## SUMMER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES