



Portal

FEBRUARY 2023

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe
Senior Pastor

ON MY MIND

A Good Enough Lent

Anne Lamott once wrote, “Perfection is the voice of the oppressor.” I agree, and yet I still hear that voice in my head. It is the voice that speaks late at night, reminding me of all the things I failed to do, all the things I should have done better, all the ways I’ve fallen short. This is especially true when it comes to my spiritual practices. I never spend enough time praying, studying scripture, or serving others. No matter how hard I try, the voice of Perfection says, “You really should try harder.” Maybe you have heard this same voice?

Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie have heard that voice, which is why they wrote the book *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfections*. In the introduction, they note that Christianity calls us to a life of continuous improvement while recognizing that only Jesus is perfect.

In this book, we hope to carve out the space between despair and hope, between believing everything is possible and nothing is possible. We are on the lookout for beauty and meaning and truth in the midst of lives that didn’t turn out like we thought they should. We can have lives where God breaks in and surprises us. We can learn to believe that we are blessed regardless of how our lives appear on social media or at high school reunions. We can begin to feel less alone, more loved, and less judged when good is...enough. (p.xii)

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22) with a reminder that life is short and God loves us as we are. Part of my Lenten practice is going to be reading Bowler and Richie’s book. I invite you to read this book with me and consider how you might find contentment in being good...but not perfect. If I get really organized, I will post reflections on Facebook like Pastor Devon did in 2022. (Can you tell I’m already setting myself up to fail??)

Let us move into the season of Lent with an open spirit and willingness to learn from our mistakes. And may God’s perfect love flow through our imperfect lives.

Peace to you!

-Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe



Scout Troop 2 presents:

2023 PANCAKE BRUNCH



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Please join us in the Snider Social Hall following 10:30 worship for pancakes and sausage, applesauce, coffee, and juice! The Scouts thank you for your support and look forward to serving you!

AGE ALIVE: TOWN & GOWN

UPCOMING SPEAKERS



Tuesday, February 7th, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
in the Robertson Room & over Zoom*

Dr. Yael Aronoff - *"Prospects for Israeli-Palestinian Peace: Past Efforts and Current Challenges"*



Yael Aronoff is the Director of the Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel and is the Serling Chair in Israel Studies at Michigan State University. She is also Professor of International Relations at James Madison College. Dr. Aronoff's book, *The Political Psychology of Israeli Prime Ministers: When Hard Liners Opt for Peace*, was published by Cambridge University Press (2014) and she co-edited a book with Dr. Ilan Peleg and Dr. Saliba Sarsar entitled, *Continuity and Change in Political Culture: Israel and Beyond* Lexington Books (2021). She has given over 100 public lectures and is a Lecturer in the Association of Jewish Studies Distinguished Lectureship Program and in the Association of Israel Studies Distinguished Lectureship Program.

Tuesday, February 21st, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
in the Robertson Room & over Zoom*

Dr. Amy Simon - *"Empathy in Holocaust Studies"*

Professor Simon is the William and Audrey Farber Family Chair in Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History. She holds a joint appointment with James Madison College and the Department of History in the College of Social Science and is a core faculty member of the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel. Dr. Simon is a former fellow and researcher at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Her research focuses on questions of victim/perpetrator relationships during the Holocaust, the so called "grey zones" of behavior that characterized that time, the world of Holocaust victim perceptions and emotions, and issues of representation and language within Holocaust studies. She especially uses the lens of empathic history to better understand Jewish experiences and perceptions in the Nazi ghettos. She is the recipient of a Saul Kagan Claims Conference Fellowship as well as the Leon Milman Memorial Fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. where she also worked as a researcher on a digital humanities project.



*Zoom Link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/93436186072>

Passcode: Town&Gown

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY



**February 5th at 9:30 a.m.
in the Robertson Room**

Speaker: Cheryl Ronk

Topic: *The Borrowing Brilliance of Lung Transplantation*

Save the Date

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2023

Annual **Women's Retreat**
at the St. Francis Retreat
Center in DeWitt.



TELL-A-TAIL

The Library Committee is sponsoring the Tell-a-Tail program for children on the second Wednesday of every month from January to May, 6p.m. – 7p.m. in the Church Library. Children will be able to practice reading aloud to Reba, a therapy dog. Reading aloud to a dog has been shown to improve reading proficiency. Children may bring their own book or select a book from the Library. Reading sessions will last about 10 minutes per child. Please plan to come **February 8th.**

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Holiday Food Basket program! The Peoples Church was able to provide 30 families-in-need with Christmas and Thanksgiving meals.

PUB THEOLOGY

Thursday, February 9th
at 6:30 p.m.

Engage in conversation
about faith, life, and
what is happening in
the world.

PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Hello PCYG Students and Family!

We had an OUTSTANDING trip to Kalamazoo last month for our annual Winter Retreat! Even without the snow, we were able to have a great trip (involving candle making, museums, bowling, and even a Chinese New Year celebration!). Thanks to all who attended, and those who helped make this trip possible!



Last month we also participated in a great cooking class with our Hospitality Coordinator, Vince, and kicked off our own PCYG Dungeons & Dragons club!

In February, you can look forward to a **Print Making Class on February 12th**. No experience in printing is necessary, all tools and instructions necessary will be provided! **We will not have PCYG on the 19th**, which is over President's Day weekend.

If you know any students or families interested in PCYG, please send them my way!

-Elisha Smith

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We have started out strong in Sunday School this year with more and more students! We are happy to see so many new and old eager faces in class.

Our children are learning a valuable lesson in serving others by getting ready for our Valentine's Day Outreach Project: delivering homemade cards and treats to elderly. If you would like to donate baked goods for this wonderful project, please email me at kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com or text 517-899-4646. You can bring your donations into the church office on **Sunday, February 12** or **Monday, February 13**, before noon. Please let me know if you'd like to donate treats so I will know if I'll have enough food for everyone on the list or if I'll have to make other arrangements.

Thank you!

In case you haven't heard, I have resigned as Children's Children Education Director, as I will be moving out of town. I am sorry to leave a place that I have loved so much, this is a fantastic job! I would love to assist the church in finding and training my successor. If you know anyone who would be good for this position, please contact me or Pastor Monroe. It is a part time position, 15-20 hours a week, working with a fantastic staff and amazing kids!

Thank you for all you do to help support our Children's Education Department!

-Kathi Mitchell






The Nationally Accredited Peoples Church


SCHOOL-AGE SUMMER CAMP 2023

PROGRAM

 **ENROLLMENT:** Students will be enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis until the camp is full. Enrollment begins on **February 6, 2023**, and is limited to 30 students. We are open from 7:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. all summer. Full-time schedules will be accepted first, until February 13, when all-summer part-time (Tu/Th or MWF) schedules are accepted. Families enrolling for full summer will be able to take off 5 days unpaid for vacation time. Summer Camp is for students that have completed kindergarten up to age 12. Please contact the Preschool office at (517) 332-2885 or at preschool@thepeopleschurch.com for an application or more information.


Regular Field Trips and special visitors will be offered throughout the summer at no additional cost. Extracurricular classes, like Soccer Instruction, will be available for a fee.


COMMUNICATION

 **DAILY REPORTS:** Daily Reports will be sent with each child via email, upon signing your child out on the Tadpole Management System. These reports will contain important field trip and special event information, a daily photo of your child along with a caption, and a 'Question of the Day' for you to ask your child so that you can engage in meaningful conversation about camp.

CURRICULUM

The Peoples Church School-Age Summer curriculum has two areas of focus – Nature and STREAM. STREAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Respect for nature, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. These activities are combined with daily physical activities and student-led research and interest topics.

 **DAILY AND WEEKLY SCHEDULES:** Students will work in small groups, by age, in many areas of the curriculum, including some extracurricular activities and many field trip destinations. All students will be dropped off and picked up in the main summer camp classroom, which is the 'Youth Den' on the east side of the building.


 **LESSON PLANS** will be created each week and posted in the Family Information Area and sent to parents via email prior to the start of each week.

*Students are welcome to bring their own work or reading materials if they wish, as there are free-choice periods during the day.

*Students may not bring in other materials from home as these often lead to loss or damage, and a lack of inclusion.

EXPECTATION

The Peoples Church Summer Camp program requires students to treat others with kindness, respect, and inclusivity.





EARTH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

SEASON OF LENT BECKONS US TO SERVE GOD AS GOOD STEWARDS

As we enter the season of Lent, a longtime tradition of “giving up something” during the 40 day period has been passed down through generations. This tradition invites us to deny ourselves of something we typically desire or enjoy (e.g. not eating sweets is a popular choice). When it comes to caring for God’s creation, there is no denying the dramatic impact humans have had on God’s earth. Here’s the Good News of Lent and beyond. We can all assume “shared” responsibility of serving as good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. The following climate friendly actions are offered by the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement:

-Look for ways to **switch some or all of the sources of energy you consume to renewables**. What if rooftops welcomed the sun with solar panels? What if plentiful green spaces were filled with trees and pollinators and grew organic food for the community? What if oceans were clear of plastic? What if humans and all of nature were thriving, not merely surviving?

Bringing about a better environment for all requires individual choices and group effort. **Get connected** by becoming a part of the Peoples Church Earth Stewardship ministry or a regional or national organization, like Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (Capital Area Chapter), Sierra Club, or the Ocean Conservancy.

Over 146 million tons of solid waste is disposed into landfills annually in our country. Landfills are notorious for environmental injustice (often located near marginalized neighborhoods) and for the release of methane, which contributes to global warming. Look for alternatives. **Donate, rehome, or recycle instead of trashing**.

Before you return anything such as clothing, check with friends or family who may know of a need. **Donate or consign** gently used or new merchandise to the organization of your choice.

It’s a new political year, a new opportunity for you to **urge local, state, and federal lawmakers to act on behalf of Earth**. Even if you do not know the details of what legislation or policy is needed, you can speak as a person of faith, as an advocate for God’s creation.

Choose one action you can do and do it. Don’t stop there. Take on another and then another. Before you know it you will be making more of a difference than you ever imagined.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY - MISSION SPOTLIGHT

CARDBOARD PROPHETS

One of the many missions Community Engagement Ministry will focus on this year is Cardboard Prophets - a street-based outreach that was created in 2009, as a response to homelessness in the Lansing area. Their mission statement is “to give HOPE, LOVE and second chances to ALL through creative ideas, programs and unique events with the main goal of involving the community in REAL change for people that are homeless or at risk of homelessness and restore FAITH in humanity.” Cardboard Prophets hold various events in the Greater Lansing area including free laundry days and a Freetail Store located in the Lansing Mall.

On the second Sunday of each month, Cardboard Prophets hosts “Fellowship in the Park”, scheduled from 12:30 to 2pm at Reutter Park in downtown Lansing, across from the Capitol. It includes a meal and a service provided by a ministry team and Pastor Willie Mitchell. Several churches including Redeemer United Methodist, Mason Community, Mason UMC, Trinity, Williamson UMC, and Lansing Seventh Day Adventist attend; as well as Footprints of Michigan and various other people and groups who want to be of service. Gently used clothing, personal items and other various goods are provided at no charge.

As we move into 2023, we’ll be asking for donations of specific items to be gifted to this homeless population. Currently, we’re investigating storage opportunities within and outside the Church building and will be creating a subcommittee to organize, manage and transport donations to the Fellowship in the Park events. To learn more about Cardboard Prophets, visit <https://www.facebook.com/CardboardProphets>.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22nd, 2023

12:00 PM:
Chapel Service

6:30 PM:
Sanctuary Service



200 W. Grand River Ave.
East Lansing, MI 48823

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

*80 and above

Irene Cantlon

Eleanor Chapin

Alice Crist

Roger Grove

Ann Heisey

Barbara Honhart

Darlene Nikoloff

Shirley Noetzold

Barbara Soper

Merrilyn Vaughn Hoffman

Gary Wegenke

Thomas Wilbur



FEBRUARY TAIZE SERVICE

This month's Taizé Service is on

February 26th

at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Services consist of repetitive and meditative singing, prayer, Scripture, and silence. It is a powerful, quiet, contemplative worship experience. This service is inter-denominational and all are welcome.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you would like to learn more about becoming a member at The Peoples

Church, please contact

office@thepeopleschurch.com to RSVP for the New Member Class on **February**

23 at 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to submit an article to the *March Portal*, please email zaho@thepeopleschurch.com by **February 15th**.



EMPTY BOWLS CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 12 | After the 10:30 Service | Snider Social Hall

Join us for the 2023 *Empty Bowls* Chili Cook-Off! Members of the Lansing Potters Guild have generously donated some of their best hand-crafted bowls, which will be sold to benefit the hungry in the Greater Lansing Area. We'll have a friendly competition of homemade chili tasting, complete with prizes for each of three winners in two divisions: Youth and Adult (18+). We seek chili chefs, servers, event volunteers, and of course, tasters! If you are interested in making chili, please reach out to Julie Pierce (Juliep2315@gmail.com or text 517.897.0943). If you would like to volunteer, reach out to Robin Matheson (Matheso4@msu.edu or text 517.290.3223).

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