

On My Mind:

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Some years back, I was on a committee to plan worship for the Minnesota UCC Annual Conference Meeting. The committee consisted of three pastors and, since we were spread out all over the state, our meetings were mostly conference calls. (This was a time before Zoom, if you can imagine.) We chose a theme (the Spirit of Pentecost), arranged for preachers and worship leaders, and even identified what program the offering would support.

As I was getting ready to leave for the annual meeting, I decided at the last minute to put our sanctuary cross and bible in my trunk. It seemed like a silly move since surely someone else was bringing those essential items, but I figured it I might as well haul them along...just in case.

When I arrived at the venue, my two colleagues were already there, busily draping 40 yards of gauzy red fabric across the stage. After the fabric was satisfactorily arranged, we turned our attention to placing two dozen votive candles across the altar. As we evaluated our progress, I said, "Don't you think we should have a cross and bible on the altar?" One of the pastors said, "Oh! That would be nice!" I said, "I've got those in my trunk. I'll go get them." I brought in the cross and the bible, and we placed them on the altar with the fabric and candles all around. It was beautiful!

We stood back admiring our work and my colleague said, "I have to ask. Did you bring the cross and bible specifically for this event or do you always have them in your trunk?" I laughed and said, "No, I brought them just in case we needed them." She smiled and replied, "That's why I love the UCC. When I think of worship, I think of 40 yards of fabric and two dozen candles. You think of a cross and a bible. Thank God we bring all our gifts to the church!"

The apostle Paul wrote "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

I love the idea that every person has a gift to bring for the common good. Some bring the gift of teaching; others bring the gift of preaching. Some have a musical gift to offer, while others are great at dealing with finances. Some bring 4 yards of fabric and others bring a Bible! Each and every person has a gift to offer for the common good. And EVERY gift we bring builds up Christ's Church.

The Peoples Church depends on every person sharing their gift and right now, I'm hoping someone will share a gift for accounting. In other words, we are looking for a church treasurer. You may not think your gift is needed or perhaps you think someone else will surely come forward. But maybe, you are called. If so, we need you! The truth is God needs all our gifts for the common good. Don't hold back! We need each and every one of you to make this body of Christ live and breathe!

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Campus Ministry

Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell—Associate Pastor, Campus Ministry Director



One of the reasons I love campus ministry so much is that students are really in the midst of hashing out what they believe and why they should believe it. For many, college offers an opportunity to question some of the truths they have received from their parents/community along the way thus far. Perhaps this comes as a part of aging out of those teenage years and focusing on their desires and hopes for the future. Regardless, I believe it is one of the most influential spaces in which the church can exist.

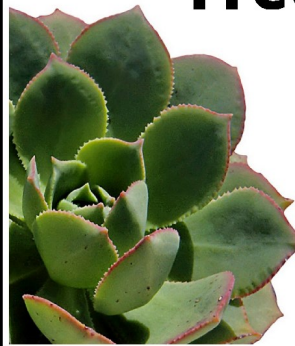
While we have solid student attendance in worship most Sundays, and our programming brings students inside our church building, the fun part is surprising students with a take on Christianity that is rooted in love, no strings attached. We took the opportunity to do that just before Easter, handing out nearly 200 succulent plants with our campus ministry logo on the side. This was a huge success as it got our name and location out to new students, and as one of our students who helped with the giveaway repeated, **"...you are welcome to come, no strings attached."**

It has been a bit of a wild ride this school year. I arrived on the scene after school had started, we had a big change in the group at the end of the first semester, we re-activated our student org status with MSU, and as spring began these new freshmen leaders emerged. While the end of this school year may be approaching, we are already excited about the opportunities to connect in the fall.

Thank you for your support of our campus ministry. It is another way The Peoples Church shares the love of God, with no strings attached. – Pastor Devon



Let Love Grow Free Succulents



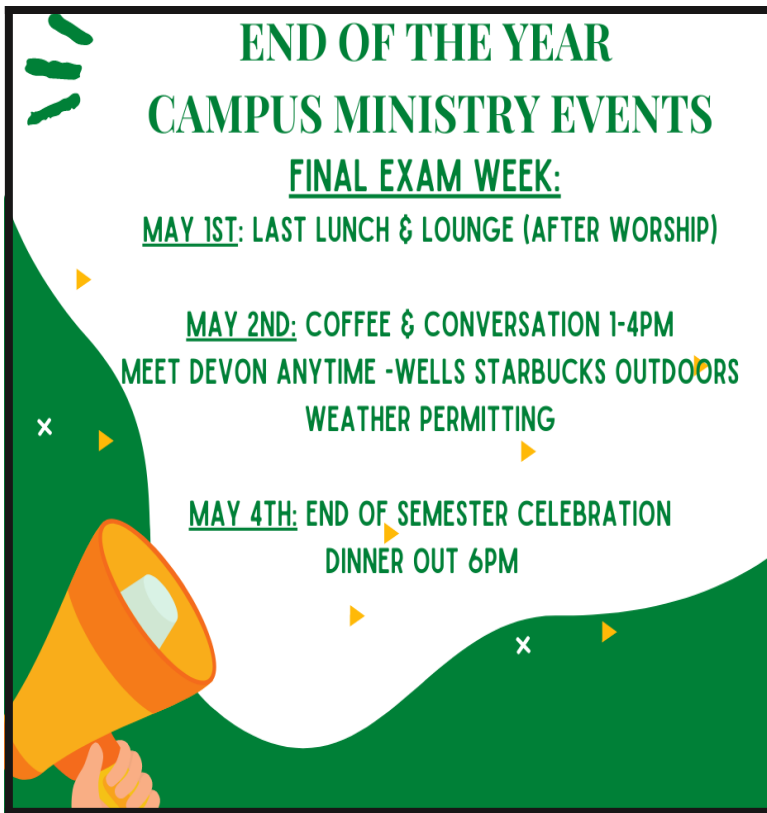
**END OF THE YEAR
CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS**

FINAL EXAM WEEK:

MAY 1ST: LAST LUNCH & LOUNGE (AFTER WORSHIP)

**MAY 2ND: COFFEE & CONVERSATION 1-4PM
MEET DEVON ANYTIME -WELLS STARBUCKS OUTDOORS
WEATHER PERMITTING**

**MAY 4TH: END OF SEMESTER CELEBRATION
DINNER OUT 6PM**




EMERGE:
A COMMUNITY FOR TWENTY & THIRTY SOMETHINGS

**MAY 9TH
7:00PM**

Let's get together for study, fun and fellowship.

Ask Pastor Devon for more info

Children's Education

Kathi Mitchell— Children's Education Director



Scan here for VBS registration.

VBS is next month! Register [here](#) or follow the link on the Children's department page at www.thepeopleschurch.com.

VBS volunteers, counselors and supplies are still needed! If you can help in any way, please contact Kathi Mitchell at kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com. Any donation of supplies, money or time, no matter how big or small, will help us put on a great week for our kids!

Sunday School continues to grow each week, for which we are so thankful! To continue to offer classes this summer, we need teachers! Even just one Sunday a month helps, please contact Kathi Mitchell if you can help.

Thank you to our teachers and everyone who has donated to VBS so far, your support for our children is amazing!

Peoples Church Preschool

Spring Curriculum

Dana Johnson—Director, Peoples Church Preschool



The change in seasons is always exciting in the preschool classrooms. Spring brings more opportunities for the children to learn through their senses and to get to dive into more than just the snow. Last month we celebrated the National Week of the Young Child. Each day during this special week there is an emphasis on learning which includes: *Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday (mixing, measuring, chopping, and tasting), Work Together Wednesday (cooperation), Artsy Thursday, and Families Friday.*

Peoples Church Preschool



Est. 1951 (517) 332-2885



Pictured: four-year old children explore tubs of soil, flowers, and worms in the Preschool 2 Classroom.

The spring curriculum for all age groups is infused with lessons on baby animals, where eggs come from, the wind, and cleaning up our earth. The Jr. Kindergarten class has been observing the daffodils that grow outside of the Northwest Entrance, checking on them daily. The Twos Room has had a recent visit from a baby goat. Several classrooms have been growing plants indoors that will be transplanted outdoors in a few weeks, and some of the classrooms will soon be raising butterflies after receiving our caterpillars in the mail.

Peoples Church Youth Group

Elisha Smith—Youth Director

As the school year comes to an end, we are wrapping up a few things! **Confirmation Sunday is May 15th, with a Confirmation Party that evening in the youth den from 5:30 - 8:00!** We are so proud of our students who are completing Confirmation. I am thrilled that we will be having a **CAKE AUCTION this month, on May 22nd following the service!** And finally we are celebrating the end of the year with a combined **MS/HS lock-in on June 3rd-4th.**

It has been so long since we've been able to hold a lock-in, and I am looking forward to all the fun we will have! This is a busy month, but one that is bound to be full of laughter and excitement. I'm looking forward to wrapping up the year with you. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or would like more information on PCYG events!

Edgewood Village Partnership Continues!



(Logo designed by Susan Reedy, representing the Edgewood Village Space Jack Sculpture and the Peoples Church commitment to partnership with residents there.)

In 2014, our Community Engagement Ministry, with the leadership of Charles Blackman and Rev. Barbara Scott, established a partnership with Peoples Church and Edgewood Village, a 135 unit low income housing community in East Lansing. Since that beginning, our partnership has grown and expanded to include significant financial support and hundreds of volunteers who have contributed countless hours toward building a stronger community for residents. Following the pandemic, programs are up and running again and opportunities abound. Currently, help is needed in four areas:

- **Drivers** (Will provide transportation for residents who need assistance. Contact Cheryl Leece at leecem44@gmail.com.)
- **Help with the garden** (Contact Cheryl Leece at leecem44@gmail.com.)
- **Assistance with the Scholars Banquet** (Scheduled to be held at TPC on the evening of May 26th. Contact Kim Gools at kgools@yahoo.com.)
- **Tutoring** (1 on 1 tutoring to improve reading and literacy skills. Contact Abby Barr at abbyjobarr@gmail.com.)

We invite you to join us!

THE KNITTING PEOPLE:

The Knitting People will meet in the Robertson Room on **Thursday, May 26th** from 1-3 p.m. to bless completed items and work on blankets, baby items, socks, prayer shawls, and other needed items. All knitters and crocheters are invited to join us! Questions? Email Mary Anne at malarz@aol.com

THE READING PEOPLE:

The Reading People will meet on **Thursday, May 19th** from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Robertson Room to discuss *What the Fireflies Knew* by Kai Harris. Joanne Keith will lead discussion of this coming of age novel, told by 10 year old Kenyatta Bernice, as she in her sister try to make sense of their new life with their estranged grandfather in the wake of their father's death and mother's disappearance.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is promoting Air Quality Awareness Week 2022 on May 2 – May 6. This timeframe corresponds with the beginning of ozone season, wildfire season, and World Asthma Day. Air quality awareness is more than just understanding the Air Quality Index (AQI) forecast that utilizes the color code system. Air quality awareness includes education about the air in your specific area and what associated health effects might be a concern for your community. You can check air quality conditions on the State of Michigan's air monitoring website www.deqmiair.org and through the Enviroflash program.

The theme this year is Be Air Aware & Prepared! EPA's goal is to promote events

that increase air quality awareness and encourage people to check the Air Quality Index (AQI) daily. We plan to focus on the following daily topics this year, featuring one each day on the AQAW website: www.airnow.gov/aqaw

Daily Topics:

- Monday – Wildfires & Smoke
- Tuesday - Asthma and Your Health
- Wednesday – Citizen Science & Sensors
- Thursday – Environmental Justice & Air Quality
- Friday – Air Quality Around the World

Learn more about how you can celebrate AQAW 2022 with us through our [AQAW Toolkit](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

WPC Strawberry Breakfast

Women of Peoples Church will be holding their Annual Strawberry Breakfast on **May 1st, following Sunday Worship**. The guest speaker for the event is religious humorist, Sheri Wohlfert. Quiche, vegan burritos, mixed greens, and a strawberry dessert will be served. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children 11 & up, and free for children 11 & under.



New Members Gathering

All New Peoples Church Members and their families that have joined the church since the last New Members' Gathering in 2019 are invited to join us for Food and Fellowship at Pastor Monroe's house on **May 15 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.**. Welcome Ministry hasn't been able to hold these events due to Covid in our community and we are very excited to get everyone together! This includes anyone who has been unable to attend a New Members' Gathering in the past and Confirmands who become members of the church once they are Confirmed. Please RSVP to Diane Shafer at dmshafer2001@gmail.com or 517-388-0437. See you there!



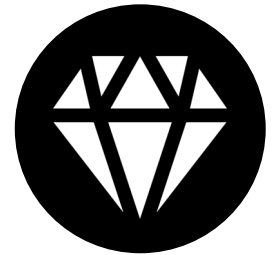
Interfaith Service

The Interfaith Clergy Association will revive its annual interfaith service on **Monday, May 16th, at 7 p.m., at The Peoples Church**. We will offer scriptures and songs from many faiths that emphasize the importance of welcoming and tending to newcomers in our midst. ALL are welcome. Together we can form one single community of friendship and mutual respect. You can attend in person, or through [YouTube live stream](#).



Jewelry and Book Sale

The annual jewelry and book sale will take place **May 21st (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) and May 22nd (9 a.m.-1 p.m.)**, during the East Lansing Art Festival! **Volunteers are still needed for set-up on May 20th 6-9 p.m., and tear-down on May 22nd 1-3 p.m.** Contact Jess Eysselinck at jessica@eysselinck.com if you are interested in helping.



Cake Auction

Join us at our annual Cake Auction on **May 22nd directly following the service** as we raise money for our PCYG kiddos to travel to Milwaukee, WI this summer for a week of service! This is the first mission trip PCYG has been able to take in over 2 years, and we are thrilled to have this opportunity! Your support is greatly appreciated.



Town & Gown

There are three remaining presentations of the Town & Gown series; Professor Satish Upda on **May 3rd**, Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe on **May 10th**, an Professor Shanelle Foster on **May 17th**. Presentations are at 5 p.m., held in person in the Robertson Room and also accessible through Zoom. To join online, visit <https://msu.zoom.us/j/93436186072>, and enter passcode Town&Gown.





JOIN US FOR
PUB THEOLOGY

Monday May 23rd
7pm
@ Crunchy's

GRADUATION SUNDAY

 On Sunday, June 12th, we are recognizing all of our graduates!

 If you or a loved one is graduating, let us know. We will list all graduates

 in the bulletin and celebrate those who are present.

 Send information to zaho@thepeopleschurch.com

May Birthdays

80 & over

Luella Erbes -5/1

Jane Marin -5/2

John Donahue - 5/6

Albert Hafner - 5/9

Sue Mills - 5/14

Sandra Wegenke -5/17

Stewart SirLouis - 5/18

Otto Stockmeyer -5/24

Eleanor Stubbs -5/21

Anniversaries

25th

Michael Moreno & Kristen Schuster

30th

Rick Shafer & Diane Shafer

50th

William Tuma & Sharon Tuma

We apologize if we have missed you. Please contact the office to make sure we have your correct information on file.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a 6-week, interactive workshop that helps non-professional caregivers to take better care of themselves while caring for someone else. Topics include stress management, relaxation, dealing with difficult emotions such as anger, guilt, depression, dealing with losses, communication, and more.

Where: Online via Zoom

When: Wednesdays, **May 11 – June 15** from 10:00 – 11:30 am

Free of charge but donations accepted

To register: Call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465 or e-mail Christine at histedc@tcoa.org



Mission Spotlight

The Community Engagement Ministry (CEM) has supported the Southside Community Kitchen (SCK) for many years. Its mission is to provide well-balanced, nourishing meals to the hungry people of Lansing in a caring, dignified environment where they are reassured of their worth as God's unique works of creation.

SCK was founded in 1987 by concerned people from several local church congregations, including TPC, as a response to the growing numbers of homeless and hungry people living in Lansing. Since that time:

- They've served over 300,000 meals to people in need. A network of dedicated volunteers prepare, serve, and clean up. Over 35 local churches partner with the SCK to faithfully provide financial donations and a network of volunteers. CEM donates annually.
- The facility moved to the Unitarian Universalist Church on Pennsylvania Avenue in 2020, after many years at St. Casimir's church until they closed. CEM provided \$10,000 last year to help with the renovations of the kitchen and pantry.
- Members of TPC can volunteer by contacting Jan Perron, who coordinates TPC servers on the 2nd Tuesday of each month or Joanne Boss, SCK Assistant Director at 517.721.1388 . If you'd like to donate, visit www.southsidekitchen.org, or send a check to Southside Community Kitchen, PO Box 80844, Lansing, MI 48908.

The next *Portal* deadline for the June issue is **May 15th**.
Submit content to office@thepeopleschurch.com