



## Bob Green Begonias

When the weather turns cold and I bring my begonias in for the winter, I think of Bob Green. Bob taught me to read financial reports over a couple of beers in 2013. He was the chair of the finance committee at that time and a very successful entrepreneur. After a finance meeting, I confessed to Bob that I'd never had an accounting class and didn't understand much of what was being discussed. So Bob invited me out for a drink and proceeded to teach me the fundamentals. Not only did I learn the difference between month-end reports and statements of financial position, but Bob schooled me on the difference between cash accounting and accrual accounting. He even quizzed me at the end of our meeting. I passed.

When I went to seminary, there was not a big emphasis on understanding church finances. Rather, we were encouraged to trust such earthly issues to church members who had a background in finance and accounting. Pastors were supposed to focus on the spiritual side of the church, offering scriptural references for stewardship campaigns or checking the theology of pledge letters. The theory was that, if we were truly faithful, God would provide the funds to support our ministry.

It didn't take long for me to realize that financial issues were often at the heart of ministry. Without robust giving, churches could not do what God called them to do - no matter how faithful they were. Worry about church finances also led to general anxiety and a tense, survival mentality in congregations. Eventually, I figured out that I needed to know how to read budgets and balance sheets. Thank God I had Bob Green to help me.

There are days I wish I could call him, but Bob is no longer with us. He died 2019 at the age of 64 - taken too soon from this world. His funeral was standing room only and the sanctuary was filled with flowers given in memory of this generous and talented man.

After the service, Bob's wife gave me a beautiful begonia plant from one of the many floral tributes. It had delicate orange blossoms and dark green foliage. I still have that plant - and many of its offspring. With a little care and attention, one begonia becomes many. Small cuttings from a plant will form roots in a matter of weeks and suddenly the room is full of flowers.

What better metaphor for stewardship? Our gifts - small cuttings from our resources - multiply with care and attention, blossoming into programs and resources that allow us to do God's work in the world. And every act of generosity leads to greater generosity.

Bob Green was generous with his time, his talents and his treasure. He taught me more about church finances in an evening than I could have learned in a semester of accounting. And some of what he shared with me now bears fruit in this congregation.

May God bless us in this season!

— Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe, Senior Pastor

*“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” Psalm 1:3*



## November Birthdays

\*80 & over

11/09—Chet Lewis

11/11—Gretchen Rosenbrook

11/14—John Ferris

11/14—Shelby Hollister

11/16—Sal DiFranco

11/19—Clifford Weil

11/21—Lana Wagner

11/28—Betty Pond

11/29—Kenneth Hanson

11/29—Margaret Bates

## November Anniversaries

11/12—Jon & Greta McCormick (55)

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



## Annual Fall Election Meeting

Our next congregational meeting will be our Annual Fall Election Meeting. Join us on **Sunday, November 7th**. Information packets about our nominees are available at the Welcome Desk—look for the wicker basket!

## All Saints Day

The Peoples Church will commemorate All Saints Day **Sunday, November 7th**. If you have experienced a loss in the last year, please email the church at [office@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:office@thepeopleschurch.com) with their full name, so we can honor your beloved.

## The Reading People

Join the Reading People on **Thursday, November 18**, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Robertson Room to discuss *Last Bus to Wisdom*, by Ivan Doig. Named a best book of the year by the Seattle Times and Kirkus Review, this is the final novel from a great American storyteller. This book is available on Hoopla and at your local library. Zoom info will be posted in the weekly bulletin.

## The Knitting People

Knitting People are invited to gather on **Tuesday, November 23**, at 1 p.m. in the Robertson Room. We are focusing this month on baby blankets to be given to parents on the day that their babies are baptized; we have yarn and needles and crochet hooks and patterns to share with your willing hearts and hands! Questions? Call Mary Anne at 517-214-1487.

## Pictorial Directory

November is here and so we begin our appointments for the Pictorial Directory. There are still a few times available, especially the second week of November. If family is coming into town for the Thanksgiving holiday, we also have appointments on the 22nd and 24th. Don't delay signing up - We don't want to miss you!

## The Peoples Forum Sundays in the Robertson Room; 9:30-10:15 a.m.

11/07—Bev Mason, Community Engagement Chair; Local Missions of Peoples Church

11/14—Robert Lajcaj, Store Director; The Capitol City Market: New Concept for Groceries

11/21—Judy Putnam, Lansing State Journal Columnist, Feel Good Human Interest Stories

11/28—Thanksgiving Recess

12/05—Chris Kaminski, Musician, Come Celebrate With Us



## Gift Cards for Refugee Services

Yesterdays' news was the evacuation from Afghanistan. Todays reality is that the evacuees/refugees have started to arrive here in Lansing. These Afghanis (estimated 300) are in addition to the 400 other refugees from other parts of the world arriving here in Lansing. Peoples Church traditionally does a gift card drive for Refugee Services to purchase footwear for the arrivals and this is needed more than ever this year. A well marked box will be in the office for Meijer and Target gift cards (any amount) until **December 12th**. Thanks in advance for past support for underwear and gift cards. Questions? Contact Ruth Worthington at [worthin2@msu.edu](mailto:worthin2@msu.edu).

## A Matching Fund Offer from Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Ministry is committed to supporting colleges and seminaries affiliated with our four denominations: The American Baptist Church, The Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), The United Church of Christ, and The United Methodist Church. To that end, Community Engagement has created a **MATCHING FUNDS** opportunity. Any member of The Peoples Church who provides financial support to a denominationally affiliated college or seminary can apply to have those funds matched by Community Engagement. CE will match qualifying new gifts up to \$500. But act soon - the matching funds are limited and we will match on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Bev Mason ([masonbj2790@gmail.com](mailto:masonbj2790@gmail.com)) for further information.

## Town and Gown

Town and Gown will continue until mid-December and meets weekly on Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Participants may either attend in the Robertson Room or join by Zoom. We invite you to join us as we welcome Town & Gown to our church community! You can register to [attend via this link](#). For more information about future speakers, please take a look at this [flyer](#). For the November schedule of speakers, see below.

11/02— Dr. David Lowry, Department of Plant Biology, MSU

11/09— Dr. Morteza Mahmoudi, Department of Radiology, MSU

11/16— Nicole Jedding, Graduate Student at Oxford; Kate Freiden & Macken Keefe, MSU Social Science Scholars

11/23— Dr. Stan Kaplowitz, Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology, MSU

11/30— Dr. Susan Sleeper-Smith, Professor Emerita of History, MSU

## Confirmation Class

The Confirmation class at The Peoples Church is a program of faith exploration for 8th and 9th graders. The course is designed to teach young people more about the four denominations affiliated with The Peoples Church, as well as provide opportunities for in-depth Bible study, theological exploration, and service to the church and wider community. Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell will lead the program with assistance from Rev. Dr. Monroe. If you are interested in knowing more about Confirmation Class of 2022, please contact Rev. Herrell, [dherrell@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:dherrell@thepeopleschurch.com).

## WPC Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle draws its name from the passage in Acts where there is story about a woman who was highly revered in her community because she made things to care for the widows and orphans, who were considered very low status in her time. She used her Time, Talents, and Treasures to serve those less fortunate around her, and found ways to get other people involved when the need was greater than she could manage alone. The members of all of our Circle groups join together in this charge to care for those around us who need more support, and create a network of Time, Talents and Treasures that can be used to make a difference in the lives of others, near and far. If you are interested in joining one of the Circles, please reach out to our WPC President Susan Nowicki or any of the Circle Coordinators, who would be happy to help you find the group that best fits your needs. Dorcas circle will be meeting on the 16th of November in the Robertson Room at 7 p.m., Rebekah-Hannah and Phoebe Circles will not meet again until the Advent Tea in December.

I want to thank everyone who made my installation service such a meaningful day. Thank you to Rev. Penny Swartz and her whole committee. Thank you to Judy Kabodian and Jonathan Reed, Ally Szeles and Melanie Walker, Chris Kaminski and Kari Naghtin! Thank you to the Lundys, the Shafers and Susan Kilmer. And thank you to The Peoples Church for calling me to be your Senior Pastor over two years ago. It is a blessing and a privilege to be in ministry with you.

***Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe (officially the Senior Pastor)***



## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLES CHURCH



It's so nice to have children's voices fill the 3rd floor again! In Sunday School we have learned about Joseph and his trials, Moses' life, and now we're onto the 10 Commandments and building a house for God. The children have made roller coasters, burning bushes and more!

Our Christmas Pageant cast is busy learning their lines and songs for "Mr. Pfister's Christmas Time Travelers" and they are doing a great job! You can tell they're working hard to prepare for another great virtual pageant. I'm sure you will all enjoy it!

I appreciate everyone who has volunteered to teach Sunday School! We have parents and PCYG members alike coming together to offer classes to the children of our congregation. What a wonderful act of service. Thank you!

*- Kathi Mitchell, Children's Christian Education Director, kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com*



Hello PCYG!

November is an exciting month for us! We will continue our weekly youth group on Sunday evenings, with middle school youth group from 5:30-6:30, combined dinner and youth choir from 6:30-7:30, and high school youth group from 7:30-8:30!

Mark your calendars for YOUTH SUNDAY on November 21st! We will meet at church at 9:30, and breakfast will be provided! After the service, we will be joining up with the Campus Ministry students for a Nerf Battle! Lunch will be provided for students after the service, and the Nerf Battle will follow. You won't want to miss this Sunday! These events will take the place of our normal evening youth group. There will not be youth group on November 28th following Thanksgiving!

If you know any students who might be interested in joining our Peoples Church Youth Group, please reach out to me! Thank you all for your continued participation and engagement with this group, it is truly a joy to work with each and every one of you!

*- Elisha Smith, Youth Director, esmith@thepeopleschurch.com*

## A Place to Belong

An article in a recent Lansing State Journal caught my eye, the title read, “MSU asks faculty, staff to volunteer in dining halls.” Of the needed 4,000 student workers, only 1,900 have been hired this fall. This has led to shorter hours and closures at some of the cafeterias. The staff persons responding to this request were not too thrilled at the idea of working in the cafeteria on the weekends.

The same day a colleague of mine posed the question of whether or not pastors should get certified as substitute teachers to assist in the substitute shortage that is causing havoc in schools. This started a tense conversation that ranged from the need to pay teachers more to why putting pastors in schools is a bad idea.

In addition, this week I have spoken with fellow campus ministers who are all recognizing that there will be no “going back to normal,” and that we have entered into a new phase of learning about how we build Christian community in the midst of what often feels like a great amount of uncertainty.

After a year serving in a crazy Covid-filled hospital, I am finding such comfort serving back in the local church. Sure, it is a bit overwhelming to try and figure it all out, but when we started talking about Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, it made me breathe a sigh of relief. I realized that after spending a year not in worship on Sunday, these holy rhythms feel like home. They challenge me to slow down and be a bit more intentional in tending to my own spirit.

In the midst of times where everything feels different, while we continue to learn new and different ways of doing ministry, and as we enter into the rush of the holidays, what gives you that sense of belonging? I hope that one of those places is here in your church and I pray that we will continue to see more and more people returning to the rhythm of worship. I look forward to greeting you!

- Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell



### People's Church Campus Ministry Meets Regularly:

Tuesdays @ 8 p.m. for Dinner & Bible Study

(Topic for Nov: *Is Hell Real?*)

Sundays @ 11:45 a.m. Lunch & Lounge

### Upcoming Special Events:

Saturday 11/13: Parking Lot

Sunday 11/21: Epic Nerf Battle w/ PCYG

Tuesday 11/23: No Meeting/Thanksgiving break



## **WPC Seeks Board Candidates**

Looking for ways to share your gifts of time and talent at The Peoples Church? Consider joining the Board of the Women of Peoples Church (WPC). The WPC is looking to fill several vacancies for the 2022 Board of Directors and has issued a call for candidates. Open positions include Vice President/President-elect, Spiritual Life Coordinator, Historian, Communications Coordinator, Nominating Committee Chair, and Hospitality Coordinator.

Women of Peoples Church is a community of women who care for and nurture each other, deepening relationships with one another and with God through fellowship and hospitality, educational and social programs, special events, Christian service projects, fund-raising, support and involvement with our four founding denominations and faith-building gatherings.

The final slate of candidates for the 2022 Board will be presented and voted upon during the Advent Celebration in December. Board members attend quarterly meetings and help implement WPC programming and events. The new Board will assume office in January.

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, or have questions about Board/Position responsibilities, please contact Susan Nowicki, 2021 WPC President at [susan.nowicki@att.net](mailto:susan.nowicki@att.net) or visit the WPC page on the church website at <https://www.thepeopleschurch.com/women-of-peoples-church>.



## **The Fine Arts Committee Needs Volunteers**

As you walk the halls of The Peoples Church you have probably noticed the rotating art exhibits that are displayed in the building every few months. These exhibits are the result of the work of the Fine Arts Committee. The committee, which is charged with promoting a coordinated and creative use of the arts to enrich the programs of Peoples Church, is a vibrant and active cultural force within our church.

Each year this dynamic group develops and installs four major art exhibits in the church. In addition, it also sponsors select music events, such as the annual MSU Holiday Brass Concert, organized in partnership with the MSU College of Music. It is also open to new artistic projects.

### **Get Involved**

Now, as several long-time members retire from the committee, it is looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. Next year's exhibit calendar promises to be outstanding and fresh hands will be vital to its success.

It is not required that volunteers be artists, but simply have an interest in art. Knowledge of the local art community can be helpful but not required. The Committee is particularly interested in welcoming volunteers who have a background in communications who can assist with the production of the exhibit catalogs and help with promotion activities. As a member of the committee you will be asked to:

- Help develop art and music-related projects
- Assist with four art exhibit installations per year
- Attend four meetings each year to plan future exhibits
- Oversee the church's permanent art collection

Contact Committee Chair Suzanne Mills at [suemills@comcast.net](mailto:suemills@comcast.net) if you interested in becoming involved with this unique and enriching program.



## Edgewood Village Christmas Gifts - COVID Style

Calling all Elves - Christmas is coming and you are invited to help. If you would like to purchase a gift for a child at Edgewood Village, here in our local community, please contact Emily Anderson (church member) via e-mail at: [anderson2910@icloud.com](mailto:anderson2910@icloud.com) or via telephone at 517-648-0632. She will provide you with all the information you will need: gender and age of the child, item the child wishes and details for returning the gift. If you would simply like to financially support this activity, that is an option too! For many of the children at Edgewood Village the gift provided from Peoples Church will be the only gift they receive this Christmas.

## Message from the Holiday Food Basket Program Coordinators

Every holiday season, the Women of Peoples Church provide families in the Lansing area with Holiday Food Baskets. This year we look forward to serving our community like we always have—with a few small changes and some help from you! As an alternative to food baskets, we will offer a “food credit” at a small grocery store. This arrangement provides the family the ability to determine what food best fits their needs during the holidays and only restricts alcohol, tobacco and cleaning products. With your financial assistance we can adopt the same 30 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and provide them with a memorable holiday. We greatly appreciate your help in supporting our community, and pray we are one day able to deliver food to these families in person!

## Advent Tea

*WPC Will be holding their annual Advent Celebration in the Snider Social Hall, Dec 5th, at 11:45 a.m.*

*Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell will present*

*God is With Us: The Incarnation and Why it Matters.*

*Refreshments will be provided*



## Join us in Advent for a weekly time of study and reflection!

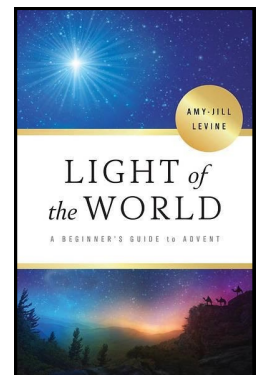
The class will be offered twice each week:  
**Wednesday 7 p.m.**

**Sunday 11:45 a.m.**  
**(following worship)**

We will be focusing on Amy-Jill Levine's *Light of the World*.

If you are interested in purchasing the book to go along with the study let us know, we will be ordering them on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Books are \$10. Questions? Ask Pastor Devon.



**The church office will be closed November 25th-26th  
in observation of Thanksgiving.**



*“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.”*

- Psalm 118:1



The next *Portal* deadline for the December issue is **November 15th**.  
Submit content to [eprice@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:eprice@thepeopleschurch.com)

**NOVEMBER 2021 PORTAL**

ThePeoplesChurch.com

517.332.5073

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

