

WHEN GOD CHANGES THE PLAY

I feel like I had a call in place that was audibled at the line of scrimmage. As many of you know, I have felt a strong pull to serve as a military chaplain since my days in seminary. Nearly one year ago, I finally followed through with this call and pursued my commission to serve as a Navy Reserve Chaplain. Unfortunately, that journey ended in June as I received a medical disqualification that was unable to be overturned, appealed, or waived. After months of medical examinations, interviews, and trips to Washington D.C., I was given an unequivocal “no” to my offer to serve as a chaplain in the Navy. I was crushed. And to make matters worse, this was the second “no” I have received this past year. You see, I started this exploration into military chaplaincy with the hope to serve as an Michigan Air Guard chaplain. Similarly, I was rejected by the Air Force due to a medical disqualification.



For the past year, I have followed all the steps necessary to overturn this ruling but have come up short. Unfortunately, I have a rare genetic condition known as malignant hyperthermia. In short, I have a potentially deadly allergy to general anesthesia that is considered by the military to be “unwaiverable.” While many people went to bat for me, both inside and outside of the military, this condition was unable to be overcome.

I was devastated by the news and over the past couple of weeks have been coming to grips with this new reality. My daughter, Denali, gently told me, “Well, Daddy...maybe God has another plan for you. Maybe this just means you get to spend more time at home with us?” Ouch. It is always humbling to be theologically schooled by your preteen children.

She is right, of course. How do we ever fully understand God’s call for our lives? What do we do when the call we assumed was there is changed, altered, stalled or otherwise put on hold? Why is it the best laid plans of mice and men oft go awry?

I am proud to have gone through the process and fully explored the possibility of serving as a reserve chaplain. Likewise, I am still honored, humbled, and thankful to be called as the senior pastor here at The Peoples Church. I feel truly blessed to enjoy the privilege of this incredible pulpit, knowing the ministry of this place extends well beyond our church walls. We have all had to pivot, adjust, and redefine our calls from one moment to the next. Paul was so sure he was on the way to Damascus to persecute Christians. His encounter with Jesus not only changed his path, but it changed the direction of the world from that day forward.

God is still speaking and I am still listening. I hope you will join me in this discerning effort to determine who God is calling us to be in our homes, in our work, in our community, and in our world. Peace be with you!

Pastor Andrew

WE EARNED AN ENERGY STAR RATING!

For more than 20 years, the US Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR program has identified the most energy-efficient products, buildings, plants, and new homes – all based on the latest government-backed standards. **The Peoples Church is proud to be an ENERGY STAR rated building.** ENERGY STAR certified buildings use an average 35 percent less energy, cause an average 35 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and are less expensive to operate than their peers, and they also meet strict requirements regarding occupant comfort. Our new boilers are 79% efficient, compared with the 54% efficiency of the old boilers. That’s a big leap! In addition, the Earth Stewardship Committee, and Building & Grounds Ministry have spear-headed other projects around the church that respond to God’s call for us to care for the earth. A special thanks to Facility Director, Andy Mayville, and the fantastic maintenance staff of J Douglas, Jody Nottage and Vince Watson for keeping our building well maintained and a source of pride for our congregation and community!





Summer Events!

WEDNESDAY LUNCHES AND HANGOUT | Every Wednesday this summer starting June 28, meet at the Church Office at 1p.m. Joe will take whoever shows up to lunch! Afterward, hang out at the park playing soccer, Wiffle Ball, football, Frisbee, or cards until 4 p.m.

MISSION TRIP TO ST. LOUIS | JULY 9-14 | Prayers welcome for our students and adult chaperones who are heading to St. Louis to make friends and have an awesome time while serving others and growing in faith. PCYG will present about their trip during WNL! Worship at 6:15 p.m. on July 26.

KAYAKING | AUGUST 2 – 1 P.M.-3 P.M. | Hangout and enjoy some fun on the river! Drop-off and pick-up will be at Lansing City Market. E-mail Joe to RSVP. Cost: \$10.

CEDAR POINT! | AUGUST 23 | The culmination of our summer is always the Cedar Point trip! We take a bus down to the park and spend all day riding rides, walking around and generally having an amazing time. Sign-up is available online; e-mail Joe for the link.

*For questions or RSVP information, contact
Joe Kennedy at jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com*



EDGEWOOD VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP

SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLES CHURCH OF EAST LANSING



On Tuesday evening, June 6, thirty members of the Peoples Church leadership group and staff members of the Edgewood Village Community gathered for the year-end summary and update while enjoying a picnic supper at the home of Barbara Scott.

New Design Team member, Nancy Danhof, was introduced. She will be one of the five mentors for Edgewood 11th graders. Other mentors are: Aram Kabodian, Cal Kerr, Penny Howard and Kathy Rogers. Penny is also leading a Tower Support Group. Nancy Wilson is joining the communication group with Mary Heiderson and Maxine Ferris as our Edgewood Project photographer. Lary Hill will serve as the church's Garden Coordinator. If you want to be a garden volunteer, please contact him at (517) 339-2502 or at onerlary@comcast.net.

Or if you would like to volunteer as a receptionist at the Edgewood Activity Center for a few hours one evening a week, please contact that group's coordinator, Cheryl Leece, at (517) 410-1313 or at leece@msu.edu.

Mimi Burpee continues to coordinate the Tutoring Group, Emily Anderson oversees the Christmas Gift Project, Barb Dunlap coordinates the Holiday Food Baskets and Bob Ference leads those who make the weekly Panera Bread Delivery to Edgewood. Loretta Johnston is the coordinator of English as Second Language Ministry; and Bob Steinkamp leads the Individual Family Support Initiative. Ruth Ann Ference and David Brower provide Financial Support. Others of the Design Team not previously mentioned who are involved in other Edgewood outreach efforts are: Barbara Scott, Jake Ferris, Kim Gools, Ellie Heusner and John Stroup.

-Maxine Ferris

PASTORAL CHANGES!

It is with profound happiness that I celebrate the good news of the calling of Rev. Betsy Aho to serve as our new Associate Pastor for Campus, Communications, and Community Engagement. Well known to our congregation for her incredible ministry these past many years, Rev. Aho will bring to her new position the same faith-filled passionate care for The Peoples Church that she has demonstrated as our past youth director and campus ministry director. Her new position is tasked with the internal and external communications, mission and visitation coordination, and continuing to oversee the thriving campus ministry program she has led these past three years.

It is a glorious sign of a growing, healthy, active congregation when we once again return to a three pastor staff. Each clergyperson is tasked with similar pastoral duties while spending the remainder of their time dedicated to their specific call. Associate Pastor Drew Filkins continues to oversee the Christian Education and Discipleship component of church life. Using a biblical model for leadership, it is helpful to think of Pastor Betsy as the fisher of people and Pastor Drew as the shepherd who cares for the flocks growth and development. Pastor Betsy is reaching into the community while Pastor Drew is caring for the education and discipleship of those in our midst. While these lines are never hard and fast, they do provide a guideline for our pastoral care, outreach, Christian education, and discipleship. As the head of staff, I serve as the senior pastor for the congregation and set direction, vision, and organization for the whole church, while also working closely with Pastors Betsy and Drew, in addition to the whole church staff, pre-school, elders, and volunteers, in continuing to be the hands and feet of Christ in East Lansing. While I am charged as the primary preacher and worship leader, both Pastors Drew and Betsy will provide support and worship leadership from time to time throughout the church year.

I hope you'll join me on August 27 at 10:30 in officially celebrating Betsy's call to service at The Peoples Church during her installation and ordination. This blessed event is a celebration for not only Betsy's family but for our whole family of faith as we recognize God's faithful call in Betsy's life! -Pastor Andrew

Rev. Betsy Aho Service of Ordination and Installation The Peoples Church Sunday, August 27, 2017, 10:30 a.m. Reception to Follow



SUNDAY FLOWERS

Sunday Floral Dedications offer members weekly opportunities to celebrate and remember loved ones. Dedications may be reserved with a memorial gift of \$85 to benefit the Sanctuary Fund. Use the notebook at the Welcome Center or contact the Office at 517-332-5073.



**WORSHIP WITH US EACH
SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. AND 10:30 a.m.**

**CHILDREN'S DEEP BLUE
SUNDAY SCHOOL TAKES
PLACE DURING 10:30 a.m.
WORSHIP**

PORTAL DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions to the next Portal is July 31. Submit content to Betsy at eaho@thepeopleschurch.com or the Church Office.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

New directories will be available very soon and we will be sure to let you know when they arrive! If you're traveling for the summer, your copy will be available when you return. If you had your picture taken for the directory this spring, and have not yet picked up your complimentary photo, you may stop by the office.



LIFE UNDER THE SUN

EXPLORING THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

5:30 P.M. | Community Meal, Friendship Hall

6:15 P.M. | Worship Service, McCune Chapel

W N L !
Summer Worship Series



200 W. Grand River Ave.
East Lansing MI 4882

517.332.5073

ThePeoplesChurch.com

SUMMER 2017 PORTAL