

# 2020 VISION



“What’s your vision for the church?”

I’ve been asked that question at least once a week since I arrived at The Peoples Church in October. After all, I am the new Senior Pastor and the spiritual head of the congregation. Surely I must be ready to tell the members and staff where we are heading in 2020. Right?

Some ministers will start a new call by making sweeping changes, using the “honeymoon” period as an opportunity to put their particular stamp on a congregation. Experience has taught me that this requires a certain kind of ministerial arrogance that I neither possess nor aspire to. Personally, I am suspicious of people who think they know what’s best for me if they don’t know me. Isn’t that also true for congregations?

Let me be honest: I didn’t accept this call because I had a master plan for the future of The Peoples Church. I accepted this call because I felt God was calling me to this place for a reason—a reason God would reveal in time. That’s how God works: accept the call, details will follow.

When God called Abraham, God did not offer much in the way of details, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1) Instead, God asked Abraham to trust in the Lord. The same was true for Moses. God’s voice spoke to Moses from the burning bush and said, “So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:10) Moses asked for more details, but God only promised to be with him and revealed the name: I Am. Even in the New Testament, Mary agreed to bear Jesus based on very sketchy details. We accept God’s call based on WHO God is, not based on what God is offering.

Once we accept God’s call, then God begins to reveal the details.

I cannot tell you what my vision is for this church, but together, we will discern the details of God’s vision for us through reflection, prayer and conversation. Together, we will examine the resources of this church and how we utilize them to further God’s mission. Together, we will identify missed opportunities and assess the spiritual needs of this community. Together, we will live by faith, act with intention, and articulate what it means to be The Peoples Church in 2020 and beyond.

My prayer for 2020 is that I can inspire this congregation to speak God’s word and do God’s work for we are the body of Christ in this place and time. What’s my vision for 2020? To figure out what God’s vision for the church is and just do it.

May God bless us all in this new year!

*Dr. Monroe*

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

\*80 & OVER

1/3 - Helen Ward  
1/6 - Peggy Sherman  
1/8 - Susan Allis  
1/13 - Jane Harrison  
1/19 - Robert Erbes  
1/20 - Bill Dansby  
1/24 - Fran Bradley  
1/24 - Pat Brogan  
1/30 - Jean Moore

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/20 - Ron & Billie Lantis (30)

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

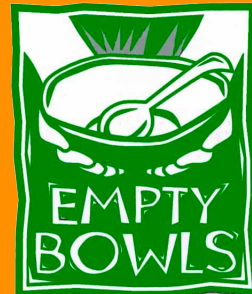
## PORTAL DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the February 2020 Portal is January 15. Submit content to Rachel Giddings at, [rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com).

The Portal is a monthly newsletter that is mailed each month to opt-in subscribers and also included in the Friday email.

## THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all The Peoples Church members and friends who supported the Edgewood Village gift project. Whether you purchased an item, helped to wrap gifts or delivered the gifts, your time, treasure or talent was appreciated. Thanks to your generosity we were able to provide gifts for 85 children at Edgewood Village. Each of the gifts were wrapped and delivered with love to Edgewood Village on December 18. Thank you, thank you!



Let's add some warmth to these c-c-cold winter days; the **EMPTY BOWLS Chili Cook-Off** is Back! On **Sunday, February 9, 2020**, join us following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Snider Social Hall for the **EMPTY BOWLS/CHILI COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER!**

Members of the Greater Lansing Potters Guild have generously donated some of their best hand-crafted bowls for sale with proceeds to benefit the hungry in the Greater Lansing Area. We'll have a friendly tasting competition of home-made chilis complete with prizes for each of three winners in two divisions: Youth and Adult (18+).

This is a popular event and one that warms hearts, souls and tummies on a February afternoon! Chili chefs, servers, event volunteers and of course, tasters are wanted! To sign up to be a volunteer, click [here](#), or go to The Peoples Church website (homepage), click on the Chili Cook-Off news event and sign up. The Chili Cook-Off is an event not to be missed!



# FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

## RECIPES BY GERRI LYNN



Gerri Lynn Nichols, our talented Hospitality Coordinator, shares a recipe with us each month. Enjoy!

### OVERNIGHT BLUEBERRY FRENCH TOAST

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 12 slices day-old bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, cut into 1 inch cubes
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 12 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 tablespoon butter

#### DIRECTIONS:

Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. Arrange half the bread cubes in the dish, and top with cream cheese cubes. Sprinkle 1 cup blueberries over the cream cheese, and top with remaining bread cubes.

In a large bowl, mix the eggs, milk, cinnamon, vanilla extract, and syrup. Pour over the bread cubes. Cover, and refrigerate overnight.

Remove the bread cube mixture from the refrigerator about 30 minutes before baking. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Cover, and bake 30 minutes. Uncover, and continue baking 25 to 30 minutes, until center is firm and surface is lightly browned.

In a medium saucepan, mix the sugar, cornstarch, and water. Bring to a boil. Stirring constantly, cook 3 to 4 minutes. Mix in the remaining 1 cup blueberries. Reduce heat, and simmer 10 minutes, until the blueberries burst. Stir in the butter, and pour over the baked French toast

# PEOPLES FORUM



Join us each Sunday for interesting and informative "Voices of the Community" at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room.

#### JANUARY 12

**ANDY MAYVILLE, TPC Facilities Director**  
*"Parking Issues at The Peoples Church"*

#### JANUARY 19

**JUDY PUTNAM, LSJ journalist**  
*"Age Alive"*

#### JANUARY 26

**MITCH RINEK, M.D.**  
*"Dermatology Issues Facing All of Us"*



PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

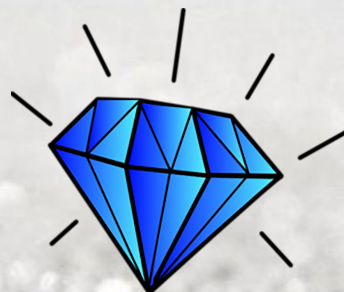


## WINTER RETREAT

The PCYG Winter Retreat will be over the weekend of **January 31, 2020**. This year the retreat is in Flint, MI for a mini-mission weekend. Our students will be working with Crossover Downtown Ministry and the St. Andrew's Soup Kitchen, with time for fun along the way! Email Joe Kennedy at [jkennedy@the-peopleschurch.com](mailto:jkennedy@the-peopleschurch.com) for more details.

## JEWELRY SALE DONATIONS

The Women of Peoples Church are gearing up for their annual jewelry sale in May. As you clean out your closets this winter, please consider donating your jewelry, purses, scarves, housewares, antiques and more to the jewelry sale. Drop off your donations to the church office during business hours, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.







## LET US GROW, LET US GROW, LET US GROW

by Rev. Drew Filkins, Associate Pastor

The weather outside is frightful, but the conversation is delightful! Since we have a place to go, let us grow, let us grow, let us grow (together). The Peoples Church has so many amazing adult Christian education experiences. I encourage you to join one this winter.

I don't know about you, but after the holiday season, I find myself in need of a spiritual pick-me-up. There is always so much joy, and sometimes pain, associated with the season, and afterward, I am always looking for a way to continue to challenge my faith and grow in community. The long winter's nights have me longing for community and conversation.

The Peoples Church has so many different opportunities for people to connect. There are groups that serve. There are groups that study the Bible. There are groups that read books. There is a group that knits and crochets together. There are groups that deal with current events and local affairs. There is a group that gathers to talk about the upcoming sermon. There are so many different ways to get connected in this wonderful congregation. You can find these opportunities listed in the monthly *Portal* or in the weekly bulletin. Or, feel free to contact me to find a group that might suit you best.

As you consider how you are going to organize your life after Christmas, consider adding a group to your routine to continue to grow in Christ. Not only do they challenge your mind, but they uplift your soul and connect you with friends here at The Peoples Church. I know that my own spiritual life has greatly benefited from the various study, book, and service groups with which I participate.

We have a wonderful place to go and grow together. I look forward to hearing from all of you about how God has uplifted your spirit as you find connection here through an adult Christian Education experience.

*Pastor Drew*



## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION UPDATE

by Kathi Mitchell, Children's Education Director

It has been so exciting to see our Sunday School attendance grow this fall! This month we will be learning more about Jesus' baptism, travels, and disciples. Thank you to the parents who bring your children each week to participate and learn God's word. I look forward to seeing them when Sunday school resumes on January 5!

The Children's Christmas pageant was a success! The children did an *Outstanding* job and I am so proud of everyone! A big thank you goes to all the parents who brought their kids to rehearsal and helped with props, costumes and makeup and the wonderful volunteers who organized our pizza party and cookie reception. Liz Reed, Jodi Cook and I could not have pulled off such an amazing program without everyone's support!

Now that the pageant and holiday bustle is over, it's time to look ahead to our next Family Fun Event—a Pretend Sleepover! We will be taking over the Youth Den on **January 11, 2020** from 5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Join us for a movie, festive food, sleepover games, and building forts. Come in your pajamas and bring your favorite sleepover essentials: a sleeping bag, pillow, and your teddy bear! Everyone is welcome to come; there will be a mission project table to make blankets for those in need. R.S.V.P. to Kathi Mitchell at, [kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com).



**DEBORAH CIRCLE**

The Deborah Circle will meet on **January 15** at 6:30 p.m. in the Snider Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**DORCAS CIRCLE**

Dorcas Circle will meet on **January 21** at 7:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. All are welcome to join.

**REBEKAH/HANNAH CIRCLE**

The Rebekah/Hannah Circle will meet at 12:30 p.m. on **January 22**, at Coral Gables Restaurant (2838 E. Grand River in East Lansing). Please join us for lunch and conversation. All are welcome.

**THANK YOU FROM ST. VINCENTS**

"We are so blessed to be supported by people so generous and caring. The gift cards donated through the winter donation will be used to purchase winter boots that fit the newly arriving winter refugees (who often arrive owning only flip flops). Thank you." Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from St. Vincents Refugee Services.

**FREE CONCERT: MSU JAZZ ORCHESTRA 1 AND JAZZ OCTET 1**

On **January 11 at 3:00 p.m.**, The Peoples Church will host the MSU Jazz Orchestra I and the Jazz Octet I concert. Conducted by Rodney Whitaker, MSU Jazz Orchestra I and Jazz Octet I will perform a special concert as they prepare for a trip to New York City to compete in the inaugural Jack Rudin Jazz Championship at Jazz at Lincoln Center. The invitational competition features ensembles that represent 10 of the most well-regarded programs in the country. Join us for this **FREE**, exciting event!

**COUPLES' RETREAT**

This spring, Pastor Drew will be leading a one-day couples workshop, here, at The Peoples Church. Whether you have been together for one month or sixty years, there are always things to work on. You do not have to be married to attend; this workshop is open to all couples. Details are being finalized; stay tuned to future *Portal* newsletters and Sunday bulletins for more details.

**SAVE THE DATE: TPC CARNIVAL**

Mark **February 23, 2020** down on your calendars for The Peoples Church annual carnival! Plan to join us for this fun, family-friendly event following the 10:30 a.m. workshop service. More details to come in future *Portal* newsletters and Sunday bulletins.

# PEOPLES 101

*Peoples 101* is a 30-minute informal discussion about The Peoples Church. Bring your questions and meet with a Pastor and Welcome Ministry Members in the Robertson Room. **New Members Classes** take place in the Centennial Room and last roughly an hour and a half. Child care is provided. This meeting explores the history, governance, mission and values of the church as well as programming and volunteer opportunities. Membership is also discussed, but there is never any obligation to join. For more information, call Diane Shafer at 517.388.0437 or email at [dm-shafer2001@gmail.com](mailto:dm-shafer2001@gmail.com). You can also call Robin Matheson at 517.290.3223 or email at [matheso4@msu.edu](mailto:matheso4@msu.edu).

**SCHEDULE:**

<b>JANUARY 5</b>	Peoples 101
<b>FEBRUARY 2</b>	Peoples 101
<b>MARCH 1</b>	Peoples 101
<b>APRIL 1</b>	New Members Class during WNL!
<b>APRIL 5</b>	New Members Class
<b>MAY 3</b>	Peoples 101
<b>JUNE 7</b>	Peoples 101
<b>JULY 8</b>	New Members Class during WNL!
<b>JULY 12</b>	New Members Class
<b>AUGUST 2</b>	Peoples 101

## KEEP THE SOCKS COMING!

Thank you to those who have donated socks to our continued winter sock drive. The donations have been appreciated and socks are in huge demand! With winter here, keep the donations coming in! Please place your donation of NEW socks for men, women and children in the red donation box located near the welcome desk.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

# MEET THE 2020 COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Council consists of 15 elders, a treasurer, and a clerk who all serve three year terms. The Council meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Robertson room at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are open to the congregation and all are welcome to attend.

## TERM:

## NAME/MINISTRY:

2022	<b>KEN BEALL</b> , Treasurer
2022	<b>RICK COMSTOCK</b> , Finance
2022	<b>CAROL DOOLEY</b> , Christian Education
2022	<b>BEV MASON</b> , Community Engagement
2022	<b>MARY NOWACK</b> , Welcome Ministry
2022	<b>BOB WATSON</b> , Building & Grounds
2021	<b>JOHN LINDLEY</b> , Finance
2021	<b>THAD MORGAN</b> , Clerk
2021	<b>KARI NAGHTIN</b> , Campus Ministry
2021	<b>DOROTHY SPOUSTA</b> , Worship Ministry
2021	<b>BRAD WILLIAMS</b> , Personnel
2021	<b>NANCY WILSON</b> , Building & Grounds
2020	<b>BOB CANTRELL</b> , Council Chair
2020	<b>STACY GRONOWSKI</b> , Christian Education
2020	<b>KATE JONES</b> , Personnel
2020	<b>ROB PRIVETTE</b> , Building & Grounds
2020	<b>DIANE SHAFER</b> , Welcome Ministry
	<b>REV. DR. SHAWNTEA MONROE</b> , Senior Pastor
	<b>REV. DREW FILKINS</b> , Associate Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL  
**MEETING**

There will be a congregational meeting held on **January 26** to vote on the 2020 budget.





## WNL! PROGRAMMING

The WNL! community meal takes place in the Snider Social Hall downstairs. Join us!

### JANUARY:

Starting on **January 8**, we are excited to present, *Personal Books of Prayers: Past and Present*. Join Susan Reedy as she explores ancient and more modern prayer books. She will use examples from her own *Book of Hours* she has created. Be sure to join us each Wednesday in January for this exciting and uplifting series for the new year.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! SCHEDULE

5:30 pm - Dinner

6:00 pm - Youth Choir (Youth Den)

6:30 pm - **Adult Programming** (Robertson Room)  
**Middle School Youth Group** (Youth Den)  
Yoga (Yellow Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

## ~MENU~

### JANUARY 8

Cream of Chicken Soup ~ Crackers  
Rosemary Pork Loin  
Roasted Red Skin Wedges  
Mixed Vegetables ~ Dinner Roll  
Baked Apples and Ice Cream

### JANUARY 22

Vegetable Soup ~ Crackers  
Italian Baked Chicken ~ Garlic Bread  
Mashed Potatoes ~ Green Beans  
Assorted Pies

### JANUARY 15

Tomato Bisque ~ Crackers  
Taco ~ Taco Salad  
Chips and Cheese  
Seasonal Fruit Trifle

### JANUARY 29

Chicken Noodle Soup ~ Crackers  
Baked Ham ~ Cornbread  
Sweet Potatoes ~ Baked Beans  
Fresh Vegetable Platter  
Ice Cream

**FREE CONCERT:**  
**MSU JAZZ ORCHESTRA I and JAZZ OCTET I**  
at The Peoples Church

**Saturday, January 11, 2020 • 3:00 p.m. • Sanctuary**

Conducted by Rodney Whitaker, MSU Jazz Orchestra I and Jazz Octet I will perform a special concert as they prepare for a trip to New York City to compete in the inaugural Jack Rudin Jazz Championship at Jazz at Lincoln Center. The invitational competition features ensembles that represent 10 of the most well-regarded programs in the country. Join us for this **FREE**, exciting event!



**JANUARY 2020 PORTAL**

[ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://ThePeoplesChurch.com)

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