

*Senior Pastor*  
*Rev. Andrew Pomerville*

*Associate Pastor*  
*Rev. Penny Swartz*



The Peoples Church of East Lansing

# Portal

December 2012



## Peoples Care Retirement

Dear Members & Friends of Peoples Church,

During worship on Sunday, November 11, I announced my intention to retire from ministry effective July 31, 2013. In part, my decision is the result of a three year vocational discernment. Also, many of you

know that my husband, Mike, has been retired for six years. With the number of grandchildren growing, the prospect of joining Mike in retirement and traveling to visit the newest additions to the family became irresistible. While the decision to leave Peoples Church is poignant, I know in my bones this is the right choice for me and my family, and ultimately for this church as well.

Please know that it has been my deepest honor and privilege to serve at Peoples Church for these past ten years, and that I remain committed to serving you well in these remaining months. I thoroughly enjoy working with Pastor Andrew. He brings humor, expanded collegiality, vision, and a ministry of profound hospitality to Peoples. He has reinvigorated my own enthusiasm for ministry for which I will be forever grateful. I am honored by his trust in me. I am tickled to see him grow professionally and personally in his time among us. In short, I am completely comfortable taking my leave from this church knowing you have such an extraordinarily capable leader in your Senior Minister.

In my opinion, my retirement now opens up new and wonderful possibilities for Andrew, the Elders, and all of you in the congregation to envision what this church can continue to become, how it might grow into the future, and who you might really need to search out as your next partner in ministry. This is a golden opportunity and I encourage you to seize it. As I always have, I ask you to think outside the box.

As for the inevitable question of "what will you do?" The very first thing I'm going to do is stop coloring my hair! All jesting aside, my discernment has led me to the conclusion that just as God called me to ministry in this place, God is now calling me away from here. My faithful response now is to get myself out of God's way so that I may be open to the next direction for my life in God's world.

Love and blessings,  
~Pastor Penny



**First Sunday of Advent** - December 2  
8:30\* & 10:30 AM Communion both services  
8:30 Rev. Andrew Pomerville  
10:30 Advent Music Service

Sanctuary choir with guest instrumentalists

**Second Sunday of Advent** - December 9  
8:30\* AM Communion  
Rev. Andrew Pomerville  
10:30 AM - Children's Christmas Program

**Third Sunday of Advent** - December 16  
8:30\* AM Communion & 10:30 AM  
Rev. Andrew Pomerville

**Longest Night Worship Service**  
6:30 PM - McCune Chapel

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** - December 23  
8:30\* AM Communion & 10:30 AM  
Rev. Andrew Pomerville

**Christmas Eve Services**  
6 PM Family candlelight service  
10 PM Traditional candlelight service  
Rev. Andrew Pomerville

**Sunday, December 30**  
**One service at 10:30 AM**  
Rev. Andrew Pomerville

\*8:30 AM service is in the Chapel

## Donation Dedication

Altar Flowers  
December 2

Given in loving memory of dear friends  
and family by the Jim Dalley family.



### Poinsettias and Sanctuary Decoration

Anyone interested in contributing toward Poinsettias and sanctuary decorations may do so with cash or a check (\$15) made out to Peoples Church. Mail or bring it to the church office or drop it in the contributions plate on a Sunday. Please note the memo line of your check: *Sanctuary decorating fund*. Contributions may be made “in memory” or “in honor” of loved ones, dear friends, etc. **Donations and dedication information must be received by December 9 to be listed in the December 16 bulletin.** *Thank you!*



### Altar Flowers - Coffee Fellowship Sign-up

Please sign up to be a sponsor for Altar Flowers and/or Fellowship Time in 2013 - new calendars are up in Friendship Hall. You may dedicate your contribution in memory or in honor of family and friends or in celebration of events. Flowers are arranged and billed by Petra Florist. Coffee Fellowship cost is \$25 paid to the church to help offset the cost of Fellowship Time. Write your dedication on the calendar date you choose to sponsor or call the church office, 332-5073. Would you please consider signing up for a date early in the year so those dates are covered?



It was such a blessing to me to be given the opportunity to deliver a sermon last month, and I am filled with gratitude for the wonderful support of this congregation. Your tremendous generosity toward my theological education means so very much to me and to my family, as do the words of encouragement you have shared with me. Thank You does not seem like enough! You have touched my heart and I am thankful.

With Blessings and Gratitude,  
- Betsy Aho

The Peoples Forum  
Sunday, December 2

9:30 AM in the Chapel

**Kenneth Beachler**, former Executive Director of the Wharton Center, local actor/director and Peoples Church member will perform a narrative reading of *“A Child’s Christmas in Wales”* and other holiday verse.

### Prayers and Sympathy



We extend our prayers  
and heartfelt sympathy  
to the family  
and friends of

Lulu Alonso  
November 3, 2012



The Women of Peoples Church

## Advent Tea

Wednesday, December 5

Snider Social Hall, 1:00 PM

### *“Stories of the Season”*

This social and spiritual event is a wonderful way to begin the Advent season. Please invite family and friends to enjoy Christmas decorations, readings, carols, cookies, coffee, and tea. The program will feature readings by Nancy McCrae and Rev. Andrew Pomerville and Christmas Carols will be sung by all.

Tickets (\$5) will be sold Sunday morning at the welcome desk and on December 5 at the door.

Sharon Dawson and Marsha McCoy-Pfister are the event coordinators.

*Donated cookies (small size) may be brought to the Snider Social Hall kitchen on December 4.*



### **FESTIVAL OF THE GIVING TREES**

On Sunday, December 2, the Robertson Room and Friendship Hall will come alive with the joy of Christmas giving when Peoples Church celebrates the holidays with the ***Festival of the Giving Trees***. Trees will be decorated with opportunities for gifts, giving, and service in the true spirit of the season. Plan to come early or stay after the service to enjoy holiday refreshments and to shop for alternative ways to honor and remember family and friends this Christmas. ***Happy shopping!!***



Plus...



**“Just” for Kids...** a fair trade shopping area “just” for kids. All gifts will be \$5 or less and children will be on their own (with a special helper) to choose a meaningful gift for family or friends.

## December

### Birthdays

- 1 Gene Cornelius
- 3 Harold Weaver
- 4 Alan Grunewald
- 6 Peter Schroeder
- 10 Gladys Hindes
- 10 Skeeter Rentschler
- 10 Joyce Scherrer
- 18 John Mehling
- 21 Bev Marshall
- 22 Audrey Wilson
- 25 Jean Porter



### Anniversaries

- Don and Merlyn Dickson  
December 27 - 72 years
- James and Ruth Monroe  
December 1 - 50 years
- Michael and Tammie Williams  
December 18 - 30 years

**Swiss Steak Dinners** - Thank you for supporting *The Southside Community Kitchen* with your attendance at the Swiss Steak Dinners this autumn season. We had great turnouts and we hope the meals were a value to you. We take the month of December off, but return January 11, 2013. The remaining dates are February 8, March 8, and April 12. While we split the money with Christ United Methodist Church for kitchen upgrades, they supply the waitpersons, do dishes and provide drinks. We have experienced record numbers of guests at our 4 day a week free lunches. In 2012 we will exceed 12,000 meals served - which is an increase from 2011. This event is a significant fundraiser for us. Again, thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you in 2013.



*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!*

**Christmas Holiday Hours**

The church building will be closed from noon  
Monday, December 24 through  
Wednesday, December 26  
and Monday, December 31 through  
Tuesday, January 1, 2013.

(With the exception of Christmas Eve services.)



**Portal Deadline**

Please send articles for the January Portal  
**by noon Friday, December 14 to**  
[jillmasters@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:jillmasters@thepeopleschurch.com)

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517-332-5073  
[www.thepeopleschurch.com](http://www.thepeopleschurch.com)  
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