

SENIOR PASTOR

A FAITHFUL RESOLUTION

Welcome to 2015!

Our resolutions are complete!

The expectations are high!

The likelihood of meeting those resolutions ... ?

Well, we made them, at least! That's something, eh?

It's funny to me how we all seem to do that this time of year. Many of us resolve to do something differently for the next year – lose weight, eat better, read more books or any number of other worthy endeavors.

This is the time of year more people sign up for gym memberships with the highest hopes and best intentions. Yet, come February, many of those same exercise facilities are like ghost towns.

It is hard to stay motivated and faithful to our goals without a great support network. Real, life altering changes are difficult to implement.

Changes in our faith routine are no exception. We desire to be more faithful, more hospitable and more generous to our brothers and sisters but it is much easier to fall into our old patterns and behaviors without changing for the better. In spite of these good intentions, we have a tendency to fall down in the face of adversity, trials, and tribulations.

The incarnation, God coming to the world to dwell among us, was the ultimate resolution for creation. After watching humanity continuously struggle to love one another as they had been commanded, God broke into the world with a plan for change. Rather than expecting us to understand, change and implement the Kingdom of God on our own, our Lord decided to step in and be our support, inspiration and guide in this difficult journey of new life.

My friends, God does not ask us to change without providing us the means for making it happen. Our God stands beside us and encourages us when we doubt, supports us when we waver, and holds us when we fear.

Therefore, let us resolve this year to grow in our faith through the love and grace of Jesus Christ, knowing that we do not strive for this goal apart from God's compassion. Let us seek to see the connection within our community through the Holy Spirit that helps us grow in faith, hope and understanding.

Let this year be one of great changes for love in our homes, our community and our world.

Peace and grace,

Pastor Andrew



IMPORTANT: NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual Congregational Budget Meeting will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service Jan. 25.



MEMORIAL DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

Sunday Floral Dedications offer members weekly opportunities to celebrate important moments and remember loved ones. Dedications for Sanctuary Flowers may be reserved with a memorial gift of \$85. A secondary Fellowship Centerpiece may be reserved for Friendship Hall with a memorial gift of \$50 on days first reserved for Sanctuary Flowers. Gifts benefit the Sanctuary Fund. Sundays may be reserved by using the sign-up notebook located at the Welcome Center or contacting the Church Office at 517-332-5073.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FLOWERS?

Each Sunday, the beautiful flowers that decorate our Sanctuary are shared with the home-bound members of our church and retirement center residents. A team of volunteers delivers the flowers and brightens the days of a few of these friends each Sunday. This is a heartwarming ministry for any individual or family involved. If you would like to volunteer your time to help deliver flowers one Sunday, contact Irene Seahawk at 517-203-0308 or Shirley Noetzold at 517-339-0233.

SEMINARIAN SUNDAY: FEB. 1

A special offering will benefit the educational efforts of our seminary, Betsy Aho.



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

JAN. 11 | HEALTH MATTERS

Kristen Johnson, *registered dietitian, personal trainer and motivational speaker.* (Presentations at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.)

JAN. 18 | Jack Ebling, local sportscaster and journalist.

JAN. 25 | HEALTH MATTERS

Dr. Michael Clark, *former Chief of Staff for Sparrow Health Systems.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS *80 & OVER

3 - Helen Ward
8 - Susan Allis
11 - Charles Long
17 - Don Dickson
18 - Marilyn Ledebuhr
19 - Robert Erbes
20 - Marjorie Tibbetts
20 - Bill Dansby
23 - Cecil Mackey
24 - Fran Bradley
24 - Lois Ann Huldin
26 - Virginia Scott
30 - Betty Weaver
30 - Jean Moore

ANNIVERSARIES *MILESTONE & 60+

20 - Ron & Billie Lantis (25)

CORRECTION: Last month, we omitted the 74th anniversary of Don & Merlyn Dickson on Dec. 27.



HEALTH MATTERS

THE PEOPLES CHURCH WELLNESS EFFORT

NEW PROGRAM BEGINS JAN. 11

Offering more than 30 years of experience as a registered nurse and health educator, Peoples Church member Linda Newbury will guide and develop a new church wellness effort in 2015.



LINDA
NEWBURY

The new **HEALTH MATTERS** program aims to offer engaging, beneficial and enjoyable programming to empower members of our faith community with information and support that can enhance resiliency and improve health.

By incorporating Health Matters offerings into established Sunday morning and *Wednesday Night Live!* programming, Newbury and members of a newly formed Wellness Committee will work to plan and deliver a series of interesting and innovative health education pro-

grams to take place on a monthly basis.

Wellness Committee members include Flo Baerren, Stacy Gronowski, Jim McCoy, Kathy Rogers and Mary West.

Health Matters kicks off Jan. 11 as it welcomes **Kristen Johnson**, a registered dietitian, personal trainer and motivational speaker to present "Tools for a Healthier You in the New Year ... What's Possible for Your Life? Focusing on Nutrition and Rejuvenation" at 9:30 a.m. and "Let's Get Moving ... Practical Ways to Incorporate Movement, Healthy Eating and Rest In Your Already Busy Life" at 11:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room.

The next Health Matters program will take place on Jan. 25 when Dr. Michael Clark presents "How to Avoid the Emergency Room" at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room.

All are welcome.

CONNECT

NEW MEMBERS CLASS | JAN. 11

Have you been thinking about becoming a member of The Peoples Church? We encourage you to join us on Sunday for our New Members Class that will be hosted in the Library following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

DORCAS CIRCLE | JAN. 20

The Dorcas Circle will meet at 7 p.m. on Jan. 20 in the Robertson Room. A program about "Elder Law" will be presented by attorney John Bos. Contact Dee Toth at 517-482-4414 or Susan Coopes at 517-339-0450.

PHOEBE CIRCLE | JAN. 28

The Phoebe Circle meets at 9 a.m. on Jan. 28 in the Robertson Room. Questions? Contact Renate Carey at renatedcarey@yahoo.co, about this great community of faith.

PEOPLES 101 | FEB. 1

Want to know more about The Peoples Church? Our monthly informal Q&A session, Peoples 101, is hosted on the first Sunday of each month in the Robertson Room following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The next Peoples 101 will be offered Feb. 1. All are welcome.

GROW

BREAKING OPEN PARABLES

Jesus taught using parables and we have been discussing them for more than for 2,000 years. On Jan. 21, Pastor Drew will begin a four-week *Wednesday Night Live!* adult formation series on understanding and engaging parables. Throughout the course, we will read and discuss the parables of Jesus, as well as other ancient and modern writers. Pastor Drew will use "Short Stories by Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine and "Orthodox Heretic" by Peter Rollins as points of reference to this study. The class will be offered at 6:30 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Come early at to enjoy our weekly WNL! Community Meal, served at 5:30 p.m. in Snider Social Hall.

GREAT DECISIONS: SECTARIANISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

All are welcome to be a part of our next "Great Decisions" discussion set for 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 in the Robertson Room. Join us as we welcome Dr. Russell Lucas, associate professor of Arabic studies in MSU's Department of Linguistics and Languages and director of Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities to present "Sectarianism in the Middle East." Developed and supported by the Foreign Policy Association, Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Eight topics are chosen each year as the most critical issues facing America. Study books are available in the Church Office for \$16 each and at the Feb. 26 program.

SERVE

KNITTING PEOPLE | JAN. 22

Please join us for our next gathering from 1 to 3 p.m. on Jan. 22 in the Robertson Room. We knitters are busy with new projects, making hats and mittens for children and adults in local shelters. New knitters are always welcome to join us for this important work! We have yarn, needles and patterns for you to use, or you can bring your own! Be sure to bring your completed projects for blessing and your ideas and favorite patterns to share. Hot tea and warm fellowship are always a big part of our meetings. Questions? Contact Mary Anne at 517-214-1487.

SOUTHSIDE KITCHEN

Volunteers are needed to help serve lunch at the Southside Kitchen each month through 2015. Peoples Church members are invited to serve on the third Tuesday of each month: We are still looking for help on March 17, May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15. Questions? Contact Jan Perron at RPerron631@aol.com.

SHARE

ITEMS NEEDED FOR 2015 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our Children's Christian education program is looking to collect 700 clean gallon milk jugs (not crushed, with lids), large coffee cans, Pringles containers, hot cocoa canisters, oatmeal canisters and soda pop cans in addition to gift cards for supplies to stores like Meijer, JoAnn Fabric, Walmart and Michael's for its 2015 summer VBS program. Contact Meaghan Gonzalas in the Church Office you are able to donate any of these items.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

5:30 P.M. COMMUNITY MEAL SNIDER SOCIAL HALL

JAN. 14

Minestrone Soup & Crackers
Cheese Pizza Strips ~ Tossed Salad
Baked Apples ~ Frozen Yogurt

JAN. 21

BBQ Chicken
Potato Salad ~ Green Beans
Sliced Pears ~ Cup Cakes

JAN 28.

Cream of Potato Soup & Crackers
Mini-Sub Sandwiches
Tossed Salad
Fruit Bowl ~ Rice Crispy Treats

WOMEN OF PEOPLES CHURCH

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Meeting times vary. For more information, contact Rachell Pomerville at 517-580-4904.

DORCAS CIRCLE

Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Dee Toth at 517-482-4414 or Susan Coopes at 517-339-0450.

REBEKAH/HANNAH CIRCLE

Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of each month at 12:30 or 1 p.m. For more information, contact Cindy Carson at 517-862-8896 or Gretchen Rosenbrook at 517-332-5132.

PHOEBE CIRCLE

Meetings are the fourth Wednesday September, November, January and April at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Renate Carey at 517-324-0262 or Lois Huldin at 517-332-3160.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH THROUGH
MOVIES AND CONVERSATIONS

SCREEN TIME



THE PEOPLES CHURCH 2015 MEN'S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 20-22

HOWELL NATURE CENTER

All men are invited to a weekend of manly fun, manly games, manly meals, manly movies, manly conversations and spiritual refreshment Feb. 20 - 22 during our annual Peoples Church Men's Retreat. This year's retreat is all about "Screen Time: Exploring our Faith through Movies and Conversations" and will take place at the Howell Nature Center. The retreat begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and ends Sunday morning with a chapel service. Cost is \$95; includes lodging and meals. To learn more, contact Aram Kabodian at 517-204-6440.

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JANUARY 2015 PORTAL

THE PEOPLES CHURCH

