

TEN YEARS FROM NOW

When Leigh and I started having children back in 1984—three of them before the first one turned four—no one warned me that I would worry about them just as much at 34, 32, and 31 as I did when they were newborns. Our oldest teaches autistic children in Kentwood; the second manages facilities for Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago; and our youngest is a pastor in Holland. All of them have children—a whole new generation to keep me awake at night, worrying!



In the same way that I worry about my children and grandchildren, I worry about each of the churches I've served. When I recently heard about a staff departure at a previous congregation, my immediate thoughts were, "What did I do wrong? Why didn't I catch that? What should I have done differently?" Then I stopped and remembered that I hadn't been the pastor there for nearly ten years!

What this means is that ten years from now, I'll still be worrying about The Peoples Church. I'll wonder who's still attending and who's gone elsewhere, and could I have prevented that if I had done things differently? I'll worry that I didn't engage enough with the _____ (fill in the blank): seniors, youth, young families, community members, children, left-handed ... What if ten years from now all the left-handed members have departed because I didn't pay enough attention to their unique needs?

You think I'm kidding, don't you? Just ask Leigh some time if I worry about unreasonable things. But if you do, you should also ask her about our parsonage in New Jersey. Three years after we left that church—three full years!—after the congregation had done major renovations to the house, a pipe froze and burst, causing serious water damage on all three levels. Leigh still worries that she turned the thermostat down too far when we left.

My approach to dealing with all these worries is to pray. Every church that I serve stays on my prayer list, and I try to pray as specifically as I can for each congregation and its pastor(s). I may not be able to go back and do a better job of ministering to the left-handed, but I can always pray and trust that God is in control of each church, not me.

Not that that will stop me from worrying.

Quick Updates: Nearly 240 congregational surveys were sent for processing; the Personnel Team has drafted a new Senior Pastor Job Description; over 1,100 photos were taken on Kickoff Sunday (to be used in search materials); yes, I really do own 52 dress shirts; and in three months, I've only driven 3,080 commuting miles from our home in Holland, not even half as many as I was driving to Wisconsin last year (31,824 total commuting miles). God is good!

Pastor Case

2018 CROP WALK

The Lansing area CROP Walk is Sunday October 14 at 2:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church located at 1900 Boston Blvd in Lansing. You can join our walk team or sponsor a walker by signing up in the north entrance or logging on to crophungerwalk.org/lansingmi and search for The Peoples Church team.

When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. Today, CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools to wells and water systems, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs—something CWS has learned through 70 years of working in partnership around the world.

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall work of Church World Service, particularly grassroots development efforts around the world. In addition, the CROP Hunger Walk sends 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in our community. The local agencies are Advent House Ministries, Greater Lansing Food Bank, Sparrow Clinton Hospital Foundation, The Garden Project, South Lansing Ministries, Southside Community Kitchen, and Volunteers of America.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

*80 & OVER

10/2 - Dr. Clyde Flory
 10/3 - William Dailey
 10/3 - Karen Flory
 10/5 - Alvin Boettcher
 10/6 - Dr. John Cantlon
 10/8 - Dr. Don Davis
 10/9 - Helen Gieseler
 10/10 - Marilyn Down
 10/10 - Ellie Miller
 10/10 - Patricia Thorpe
 10/11 - Kenneth Beachler
 10/16 - Gwyneth Schroeder
 10/22 - Mary Henry
 10/23 - Jerome Nilson
 10/25 - Eleanor Marazita
 10/28 - Jan Calkins
 10/29 - Barbara Plesscher
 10/31 - Robert Tyler

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

PLAY IS A CHILD'S WORK

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool



"Play is how children come to understand the world by using all of their senses - touching, tasting, smelling, hearing, and seeing." Most of us have heard this expression, but what does it really mean? At Peoples Church Preschool children learn that caring for plants and animals and keeping our environment clean, both indoors and out, are a regular part of every day.

The majority of preschool programs keep children in classrooms, where plants might not even be visible outside a window, and animals are only visible on a screen or in a book. The absence of direct experience has completely misled children's perception of the world and its most basic processes. It's not rare to find children who don't know that milk comes from cows and not the store, or that beans don't sprout in cans.

Ellie Anzilotti points out in her article, "Could Urban Farms be the Preschools of the Future?", that urban settings can obscure the natural processes that are fundamental to a child's understanding of the world we inhabit. Connecting children to the natural world dissolves the gap between education and environment, offering opportunities for children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development encouraged by interaction with plants and animals.

Introducing environmental awareness to early childhood education has long been supported by research. A 2012 article in *Environmental Research Letters* refers to studies dating back to the 1970s that suggest:

Children are a frequent target audience for environmental education because attitudes towards the environment start developing at an early age. Once formed, these attitudes do not change easily. They are less likely to have well-established environmentally harmful behaviors to "unlearn"; have a longer period to influence environmental quality, and are potentially able to promote environmentally responsible behavior in others.



CONNECT | GROW | SERVE | SHARE

MEETING: THE PEOPLES CHURCH VISITATION TEAM

The Peoples Church Visitation Team will be meeting on **Tuesday, October 9, 2018**, at 1:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Rev. Case Van Kempen will be our guest speaker. We invite all current visitation members and anyone who is interested in being a visitor to join us. Team members visit church members who can no longer attend church on a regular basis to help them feel a connection with their church family. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding ministry or if you know of anyone who would appreciate a visitor, please call Pat Brogan at 517.337.1446 or Gretchen Rosenbrook at 517.332.5132.

READING PEOPLE

Reading People will meet **Thursday, October 18, 2018**, at 1:30 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Suzanne Goodrich will lead the discussion of the book, *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Grann.

EDGEWOOD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Edgewood Village tutoring and mentoring programs are starting up soon. Tutors for K-5 are needed Monday through Thursday, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. This is a one-on-one or small group setting. Usually tutors sign up for one a day week.

Mentors are also needed for young women and young men on Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. This is a group setting with various activities and purposeful discussions, led by the Edgewood Village staff. Volunteers are especially needed for the young men's group. Please contact Mimi Burpee at 517.349.0806 or email mim-burpee@gmail.com for more information.



More than 20 members of The Peoples Church Design Team, church volunteer coordinators, special guests and staff members of Edgewood shared a lovely indoor picnic at the home of our team leader, Barbara Scott, for the fall kick-off of the Partnership. Devotions were offered by Ruth Ann Ference. Remarks by special guests included those by John Duly, whose leadership back in 1972 led to the development of the Edgewood Village Community; Tom Schaberg, Current Edgewood Village Board President; Caroline Jacobs, Program Director at Edgewood; and Lillian Holloway, Scholar Director. Also in attendance were Rev. Case Van Kempen, Interim Senior Minister and Jodi Cook, Chair of the church's program for Community Engagement.

Volunteers from The Peoples Church continue to support mentoring of students participating in the Scholars' Program, tutoring for all ages, assistance with the Community's gardens, outreach enrichment for residents of the Tower, assistance in health and wellness partnerships with the YMCA, weekly food donations from Panera's, English language classes, transportation assistance as well as other special services requested.

The next meeting of the Design Team will be in November 12th at the home of Jake and Maxine Ferris.

PEOPLES FORUM



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

OCTOBER 7
PLANS & IMPORTANCE OF PCYG
 Joe Kennedy, PCYG Director

OCTOBER 14
POETRY READING & WRITING TIPS
 Aram Kabodian and Joyce Benerventu, Published Poets

OCTOBER 21
STATE OF THE SCHOOLS
 Dori Leyko, Superintendent, East Lansing Public Schools

OCTOBER 28
SENSORY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCES
 Wharton Center Representative

MEDICATION DISPOSAL

by The Earth Stewardship Committee



Did you know that proper disposal of expired or extra medication is very important for protecting human health and the environment?

Never flush medication, rather seek proper disposal. Some pharmacies will take back medicine. Check the following websites for more information on year-round collection sites and for more information on proper drug disposal:

michigan.gov/deqdrugdisposal

michiganpharmacists.org/medicationdisposal



PORTAL DEADLINE:
 The deadline for submissions to the November 2018 Portal is October 1. Submit content to Rachel Giddings at, rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com.

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

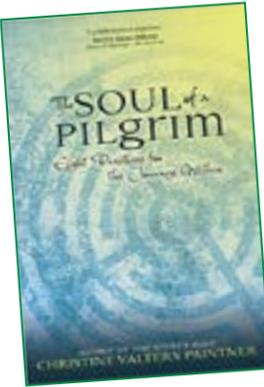
SUGGESTED READING

FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

THE SOUL OF A PILGRIM

Eight Practices for the Journey Within

by Christine Valters Painter



Christine Valters Painter, author and abbess of the online retreat center Abbey of the Arts, takes readers on an inner pilgrimage to discover the hidden presence of God. Scripture stories of great biblical journeys and Painter's unique and creative practices of prayer, writing, and photography accompany the pilgrim through the eight stages of the journey...from hearing the call to coming home... all the while cultivating attentiveness to the divine.

NOW HIRING!

The Peoples Church of East Lansing is looking for an energetic and engaging Children's Christian Education Director. Our Children's CE director works with families, volunteers and the children in our multi-generational and ecumenical church. This part-time position has flexible hours and competitive pay.

Please contact Rev. Drew Filkins at dfilkins@thepeopleschurch.com or 517.908.4448 to apply. A full job description is available upon request.



GREAT DECISIONS

SPONSORED BY THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION



Great Decisions is America's largest discussion forum on world affairs and you can participate in the discussion right here at The Peoples Church. All meetings take place in the Robertson Room from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25: RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Dr. Norman Graham, MSU Professor in International Relations

Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia is projecting an autocratic model of governance abroad and working to undermine the influence of liberal democracies, namely along Russia's historical borderlands. Russia caused an international uproar in 2016, when it interfered in the U.S. presidential contest. Putin's foreign policy toolkit includes other instruments, from alliances with autocrats to proxy wars with the U.S. in Georgia, Ukraine and Syria. How does Putin conceive of national interests and why do Russian citizens support him? How should the United States respond to Putin's foreign policy ambitions?

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

by Julie Bills, Children's Education Director



The fall schedule is well underway. The children are hard at work learning new songs and parts for our Christmas Musical "The Inn Crowd" by Lee Dengler and Susan Naus Dengler. Mark those calendars for December 16, 2018. when you will get to see the children on stage!

We are well into Sunday School with our focus on families this year. We started with Jesus's family and are moving on to looking at other families we find in our Bible. Our curriculum is pretty interactive and reinforces our story with art, games and science activities. We are encouraging our families to sign up for the CROP Walk this year as a way of doing outreach together and our Sunday School mission project is bringing in items for Haven House. It is all about connecting!



NYAKA ONE-BY-ONE



Our mission partner, Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project, will present talks by a Nyaka graduate, Shirah Owomugisha, who is now at university, the in-country director, Jennifer Nantale, and Joy Adams, a board member recently returned from Uganda. Studio C! is again hosting this exciting fundraiser on **October 11, 2018**, at 6:30 p.m. Seats can be reserved for \$25 by calling 517.575.6623 or visiting nyakaschool.org. Popcorn and drinks are included! Help support the grandmothers and children of Uganda, while hearing about Nyaka's successes.

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DORCAS CIRCLE

Dorcas Circle will meet **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. The program will be *Stories from Green Acres*. For more information call Phyllis Gauden at 517.482.0930.

REBEKAH-HANNAH CIRCLE

The Rebekah-Hannah Circle will meet **Wednesday, October 24, 2018**, for lunch and conversation at 12:30 p.m. at Coral Gables Restaurant (2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY SPENDING REPORT

The Community Engagement monthly spending report:

Advent House \$1,824; sustains one week feeding the homeless

UMCOR \$3,000; Methodist Disaster Team for hurricane Florence

CONNECTED HEARTS IN CHRIST (CHICs) WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There is much change happening around the church, in the world, in our community and in our own personal lives. Life changes and sometimes that change is unexpected and difficult on many levels. CHICs is a new Bible Study for women of all ages. Meetings take place on every Thursday from 6:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Contact Beth Lundy at lundybb@comcast.net with any questions.

FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

RECIPES BY GERRI LYNN



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

ICE CREAM IN A BAG

To make ice cream, the ingredients—typically milk (or half and half), sugar and vanilla extract—need to be cooled down. One way to do this is by using salt. You may have seen trucks spreading salt and sand on the streets in the wintertime to prevent roads from getting slick after snow or ice. Why is this? The salt lowers the temperature at which water freezes, so with salt, ice will melt even when the temperature is below the normal freezing point of water. Technically, the temperature that the salt lowers is called the freezing point. When a freezing point is lowered, such as by adding salt to water, the process is called freezing-point depression.

- In your quart size bag, place one tablespoon of sugar, one half cup of half & half and one quarter teaspoon of vanilla extract, seal up your bag.
- Add four cups of ice cubes to one of the large, gallon-size bags. Then add one half cup of salt to the bag.
- Put the small bag you prepared into the large bag with the ice cubes. Be sure both bags are sealed shut.
- Wrap the bag in a small towel and then shake the bag for 8 to 10 minutes.

Remove smaller bag and enjoy your ice cream; please add a topping if you wish!

PEOPLES 101

Interested in learning more about The Peoples Church? Contemplating Membership?

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. You can also call Robin Matheson at 517.290.3223 or email at matheso4@msu.edu.

SCHEDULE:

(Upcoming Peoples 101 or New Membership Classes dates and times)

October 3

New Members Class during WNL!

October 7

New Members Class

SAVE THE DATE!

November 11, 2018 is the Congregational Meeting and Stewardship Kickoff Luncheon!

Details to follow soon.

GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP



OCTOBER 4 - NOVEMBER 29, 2018
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Pastor Betsy leads this covenant group through an eight-week class that moves participants toward closure of unresolved grief as a result of death, divorce or other losses.

This group is an 8 week commitment, with consistent attendance appreciated. The group will meet on Thursdays from October 4 - November 29 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (no class on Nov. 22).

Space is limited, and registration is required by contacting Pastor Betsy at eaho@thepeopleschurch.com or 517.332.6074. The cost is \$15, which covers the cost of The Grief Recovery Handbook. Checks payable to The Peoples Church with Grief Recovery in memo.



WNL! FALL PROGRAMMING



CHANGE IN LOCATION!

WNL! is moving the community meal to Friendship Hall on the main floor while our elevator is out of service so that everyone can join us.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AND LUNCH & LOUNGE

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service in the Main Sanctuary.

11:30 a.m. - Lunch & Lounge

Lunch & Lounge takes place following worship throughout the school year. We gather for lunch (FREE!) and a variety of discussions and activities in The Lounge.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Dinner and Bible Study.

Peoples Church Campus Ministry gathers in The Lounge in the church's lower level for conversational Bible Study

NOTE: Dinner & Bible Study has moved to Wednesday Nights! We will join the Community Meal at 5:30 p.m. and then head to The Lounge for Bible Study until 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENT

October 21, 2018 11:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Peoples Church Campus Ministry goes to Uncle John's Cider Mill for a corn maze, hayride and cider & donuts and then back to Pastor Betsy's house for pumpkin carving, dinner and a bon fire! Contact Pastor Betsy to learn more about PCCM!

FLU SHOT CLINIC

The Peoples Church will again hold a Flu Shot Clinic for all staff members on **Wednesday, October 10th** from at 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. It will be conducted in the Robertson Room by a Pharmacist from a neighborhood Rite Aid.

All staff members and family members are encouraged to take advantage of this event to build precautions against the seasonal flu. The shot will be covered for Employees who are covered by The Peoples Church benefits package. For any employee who is not covered by the The Peoples Church benefits package should bring their insurance documents and the Pharmacy will bill the insurance carrier.

Members of The Peoples Church are also encouraged to take advantage of the Shot Clinic and can participate along with staff members. Please bring insurance documents and Medicare information.



WNL! SCHEDULE

5:30 pm - Dinner

6:00 pm - Youth Choir (Youth Den)

6:30 pm - Adult Programming (Robertson Room)

Campus Ministry Bible Study (Robertson Room)

Middle School Youth Group (Youth Den)

Children's Programming (Preschool 2 Room, 2nd Floor)

Yoga (Yellow Room, 3rd Floor)

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMING OCTOBER:

They say that the two things you don't talk about in polite conversation are religion and politics. Well, we are going to do both. In October, Pastor Drew will be leading conversations as we prepare for our national election. Following a model from the National Institute for Civil Discourse, Pastor Drew will help facilitate intimate conversations about what is happening around our elections. Our hope for this time is to find a space that we can hear and understand one another even if we don't agree. Join us, Wednesdays in October, for this thought-provoking series.

Henry & Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture Series 2018

Faithful Witness In a Wailing World

Featuring Rev. Traci Blackmon

Executive Minister of Justice and Witness
Ministries, United Church of Christ



8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Worship Services,
Rev. Traci Blackmon, Preacher

Noon Luncheon
Snider Social Hall
(Free Will Offering Collected)

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Presentation,
Rev. Traci Blackmon

October 28, 2018

The Peoples Church
200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, MI



OCTOBER 2018 PORTAL

ThePeoplesChurch.com

517.332.5073

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East Lansing, MI 4882

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