



RECIPE OF REMEMBRANCE

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me. John 14:1

The first time I made my mother-in-law's famous chocolate cake was a disaster. This was the cake Dorothy Mueller made for birthdays and special occasions—including weddings. It was called the "Two of Everything Cake" and it was Neil's favorite so, in an attempt to make my new husband happy and ingratiate myself to my mother-in-law, I asked her for the recipe.

It seemed simple enough—just eight ingredients—and the directions took up so little space on a 3x5 index card that she had room to include the recipe for something called "Easy Frosting." The next day, I decided to surprise Neil with a home-made cake.

It was quite a surprise. First of all, it looked nothing like the cakes Dorothy made; it was puffy with lumpy frosting perched on top. Then, when I tried to serve a piece to Neil, I discovered I couldn't get it out of the pan. I ended up digging out a wad of cake and plopping it on a plate. Neil said, "Oh, this looks...good?" God bless him! It didn't look like much, but it still tasted pretty good.

I called Dorothy the next day and told her of my disaster.

"I couldn't get the cake out of the pan!" I complained.

Dorothy said, "Did you grease and flour the pan real good?"

"What? The directions didn't tell me to grease and flour the pan!"

"Oh," she replied, "well, everyone knows you need to grease and flour cake pans."

Well...not everyone.

Every time I made the cake, I discovered more things that were not included in the recipe. Margarine is good, but butter is better. The less you mix cake batter, the moister the cake will be. Sifting is not required if you know how to use a whisk. Boiled frosting is an art, not a science so you don't time it—you watch it. You can tell if a cake is done just by tapping on it. Some of these lessons I learned from Dorothy; some I learned from trial and error.

It took me years to learn how to bake the "Two of Everything Cake." Now I can do it in my sleep. I always have the ingredients on hand and I can have a cake baked AND frosted in under an hour. I even started to add my own touches to the recipe. I add a pinch of salt which brings out the flavor of the chocolate. I use 2 oz. of baking chocolate in the frosting instead of 1.5 oz. which means I don't have to fuss with cutting up the bar. While I don't use a handheld mixer for the batter, I do use one to beat the frosting. And much to my mother-in-laws astonishment, it is possible to pour hot frosting on a hot cake and still have everything turn out fine. The last few years, whenever we would visit Dorothy in South Dakota, she would ask me to make chocolate cake—the highest form of praise.

So why am I telling you about Dorothy's cake? Because it is a good metaphor for the Christian faith. The Bible is like Dorothy's recipe: it gives the key ingredients, but some of the directions are missing. There are techniques and practices that you can only learn as part of a faith community, which helps you interpret what's on the page. Over time, you learn what is essential and what can be adjusted. It's also easier to learn from someone who is more knowledgeable than you, but that doesn't mean you can't make the faith your own. And with practice and experience, the Christian faith becomes second nature...you don't always have to be consulting the recipe. You know it by heart.

Also, the recipe for chocolate cake is not a substitute for cake. The recipe requires a baker as the Bible requires a believer. And even when you do it imperfectly, it's still pretty wonderful. Just keep trying, learning, practicing.

The other reason I'm telling you about Dorothy's cake is because she died April 21, 2020. I know this is a victory for Dorothy because she has gone to be with Jesus, but I am going to miss her more than I can say. When we finally are able to gather for her funeral, I will make her cake and remember her.

Dr. Monroe



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

MAY BIRTHDAYS
*80 & OVER

5/1 - Luella Erbes
5/6 - Doug Pearson
5/2 - Jane Marin
5/5 - Maxine Ferris
5/6 - John Donahue
5/9 - Albert Hafner
5/14 - Sue Mills
5/17 - Sandra Wegenke
5/18 - Stewart SirLouis
5/21 - Eleanor Stubbs
5/24 - Otto Stockmeyer
5/25 - Ed Marin

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/12 - Greg & Barbara Houghtaling (30)

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



WNL! PROGRAMMING

Our *WNL!* adult programming has been suspended for now. However, we are still offering a community meal, paper bag style, that can be picked up in the Northwest entrance of the church on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

We will keep you informed as to when *WNL!* will be back in full swing.



VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS



During these unprecedented times, we have found ourselves having to be “socially distant” from each other. While this is physically necessary right now, it doesn’t mean we can’t be social with each other. Thankfully, we have technology to help us get through these tough times.

We have moved some meetings and/or groups to a virtual setting via Zoom. See below for groups that are already using a virtual connection:

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE
Join us Mondays at 11:00 a.m., as we continue our study of John’s Gospel. To join the meeting, [click here](#). Or, on your Zoom app enter meeting ID: 369 714 134. You can also dial 1-312-626-6799 and when prompted enter 369 714 134#.

CONFIRMATION CLASS
Confirmation class is held online, Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., until further notice. [Email Pastor Drew](#) for more information.

PCYG
Joe Kennedy has been virtually meeting with members of The Peoples Church Youth Group and will continue to do so until further notice. [Email Joe](#) if you need access to join the youth group meetings or if you have any questions.

WEDNESDAY SERMON PREP GROUP
The Wednesday morning Sermon Prep Group meets via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. each Wednesday. For more information on how to join Dr. Monroe for the Sermon Prep Group, please email Dr. Monroe at smonroe@thepeopleschurch.com.

TUESDAY MORNING MEN’S GROUP
Tuesday Morning Men’s group meets at 8:00 a.m. They are currently reading *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. Join them following the instructions below:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/963085991>; Meeting ID: 963 085 991

Or, on ANY phone dial 1-646-558-8656 and when prompted for a meeting code enter 963 085 991.

SUMMER CAMP

The Peoples Church Preschool is now enrolling children for Summer Camp! With area elementary schools closing for the remainder of the school year, summer camp will begin early—one week after the Preschool reopens—following the mandated state closure due to Covid-19. A start date for our Summer Camp program will be announced as soon as we are able to plan for our reopening. In the meantime, email Lindsey Bramlet at: lbramlet@thepeopleschurch.com to enroll your child(ren).

Two camps will be available: Junior Camp is for students who have completed kindergarten, first grade or second grade and Senior camp is for students who have completed third, fourth, fifth or sixth grade.

More details regarding times, start date, etc. will be provided once we are given direction from the State of Michigan with regard to the easing of the *Stay at Home, Stay Safe* directive.



GENERAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

All church activities are suspended until further notice. We continue to work on ways to interact virtually with you during this time of separation. Updates will be posted in the weekly bulletin, monthly Portal and on our website.

UPDATE: NEW MEMBERS CLASSES AND PEOPLES 101
As we navigate our “new normal” during these trying times, many are grieving the loss of so many things we have probably taken for granted! We are missing being able to physically attend church and the sense of community and fellowship found there! Some are grieving the loss of jobs and income while others are grieving the illness or loss of family members or friends. At times like this the importance of our faith and our affiliation with our church becomes even more evident. A number of visitors had expressed interest in attending the New Member Classes that were cancelled in April and we feel it is important to offer these classes as soon as we are able, so we have decided to reschedule New Member Classes for the summer. These classes explore the history, governance, mission and values of the church as well as programming and volunteer opportunities. **Classes will be offered in the Centennial Room on June 3 at 6:00 p.m. during the WNL! activities and on June 7 at 11:30 a.m. after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.** Membership is also discussed, but there is never any obligation to join. For more information, call Robin Matheson at 517.290.3223 or email at matheso4@msu.edu. You can also call Diane Shafer at 517.388.0437 or email at dmschafer2001@gmail.com.

As a congregation of faith, we will all get through this together!

PORTAL DEADLINE
The deadline for submissions to the June 2020 Portal is **May 15**. Submit content to Rachel Giddings at rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com.



CHILDREN’S EDUCATION UPDATE

by Kathi Mitchell, Children’s Education Director

Hello families! I hope you are doing well during this challenging time. I miss seeing your children each week, but hope they still feel connected to the church through our online Sunday School lessons, craft videos, notes and cards. If you haven’t received an email from me with links to those resources, please contact me! I have uploaded lessons and activities so you can do your own Sunday School at home. I’ve also created a few videos so I can say ‘Hello’ to the kids and we can create a craft ‘together’.

Thank you to all the children and families that are reaching out to church members that may be feeling isolated right now. It is wonderful to see our young people learn to serve this way and these intergenerational pen-pal relationships forming! What a blessing!

We are still planning on VBS with the theme of “Nights of North Castle.” We are hoping it can still be at Woldumar Nature Center June 15-19, but are also aware that this may have to change. In any case, we will do a VBS of some sort. We are discussing different ways we can explore this curriculum and share this fun experience with your children. Everyone’s safety is the utmost importance, so if we have to change our plans, we will do so gladly and with God’s guiding hand.

Please let your children know they are missed, they are loved, and they are important members of our church community. Prayers of peace, strength, patience and joy to you all!

WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNION

Join us Wednesdays for a brief service of prayer and communion. Starting **May 6**, we will gather via Zoom from 6:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Bring your own bread and beverage and join us. Even though we are physically apart, we are one in Christ! To join the service click below:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 840 2168 7228
Password: 659729

THANK YOU...

The Community Engagement Ministry would like to extend a huge thank you to all. Because you continue to give to our church, we can continue to support our community and the world with much needed funds to supply food and supplies during this difficult time. At a recent meeting we approved funds for the following organizations:

Re-Member on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is our national outreach. We were able to give them \$1,500 for food and supplies needed to keep their dwellings safe. Please check out the [Re-Member website](#) to see how they will use these funds for their communities.

Greater Lansing Food Bank is one of the finest organizations in our area and it was a joy to gift them with \$2,500 to feed the hungry. Go to the [Greater Lansing Food Bank website](#) to see how they will use these funds for our community.

Edgewood Community Center is our local mission. We support them in many ways through programming, gardening, and tutoring. We learned how difficult it is for the older and mobility challenged adults to get food and we gave them an additional \$1,000 to support this effort. Please visit the [Edgewood Community Center’s website](#) to see their ongoing needs.

Sincerely,
Community Engagement Ministry

VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP

Do you miss our time together after the service? We do! You're invited to join us for a virtual Friendship Hall each Sunday, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Grab a cup of your favorite coffee and a sweet snack and log on to Zoom. You can join the meeting by clicking on the link below:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Or in your Zoom app enter Meeting ID: 837 9739 7682 and when asked for a password enter: Peoples

Don't have access to internet? No problem! You can still join us from ANY phone! Dial 1-312-626-6799 and when prompted for a meeting ID enter 837-9739-7682# and the password is 50803#.

We Look Forward to Seeing You!

