



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

These days, much of my time and energy is spent trying to figure out when and how we can worship in the sanctuary once restrictions are eased on public gatherings. The Peoples Church is committed to protecting the health and safety of all people who might come through our doors, but this is no easy task. There is no “playbook” for this moment in the life of the church. Our plans for reopening will be guided by CDC and Michigan Department of Health protocols and incorporate “best practices” as described by our four denominations. We are also taking advice from Church Mutual Insurance, which has created a number of helpful resources for faith communities.

While we do not know exactly WHAT worship is going to look like when we return to the sanctuary, there are some things we know for certain. First, we won't be able to have a church choir until there is an effective treatment or a vaccine for the novel Corona virus. Studies have shown that singing is a particularly efficient way of spreading this illness. This also suggests we won't be able to sing hymns in worship. Given how important music is to our corporate worship at The Peoples Church, this is hard to imagine. The day will come when we can lift every voice once again, but for now, we'll need to refrain. We will also need to wear masks.

Another thing that will need to change is the way we greet one another in worship. Not only do we need to refrain from shaking hands, but even the greeters and ushers at the doors will keep their distance. We will be roping off every other pew and asking people to sit in designated places. There won't be a children's message during the service, but we are hoping we can have some kind of Sunday school programming available. If we do have Sunday school, it will likely be in Snyder Social Hall, and every family will be at a separate table with their own sanitized materials. There will be no fellowship time for the foreseeable future, and it is likely we will need to dismiss the congregation by rows, like we sometimes do for weddings.

We will continue to live stream the worship services and I would encourage anyone who falls into a high risk group to continue to worship online. I hope it goes without saying that if you have been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with the virus, or if you are feeling sick, you should stay home. Even though it seems we have gotten through the first wave of infection, there are surely other waves to come and we need to remain vigilant.

Now for the good news: Andy Mayville and his staff have been doing an amazing job cleaning and disinfecting the building. Andy has been proactive in buying hand sanitizer and the recommended cleaning solutions. He will be assisting us in preparing the plan for reopening.

Other good news: a number of people from our congregation have had the virus and fully recovered. Whenever I start to feel panicked about Covid-19, I remind myself of this and it helps me keep my fear in check.

At the May Council of Elders meeting, I asked for representatives from Worship, Welcome and Christian Education to join an ad hoc committee to create a plan for reopening. We will meet the first week of June and as soon as we have a plan in place, we will share it with you. I promise that we will clearly communicate all policies and procedures. Our goal is to minimize misunderstandings and give everyone the information they need to make wise decisions. Not everyone is going to be willing or able to return to worshipping in person. For some people, the risks are too great even if they are careful. Some people will want to return even if it is risky. We'll need to be patient with one another and treat everyone with respect.

One more piece of good news: Even though we haven't worshipped in person for three months, this church has continued to do God's work in new and creative ways. Our Wednesday night meals continue to feed the hungry and every week, GeriLynn makes more food. The Community Engagement ministry has continued to provide financial support to organizations that provide food, shelter and care for the most vulnerable people in our community. In addition, we were able to send emergency assistance to the Midland Flood relief project through the United Methodist Church. Our children have continued to receive excellent Christian education through materials organized by our own Kathi Mitchell. Our adult education classes have continued to meet and Pastor Drew did a fantastic job of teaching Confirmation at a distance.

Despite this pandemic, The Peoples Church has continued to worship, to serve, to learn and to love. It is a powerful witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. Whether we are in the sanctuary or in our homes, whether we are standing six feet apart or sitting close to our computers – we continue to be the church.

Dr. Monroe

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

*80 & OVER

6/1 - Jeanette Minkel
6/3 - Dee Toth
6/4 - Shirley Guider
6/5 - Charles Moore
6/6 - Sandy Draggoo
6/10 - Margie Steinkamp (70)
6/11 - Tony Bauer
6/20 - Richard Belding
6/24 - Valerie Nilson
6/25 - Lola Zick
6/26 - Jo Hacker
6/26 - Sylvia Rundquist
6/28 - Martha Grambau
6/29 - David Blair
6/29 - Mary Culham

JUNE ANNIVERSARYS

6/10 - Jack & Jean Draper (60)
6/18 - Don & Evelyn Davis (60)
6/18 - Lary & Mary Hill (60)
6/19 - Robert & Helen Ward (60)
6/20 - Lee & Marilyn Townsend (50)
6/26 - Paul Traviglia & Jennifer Hood (40)

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



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#.

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 discussing the Book of James. Join them following the link below:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#); 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.

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: [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#.

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. Full and part-time spaces are available; to enroll your child(ren), email preschool@thepeopleschurch.com or call 517.332.2885.

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.



CHILDREN'S EDUCATION UPDATE

by Kathi Mitchell, Children's Education Director

Hello families! I have been enjoying connecting with your children with cards, notes, emails and craft videos. I hope they still feel loved and cherished by the church!

I am excited that *One Room Summer Sunday School* begins June 7. This curriculum is designed for all ages and is available online. If you have not received an email with the links, or you need a hard copy of the materials, I am happy to find a way to get them to you; please contact me to make arrangements. Once we can have Sunday School at church again, *One Room* will be perfect for us to do in the Snider Social Hall, where it is nice and cool and we have room to spread out!

I am sorry to say that we have decided to cancel VBS this year. We just don't see how we can do this safely for everyone involved. I am as disappointed as your children are, but I am sure "Knights of North Castle" will be even more fabulous in 2021! I hope you are all doing well and please contact me if your child needs a card or communication from me to brighten their day!



PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP



Hello PCYG friends and supporters!

I know that many of you have been nervously anticipating any and all news about this summer's PCYG mission trip.

I have been hesitant to share details of our next steps because I have been prayerfully and optimistically hoping for word from the Oglala Lakota Tribal Leadership and the staff of the Re-Member organization, who would be hosting us.

Here we have good news, and some news to pray on.

The good news is that our friends in South Dakota are taking all the proper steps to take care of themselves and their neighbors. We celebrate their resilience, knowing how valuable the summer workers of Re-Member are to the Pine Ridge Reservation.

The "news to pray on" is that word has come from the Tribal President, Julian Bear Runner, that we would best serve our Lakota neighbors by staying home in Michigan.

I am disappointed by the news, and I expect many of you are as well, but I am taking this moment to remember that the works of God's Kingdom can happen anywhere and everywhere.

This summer we are simply being challenged to recognize those works in our own backyard, and for that I give thanks.

This all being said, we will be returning to South Dakota next year and I can't wait to see what kind of good work PCYG can get done before we do!

If you have already paid for this summer's mission trip, please contact [Joe](#) about the possibility of a refund, or to roll your funds over for next year's trip.

-Joe-

GREAT DECISIONS

In lieu of our postponed Great Decisions programs for this spring, we are partnering with the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University to present two programs in June via Zoom.

The first program is on **June 4** from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. We will meet with two MSU Extension food safety educators, Wade Syers and Joyce McGarry, to learn more about food safety during the pandemic. Their presentation will include the latest advisories on safe food handling when shopping in stores or using grocery delivery, how to handle takeout and drive thru foods safely, and tips for shopping at the farmers' market. You will have an opportunity to chat, ask questions and share concerns.

Because of Zoom safety concerns, we ask that you register ahead of time. Once registered you will receive a zoom ID and password for the June 4 meeting. To register, [click here](#).

If you have questions or issues with the link, please email Mary Anne at: malarz@aol.com and she will register for you.

Our second program is scheduled for **June 18**. More information will be available soon for this meeting. We are grateful to the MSU College of Human Medicine for their collaboration with us as we work together to stay safe during this pandemic.

Give Online

WELCOME Haley Hansen!

Haley Hansen has joined our staff as a pastoral intern. Many of you know Haley, who is a member of the church and currently enrolled in seminary at Boston University. Haley will split her time between pastoral care, working with the campus ministry, and participating in worship. She will also be helping us refresh our website content. We're so glad to have her back in East Lansing for the summer and so blessed to have her working with The Peoples Church! You may contact Haley at hhansen@thepeopleschurch.



Thank You, Rev. Tom Jones!

Last fall, Tom Jones stepped in to provide pastoral care when we were short staffed. Even though he was very part-time, Tom has done a fabulous job connecting with our homebound members. Now that Haley Hansen has joined the staff, she is going to take over pastoral care from Tom. We are going to miss Tom's energy and enthusiasm. I don't know what we would have done without him! Thank you, Tom!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT..

The Library Committee established a \$250 *Book Scholarship* to be awarded to a graduating high school senior, Class of 2020.

The committee has reviewed all applications and is pleased to announce the recipient of this year's *Book Scholarship* is **Madeline Moreno**.

She will use the money from this scholarship toward the purchase of college books as she attends the University of Michigan this fall.

We wish her the best as she continues her education!

-The Library Committee-

