

## PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO NEED PEOPLES



Please tell me that I'm not the only person who does this:

Whenever I see the name of our church somewhere, I start singing the old Barbra Streisand song: "People, people who need people, are the luckiest people in the world ..." Only, I add an "s" to that third use of the word people. So, when I arrived in the church parking lot recently after a delightful visit with one of our senior members, having spied the church sign as I pulled in, I found myself gleefully singing again, "People, people who need Peoples, are the luckiest people in the world ..."

Silliness and singing aside, do you think that's a true statement? Are the people who need our church some of the luckiest—or perhaps more appropriately, the most blessed—people in the world?

As a minister who has served churches in three settled calls and fifteen interim placements, I can say without hesitation that the churches which are making an effort to bless all the people who need them are the churches that are thriving. They don't worry about how to attract new members, their giving exceeds their expenses, and they don't even have any trouble recruiting volunteers. They know what they've been called to do, and they get on with it, using all the gifts and resources that God provides.

In one case, I watched a neighboring church in Columbus, Ohio, take in a group of over 400 Somali refugees. One of their pastors, a friend of mine from Seminary days, said to me, "We're scrambling like crazy to keep up, but there's never a dull day!" I just checked their web site and saw this quote: "We believe that we can help transform the city of Columbus by love and good deeds for the glory of God."

Conversely, I've been in churches which find it hard to respond to the people that God brings to their doorstep. In one instance, my congregation was asked to take in about 30 senior members from a nearby church whose ministry was closing. Their average age was probably north of 75, but they were bringing \$250,000 in assets, and they already knew how to be good church members. I thought it was a no-brainer, so I was stunned to hear a person get up at our congregational meeting and say, "They're the wrong kind of people."

That's the thing about people who might need Peoples: We don't get to choose who they are. My goal, as your interim pastor for this season of transition, is to do everything I can to meet the needs of anyone who needs what our congregation has to offer.

I'm pretty sure I'll keep singing my updated line from the Streisand song, so I'm hoping and praying that I can make it true. I'm thankful that it's already been true for me!

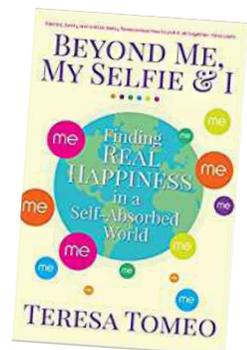
*Pastor Case*

## SUGGESTED READING

FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

### **BEYOND ME, MY SELFIE AND I** *Finding Real Happiness in a Self-Absorbed World*

by Teresa Tomeo



Teresa Tomeo, media expert and host of the syndicated radio program Catholic Connection, believes "selfie culture" represents a society that is losing touch with its humanity. In *Beyond Me, My Selfie and I*, she offers real ways to rebel against the narcissism of modern life and rediscover our relationship with each other, the beauty of nature—and, most importantly, God.

Tomeo makes the case for "selfie control," with advice for navigating today's media minefields. She also provides research-backed methods for finding real happiness by giving and putting others first rather than staying focused on oneself.

When your identity is focused in Christ—as opposed to yourself—life becomes so much more than fleeting moments of attention. You'll read inspiring examples of individuals who made a real difference in the world, as well as people whose change in media habits changed their lives—and the lives of others—in surprising ways.

Drop the selfie stick and pick up this book!



## JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

\*80 & OVER

7/4 - Patricia Howell  
 7/11 - Lary Hill  
 7/12 - Dr. James Dalley  
 7/12 - William Walworth, Jr.  
 7/13 - Edith Newman  
 7/16 - Helen Ramsey  
 7/21 - Dr. Martha Bristor  
 7/24 - Dr. Rosemary Walker  
 7/25 - Marilyn Harding  
 7/30 - Mary Fossum

8/1 - June Toth  
 8/1 - Vivienne Kreer  
 8/9 - Dale Schuster  
 8/10 - Evelyn Davis  
 8/14 - Rev. Barbara Scott  
 8/20 - Suzanne Goodrich  
 8/22 - Dr. Charles Blackman  
 8/24 - Kenneth West  
 8/25 - Dorothy Boettcher  
 8/25 - Barbara Lott  
 8/25 - Marjorie Lott  
 8/26 - Eleanor Huesner  
 8/26 - Charlotte Sprinkel  
 8/28 - Barbara Potter  
 8/31 - Donald Bailey

## JULY & AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

7/4 - Sal & Joanne DiFranco (65)  
 7/5 - Dennis & Gretchen Rosenbrook (60)  
 7/21 - Alvin & Dorothy Boettcher (67)  
 7/26 - Dr. Robert & Ruth Ann Ference (50)  
 7/29 - Dr. John & Frances Kaneene (40)  
 8/7 - David & Sandra Phillips (25)  
 8/13 - Edward & Nicky Dudgeon (30)  
 8/15 - Peter & Lori Lechler (25)  
 8/15 - David & Janet Ronk (66)  
 8/17 - Donald & Milly Gilin (50)  
 8/19 - David and Patricia Brogan (60)  
 8/20 - Dr. John & Irene Cantlon (74)

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

# SCIENCE AS ACTIVE EXPLORATION

by Dana Johnson, Peoples Church Preschool Director

While it is appropriate to introduce older students to science-related topics and expect them to learn facts that were discovered by others, children in preschool should learn science through active involvement. This is accomplished when teachers provide a multitude of first-hand, investigative experiences.

Young children should be involved in "sciencing" versus the learning of scientific facts presented by others (Kilmer & Hofman, 1995; Mayesky, 1998; Zeece, 1999). Sciencing is a verb and it suggests active involvement. Such involvement should be both hands-on and minds-on in nature. Thus, children should be engaged both physically and mentally in investigating and manipulating elements in their environment to enable them to make their own discoveries and build on their prior knowledge. We are thrilled to provide sciencing opportunities at Peoples Church Preschool.



The Edgewood Community welcomed a new Program Director on June 4th. Caroline Jacobs brings a wealth of experience to the position that manages the non-profit portions of programs in the village. She is employed by the Property Management Firm that oversees the numerous facilities on the property.

Most recently, she provided leadership for this area's Habitat for Humanity outreach. Prior to that assignment, she had experience as a Youth Pastor in the United Methodist Church and, as is often the case, filled an expanded role on the church staff.

Caroline began her college years at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio, added course work at the Lansing Community College and completed her formal education at Michigan State University.

A strong advocate for the greater Lansing area and its numerous non-profit organizations, Caroline is the mother of an elementary age daughter, enjoys yoga, reading and social interactions with others in the community. The Peoples Church looks forward to partnering with her to enrich the programming for Edgewood Community residents.

## ELEVATOR PROJECT

In early September, the Building and Grounds ministry will begin an elevator renovation and modernization project that will make the elevator meet the current safety standards, be more accessible and reduce energy consumption.

Over the last few years, there have been frequent breakdowns of the elevator, creating a hardship for the preschool and reducing our accessibility to members and visitors. The current elevator was installed in 1966 using a buried, steel hydraulic cylinder (jack) to raise and lower the elevator cab. The buried jack can, over time, corrode and leak oil into the ground, causing the ground to become contaminated and the elevator unusable. A timely renovation will prevent this.



Continued on bottom of page 3...

**PEOPLES 101 SESSION**

Do you have questions about The Peoples Church or just want more information? Join one of the Pastors and Welcome Ministry Members in the Robertson Room immediately following 10:30 a.m. worship for an informal discussion. We will meet on **Sunday, August 5, 2018** for 20-30 minutes. All are welcome!

**PEOPLES CHURCH STAFF DIRECTORY**

An updated staff directory is below. Feel free to reach out to the appropriate person with any questions or concerns you may have.

Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings.

<b>Reception Desk</b>	332.5073
<b>Rev. Case Van Kempen</b> , Interim Senior Pastor, Presbyterian Church (USA) cvankempen@thepeopleschurch.com	908.4442
<b>Rev. Betsy Aho</b> , Associate Pastor, United Church of Christ eaho@thepeopleschurch.com	332.6074
<b>Rev. Drew Filkins</b> , Associate Pastor, American Baptist Church dfilkins@thepeopleschurch.com	908.4448
<b>Julie Bills</b> , Children's Christian Education Director jbills@thepeopleschurch.com	908.4447
<b>Rachel Giddings</b> , Communications Specialist rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com	908.4453
<b>Dana Johnson</b> , Preschool Director djohnson@thepeopleschurch.com	908.4449
<b>Joe Kennedy</b> , Youth Director jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com	332.6264
<b>Andy Mayville</b> , Facility Director amayville@thepeopleschurch.com	908.4444
<b>Gerri Lynn Nichols</b> , Hospitality Director gnichols@thepeopleschurch.com	908.4432
<b>Dee Przybylski</b> , Office Administrator dprzybylski@thepeopleschurch.com	908.4446
<b>Dr. Jonathan Reed</b> , Music Director	

**ELEVATOR PROJECT (CONTINUED)**

Renovations will include:

- Install new jack in a plastic casing
- Replace hydraulic system and controls
- Refurbish the interior of the elevator cab

The project is scheduled to begin the first week of September and is expected to take 6-8 weeks to complete. During this time, the elevator and north entrance to the church will be closed. Signage will be placed around the church to direct people to the rotunda entrance, which is the other accessible entrance. For services and large events, the north drive will be reserved parking for people with limited mobility. A golf cart will be used to transport people from the north drive to the rotunda entrance. When requested, meeting locations may be relocated from non-accessible floors to the main floor.

The church received a bequest from the estate of Mary Zehner making this project possible. Should you have any questions about the elevator renovation project, please contact Andy Mayville at 517. 908.4444 or email at amayville@the-peopleschurch.com.

**FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS**  
**RECIPES BY GERRI LYNN**

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

**EASY BARBECUE SAUCE****INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 cups ketchup
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1/2 tablespoon ground mustard
- 2 teaspoons celery seed
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika

Mix all ingredients in heavy saucepan and simmer 1 hour, stirring frequently.  
Store in refrigerator up to one week or can be frozen. Enjoy!

**KUDOS TO...**

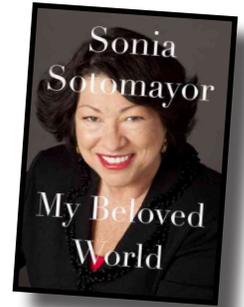
**J.W. Douglas,**  
Facility  
Maintenance,  
for his 11  
years of service with  
The Peoples Church. Thank you!



# OUR BELOVED WORLD: LOCAL JUDGES REFLECT ON LIFE, WORK AND FAITH

Wednesday, August 22, 2018 • Congregation Shaarey Zedek

The Michigan State University and City of East Lansing 2018 selection for One Book One Community is, *My Beloved World*, a memoir by Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court of the United States. Inspired by One Book One Community, the Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing invites you to an evening of storytelling as local judges share personal accounts of their lives, their work and their faith. The Honorable Michelle M. Rick, of our congregation, is participating and Pastor Betsy is moderating the event.



Please join us on **Wednesday, August 22, 2018** at Congregation Shaarey Zedek (1924 Coolidge Rd., East Lansing) from 7:00-8:00 p.m. with refreshments following.



Interfaith  
Clergy Association  
of  
Greater Lansing

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JULY/AUGUST 2018 PORTAL

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