



## CHERISHING THE PAST AND REJOICING IN THE FUTURE!

The Peoples Church of East Lansing, and all of you who I have come to know here, will always hold a special place in my heart, my life, and the story of my call to ministry. I was baptized here. My love for Christ was formed and nurtured here. My husband, Phil, and I were married here. Our children, Zoe and Bryce, were baptized here. I studied for Greek exams and wrote papers for Systematic Theology here. I was ordained as a Minister and answered my very first call to Ministry when I was installed as an Associate Pastor here. I have served this church in some capacity for the last 20 years. I have learned from you and you have learned from me. We have been through a lot together. We have become better disciples together.

And now, we are preparing for transition together, too.

You are all preparing to welcome your next Senior Pastor! That's exciting and Spirit-led and full of possibility, and also a little bit scary.

I am preparing to be the Senior Pastor of another congregation! That's exciting and Spirit led and full of possibility, and also a little bit scary.

But, you have an amazing, faithful, thoughtful, dedicated Senior Pastor Search Team that is doing all they can to discern who it is God has already chosen as the next Senior Pastor of The Peoples Church. And, I have two decades of being alongside you as we have shared laughter and tears, joy and frustration together. You have encouraged my ministry through accolades and thoughtful critique (thankfully more of the former, but the latter was helpful, too), you invited me into moments of life, death and new life, and you encouraged and embraced my family along the way. You have prepared me for my next call and I am full of gratitude for that! Nothing about how we have impacted each other will be taken away. We can hold these moments and give thanks for them.

We also owe it to each other to let the other go.

When pastors in the United Church of Christ move on from a call, we commit to separate in a healthy way, so the congregation can move on emotionally and spiritually. The better I am at letting you go, the more ably you will maintain a healthy connection to the church we both love, and to the continuing and future leadership here.

On June 30, our last Sunday together, we will make promises similar (but opposite) to the ones we made when I was ordained and installed as your pastor:

You will promise to release me from the role and duties of pastoring you; offering counsel and prayers, support in times of need or approval in times of joy. And I will promise to release you all from turning to me and depending on me in order to satisfy my own emotional or ego needs. These promises help free us all to be ready for what our next chapters hold. We will not move from pastor/congregant into friendship unless we already have a friendship outside The Peoples Church.

Dear ones, those expectations may sound harsh or cold, but they are not meant to be either of those things. I want The Peoples Church to remain whole and healthy, and I know you want health and wholeness for me, too. You have shown me that again and again. We can move forward, cherishing what we shared together, and rejoicing in how God has prepared us for what is next!

With Love and In Gratitude Always,

*Pastor Betsy*

Wish Pastor Betsy well in her next call with a farewell reception on June 30, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, in the Robertson Room.

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

\*80 & OVER

- 6/1 - Jeanette Minkel
- 6/3 - Dee Toth
- 6/4 - Shirley Guider
- 6/5 - Dr. Charles Moore
- 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 - Mary Culham

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/10 - Jack & Jean Draper (74)
- 6/18 - Dr. Don & Evelyn Davis (64)
- 6/18 - Lary & Mary Hill (64)
- 6/19 - Dr. Robert & Helen Ward (65)

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

CONNECT | GROW | SERVE | SHARE

## PCYG MISSION TRIP & SUMMER PROGRAMMING

There is still space left to be a part of this year's PCYG summer mission trip to Philadelphia July 13-19. Email Joe Kennedy at [jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com) to secure your spot or reach out with any questions. PCYG Summer Youth Programming will begin **June 26**.

## COLLECTION FOR REFUGEE SERVICES

This quarter the Community Engagement Committee will be collecting gift cards for Meijer and Target for the St. Vincent Refugee Services. Collection Sundays will be **June 2, 9 and 16** and should be given to the committee representative at the Northwest entrance. Cards may also be left in the church office. Contact Ruth Worthington at [worthin2@msu.edu](mailto:worthin2@msu.edu) with any questions.

## UNDIE SUNDAYS COLLECTION

It's that time again! Undie Sundays will begin **June 16** and run through August 11. We collect undershirts, underpants and socks for school-aged children which are donated to the clothes closet at Judson Memorial Baptist Church. The RED collection baskets will be at the Welcome Center this summer for collection. Contact Ruth Worthington at [worthin2@msu.edu](mailto:worthin2@msu.edu) with any questions.

## SOLAR UPDATE

The Peoples Church leased eight solar panels at the Burcham Park Community Solar Park and since January 1, 2019 the following stats have been tracked:

- 828 lbs CO2 avoided YTD
- 411 lbs of coal not burned YTD
- \$32.80 Money Saved YTD
- 505 kWh energy saved YTD

## "WHO NEEDS CHURCH?"



Every now and then, it's good to be reminded of why we do what we do. For Leigh and me, our Memorial Day visit with our granddaughter, Cora (almost age 3), made us realize again why we are in ministry: It's because we want children like Cora to find strong churches when they grow up.

It's easy for us to assume that there will always be plenty of active churches around; that's certainly true in mid-Michigan today. Anyone who wants to be part of a congregation can choose from dozens—all sizes, all denominations, all styles of worship. Why wouldn't the same be true 10 years from now when Cora is ready to confirm her place

in the church? Or 25 or 30 years from now, when Cora is ready to start a family of her own, why wouldn't there still be plenty of faith- and people-filled churches across the region? The best answer I can give to that—albeit a cautionary one—is to take a look at the country of my birth. When my parents left the Netherlands in 1956 with their own adorable baby (me) and my two brothers, the Dutch church was strong; in fact, they learned of the opportunity to come to America through their local congregation. But a generation later, whenever Leigh and I go back to the Netherlands, we find more and more churches closed with signs on the door that say, "Geen Dienst" (no services). In addition to that, almost none of my cousins or other close relatives have any connection to the church.

It would be naïve to think that the same couldn't happen here. Sadly, (in this case), America follows many trends that begin in Europe. It isn't hard to imagine an America with fewer and fewer churches, where worship attendance has fallen to the single digits, and where newborn infants are raised apart from the church experience of their grandparents. But we can also imagine a country experiencing spiritual renewal, with plenty of churches ready to welcome every new child.

That's the future Leigh and I want for Cora, and for all of our grandchildren. It's one of the reasons why we are in ministry, and why we hope that you, too, will be strong in your church involvement. Our children need you!

*Pastor Case*



# HANDS ON!

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool

Peoples Church Preschool



Est. 1951 (517) 332-2885

Sensory materials are not only fun for children, they provide unique opportunities for development across all learning domains.

### Cognitive Development

As children experiment with different sized containers with sensory materials, they develop math skills such as size, conservation, counting, timing (how long it takes the sand to sift vs. the dirt), matching (finding the same size or shape buttons), and classifying and sorting (what are buttons, bottle caps, gems). As children manipulate the materials, they learn to understand concepts such as more/less, full/empty and sink/float.

Science concepts such as cause and effect (what happens when water is added to dirt), gravity (water comes down the funnel not up), and solid to liquid (sand and water mixture) are also explored.

Children have the opportunity to work on their problem-solving and decision-making skills as they determine how they are going to use the materials. For example, children decide how to build a boat that will float, how to turn the whipped cream green, or how to make the sand stick together.

### Language Development

Sensory experiences are fun to talk about. They are exciting because each child can use the materials differently. Children also develop pre-writing skills as they pour, spoon, grasp, and work on eye-hand coordination tasks as they use the materials.

### Social and Emotional Development

Sensory experiences provide children with the opportunity to feel good about their decision-making skills—they control their actions and the experience. Self-discovery occurs as children become eager scientists. They take pride in their predictions, make observations, and respond to their findings. In addition, children learn to cooperate and work together around the sensory table.

### Physical Development

Children reinforce and practice their small motor skills while pouring, measuring, stirring, whisking, and manipulating the materials. They learn to control their bodies and give their bodies directions to accomplish tasks as they explore.

### Creative Development

Sensory experiences provide open-ended opportunities where the process is more important than the product—how children use the materials is much more important than what is made with them.



## UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

There are several upcoming Memorial Services for members and friends of The Peoples Church.

- Patricia Bunce - Saturday, June 1, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Russell Kropschot - Saturday, June 8, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- Walter Wiedbrauk - Saturday, June 15, 11:00 a.m., Chapel
- Helen Gieseler - Tuesday, July 2, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

# Coffee FELLOWSHIP THANK YOU!

A heartfelt Thank You to all our Coffee Fellowship volunteers this year: Pastor Betsy Aho & Campus Ministry, Jan Angell, Paul Babbitt, Renate Carey, Community Engagement, Susan Coopes, Jessica & Ben Eysselinck, Shirley Fisher, Milly Gilin, Phyllis Grummon, Ann & Mark Harvey, Joe Kennedy & PCYG, Jane & Dave Ledebuhr, Patricia & Duane LeRoy, Ann Lindley, Robin Matheson, Christine & Clark McCreedy, Deb & Pat Mercer, Ben Novello, Mary Nowack, Jan & Ray Peron, Matthew Rick, Linda & Jerry Sutton, Margaret Tassaró and Joan Wright. Also Elders: Bob Cantrell, Jodi Cook, Stacy Gronowski, Kate Jones, Cal Kerr, John Lindley, Beth Lundy, Kari Naghtin, Julie Pierce, Diane Shafer, Dottie Spousta, Brad Williams and Nancy Wilson.

Your time, talent and enthusiasm is appreciated more than you know. We could not have provided this wonderful time of fellowship without you.

Coffee Fellowship will be on hiatus for the summer so everyone can enjoy the nice weather, but will return September 8th. We would love to have you join this amazing group of volunteers; look for sign-up info this fall!



## PEOPLES FORUM

**WILL RESUME IN THE FALL WITH A NEW LINEUP OF SPEAKERS**



**YOU'RE INVITED**  
to an **OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD PICNIC**  
celebrating the faith and fun of this year's  
Vacation Bible School experience!

**WHEN: Sunday, June 23, 2019**  
following the 10:30 a.m. service

**WHERE: TPC Rotunda/Friendship Hall**

**3...2...1...BLAST OFF!**  
See you there!

The next *Portal* deadline for the July/August issue is June 15.  
Submit content to [rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com).

**THE PEOPLES CHURCH**  
200 W. Grand River Ave.  
East Lansing, MI 4882  
517.332.5073  
[ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://ThePeoplesChurch.com)  
**JUNE 2019 PORTAL**

