



HUMAN BEINGS

A friend of mine is a Hispanic theologian. Years ago, we were at a conference of Roman Catholic scholars and she pointed out the difference between a Hispanic introduction and an Anglo introduction. “Anglos always introduce themselves by first telling you what they do. Hispanics start by telling you where they are from.” She said this is because Hispanic identity is defined by family relationships, but Anglo identity is defined by work. I began to pay attention to introductions and discovered she was on to something. It was especially true for American men who always introduced themselves by giving their names, followed by their occupations.

This is probably because Americans are obsessed with work. We measure productivity and output, we want our schools to train our children to be “good workers,” and we even make moral judgments about those who are unemployed—or at least feel pity for them. We argue about the need for a living wage. Everyone in this country is supposed to be busy, productive and earn their keep. In many ways, we measure the value of a person by what they do and how well they do it.

And then along comes the Corona Virus...

To be honest, I’m having a hard time coming to grips with this new reality. I am a pastor, a job that is defined by face-to-face interaction. Whether I’m preaching in the pulpit, greeting people in the narthex, visiting at the hospital or gathering for Bible study – I’m always with people. That’s what pastors do! But not today. Or next week. Or the week after.

I feel useless and unproductive. The days drag by even when I am busy making calls or “zooming” into denominational and ministerial meetings. But a pastor isn’t a pastor without a flock. I feel like I can’t really do my job and that makes me feel like I have no value.

Then I remember the words of Isaiah: “But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel; Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1)

I remember the words of Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel, “Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Matthew 6:26)

And I remember the words of a wise minister who said to me, “Remember you are a human BEING, not a human DOING.” Our worth is not defined by the work we do or how productive we are. We have value because we are God’s beloved children, each and every one precious. And because all God’s children are precious – we need to give up our “doing” for a time and just be.

My beloved friends, stay home, stay safe and say your prayers. Know that I am praying for you all during these strange and challenging times. And if I can be useful to you in anyway, please let me know.

Dr. Monroe

BECAUSE YOU GIVE, WE CAN...

In this time of upheaval to our lives, our livelihood, and freedoms as we knew them, we’d like to share with you the wonderful things that are happening in our church and community. Your faith filled prayers and continued support are so appreciated. Because you give, we can:

- Support the Preschool staff and Church staff by continuing their pay during the closure
- Continue to provide prepackaged meals on Wednesday nights
- Provide meals and food to the community
- Host two blood drives for the Red Cross
- Continue our support for Edgewood Community Center
- Provide Easter Baskets to those in need through gift cards to Giant Grocery
- Continue to support our missionaries around the world
- Livestream Sunday services to hear God’s word through our Pastors, Judy and our soloists. We are reaching an even wider audience!
- Use the ZOOM app, to hold Lent groups, Confirmation Class, Bible studies, PCYG meetings, and other ministry meetings

With sincere gratitude,
The Council of Elders and Pastors, Dr. Shawnthea Monroe and Drew Filkins



APRIL BIRTHDAYS
*80 & OVER

4/1 - Gary Calkins
4/2 - Audrey Martin
4/9 - Boyd Kinzley
4/10 - Janet Woolsey
4/25 - Ed Marin

APRIL ANNIVERSARYS

4/11 - Andrew & Sandra Conner (50)

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 369714134#.

CONFIRMATION CLASS
Confirmation class will now be held online, Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., until further notice. Email Pastor Drew if you have not received the meeting invite/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 is now meeting via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. each Wednesday. For more information on how to join Dr. Monroe for the Sermon Prep Group, please call the church office.

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP
Tuesday Morning Men's group will meet again on April 7 at 8:00 a.m. They are currently reading *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. Next week they will be on chapter 1. 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.



CHILDREN'S EDUCATION UPDATE

by Kathi Mitchell, Children's Education Director

Hello families! I miss your children and want them to know I am thinking about them during this challenging time.

While we are feeling a bit isolated, it's important to stay connected to family and friends—and church! To give your children something else to do, and to keep up with their Bible lessons, *Sunday School at Home* is available for all of our classes. Three weeks of lessons, including Palm Sunday and Easter are available for download. Please email me at kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com if you need the link. The lessons include the Bible verse and story, an activity or craft, and some discussion points to hopefully fill some time and help them keep the faith.

Be sure to [register](#) for VBS which is still planned for the week of **June 15-19** at Woldumar Nature Center. We are still looking for volunteers to be station leaders, help with registration, decorations, set up and more! Email Kathi to sign up to be a volunteer!

Please tell your children I said "Hi," I'm praying for them, and I can't wait to see them when we can be together again!

CONNECT | GROW | SERVE | SHARE

GENERAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

All church activities are suspended until further notice. We are currently working on ways to interact virtually with you during this time of separation. Please be patient with us as we work to move Bible study groups and other fellowship groups online.

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES AND PEOPLES 101
The New Members Classes that were originally scheduled for April 1 and April 5 have been postponed until the fall. At this time, the Peoples 101 meetings scheduled for May and beyond are still scheduled as planned. We will keep you updated for any future schedule changes in upcoming bulletins and the monthly Portal. See the schedule below:

MAY 3 Peoples 101 • **JUNE 7** Peoples 101 • **AUGUST 2** Peoples 101

DORCAS CIRCLE
Dorcas Circle plan to meet on **April 21** at 7:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Our speaker will be Melina Brann from the Women's Center of Greater Lansing. For more information, contact Margie Steinkamp at 517.282.0582.

READING PEOPLE
The Reading People have decided to reschedule their discussion of the book, "Next Year in Havana," by Chanel Cleeton from **March 19 to April 16** in the Robertson Room from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will keep you updated with any changes.

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

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
The Peoples Church has had great success with our recent blood drives! Join us for our next one on **April 22** from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Now is the time to give blood!



Our campus ministry group had a great trip down to Asheville, NC for our alternative spring break. We worked with Habitat for Humanity helping to build houses, and got to meet and interact with some of the people who would benefit from our work. We all can't wait to go back! Thank you to the congregation for your financial support, we couldn't have done it without you!



PEOPLES FORUM

The Peoples Forum joins each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room for lively discussions and presentations from various community members.

Due to the State of Michigan "Stay Home, Stay Safe" directive, the Peoples Forum meeting for the month of April has been suspended. Below is the TENTATIVE schedule for May. We will keep you updated on any changes to this schedule.

MAY 3
RACHEL EUBANKS
State of MI Treasurer

MAY 10
NEIL MUELLER
Trumpet

MAY 17
COUNCIL OF ELDERS



The Peoples Church Youth Group is a tight-knit crew! We weren't going to let a little social distancing get in the way of coming together. Our youth group had its first ever online meeting, and we had so much fun we've decided to keep it going! If you've got a middle school or high school student in your life that might like to join us, please reach out to Joe so we can show you how.



HOLY WEEK 2020



PALM SUNDAY | APRIL 5
10:30 a.m. - LIVE STREAM



MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 9
6:30 p.m. - CANCELED



GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 10
12:00 p.m. - LIVE STREAM (Service of Tenebrae: The Extinguishing of Light)



EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 12
10:30 a.m. - LIVE STREAM (with Brass)