



## PICTURES

They say a picture worth a thousand words.

These days, I find myself looking at pictures. Pictures that I had posted on Facebook years ago and actual physical pictures (remember the days when we printed out pictures? Or even crazier, when you had to wait an entire hour to get your doubles?). I find myself reliving the memories that are captured in these pictures. The fun adventures that happened on a family trip. The tasty meals that were shared with a side of laughter. The fish that found themselves on the end of my line and the people with whom I shared the boat. But, they also remind me of the people I have lost. Those pictures come with a mix of joy and sadness. With laughter and tears. I have had to remind myself during this crazy time we are living through that we have made it through so much. We have been on mountain peaks and taken a picture. We have been in the darkest valleys and often forget to mark these moments with a picture. We have had moments of great triumph and moments of great defeat. Some of the pictures are taken at weddings and others at funerals. Some of the pictures are taken when our loved one is still with us and in others, we notice their absence.

These pictures remind me of difficult times and the times of joy. But these pictures mostly remind me of the people with whom I have been on these amazing adventures. The people who have helped me grow into the person I am today. The people who have been constant in my life and have shaped me to my core. The people who were in my life for a season, but that season helped me see the world in a different way. The people who have shared the mountains and the valleys with me. These pictures remind me of the great crowd of people who have bore witness to my life and I theirs.

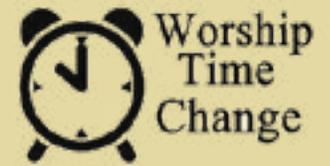
After listing great people of faith from Abraham and Sarah to Rehab and more, the author of Hebrews says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

While I am not a huge fan of the lack of social contact because of the pandemic, I am still hopeful because of the people who have surrounded me in my faith. Those who have encouraged me, those who have challenged me, those who have blessed me, those with whom I have cried and laughed, and those who are no longer with us. During this time, while looking at pictures, I have started to make a list. A list like that in Hebrews 11. A list of faithful people who have been in my life. I do this to remind myself of what they have done to encourage my faith and calling and to remind myself of their witness to who Christ is by their love. And I have also been thinking about whose list I might be on.

My encouragement for the month of August is to look through some pictures, old and new. Make a list of your hall of faithful heroes in your own life. Think of those past and present who have helped your faith grow. Think of those who surrounded you during the darkest valleys and those who climbed to the highest mountains with you.

Know that even during this extraordinary time, God is still present with us each and every moment of our lives. And we have been surrounded by such a great crowd of faithful witnesses that allows us to persevere. May the pictures you find bring healing, encouragement, and joy. And may they speak a volume of blessings into your life.

*Pastor Drew*



It has been decided to put our 8:30 a.m. worship service on pause for now. We will continue to hold an in-person worship service at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary as well as livestream our service at the same time. We look forward to seeing you, whether in person or virtually, each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.!



Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry that provides Christian caregiving to church members going through difficult times. Despite the limitations that COVID-19 has placed on meeting together, it still looks like we could have a group of Stephen Ministers trained at the church by the end of this fall. By attending a series of 20 zoom sessions of an hour each and reading pages and pages of leadership training materials, Aram Kabodian plans to be trained as a Stephen Leader by the end of August. The first group of Stephen Ministers would begin training (probably a hybrid of face-to-face and zoom meetings) in October. By God's grace and your prayers, we hope to have the program in place by mid-winter.

For more information, go to [stephenministries.org](https://stephenministries.org); also, if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, call the church office or email Aram at: [akabodian@gmail.com](mailto:akabodian@gmail.com).



**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**  
\*80 & OVER

8/1 - June Toth  
8/1 - Vivienne Kreer  
8/9 - Dale Schuster  
8/10 - Evelyn Davis  
8/13 - Carol Bryson  
8/14 - Barbara Scott  
8/20 - Suzanne Goodrich  
8/22 - Charles Blackman  
8/24 - Ken West  
8/25 - Dorothy Boettcher  
8/25 - Barbara Lott  
8/25 - Marge Lott  
8/26 - Eleanor Heusner  
8/26 - Charlotte Sprinkel  
8/28 - Barbara Potter  
8/31 - Donald Bailey

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARYS**

8/5 - Jim & Lisa McMahan (25)  
8/8 - Paul & Jacquelin Frese (50)  
8/19 - David & Pat Brogan (62)  
8/20 - John & Irene Cantlon (76)  
8/22 - Pete & Candy Chatfield (50)

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

Stay connected with us and join one of our virtual meetings or Bible studies. See below for what is currently being offered:



**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#.

**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](mailto:smonroe@thepeopleschurch.com).

**TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP**  
Tuesday Morning Men's group meets at 8:00 a.m. 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**  
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. Join the meeting here: [Join Zoom Meeting](#). Or, in your Zoom app enter Meeting ID: 837 9739 7682 and when asked for a password enter: Peoples. You can also 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#.



## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION UPDATE

by Kathi Mitchell, Children's Education Director

I have been having fun this summer seeing our youngest church members with my Sunday School Fairy visits! I have loved seeing their excitement and enthusiasm at having a visitor. I think it helps that I'm bringing fun stuff, too! I have another round of visits planned for August, so please contact me if you would like me to stop by for a socially distant "Hello". I would be happy to drop off lessons and something to help your kids pass the time! You can email me at [kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com).

Sunday School lessons are also available online. Please contact me if you need the link. This summer we are learning about communities, working together, faith and feeling the joy in God's love—important lessons to help us through this strange time! As always, I want to help your children feel connected to the church, so please contact me with any questions, concerns or requests for a visit!

Peace,  
Kathi



## PEOPLES CHURCH CAMPUS MINISTRY



Hello friends!

Campus Ministry has continued to meet virtually for Bible study. The past few weeks we've been focusing on some of the more complicated stories and characters of the Old Testament: Joshua, Job, and Joseph (the alliteration wasn't intentional). We've had challenging and enriching conversations about everything from the problem of suffering to God's providence during these Bible studies.

Campus Ministry will also be teaming up with the Youth Group for their mission weekend in August. We're all looking forward to helping out and finding new ways to be the church.

In the coming weeks, we'll continue to brainstorm and strategize about how to safely meet and continue to be in community as we head into the fall. We're still in uncharted waters, but I have so much faith in this group and their creativity.

Blessings,  
Haley

## PCYG PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP



Hello PCYG Members and Friends!

August is an exciting month for PCYG as we prepare for the upcoming school year! We will be continuing to enjoy our Wednesday lunches from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the park (meet in the church parking lot), so remember to bring a lunch and a blanket!

I am excited to invite our incoming 6th grade students to join us for our *6th Grade Welcome Lunch* on **August 12** at noon, and then to continue enjoying lunches and events with us for the rest of the summer.

With safety and social distancing in mind, PCYG is having a service weekend on **August 14, 15 and 16!** On Friday, students are invited to take part in a community service BINGO game, where they will find ways to serve in their own neighborhoods. On the 15th, we will head to Hell, MI to help begin the building of a community garden. All are welcome at this event, so please reach out if you would like more details or would like to participate. On Sunday the 16th, we will spend time outside at the church putting together tie-blankets and kits for local homeless shelters to donate to our surrounding community. With masks, social distancing, staying outdoors, and lots of hand-sanitizer, PCYG plans to make an impact right here in East Lansing, as well as, in the surrounding communities. We appreciate your prayer and support as we move forward with this event.

Transitioning into the role of Youth Director here at The Peoples Church has been smooth and successful due in large part to your prayers and encouragement. I am looking forward to the ways PCYG will grow together over the next few months.

I hope to connect with each of you, so please feel free to reach out!

Joyfully,  
Elisha

## WEEKDAY SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM CONTINUES INTO FALL

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool



We are excited to announce that our School Age program will continue into this fall.

The program takes place in the Youth Den. Those students attending summer camp now, will be able to stay, if desired, and new students will be added to the roster as space allows.

Students will be limited to small group sizes and will be able to work on online school work while in the School Age Program. Families are welcome to send in a laptop or tablet as well as head phones or other personal school supplies if desired.

All students and staff will wear masks throughout the day except when eating, drinking, exercising (when 6 feet apart outside) or when taking a short break alone in a designated area of the classroom.

The daily schedule will consist of periods of outdoor activity, STEM experiences, and morning and afternoon time designated to completing assigned online work. Staff members will provide time, a clean space, and guidance to students, K-3, that are capable of focusing on work assigned by their elementary school.

If you are interested in enrolling your school-age student this fall, on a full or part-time basis, please contact the Preschool Office. We will be happy to provide you with an application for enrollment and a *Guidelines for Attending School During a Pandemic* document.

# RETURNING TO WORSHIP

Our doors are open for in-person worship service, in the Sanctuary, at 10:30 a.m.

Rest assured we are doing our part to provide a safer environment for worship. We ask that you do your part and review our [Returning to Worship Guidelines](#) and [Safety Measures](#) on our website prior to attending a service.

**DO NOT** come if you are feeling unwell, are experiencing any symptoms of illness, or if you have come into contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Wear a mask, practice social distancing and follow the safety measures that we have put in place, and, most of all, enjoy worshipping with us!

