



ON MY MIND: MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT

The Apostle Paul often compares the church to the human body, particularly in 1 Corinthians 12. He was writing to a church that was in a bit of a crisis: people were vying for power and position in the structure of the church and it was undermining the community. Even Paul recognized there was a sort of hierarchy in the church (“And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...” v. 28) but he admonished the members of the church to recognize that every gift came from the same Spirit. And while some people had gifts that were considered “more honorable,” every gift was important to the overall functioning of the body (aka community). Everyone needs to exercise their gifts in order for the church to do God’s work.

Reading this passage, I nod in recognition. Every church I have served has struggled with the same thing: there are some tasks or jobs in a church that no one wants to do. Usually it involves cleaning up after an event—or serving on committees. I get it. No one wants to stick around and wipe down tables after everyone else has gone home, and no one wants to give up a free evening to sit in a meeting to discuss Sunday school curriculum or the number of ushers needed for Christmas Eve. We’ve all got better places to be, better things to do.

But experience has taught me that, while people may not volunteer to do certain tasks in a church, they rise to the occasion when asked. So I am asking.

We need people who have a gift and passion for working with college students to help us with Campus Ministry. This church was founded by professors who hoped The Peoples Church would always be a source of religious education and Christian inspiration for students and faculty. If we are to continue this mission, we need people with these gifts to come forward.

While Covid-19 prevents the choir from singing, we can still have a bell choir...but we need ringers. Even if you’ve never played in a bell choir, if you can read music, you can play bells. Is this a gift you’re willing to share?

Our congregation is multi-generational and some of our oldest members are feeling isolated and alone these days. We are looking for people who might be willing to help us stay in touch with our home bound members through a ministry of phone calls and cards. Perhaps this is one of your spiritual gifts.

We often talk about the importance of sharing our financial gifts with the church, but sharing the gift of time is of equal importance. There is no ministry in this church that would not benefit from having more volunteers, more people willing to share their gifts to build up this Body of Christ.

If you are reading this and feel moved to help, give me a call (517.332.5073) or drop me a line (smonroe@thepeopleschurch.com). This is an amazing church and there is room in this body for all our gifts.

Peace,

Dr. Monroe

KICK-OFF SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 13!

September 13 is Kick Off Sunday—the day we celebrate the start of a new church year. Normally, the sanctuary would be full of people returning from summer vacations, the calendar would be crowded with new and returning programs, and the choir would inspire us with a rousing anthem. That’s what we would do in a normal year. Unfortunately, this year is far from normal. In the midst of a pandemic, Kick Off Sunday will be a little different.

While we will not have a full choir, we plan to have a quartet of singers who will bless us with the gift of music. Sunday school may still be virtual, but there will be new curriculum and activities for children (and families) to do at home. We are also hoping to install new cameras so that the live stream of worship is more visually interesting (that may take a bit longer, but the day is surely coming...thus saith the Lord).

Although we will continue to live stream the 10:30 a.m. worship service, we have room in the sanctuary for 160 socially distanced attendees. Masks are required and singing is not encouraged, but you are welcome to come join us in person if you feel it is right for you. We will only have one service (at 10:30) until we feel there is enough interest in an 8:30 a.m. service.

One last thing: you may recall that in June I mentioned we would be making some changes to liturgy in the fall. On Kick Off Sunday, the doxology will be updated to include the non-gendered trinity (Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost instead of Father, Son, Holy Ghost). I know it will take some practice to get used to this new language, but it will help us imagine God in God’s wonderful fullness.

There is much to celebrate as we enter a new season. I hope that you will join us for worship (virtually or in person) and seek out new ways to grow in faith and serve God in Christ’s name. That’s the best way to celebrate the new church year!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS *80 & OVER

- 9/4 - Lois Bauer
- 9/4 - Crary Grattan
- 9/5 - Jeanne Cargill
- 9/7 - Judy McCalla
- 9/14 - Mary Lou Johnson
- 9/15 - Clare Mackey
- 9/19 - Ron Dooley
- 9/20 - Arylie Campbell
- 9/22 - Renate Carey
- 9/23 - Anne Bailey
- 9/23 - James Panetta
- 9/24 - Marion Bird
- 9/24 - Vera Gerhardt
- 9/28 - David Smith
- 9/29 - Marilyn Grove
- 9/30 - J. Clyde Spencer

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9/12 - Darold & Judy McCalla (61)
- 9/20 - Jon & Kim Allan (40)

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

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.

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

Wow! I have now officially been the Children's Education Director for a year and it has been nothing like I imagined it would be! I can honestly say I've never loved a job so much, though my favorite parts are missing—your kids! I can't wait until we can have the Children's Moment again and I see your kids running down the aisle to go to Sunday School.

To keep up that enthusiasm, we are excited to have a new curriculum for this year. "Celebrate Wonder" is designed to help your kids use their natural curiosity to help them understand God's love. I will be preparing at home Sunday School packets with activity books for your children and family. Look for those soon, for our remote "Kickoff Sunday."

We are also gearing up for our virtual Christmas Pageant, "The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper." We are still working out the details, but we hope that by recording the children saying their parts, we can create a short movie to present during a December service and online! How fun! Stay tuned for details.

As always, if there is anything you need, please contact me. I am here to help. Peace to you all.

Peace,
Kathi



Hello PCYG Members and Friends!

September is an exciting month for PCYG as we prepare for the upcoming school year! We are transitioning from summer lunches to Bible studies which will be meeting from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays starting September 2 (for middle schoolers) and 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Sundays starting September 6 (for high schoolers). We will meet outside the church and enjoy dinner and Bible study in the park.

Remember, at all PCYG events we will be staying socially distanced (at least 6 feet apart!) and wearing masks. This is important so that we can continue to be together while keeping each other safe!

Thank you for all the prayers and support as I have transitioned into the role of Youth Director here at The Peoples Church. It has been a joy to start to get to know each of the students and families who make PCYG so special, and I am looking forward to what we will learn and accomplish as a PCYG family.

Good luck with the start of a new school year! I know that each of you will be successful regardless of the challenges you may face.

Joyfully,
Elisha



DIFFERENT, BUT STILL THE SAME

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool

The Preschool reopened for families on July 6. Prior to that the preschool staff worked hard to make alterations to our environment and to implement numerous safety features that would keep the children and staff members as safe as possible.

The second floor is currently only used by preschool staff, children and maintenance staff. Families and visitors are not permitted, to reduce the number of people in the preschool each day. Preschool administrators greet families in the Northwest Entrance every morning, both for drop off and pick up time.

Each staff member and child is screened each day to ensure they are in good health before attending preschool. Families are asked to screen their child's health, as well as, everyone in the family each day before the child is brought to the preschool.

Other safety precautions include the reduction in using shared spaces such as the gym and outdoor classroom, intermittent disinfecting of common touch points throughout the day, and providing materials for the children to use by themselves instead of in groups.

While it may look a little different, we still care for each child the same—with a loving heart and passion for teaching!



ON THE CUSP...

Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry that provides Christian caregiving to church members going through difficult times. Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of intensive training which—together with the grace of God—equips them with essential skills to offer this Christ-centered care.

We plan to have a group of Stephen Ministers in training (probably a hybrid of face-to-face and Zoom meetings) by the end of this fall. Aram Kabodian completed Stephen Leader training and is looking for a few more people interested in becoming Stephen Ministers.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers; we hope to have the program in place for you before spring. For more information, go to stephenministries.org; also, if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, call the church office or email Aram at akabodian@gmail.com.



Blood Drive The Peoples Church

Wednesday, September 23, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

To schedule an appointment log onto RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code:
Peoples Church EL

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Welcome

Welcome New Members!

On August 16, 2020, The Peoples Church welcomed 11 people into membership. Not only was this one of our largest classes of new members, but it was also the first class we've ever conducted via Zoom. We pray for the day when we can all gather together safely again, and when we do, we hope you will welcome these new members into The Peoples Church family!

Kyle & Sarah Dymond

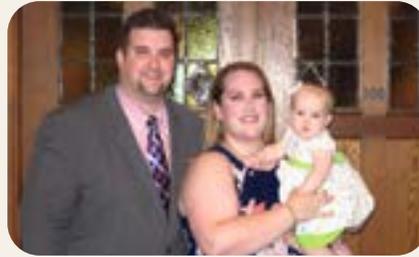


Sharon Tuma

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe & Neil Mueller



David & Angela Biedenbender



James, Courtney & Emily Chambers



Greg & Stephanie Ware

SEPTEMBER 2020 PORTAL

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