

LABYRINTH MUSINGS

Members of the congregation were, and still are, invited to schedule a time to walk The Peoples Church labyrinth during the Wednesdays of Lent. There are a variety of spiritual disciplines and tools available to guide people in their faith journey. In my humble opinion, our labyrinth, modeled after the classic one within Chartres Cathedral, is an under-utilized spiritual aid. That is why I am delighted to share that during the first week of Lent, four walkers stepped forward and took time to be open to experiencing an insight guided by the Holy Spirit or a word from God. In conversations with each participant following their walk, words like gratitude, humility, and forgiveness surfaced time and again. There was laughter, and there were a few tears. An honest desire for spiritual guidance bears helpful fruit. I am reminded of a poem, "For Longing," by John O'Donohue:

Blessed be the longing that brought you here and
quicken your soul with wonder.

May you have the courage to listen to the voice of desire that disturbs
you when you have settled for something safe.

May you have the wisdom to enter generously into your own unease
to discover the new direction your longing wants you to take.

May the forms of your belonging—in love, creativity, and friendship—be
equal to the grandeur and the call of your soul.

May the one you long for long for you.

May your dreams gradually reveal the destination of your desire.

May a secret Providence guide your thought and nurture your feeling.

May your mind inhabit your life with the sureness with which your body
inhabits the world.

May your heart never be haunted by ghost-structures of old damage.

May you come to accept your longing as divine urgency.

May you know the urgency with which God longs for you.

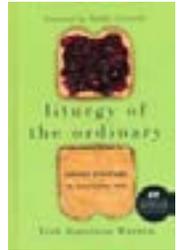
If you are interested in walking the labyrinth, please email me at pswartz@the-peopleschurch.com to schedule one of the available times.

May God bless you richly.

Rev. Penny

CHICs WOMEN'S GROUP

CHiCs (Connected Hearts in Christ) Women's Study will be starting a new book: *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren.



If you are interested in joining us for this discussion, via Zoom, every Thursday evening from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. please call Beth Lundy at 610-246-0029 or email at lundybb@comcast.net. Members of the group laugh together, pray together and read together. Join us!



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—supplements their experiences, personality, and talents with essential skills to offer this Christ-centered care. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their Care Receivers who may be dealing with difficult times like grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

[Read the story](#) of a past care receiver's experience having a Stephen Minister. By April, we will have six Stephen Ministers trained and ready to serve our Peoples Church community.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry contact [Aram Kabodian](#) or [Rev. Penny Swartz](#) for more information.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

*80 & OVER

- 3/08 - Dottie Thomas
- 3/09 - Rebecca Blair
- 3/09 - Robert Ward
- 3/11 - Susan Kropschot
- 3/18 - Barbara McMillan
- 3/18 - Carol Grams
- 3/21 - Joanne DiFranco
- 3/21 - Mary Grace Jackson
- 3/23 - Margaret Metzger
- 3/24 - Mary Hill
- 3/24 - Margaret Balesky
- 3/25 - David Ronk
- 3/26 - Joyce Aldrich
- 3/30 - Marilyn Leppek

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

GREAT DECISIONS

On March 25, Dr. Amanda Flaim will be our speaker on "Human Trafficking." Professor Flaim, an Assistant Professor at MSU in the James Madison College and the department of Sociology, studies problems and paradoxes in human rights policy, including statelessness and citizenship, human trafficking, and the global expansion of rights to education and birth registration.

We will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom; the link and meeting information will be provided in an upcoming Sunday bulletin. Email malarz@aol.com with any questions.

NEW MEMBERS

We are blessed to have so many visitors attending The Peoples Church virtually and in person and so many interested in learning more about our wonderful faith community! We are thankful that technology gives us the opportunity to share God's word and offer programs and classes virtually! Are you interested in learning more? Consider joining us for our next Zoom New Members Class on April 18! Sign up by contacting Robin Matheson at matheso4@msu.edu or 517-290-3223.

THE READING PEOPLE

The Reading People will meet on March 18, via Zoom, at 1:30 p.m. They will be discussing *The Story of Arthur Truluv*, by Elizabeth Berg. To join the meeting and discussion, open Zoom and enter the meeting ID: 636 517 5503 and passcode: katiejeff

THE KNITTING PEOPLE

The Knitting People will meet virtually on March 11 at 1:00 p.m. To join this meeting [click here](#) or open the Zoom app and enter the meeting ID: 976 926 4464 and passcode: llove2knit.

TROOP/CREW 2: BSA SCOUTING AT TPC & 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!



Troop and Crew 2 continue to scout virtually and outdoors in our 100th year with The Peoples Church. While Covid is taking some adjusting to, as it is for all, scouting has continued for both boys and girls ages 11-21. We are meeting virtually every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. (see www.troop2el.org). Additionally, we are sponsoring a family tubing night at Hawk Island in March, following all BSA, state and local health guidelines. Those interested in checking us out, email us at info@troop2el.org.

Save the date for Troop 2's 100 year celebration on Sept 18, 2021. Planning has started and we are calling all former alumnus scouts and scouters, church or other supporters, to tell us your story or join us in our 100 year celebration. Email us your name, contact information, your relationship to Troop 2 and the dates of your involvement to: 100yearAnniversary@Troop2EL.org. Please feel free to include any memories you wish to share! Or visit our [website](#) to submit your contact information using the 100 year survey.



CHILDREN'S EDUCATION UPDATE

by Kathi Mitchell, Children's Education Director

Hello from Children's CE!

Even though we are not meeting in person, we are still being active in the church! Sunday School lessons and videos are available online. Parents, if you need the link, please contact me.

Our Valentine's Day project was a huge success, thanks to your generosity with cookies and more. We were able to deliver or send 30 packages to elderly members of our congregation with homemade cards from our Sunday School students! Several students baked, created and delivered the packages themselves!

This March several of our students are working hard for our first ever Easter Pageant! We meet every Sunday morning for rehearsal and the kids have been doing great learning their lines and songs. We will premier "Mr. Pigg's BBQ Emporium" on Sunday, April 11.

Get ready to go to the Frozen North! At long last, *Nights of North Castle* will be happening with VBS this June at Woldumar Nature Center. To keep everyone safe, VBS will be limited to 16 campers and 4 counselors. Registration links will be sent out this month. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact me at kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com.

Peace,
Kathi



SUMMER CAMP: ENROLLING NOW!

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool



The Peoples Church Preschool offers a Summer Camp each year for school-age students that have completed Kindergarten through fifth grade. If you haven't already, it's time to sign up!

Summer Camp begins Monday, June 14 and goes through Friday, August 27. Enrollment will remain open until camp is full. Camp opens at 7:10 a.m. and ends at 5:45 p.m., but students may arrive and leave with parents at any time between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Arrangements can be made for other arrival and departure times. Full and part time schedules are available until camp is full. Space is limited and campers are enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis.

This summer all campers will enjoy:

- Cooking with Ms. Gerri
- Weekly field trips and/or Special Visitors*
- Nature Center Exploration
- Fitness
- Keeping up with school work without realizing it
- Gardening
- Summer-end Talent Show



*As the pandemic allows

Our Summer Camp will follow all of the safety guidelines recommended by the Michigan Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control. Teachers and campers will wear masks and will social distance as is possible. Call Dana Johnson at (517) 332-2885 to request more information or for an enrollment pack.



PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP



Hello PCYG Students and Families!

What a wonderful time we had this past month sledding! It was so good to see your *masked* faces and spend time together. I'm looking forward to other virtual or outdoor events this month, so stay up to date with the FB page and your emails.

For the time being we will remain virtual for our weekly meetings. Log in on Wednesday (middle school) and Sunday (high school) evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. for PCYG lessons and games! Thank you all for your consistency and energy as we navigate these challenging times. I look forward to the day we will gather in the youth den together again!

Joyfully,
Elisha Smith

VIRTUAL GROUPS

SERMON PREVIEW GROUP: meets each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. To join, [click here](#); Meeting ID: 841 4703 4632. You can also dial 1.929.205.6099 and when prompted enter 841 4703 4632.

TUESDAY MORNING MENS GROUP: meets each Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. To join, [click here](#). The meeting ID is: 837 5361 0456; passcode is: TPC. You can also dial 1.301.715.8592 and when prompted enter the meeting code 837 5361 0456 and passcode 160971. They are reading *Life on the Vine: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit*, by Philip D. Kenneson.

WEDNESDAY NOON MENS GROUP: meets each Wednesday at Noon. To join, [click here](#).

WEDNESDAY PCYG MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP: meets each Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. If interested in joining this group, email [Elisha Smith](#), PCYG Director.

SUNDAY PCYG HIGH SCHOOL GROUP: meets each Sunday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. If interested in joining this group, email [Elisha Smith](#), PCYG Director.

LENT 2021: WALK & TALK WEDNESDAYS

Walk & Talk Wednesdays happen each Wednesday during the Lent season—through March 31. You're invited to come to the church, walk the labyrinth in the Snider Social Hall, and have a conversation with Rev. Penny Swartz. The point is to experience a "mini-pilgrimage" by following an intentional, guided walk toward a centering point where you might experience God and God's word for you. During the season of Lent in these continuing unprecedented times of Covid-19, walking this sacred path may be exactly what your soul and spirit need.

Walking the church's labyrinth will be by appointment only in order to follow the CDC Covid guidelines. Walks and subsequent conversation will be offered on Wednesdays in 90-minute blocks of time, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Email pswartz@thepeopleschurch.com or call 517-648-8987 to schedule a time to walk and talk.