



## PATIENCE!

After fourteen months, the Covid pandemic has entered what I would call its “already and not yet” phase. According to the most recent data from the CDC, over a quarter of the U.S. population has been fully vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus. That is good news! And yet the number of people infected with Covid-19 is going up. Michigan has become a hot spot: infections on are on the rise, hospitals are filling up, and the threat of going back into lock-down looms on the horizon. The most troubling news is that it’s not the elderly who are getting sick these days—it’s young people.

Researchers believe this new wave has been caused by states easing their restrictions and allowing businesses to open up. Too many people are gathering together—especially around college campuses. And while our most vulnerable population has been vaccinated, our college students have yet to get their shots.

So how am I supposed to feel? More and more people are vaccinated—Hooray! More and more people are getting sick—Boo! Is the pandemic coming to an end or is this just another chapter in the worst book ever written?

The truth is only time will tell. What we need is patience.

Patience, or rather fortitude, is one of the four cardinal virtues identified by St. Ambrose in the 4th century. They were called cardinal virtues because all other Christian virtues hinged on them (*Cardo* is Latin for “hinge”). I would note that Plato, in his work *The Republic*, was the first to name these four virtues; he believed they were essential if one hoped to have a fully functioning society.

The four cardinal virtues are: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. These seem like archaic ideals until you dig a little deeper and understand the full meaning of each one. Prudence is wisdom, the ability to discern the right course of action in any circumstances. Justice is fairness, acting in ways that are righteous before the law and righteous before God. Fortitude is strength and patience, the ability to endure under adverse conditions. Temperance is self-control, the ability to keep one’s appetites in check.

The more I’ve read about the cardinal virtues, the more I appreciate them. We should be teaching these virtues in church—if not in school. Our world would be so much better if we all lived by the cardinal virtues, don’t you think? The nice thing about virtues is that they can be learned. You just need to practice them—like everything else in the Christian faith! Practice, practice, practice.

I am so ready for this pandemic to be over. It’s been two weeks since I had my second shot and I am ready to live a mask-free life, hugging each and every person I see! But if we are going to put an end to this pandemic, we all need to practice the cardinal virtue of patience.

*Dr. Monroe*



## STRAWBERRY BREAKFAST

**MAY 8 • 11:00 a.m.**

The Women of Peoples Church will be hosting their annual Strawberry Breakfast virtually this year. A dynamic presentation is scheduled with guest speaker, Dr. Clare Luz from Age Alive!

Join the presentation via Zoom by clicking [here](#) or, you can enter the Meeting ID: 920 8904 8380 and Passcode: 724624 in your Zoom app.

This year’s Strawberry Breakfast is dedicated in honor and memory of Patty and Eliza Brookover.



## ANNUAL JEWELRY & USED BOOK SALE

**AUGUST 7-8**

Donations for the WPC jewelry sale and used book sale are now being accepted. Please drop off in the church office during open business hours, Monday - Friday.





## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

\*80 & OVER

- 5/01 - Luella Erbes
- 5/02 - Jane Marin
- 5/02 - Douglas Pearson
- 5/05 - Maxine Ferris
- 5/06 - John Donahue
- 5/09 - Albert Hafner
- 5/14 - Sue Mills
- 5/17 - Sandra Wegenke
- 5/18 - Stewart SirLouis
- 5/21 - Eleanor Stubbs
- 5/24 - Otto Stockmeyer

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

### 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? Contact Robin Matheson at [matheso4@msu.edu](mailto:matheso4@msu.edu) or 517-290-3223.

### THE READING PEOPLE

The Reading People will meet on May 20, via Zoom, at 1:30 p.m. They will be discussing *For One More Day*, by Mitch Albom. 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 not meet during the month of May. Keep an eye out for details for the next meeting in a future bulletin and Portal.

### THE PEOPLES FORUM

The Peoples Forum offers monthly presentations from a dynamic lineup of guest speakers! The meetings take place via Zoom, once per month, at 9:30 a.m. Mark your calendars for our upcoming forums:

**May 2:** Sean Holland, One Love Global

**June 6:** Dick Peffley, GM and CEO of Lansing Board of Water and Light

[Join the Zoom meeting here](#); Meeting ID: 952 4386 8996 and passcode is TPCPF. Or, dial 1 301 715 8592 and enter the meeting ID: 952 4386 8996 and passcode TPCPF.

Email questions to [Mary West](#).

## BECAUSE YOU GIVE, WE CAN...

*by Bev Mason, Chair, Community Engagement Ministry*



support so many worthy organizations who are working so passionately to love and support people in need in our community and beyond. When The Peoples Church Finance Ministry confirmed that the federal PPP loan of \$323,000 had been completely forgiven, Church leaders, including the Council of Elders, approved a plan so that some impactful money could be given out in our community. Community Engagement was offered the challenge of selecting four organizations that are driven to support the most vulnerable during this long Pandemic. We approved \$12,700 from our 2021 budget and combined it with the \$27,300 from Finance allowing us to give out four \$10,000 grants.

**We gave \$10,000 to Southside Kitchen** to continue their efforts of getting a new kitchen ready in a new location to serve meals to the homeless and needy in Lansing. The Peoples Church has been supporting Southside Kitchen since it first began.

**We gave \$10,000 to City Rescue Mission of Lansing** to use for the expansion into two additional buildings. This allows CRM to provide more rooms, showers, toilets, dining space, chapel, and classrooms to serve the homeless.

**We gave \$10,000 to St. Vincent's Children's Home** to increase their ability to serve abused children who are in the foster care system. These funds are needed to provide better sensory equipment, additional psychiatric consultations and training to meet the needs of the children as well as the staff.

**We gave \$10,000 to Haven House in East Lansing.** Haven House keeps families together while providing temporary shelter. They are undertaking a renovation project to convert a communal space into three private units.

Because you give, we can continue to help those in need. The generosity of the members made all of this possible. Simply put, because you give, we can help those in need right here in Greater Lansing. Community Engagement is so thankful for every dollar in our budget that we can use to help others. Thank you for all the gifts you share!

Together our giving makes a difference!

## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT



I want to thank everyone who walked the labyrinth during Lent. The number of participants far exceeded my expectations. Walkers included members and non-members of The Peoples Church; some were first-timers, others seasoned pilgrims. More importantly, the reactions shared about their immediate experiences, plus additional comments communicated to me through emails and notes on post-walk reflections, were heartfelt and touching. Several first time walkers stated they didn't even know the church had a labyrinth; others admitted to having seen "some design on the floor" often hidden by tables and chairs, not realizing they were sitting on top of this sacred path. To a person, everyone who walked said they would do it again. The power of such a seemingly simple spiritual tool is amazing!

There is a clear distinction between labyrinths and mazes in our modern age. Mazes are meant to make it difficult for anyone going inside it to find his or her way out. Labyrinths, however, are intentionally designed to provide a single path, both twisting and tranquil, that leads to a definitive center and back out again. The labyrinth in our Snider Social Hall is based on the design of the one in Chartres Cathedral, France. I'm not certain as to when it was "installed", but it was sometime between January 2000 and July 2002.

As far as I've been able to research, The Peoples Church is the only church in the greater Lansing area to have a permanent, indoor labyrinth. A couple of area churches utilize portable canvas labyrinths; there are a scattering of outdoor labyrinths as well. To promote more frequent use of the labyrinth by our congregation and the public at large, the church has designated the first Sunday of each month for open walks. Beginning on June 6, 2021, people will be able to make a "mini-pilgrimage" between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. During the ongoing corona virus pandemic, all walkers are asked to observe the most current and up-to-date Covid-19 protocols.

I am delighted that our church is once again putting this under-used spiritual tool to good purpose. I look forward to you taking the opportunity to enrich yourself spiritually.

Grace upon grace,

*Pastor Penny*



Thanks for your participation in this month's painting and bonfire events! I am looking forward to more warm weather and the activities we will be able to do.

If you signed up to volunteer with VBS, mark your calendars for June 21- 25! We are so appreciative of your help.

We are headed to Howell Nature Center from July 8-11 for a youth retreat! If you have a student that is interested in attending, please reach out and let me know! Paper work will be sent out at the end of this month to officially register and pay for your child.

Elisha Smith



Hello Campus Ministry Students!

We are headed to Ludington State Park to do some camping from May 14-16!

If you haven't already registered, or know a college-age student who would like to register, please reach out to [Elisha Smith](mailto:esmith@thepeopleschurch.com) (esmith@thepeopleschurch.com) so she can send you the details!

Elisha Smith

# JOIN OUR TEAM



## Now Hiring!

Peoples Church Preschool is looking for a Full-Time, Co-Lead, Toddler Room Teacher.

Applicants must have a degree in Early Childhood Education or equivalent. Please contact the preschool at: [djohnson@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:djohnson@thepeopleschurch.com) for more information.