

## Risen Indeed

Diversity of faith is the gift and challenge of the United Church of Christ. I am aware that Peoples Church includes peoples from all across the faith spectrum, each with their own unique “take” on Jesus. The more biblically conservative folks have a preference for the resurrected Christ, the one who promises to return one day to judge the living and the dead. On the other side, the social justice folks favor Jesus of Nazareth, champion of the oppressed, who stands in solidarity with the poor. Left to our own devices, we might easily split into different factions or even different faiths.

Then Easter comes. Together, we walk to the empty tomb and hear the witness of the angels: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but risen.” (Luke 24:5b) There is no evidence of what has gone on, only a powerful absence which proclaims that the Jesus who lived and died, and was buried, is not here. He is risen and will one day return in glory. The empty tomb holds in tension all our versions of Jesus Christ, and binds us together in one body and one spirit.

It’s an unsettling place and yet, in some ways, the empty tomb is the center of our faith. For in this sacred space we meet the mystery and power of Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God. There is no proof, no evidence, and no rational explanation. Just an invitation to a deeper faith, a closer community and a richer encounter with the living Christ who is not dead, but is risen.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

- Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe, Senior Pastor



## WE ARE HIRING!

PLEASE SEND RESUMES TO [PERSONNEL@THEPEOPLESCHURCH.COM](mailto:PERSONNEL@THEPEOPLESCHURCH.COM)

### Communications Specialist

The Peoples Church is hiring a new Communications Specialist. This position is full-time at 30 hours a week and is eligible for insurance and other benefits.

#### Main Job Responsibilities

- \* Creating and editing the weekly bulletin and monthly *Portal* newsletter
- \* Updating The Peoples Church Website
- \* Maintaining regular communication with congregation members through Facebook posts and E-News

#### Skills

- \* Microsoft Office Suite, particularly Word and Publisher

### Hospitality Coordinator

The Peoples Church is hiring a new Hospitality Coordinator. This position is part-time averaging 20-24 hours per week, with a compensation range of \$16-\$18/hour depending on experience.

#### Main Job Responsibilities

- \* All catering needs involving the use of the kitchen (includes special events)
- \* Preparing and serving balanced meals, within budget, for our Wednesday night community meals
- \* Maintain inventory of food
- \* Maintain high level of sanitation standards in kitchen

## April Birthdays

\*80 & over

4/09—Boyd Kinzley

4/10—Janet Woolsey

4/25—Ed Marin

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

## Peoples 101

Would you like to know more about The Peoples Church or have questions you'd like to ask? Stop by Peoples 101 in the Robertson Room and meet with a Pastor and Welcome Ministry members for a 30 minute informal discussion on any of these dates:

- April 3
- May 1
- June 5

## The Reading People

We will meet on **April 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the Robertson Room** to discuss *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles. We invite you to join us for a lively event, led by Susan Nowicki.

## The Knitting People

We will meet on **April 28 at 1 p.m. in the Robertson Room** to knit and crochet blankets, mittens, hats and slippers for people in our community. Bring your completed projects for blessing, as we share a time of fellowship and good work!

## New Members Class

If you are interested in learning more about The Peoples Church and/or contemplating membership, this is the perfect class for you! Join a Pastor and Welcome Ministry members on **April 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the Centennial Room**. We will go over church history, governance and missions; discuss programs for children, youth, college students/young professionals and adults and talk about all of the ways you can get involved. This class runs approximately 90 minutes with an optional church tour. Please contact Robin Matheson (matheso4@msu.edu or 517-290-3223) to register.

## Jewelry & Book Sale Reminders

The Used Book and Jewelry Sale is slated for **May 21-22nd!** Jewelry donations are accepted year round and can be dropped off in the Main Church Office.

The Library Committee is collecting used books in good condition for the sale. Donations can be placed on the stage in the Snider Social Hall. *We ask that you do not donate text books, magazines, encyclopedias, or special interest sets!*

## Vacation Bible School Registration Open!

- June 13th-17th

- Limited to 100 Campers
- Register before May 1st for a discount!

Contact Kathi Mitchell to register: 517-908-4447



## The Peoples Forum: Sundays in the Robertson Room, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

April 3rd — Beth Lundy; *Membership Coordinator*, The Peoples Church

April 10th — Eric Waggoner, Waggoner Financial

April 17th — Easter Sunday, No Forum

April 24th — Elisha Smith; *Youth Director*, The Peoples Church





## Preschool Families Raised Funds for Nottingham Nature Nook

Peoples Church Preschool



Est. 1951 (517) 332-2885

Dana Johnson – Director, Peoples Church Preschool

The children and families in the preschool participated in a February Giving Project for the Nottingham Nature Nook. The Nature Nook is a nonprofit East Lansing organization that takes in injured and orphaned wild animals.

To raise funds, the 6 preschool classrooms had a Penny War for the month of February. The classroom with the most money raised in pennies wins the competition for the animals. The catch is that classrooms can “sabotage” their competitors by putting silver coins or paper money in each other’s jars because these amounts *subtract* from the total.



While no animals are turned away at the Nature Nook, fawns are regular residents. The preschool classrooms hope to travel to see them this spring. For more information about the Nottingham Nature Nook, their website is [www.nottinghammequestriancenter.com/nottinghamnaturenook](http://www.nottinghammequestriancenter.com/nottinghamnaturenook). The Preschool conducts this giving experience each February. If you would like to contribute to the preschool’s giving project, please **SAVE YOUR PENNIES FOR US** and bring them by the preschool office in January, February or any time. If you have questions, please call 332-2885 or stop by. We thank you.

# Welcome New Members!



*Alan DeGraw*

*Julie DeGraw*



*Linda Forward*





# CHILDREN'S EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLES CHURCH



Spring is here and there is definitely a feeling of renewal in the Children's Education department! We are so thankful for our wonderful volunteers who are teaching Sunday School and allowing us to offer three age appropriate classes each week. Our children are blessed! Please note, there will **not** be Sunday School on **April 3 (Spring Break)** and **April 17 (Easter)**.

More excitement is coming this summer with Vacation Bible School (VBS) **June 13-17th!** We will enjoy all that Woldumar has to offer for several days and finish up the week at the church with a special visitor and ice cream social. To register your children, use the QR Code! We also need teen and adult volunteers, please contact Kathi Mitchell at [kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com) if you can help. Thank you!



- **Kathi Mitchell**, Children's Christian Education Director, [kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com)



My summer church-camp memories are filled with images of tie-dye t-shirts and crazy canoe trips. Did you ever have a church-camp experience as a kid? There are so many camp opportunities for children these days, but church camp offers a unique opportunity for kids to explore their faith, meet new friends, play games and try new activities. There are many different church camp opportunities offered by our four denominations. If you are interested in attending a camp (or sending your children) I would be happy to help you find the perfect option!

You can check out some of the camp offerings at the following websites:

United Methodist: <https://umcamping.org/>  
<https://lakelouisecommunity.org>  
<https://summergamescamp.org>

PCUSA: <https://campwestminster.com/>  
<https://www.presbyterypoint.org/>  
<https://www.allenparkpres.org/camp-wakanda.html>

UCC: <http://camptalahi.org/summer-camp/>  
<http://www.il-outdoorministries.org/camps-and-retreats-information.html>

ABC: <https://highergroundatlakelouise.com/about/>  
<https://www.camplael.com/>

Want to know more, just let me know. Let's change some lives with summer camp!

- **Pastor Devon**



**What is Pub Theology?**

- A safe space for conversation about life, faith, philosophy, and what is happening in the world.
- A place where you can wrestle with your doubts and your certainties.

**Who's Invited?**

- **YOU!** If the above sounds like something you'd like to join. There are no age "limits" - all are welcome.

**Why?**

- Why not have a great discussion, a burger and a beer with fun people?

**Missions Spotlight**

The Community Engagement Ministry of The Peoples Church had the opportunity to select organizations to receive funding through the forgiveness of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Community Engagement sought to make a big impact by selecting two organizations to receive \$15,000 each. The City Rescue Mission and the Child & Family Service organization were selected. This month will highlight the City Rescue Mission and next month will highlight the Child & Family Service Organization.

**City Rescue Mission**

Found in 1911, The City Rescue Mission of Lansing is a 501(c)3 Christian ministry serving the Lansing area. The City Rescue Mission seeks to meet the core physical needs of food and shelter while also providing spiritual hope and guidance. The facilities include a men's shelter on Michigan Ave. and a women's shelter on Cedar St. The Mission feeds people and gives them a safe place to sleep. The City Rescue Mission serves about 200 meals a day, shelters 175 men, women, and children every night, and provides valuable spiritual guidance and prayer.

**The Next Chapter of Hope**

In 2020, two additional buildings next to the Mission became available on Michigan Avenue. Acting on faith, they purchased these buildings in order to expand their capacity to serve others. This new space will be able to greatly increase the number of beds, bathrooms, classrooms, dining space, and the chapel area. The gift of \$15,000 from The Peoples Church will help the City Rescue Mission expand their services for those in need, The beautifully written thank you note from the mission expressed gratitude for our efforts to assist with this expansion project. The note also stated that *"last night, 85 men found shelter at our Michigan Ave location. Even more were able to enjoy a warm meal from our public dining room."*

**From the City Rescue Mission's Monthly Newsletter—Mission Monthly Needs:**

Apple or Grape Juice	Laundry Pods	Flavored Oatmeal Packs
Sugar Packets	Men's Insulated Gloves	Coffee Creamer Packs
Women's Sports Bras (all sizes)	Women's PJs (M-XL and 4XL)	Men's Flip Flops (XL)
Men's Undershirts (L)	New Men's PJ Bottoms (2XL-5XL)	

**Donation drop-off site: 607 E. Michigan Ave (7 AM-6 PM).**



**To make a donation, the mailing address is: 2216 S. Cedar St., Lansing MI 48910.**

**For more information: [www.bearescuer.org](http://www.bearescuer.org) or 517-485-0145.**

# What Happens to the Plastic Bags You Drop Off at Meijer, Kroger and Other Local Retailers?

## Earth Stewardship's Monthly Green Message

**Answer: They are collected, recycled and manufactured into composite decking, outdoor furniture and disposal bags in the USA.**

Plastic grocery bags are made of polyethylene film, either high-density polyethylene HDPE  or low-density polyethylene LDPE . Both can be successfully recycled. Check for the triangle on the bag. Grocery bags are generally HDPE 2. So are the flexible vegetable and fruit storage bags in the fresh food section. Our morning newspapers are delivered in soft, flexible LDPE 4 bags. The New York Times is delivered in an LDPE 4, d2w recyclable and bio-degradable plastic bag developed in the UK: <https://www.symphonymenvironmental.com>.

It is important to know what type of bags/film can be placed in store recycling bins. For example, frozen food and chip bags cannot be recycled. If the bag makes a crinkly sound when crushed, it cannot be recycled. For a complete list of what plastic film can be recycled, go to: <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/plastic-film-education-individuals/> which is a website of the American Chemistry Council. In the Lansing area, Meijer, Kroger, Target, Kohl's and Wal-Mart recycle plastic bags.

Don't forget, there is another approach to supporting a sustainable environment and limiting plastic use. If you don't need a bag, don't take one. And if you need one, take your own re-usable bag to the store. Often, you can buy re-usable bags at the store or go on Google and search for "sustainable shopping bags".

For more information about what leading retailers are doing to address plastic bag waste and reinvent the retail bag, read about the "Beyond the Bag Initiative": <https://www.closedlooppartners.com/beyond-the-bag/>. For current information on the sustainable use of other plastic, check out <https://www.plasticmakers.org/learn/>.



**April**  
**Campus Ministry Calendar**  
Lunch After Worship:  
April 3 & 10  
Dinner on Wednesdays @ 6:30pm:  
April 6, 13, 20  
End of year Bash: April 27  
Stay posted for more info on service/fun events  
this month by clicking here:



## Volunteer at Peoples!

We have recently listed volunteer opportunities on our website! Opportunities include *Parking Angels, Sunday Morning Greeters, Volunteering with Welcome Ministry and Coffee Fellowship.*

Visit [thepeopleschurch.com/volunteer-at-peoples](http://thepeopleschurch.com/volunteer-at-peoples) for more information about volunteer opportunities!



## Women of Peoples Church Strawberry Brunch

Women of Peoples Church will be holding their annual Strawberry Gathering in May. **The Strawberry Brunch is slated for May 1st following Sunday Worship.** Admission to the event: \$10 per adult, \$8 per child 11 and up, free admission for children under 11. Menu details to come, check the weekly bulletins for more information.

Our guest speaker for this event is Sheri Wohlfert. Sheri is a Catholic wife, mom, speaker and teacher. She uses her great sense of humor and her deep faith to help others discover the joy of being a child of God. Her roots are in Kansas, but her home is in Michigan. The mission of her ministry is to encourage others to take a good look at the simple ways we can all find God doing joyful, blessed, amazing things smack dab in the middle of the laundry, ball games, farm chores and the hundred other things we manage to cram into a day.



## Easter Lily Memorial Gifts

Forms for reserving Easter Lilies are available in the weekly bulletins! If you are interested in reserving an Easter Lily, please fill out the form and return it to the church office no later than **April 11th!**

## *Easter Food Basket Collection*

*Similar to Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets, the Community Engagement Ministry is looking to provide families with a memorable and hopeful Easter season.*

*We will offer a food credit, which excludes alcohol, tobacco, and cleaning supplies to 30 families. This enables families to choose items that best suit their needs during this time. We thank you for your past support, and are grateful for all the help you can offer now! Donations can be dropped off in the main office or given through Realm.*







## PEOPLES CHURCH TALENT SHOW

Show us your talent on **Sunday, May 1, 11:30 a.m.** in the **Snider Social Hall!** Welcome Ministry is looking for talent of all kinds: *singing, dancing, poetry, juggling, instrument playing...* you name it!

Acts are limited to **5 minutes** and we need a minimum of **10 performers** to hold this event. Please sign up **no later than Sunday, April 24** by emailing Diane Shafer at [dmshafer2001@gmail.com](mailto:dmshafer2001@gmail.com).

The **entire congregation** is invited to enjoy a soup and salad lunch during the show. We can't wait to see you!

The next *Portal* deadline for the May issue is **April 15th**.  
Submit content to [office@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:office@thepeopleschurch.com)

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