



# Portal

## AUGUST 2022

**Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe**  
Senior Pastor

**Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell**  
Associate Pastor

### ON MY MIND: FROM SCRATCH

There is one cake I can make from start to finish in under an hour. In our house, it's called "The Cake" but the name my mother-in-law Dorothy gave it was "Two of Everything Cake." It is the cake I make for birthdays, potlucks and general special occasions. I once brought this cake to a church event in Ohio and someone asked me how I made it. I started to tell them the recipe and the person said, "Wait! You made this from scratch!?" I said "Yes, it's really easy." But she waved me off. "Nothing made from scratch is easy."

The word scratch originated in the world of sports. The line that runners started from was the scratch line, meaning "to start at the beginning." Then the word evolved into a term used in golf. A scratch golfer, who is far from a beginner, is someone who has no handicap. So the word began to mean *zero* or *nothing*.

Someone who cooks *from scratch* is someone who starts at the beginning, with nothing premade. Scratch cooks, like scratch golfers, are well practiced in their craft. Such cooks can pull together a meal from whatever is at hand. Back in my mother-in-law's day, everything was made from scratch, but nowadays, many people opt for convenience foods. It saves time.

This fall, it feels like we're doing ministry from scratch. After 30 months of Covid, many of our old routines and habits have been lost and it's like we're starting over. There are no shortcuts or premade programs. Like good cooks, we are going to pay attention to what gifts and resources we have, and figure out how to put them together to meet the needs of our members and people in the wider community.

You will notice in this month's Portal that we are gearing up for a "normal" fall (God willing). Some things are finally returning, like the 8:30 a.m. Chapel worship service. We're also expanding our Christian education programming for adults and offering more opportunities to get involved in the community. On top of that, we're looking for some talented volunteers to help us with the visuals of worship – a project I find very exciting. The challenge will be rebuilding momentum in the life of the church after so many months of...nothing. One nice thing about starting over is there is so much we can do!

That woman I met in Ohio was right: nothing made from scratch is easy. But I think it's better. Premade things are nice in a pinch, but there is something wonderful about using the resources you have at hand to make something wonderful. It's true for cooking; it's true for ministry. So let's get cooking!



Wishing you God's blessings,  
- **Rev Dr. Shawnthea Monroe**, Senior Pastor

## FUN AT THE FARM

### Peoples Church Preschool

The children in preschool are finally able to return to our routine of adding field trips back into the curriculum. These had been suspended for a couple of years due to Covid. For our first venture out, we chose an outdoor destination where we knew we would not run into the public and could mingle with nature - The Johnson Farm.

Children in groups from one-year-olds to school age summer campers enjoyed gathering eggs, feeding and petting chickens and goats, and a nature hike. On the hike children identified 7 different colors of wildflowers, five different kinds of grass seeds, and discovered animal tracks in the mud including raccoons and turkeys. We observed two different underground animal den entrances, three kinds of scat, and found the largest burdock leaf to be 28 inches long!

Because the property was formerly a horse farm, the children also gallop-raced in a pony corral, examined what a barn is used for, and some posed with the tractor. We always know it's been a good trip when the children ask if they can come back tomorrow.



-Dana Johnson, Director of Peoples Church Preschool

## PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Hello PCYG Students and Families! I hope you are enjoying this beautiful weather and spending some time outside soaking up the sun. I know how busy and involved in extra curricular activities you all are, and I have loved seeing and hearing about your summer fun.

Due to complications surrounding the pandemic (that is still active and impacting our community) we were unable to depart on our service trip to Milwaukee this July. Although I am very sad that we were unable to go, I know that given the circumstances this was the right choice. All donations for this years service trip and proceeds from the cake auction will be put towards our trip for next summer, which I am already looking forward to!

This month we are playing Laser Tag at Zap Zone on August 7th, and have our Michigan Adventure trip on August 20th! I can't wait to begin our normal programming with you next month.

Please reach out to me at [esmith@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:esmith@thepeopleschurch.com) if you have any questions, or would like more information on what PCYG is up to during the summer months!

Joyfully,

- Elisha Smith (she/her/hers), Youth Director



## FALL MINISTRY FAIR

Someone said it out loud near me in the grocery store the other day, "Summer is almost over." Then I went to Costco last week and saw mountains of school supplies, emphasizing that fall is on its way. There is always a bit of sadness in my spirit at fall's arrival, but it is also the time when the church (and nearly everything else) buzzes with the excitement of something new. For children it is a new grade in school, for college students, a return to a life of freedom from their parents, and for our church community, a re-launch into the things that bring us joy – like fellowship and study, meals together, and increased worship attendance.

I am particularly excited about our fall 'Kick-Off Sunday' on September 11th, and hope you are too! We want to make it easy for everyone to know how to get involved in our community and will have a *Ministry Fair* in the social hall that day. Before our Chicken Dinner, folks will have time to peruse the booths and gather info about the ministries taking place. If you are involved or in charge of one of these groups, would you provide some information for people to take? Perhaps you might stand at your booth and answer questions? If you have swag to give out, that might be fun, too!

If you have any questions about this, or want to speak to me directly please call/email me. I am so looking forward to having some fall fun with all of you!

-Pastor Devon, Associate Pastor



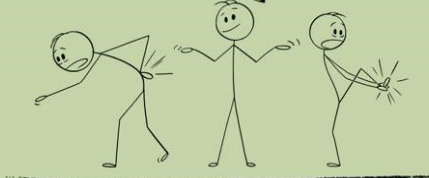
### UPCOMING CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

- **August 28th: Move-in Weekend Popsicle Give-Away on Campus**
- **August 30th, 4 to 8pm: Sparticipation at Cherry Lane Field**
- **September 11th: Lunch & Lounge will begin with a meal in the campus lounge following worship**

# ACHE

**Adults Connecting & Having Events!**

For emerging adults in their 20's-30's  The Peoples Church of East Lansing



ACHE meets on Mondays  
at 6:30pm.

**Find our weekly info here:**

Facebook:

[ACHEThePeoplesChurch](#)

Instagram:

[ACHE\\_thepeopleschurch](#)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We started our summer with a wonderful round of Vacation Bible School! Almost 50 teens and children enjoyed VBS at Woldumar Nature Center learning about God's light, nature, and all the world around us. We were thrilled that our mission project, asking for donations for homemade cards and framed quotes, earned over \$300 for UMCOR. Extra items were sent to elderly members of our congregation as one of our outreach projects.

We are having a great time in Sunday School, enjoying a new air conditioner in one of the hottest rooms. We have been learning about spirit, praise, and how to be thankful.

We can't wait for a new season of Sunday School to start, with many children moving up classrooms into new grade levels. Fall is sure to bring excitement with Kick Off Sunday, Carol Choir, and a live Christmas Pageant! Our classes are growing, just like our faith!

Peace,

**-Kathi Mitchell**, Children's Education Director



### Attention Artists!

*"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."*

*-Vincent Van Gogh*

The Worship Ministry is embarking on a new project using resources from The Worship Design Studio. The goal is to create "sensory-rich worship experiences" that incorporate music, the word, and visual arts. All mediums are welcome – whether it's fabric, paint, paper, etc. If you have a talent that you'd like to share and would like to learn more about collaborating with the Worship Design Team, please contact Pastor Shawnthea at [smonroe@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:smonroe@thepeopleschurch.com).

### Mission 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 Services Organization were selected. This month will focus on the Child & Family Services Organization.

On an annual basis, Child and Family Charities serves over 15,000 individuals of all ages and needs in the Ingham County area. Their Programs include Behavioral Health, Child Abuse Prevention, Child Welfare, Gateway Youth Services, Juvenile Justice, Angel House residential and the Mid-Michigan Trauma Collaboration. These Programs focus on the mental health and well-being of local families, youth and children.

The 2022 Capital Campaign *BE THE LIGHT* is underway. Child and Family Charities will be housed on one campus where they will have further opportunity to expand their services and outreach. The former McLaren Greenlawn site will be their new location at the conclusion of their 2 million dollar campaign.

The Peoples Church is shining a light towards a brighter future for those in need.

Once this project is completed, we will be honored to have our name in the doorway of a room in their new location.



## Renew: A Retreat for Women



Set aside some time to renew your spirit, renew your faith, and renew your connection with God. Join us for our fall retreat for women at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. The program starts with dinner on Friday night, September 23rd, and ends with a closing worship on Saturday evening, September 24th. The program will feature three sessions led by Anita Smith Buckwalter, prayer, worship, and unstructured time for crafts, writing, or whatever makes your heart sing. The cost is \$105 (double occupancy) or \$120 (single occupancy) and includes four meals and all accommodations. If you have questions, please contact Beth Lundy ([blundy@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:blundy@thepeopleschurch.com)). Space is limited, so sign up today. Scholarships are available upon request.



### SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATION OF THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLES CHURCH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST – 6 TO 8 PM

(MORE DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER)

### CHiCs (Connected Hearts in Christ)

CHiCs is returning in the fall and will meet again on Thursday evenings 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the Robertson room starting on September 8, 2022 .

This fall we will be reading and discussing *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are* by Brené Brown.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact Beth Lundy at [lundybb@comcast.net](mailto:lundybb@comcast.net) or (610)246-0029 for more information.

New York Times Best Seller with Over 2 Million Copies Sold!

## THE GIFTS OF Imperfection



As Featured On  
**SUPER SOUL SUNDAY**  
**OWN**  
ORIGINAL HEARTS NETWORK  
OPRAH.COM

Let Go of Who You Think  
You're Supposed to Be  
and Embrace Who You Are

YOUR GUIDE TO A WHOLEHEARTED LIFE

**Brené Brown, Ph.D., L.M.S.W.**



# Earth Stewardship

## Tips for a Plastic-Free Visit to the Water's Edge\*

More than 22 million pounds of plastic end up in the Great Lakes every year, some of which originates in adjacent watersheds, inland lakes, rivers and streams. Plastic never really goes away. Instead, it just breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces known as “microplastics.”

**These microscopic pieces of plastic have been found in our drinking water, fish, beer – and even in people’s blood.**

Fortunately, there are things we can all do to make a difference, which apply to keeping all of our water resources plastic free.

### 1. Use a reusable water bottle.

Plastic bottles and bottle caps are among the most commonly picked up litter items on beaches. Skip the plastic drink bottles. Instead, use stainless steel or reusable water bottles and drink containers.

### 2. Bring reusable cutlery for your picnic.

Bring reusable cutlery instead of single-use plastic forks, knives, and spoons. Plastic never really goes away, it just breaks down into smaller pieces. Tiny plastic pieces can be consumed by wildlife and get in our drinking water — gross!

### 3. Skip the balloons.

It might be tempting, but don’t celebrate with balloons! They float away from your picnic table directly into the lake. Balloons take years to decompose and the ribbon is an entanglement risk for animals.

### 4. Choose paper, not plastic.

Pack your snacks in reusable containers or wax paper instead of plastic baggies. Paraffin-free wax paper decomposes significantly faster than plastic baggies, which can take nearly 1,000 years to decompose.

### 5. Recycling is an option.

Using plastic is sometimes hard to avoid. If you end up with some single-use plastic, make sure you recycle.

### 6. Tote it.

Use reusable bags. Bring the party, but not in plastic bags. Carry all the necessary items for your festivities in a reusable bag.

### 7. Skip the straw.

Plastic straws are only used for a few minutes, but take nearly 200 years to break down.

### 8. Help with cleanup.

Adopt-a-Beach and community cleanups are a fun, free, easy way to give back to your community and keep plastic pollution out of our Great Lakes, inland lakes, rivers and streams.

### 9. Tell your friends.

Little actions make a big difference. Share your plastic-free tips and tricks with your friends.

\*This article has been adopted from an Alliance for the Great Lakes Blog dated 7/1/22. It has been slightly modified to reflect that plastic pollution enters the Great Lakes from adjacent water resources and poses a problem for all of our lakes, rivers and streams.

## Peoples 101

On August 7th, the Welcome Ministry will host a Peoples 101 immediately after the worship service in the Robertson Room. This serves as an informal information session about the church history and ministries. You are welcome to just show up, or send an email to Robin Matheson at [matheso4@msu.edu](mailto:matheso4@msu.edu) if you plan to attend.



Submissions for the September Portal should be sent to [zaho@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:zaho@thepeopleschurch.com) by August 15th.

## NEW BIBLE STUDY

### Engaging the Word



Starting August 3rd, the Wednesday Bible Study will become *Engaging the Word*. Led by Pastor Shawnthea, this group will meet on Zoom from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. The texts discussed will include passages for up-coming sermons along with other topics of interest.

The zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81906921959>.

Beginning on September 12th, Engaging the Word will also be offered IN PERSON in the Robertson Room from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Join us in person on Mondays or via Zoom on Wednesdays!

All are welcome.

## August Birthdays:

(80 and over)

Donald Bailey  
Charles Blackman  
Carol Bryson  
Evelyn Davis  
Suzanne Goodrich  
Eleanor Heusner  
Vivienne Kreer  
Barbara Lott  
Marge Lott  
Barbara Potter  
Jan Reed  
Dale Schuster  
Barbara Scott  
Charlotte Spinkel  
June Toth  
Ken West

## August Milestone Anniversaries:

Bob & Margie Steinkamp  
(30 years)  
Gregory & Stephanie Ware  
(30 years)  
Janet & Richard Przystas  
(30 years)  
Deb & Pat Mercer  
(50 years)

*If we have missed you, we apologize. Contact the office to make sure we have your correct information on file.*

# FALL KICKOFF



The annual Chicken Dinner will be held on  
*September 11th* following worship!

Adult Choir

**You Belong Here!**

New Weekly Classes

Youth Group

Book Club

Bell Choir

Carol Choir

Campus Ministry

Young Adult Groups

Sunday School

Women's Ministries

Wednesday Night Dinner

Men's Groups

**AUGUST 2022 PORTAL**

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