

A PLACE TO
BELONG...

A PLACE TO
BECOME...

A PLACE TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Special Points of Interest:

♦ Special Congregational
Meeting, Sept. 10

♦ CE — Dates to
Remember

We are continually collecting:

- ◇ Pull Tabs
- ◇ Box Tops
- ◇ Plastic Caps & Lids

Inside this issue:

Special Congregational Meeting	1
Message from the Pastor	1-2
Christian Education	3-5
PPC Cancer Hats Project	6
Session Highlights	7
Mission Committee & Security Team	8
September Calendar	9



PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Volume 11 || Issue 6

September 2017

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

The Pulpit Nominating Committee (PNC) has requested, and the Session has approved, a special Congregational Meeting for :

Sunday, September 10, 2017.

The meeting will immediately follow the Sunday service, at which the candidate will preach.

The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on a candidate identified by the PNC to be our new full time permanent Pastor.

It is important that all members and friends of Peoples Presbyterian attend this worship service to meet and hear the candidate. All are welcome to attend the Congregational meeting, but only members can vote on the Call for the new pastor.

THE CHURCH

I have been serving congregations, off and on, since 1964. As I near the completion of my ministry at Peoples Presbyterian (where I have been blessed beyond measure), it is important I share with you an affirmation of faith from an acquaintance of mine who, after being trained as a lawyer, responded to God's call to pastoral ministry. His reasons for continuing commitment stirred my soul.



Because when I was a child growing up, from my earliest memories, church buildings were big, beautiful and mysterious places where I could explore and I was welcome.

Because the church was a family project when I was growing up that provided an identity for me that can never change.

Because I had a feeling at a very early age that the church was somehow different and important to all of the other things I was involved in.

Because I knew intuitively that what my dad did as a pastor was important.

Because the church provided opportunities for music, camp, and youth fellowship which taught us the value of community and gave us a chance of becoming grounded and well-rounded human beings.

Because I began to gain the understanding that, especially through the civil rights movement of the 1960's, the church was a place that sought out dignity for everyone.

Because I began to understand through Confirmation and church involvement that Jesus Christ stood for all that was good and important in the world.

Because when I was in middle school and early high school the church was the only place that was beginning to question the war in Vietnam.

Because I began to understand that the church stood for compassion, and without it, there would be few compelling models of what compassion should look like — that all of the other caring institutions of society, such as hospitals, were mere offshoots of the church.

Because the church was the only place asking deep moral questions.

Because I began to appreciate that weekly worship took us to a higher plane of existence and the rhythm of weekly worship was important for a whole life.

Because I saw people who could show their sorrow and their joy in a safe setting.

Because I began seeing a difference between hope and optimism, joy and happiness, love and admiration — the former of these being spirit-infused, the latter being based on circumstances.

Because after I got married, the church became home for my wife and I, and then our little children.

Because sacred music became a way of life and hymnody filled my soul.

Because the many other things I did in my life did not provide the fulfillment that Christian service did.

Because I began to see Grace as the underlying cohesiveness of the universe, fully compatible with science.

Because Grace became my worldview for human progress and salvation.

Because regardless of its warts, the Church of Jesus Christ still holds the prophetic message of compassion and justice for God's creation and human life.

Because I don't always need a given position of the church to agree with me for the church to be completely valid.

Because even though we live in a post-modern world, which has relativized truth, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is still the way, the truth and the life for me.

Because the church can hold in tension personal and social holiness—the glue of a just and compassionate society.

Because hanging with the church in its stressful times is still life-giving.

Because the church is both human and divine, just like Jesus the Christ, and despite its humanity, will exist until the end of time because it has been ordained by God.

Because six decades later, the Church (the buildings and now way more than that) is still a big, beautiful, mysterious place where I can explore, be welcome and serve.

Remember, The Church is of God, and will be preserved until the end of time, for the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the Sacraments.

Love and blessings, *Dick*

Fellowship Committee

thank
you!

It has been a very busy few months. The biggest event was VBS.

I want to say **Thank You** to everyone who helped in the kitchen preparing all the food for the kids and adults. This includes the Deacons and many others. Ellen Bell, you are the greatest. Thank you for taking over the potluck on Friday night and Lisa Pratt for taking over Thursday night as I was out of town on both days.

The fellowship team has been working on finding a good place for a night out in September, as of now, it will be *Side Tracks* in Ypsilanti. I will let everyone know the date asap.

Once again thank you to everyone and the Deacons for helping during VBS.

– Chuck Pratt



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Member

MEGA Sports Camp ME (and) God Always!!

The church was transformed into a real sports arena for our VBS MEGA Sports Camp during the week of July 10 - 14, 2017. There were up to 57 kids a night and 37 of them had perfect attendance all four days. We hosted kids from 13 other churches - it was a melting pot of religions and beliefs who blended together and had a great time! World Peace is possible...

MEGA himself was with us every day at worship and helped to explain the story of the day. We heard the inspirational stories of four different professional athletes who suffered major setbacks, but pulled through with courage and their strong faith in God. Every family received a copy of our music CD to enjoy all year long. The Concession Stand served some great food and recreation found everyone doing calisthenics to warm up followed by relays, some football drills, bowling, and even our first lessons in Tae Kwon Do. Crafts was a busy place making sling shots, decorating Frisbees, and making tin can stilts. T-shirt night is always a bit crazy and this year was no different... there were over 100 shirts prepared and painted for kids and adults. Our group picture showed a whole rainbow of different grade level colors!

Our Bible Story of the week was David and Goliath, and we dug deep into that story to be able to understand the true background of events. It is our hope that everyone can "put our David" on when we are faced with our own personal Goliaths. *"When you have a Goliath in your life, God will help you find the "David" within you."*

Believing in God and trusting Him doesn't mean that everything will go our way. But it does mean that God is always working to help us face and overcome any problems that we experience. Don't miss the fabulous 9ft Goliath and 5ft 2in David totally created by Steve and Sue Barney on the wall of the Fellowship Hall. What a wonderful photo opportunity for your child.

Our Outreach Project— bringing in cans of dinner meals to be donated to Aid in Milan so the children of Milan can have a warm and nutritious meal - like all athletes need. We aimed to fill all five window sills of the Sanctuary, and we ended up filling them plus doubling up on the last sill! There were 97 cans in all!

Our Mission Project—our nightly offering was designated for the Washtenaw County Special Olympic Organization. One night we had three local Special Olympic athletes join us for worship and they told their sport experiences and showed us the many ribbons and medals they had earned. Our goal was \$250 and on the last night we celebrated as our total was raised to \$356.01!!!

Our Friday Grand Finale was very exciting with a family worship and potluck followed by the Flying Aces performing a Frisbee show at the Paddock gymnasium.

A successful Vacation Bible School is only possible with the generous and continued support of the congregation with your food, money, time, talents and most of all your prayers. Our special week was full of inspirational lessons, great fellowship and a strong reminder that God is always by our side. Our motto for the week: MEGA **ME** (and) **God** Always!! A simple but powerful promise to remember forever!!

*We continue to
collect :*

Pop Tabs



Box Tops



*Plastic Caps and
Lids*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Member



Jaidyn Fital and Madisyn Sperry
in front of David and Goliath
created by Steve and Sue Barney

Victoria, Camron and
Ryan Heeringa peeking
out during lesson of
Jonah and the Whale





FOCUS ON
GIANTS —
YOU STUMBLE

FOCUS ON **GOD**
— YOUR GIANTS
TUMBLE



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Don't miss the CE Fall Kick Off on Sunday, September 10!!

Pastor Dick will be blessing the backpacks again this year for a blessed and exciting school year ahead! Everyone is invited to bring their backpack, book bag or lunch box to be blessed during the worship service.

We will begin our Back to School Aid in Milan Collection this Sunday as well. As we all know, every child should start the school day with a good, nutritious breakfast - so we are going to collect boxes of your favorite cereal to make sure this happens. Bring in boxes of cereal and we will see how quickly we can fill the sanctuary windows with cereal!! Ready, set . . . GO!!

During our time in CE, we will be discussing our "joys and concerns" about starting a new school year, and be reminded of our VBS motto: MEGA: ME (and) God Always! This will be reinforced as we make special key chains for our backpacks which spells out the important message "Jesus Loves Me!"

Dates to Remember

September 10: CE Fall Kickoff and Blessing of the Backpacks

September 17: Sorting and bagging our plastic caps and lids (see article)

October 29: Halloween in CE, wear your non-scary costumes if you like

October 31: Enjoy Halloween treats "On the Corner" 6 - 8 pm



November 12: Decorate the boxes to be used for our Thanksgiving food donations

CALLING ALL CLEAN PLASTIC CAPS AND LIDS!

"Are we still collecting the plastic caps and lids??" The answer is a huge, "Yes!" We will have our second "sort and bag" work time after worship on Sunday, September 17, in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all who came and helped us last time, more people are welcome (and needed) to join us again on September 17.

Please remember to collect clean caps and lids with no dirt or residue of the product left behind. If they are not clean, we must put them in the sink and wash them.

Once we have them all sorted and bagged, we will be ready to contact Dr. Mike Sweet, the veterinarian in Milan, and take them to his office to have the bags officially weighed on his large animal scale. Then . . . we will know just how close to 400 pounds we are! I can't wait!!

There are copies of the list of the accepted (and not accepted) plastic caps and lids on the table in the narthex, in case you need one.

Come join us as we see how close we are to the end of our plastic park bench project!



PPC CANCER HATS PROJECT



The PPC Cancer Hats Group gathers in the church lounge monthly, usually on the third Thursday of each month, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, to visit while we work on making hats for chemo patients who have lost their hair.

Periodically the hats are delivered to the Oncology Unit at St. Joe Hospital, or other hospitals upon request. The hats are given to cancer patients free of charge at St. Joe. We have occasionally had the opportunity to give hats directly to cancer patient relatives and friends. What a good feeling that has been.

Patterns are available if you need them, or feel free to use your own or go online. The only requirement is that the yarn be soft so it will be comfortable on a hairless head. All sizes are needed, even for children and babies.

If you like to knit or crochet, or would like to sew fleece hats, please consider joining us for this worthwhile project. We have a nice time visiting while we work, and usually there are snacks of some kind.



We also knit/crochet/sew hats at home, and have donated many (well over 700) soft warm hats since we began this project in 2011. It feels good to know we are helping others.

Soft, purchased hats are also welcome – just take them to the church and we will deliver them as well.

If you have questions, please call Nancy Kuzniar at 734-439-1719, or email her at n.kuzniar342@att.net.



AUGUST SESSION COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session

Pastor's Report (*Rev. Griffith was not at the meeting as he was hospitalized on Tuesday to regulate his medications.*) I continue to receive treatment for cancer, and appreciate the support of the congregation as we go through this process. I am able to continue pastoral care by telephone (a suggestion by my doctors, avoiding contagious hospitals), attend most meetings, and preach on a moderately regular basis. I look forward to service with PPC until, at some point, we are able to call a permanent called pastor.

Major Building Repairs We have accepted a bid for removing and replacing the siding on the Manse garage. That item will complete the repair projects designated for the funds from the special Building our Walls financial campaign.

Pastor Nominating Committee (Doris Campbell) Things are moving along well. We have selected a candidate for Called Pastor, and COM met with the candidate on August 12. A motion passed to authorize a Congregational Meeting for September 10 immediately following worship, to determine whether to call the PNC's selected candidate. The candidate will preach during worship that morning. We hope to have a pastor in place by October.

Buildings & Grounds It's been a busy July! The church roof sustained damage that led to water damage in the Pastor's Study, including ceiling and wall damage, carpet, lights, black mold, and a ruined bookcase. Thanks to Jack Cranson for contacting the roofing contractor, who responded immediately to make repairs. The Insurance company has been contacted to give us an estimate on repairs, and we are waiting for them to respond. The committee decided to remodel the office at this time. Dave Butler and Steve Barney assisted in stripping the walls in the Study.

Fellowship The biggest summer event was VBS. Thank you to everyone who helped out in the kitchen preparing the food for all the kids and adults. This includes the Deacons and many others. Thanks to Lisa Pratt for taking over Thursday night, and to Ellen Bell for coordinating the potluck on Friday night.

Mission and Outreach A \$354.60 check from the June Pentecost Offering was delivered to Mark Rodan at Milan High School for their Life Savers and Peer Meditation projects. A fried chicken dinner will be provided at Mercy House in Ann Arbor on the afternoon of September 10.

Worship & Music Although the committee did not meet in July, committee members continued to recruit lay readers and ushers during the summer. The committee hosted the Fellowship hour following worship during July. Rev. Daniel Ervin filled the pulpit on July 23 for Pastor Dick. The W&M Budget request for 2018 was discussed and approved with two minor changes.



Mission Committee

By Chad Lawver, Mission Committee Chair

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!

During the Pentecost Offering a total of \$590 was collected. As we could donate a percentage of this offering locally, a total of \$236 was donated to Milan High School Groups, LifeSavers and Peer Mediation. Thanks so much!!!



Peacemaking Offering 2017

Dear Friends,

Join us on **October 1, 2016** as we celebrate **World Communion Sunday** and receive the **Peacemaking Offering**. That day we will receive and dedicate the Peacemaking Offering to support the efforts of our congregation (25%), presbytery/synod (25%), and Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (50%) to spread the peace of Christ and to give hope in the midst of challenge and conflict. The Peacemaking offering begins Sunday, September 3.

The Peacemaking Offering encourages each congregation to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community.

Our church will retain twenty-five percent of the offering to be used locally for peace making activities. Peoples Presbyterian Church will use part of the 25 percent to send to Safe House to help battered women and their children.

Let us be faithful in our work for God's peace in our community and in the world.

Checks may be made out to Peoples Presbyterian Church with PEACEMAKING OFFERING written on the memo line.

Thank you for your continued support.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know?

Our church building has fire doors. These are commonly known as the "hallway doors," but they do the same service as fire doors as long as they are closed.

Except for Sunday morning service, these doors should remain closed when the church is not in Service, to protect our church building. Thank you.



Your Security team,
Rachel Flint, Gordon and Judy Parker





2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10 am Worship, <u>NO</u> C. E. <i>Minute for Mission in support of Peacemaking</i>	4 Labor Day — Church Office closed 	5	6 7:00 pm Bookworms — lounge	7	8	9
10 10 am Worship, C. E. Kick-off with the Blessing of the Backpacks 9:00 am Choir Practice (resumes if enough people) — music room <i>Minute for Mission in support of Peacemaking</i> Session Committee Monthly Reports due to Clerk	11 7:00 pm Handbell Practice Begins	12 7 pm Worship and Music Meeting - Lounge	13	14	15	16
17 10 am Worship, C. E. 11:15 am Deacon's Meeting — lounge <i>Minute for Mission in support of Peacemaking</i> Session Committee Packets are ready for pick-up	18 7:00 pm Handbell Practice	19	20 6:00 pm CE Meeting — CE room 7:00 pm Session Meeting — lounge	21 1-3 pm Hats for Cancer Project — lounge	22	23
24 10 am Worship, C. E. <i>Minute for Mission in support of Peacemaking</i> Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for October issue	25 7:00 pm Handbell Practice	26	27 Mission & Outreach Riverside Community Meal at First Pres in Ypsi (sign-up in Fellowship Hall)	28 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating — lounge	29	30

Peoples Presbyterian Church

210 Smith Street Milan, MI 48160



Temporary Supply Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Richard O. Griffith

Phone: (734) 439-1922

Email: ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org

Website: www.peoplespresbyterian.org

Church Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Newsletter Editorial Staff



Nan & Jack Cranson, Nancy Kuzniar, Nancy Scully, Gordon & Judy Parker

Peoples Presbyterian Church
210 Smith Street
Milan, MI 48160