

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS

From Pastor Lisa Schrott

Transitions

Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. Genesis 28:15

The above verse was part of the scripture I shared in the July 9 sermon. It was God speaking to Jacob in a dream after he fled from his parent's home. Jacob awoke from the dream and realized that surely the presence of the Lord was with him. And surely the presence of the Lord is with us in this season of transition.

As I shared in my letter to members and friends of PCO, Pastor Rebekah's departure leaves us with a variety of emotions. Like graduations, we are sad that this stage in our journey together is ending. And we also celebrate the gifts Rebekah has so generously shared with us, especially with our youth. Following the congregational meeting on August 6 to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Rebekah, we will have a reception to honor her and her time with us. We hope you can join us for this special time. We encourage you to write a note to Rebekah expressing the impact of her ministry. We will collect these notes on August 6. If you are unable to be with us that day, you may send them to the church or Rebekah directly.

Please know the Personnel Committee is committed to prioritizing the ministry to our children, youth and families. We have begun working on a position description for an interim director of faith formation. If you have thoughts on the needs for our community at this time, please reach out to me or Angie Boldrey, chair of the Personnel Committee.

We will celebrate a second transition in the month of August! In July we bid farewell to Dr. Colleen Chester following her graduation from the MSU College of Music. In August we welcome Westin Sorrel as our new choir director. Westin hails from Denver and is entering the Master's Degree program in choral conducting at MSU this fall. You will learn more about Westin's background and the gifts he brings to us in the September Grapevine as well as in the worship service on August 20. In addition to celebrating August birthdays, we will have a reception to welcome Westin that morning. **(Cont. next page)**



INSIDE this issue

- **Save the Dates—page 2**
- **Out on the Town—page 3**
- **Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities—page 4**
- **Missions—page 5**
- **Church Calendar—page 7 (can also be viewed online at <https://okemospres.org/calendar>)**

Cont. from page 1

We know that transitions can be hard. And PCO has been through so many in the last few years! Please know that pastoral care is available to help navigate these transitions and that you can reach out to myself or Angie Boldrey with any questions or concerns.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lisa

Save The Dates, Share & Serve!

Sunday, August 6

Congregational Meeting & Reception

Following Worship

Recognize and celebrate the ministry of Rev. Rebekah Anderson before she leaves for a new calling in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Sunday, August 20

Following Worship

Cake and coffee in Fellowship Hall

We will welcome new choir director Westin Sorrel and celebrate August birthdays.

Saturday, September 9

9:00 — 10:30 a.m.

Suicide Awareness Training (ages 14 and up)

11:00 a.m.—12 noon

CPR/AED Training (compression training only)

You may attend one or both trainings.

To register, please contact Pastor Lisa or the church office.

******* Saturday, September 16 *******

8:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.

PCO Hosts the Lake Michigan Presbytery

Volunteers are needed to work the registration table and provide hospitality.

Ushers and greeters are also needed for the worship service.

If you'd like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Pastor Lisa or the church office.

Sunday, October 8

Greater Lansing Community CROP Walk

If you are interested in serving as PCO's CROP Walk coordinator or part of a coordinating team, please contact Pastor Lisa.

Parish Life Out on the Town: Lansing Lugnuts Faith & Family Night



Parish Life's next Out on the Town event is scheduled for **Saturday, August 19 at 7:05 p.m.** We will be heading to Jackson Field at 505 East Michigan Avenue in Lansing to watch the Lansing Lugnuts play ball against the Great Lakes Loons.

Tickets will be about \$13. To facilitate group booking, please let Parish Life know how many in your party by signing up at the kiosk in Fellowship Hall or contacting Deb Major or Matt Pearson.

In the Library

This month, we feature two books that Pastor Lisa is using this summer, the first in adult education and the second in her sermon series:

Armageddon: What the Bible Really Says about the End by Bart D. Ehrman

"Acclaimed New Testament authority Bart D. Ehrman delves into the most misunderstood—and possibly the most dangerous—book of the Bible, exploring the horrifying social and political consequences of expecting an imminent apocalypse and offering a fascinating tour through three millennia of Judeo-Christian thinking about how our world will end. By turns hilarious, moving, troubling, and provocative, *Armageddon* presents inspiring insights into how to live our lives in the face of an uncertain future and reveals what the Bible really says about the end." (from the publisher)

Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World by Vivek H. Murthy, MD

"Murthy's prescient message is about the importance of human connection, the hidden impact of loneliness on our health, and the social power of community." (from the publisher)

We have also added a new Bible study collection to the library:

The Old Testament for Everyone: Complete Seventeen-Volume Set by John Goldingay

"Internationally respected Old Testament scholar John Goldingay addresses Scripture from Genesis to Malachi in such a way that even the most challenging passages are explained simply and concisely. The series is perfect for daily devotions, group study, or personal visits with the Bible." (from the publisher)

Book Donations

This month, we will begin to accept donations of books for the library. We are looking for nonfiction books in good condition, with no markings. We prefer books that have been published in the last ten years or new editions of classics. We would like books that are written from a Christian perspective or that are helpful to us as people of faith. At this time, we are not looking for children's books or Bibles. Please keep in mind that a donated book will not automatically become part of the library collection. Materials that are not chosen for the collection will be donated elsewhere or recycled. Look for the designated shelves in the library and leave your books there. Thank you!

Kathi Cook

Thanks

Thank you everyone who donated boys sweats and jeans for the Love Clothing Center.

We delivered 22 pairs of jeans, 18 pairs of sweats, 13 pair of pants and a few shorts as well. Thank you for your generous hearts.

In July the Judson Love Clothing Center staff sorted clothes and stocked racks and bins. In August and September on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., families will come and pick out new and used clothing as they get their children ready for school. If you have a free Saturday and would like to help me shop with these families, it is truly a rewarding experience.

Please contact Jayne Zuhlke at (734) 474-2853 if you can help.

Thanks!

Jayne

Thanks to all of you who have asked about donating books to the PCO Library. We will start taking donations this month, with a designated shelf and guidelines for giving books. Please see the last paragraph of the *In the Library* article to the left.

Firearm Safety Task Force Update

Michigan recently enacted several significant laws designed to reduce injuries and deaths from firearms: requirements for safe storage of guns, a judicial process to remove firearms temporarily from individuals that judges believe are a risk to the gun owner or others, and expansion of background checks before the purchase of all types of firearms.

PCO's Firearm Safety Taskforce is interested in your views regarding possible future topics for education and advocacy. We will be distributing a survey by email in mid-August for your input on topics to be addressed. Hard copies will also be available on Sunday mornings. This survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. Please be on the lookout for it!

Women's Dinner Out

The next Women's Dinner Out is scheduled for **Monday, August 14 at 5:30 p.m. Buddies Pub and Grill**, 1937 W. Grand River, Okemos.

If you will be attending, please notify Candy Boldrey by Sunday, August 13. Her email address is *cbold67 at gmail dot com* (standard email set up) and phone number is 859-421-0014.

Caregivers Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **August 23**. The Zoom # is 517-329-2320 and password hello. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for an informal discussion on various topics of caregiving, including such things as medications, doctors, medical concerns, strategies, successes, issues needing help, and much more.

Birthday Cake Sunday

In August, we will celebrate Birthday Cake Sunday on Sunday, August 20. If you celebrate your birthday in August, please check the August Birthday List posted on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall and add your name by Sunday, August 13th if it is not there. Happy Birthday, Dear Leos and Virgos!

Adult Christian Education & Fellowship

Password for Zoom meetings unless otherwise noted is **48864**.

Days and times subject to change. Please watch Friday e-Announcements for changes, particularly during the summer months.

SUNDAYS

Adult Education—Weekly, 11:30 a.m., in person & on Zoom 434 304 558 (*check the Sunday bulletin for topics. Enjoy a time of fellowship after worship when no adult ed is scheduled*)

Writing Life's Stories – 1st Sundays, **2:00 p.m.**, Zoom 848 6124 7191— **next meeting is Sunday, August 6.**

Birthday Cake Sunday—3rd Sundays following worship unless otherwise noted. This month will be on **August 20.**

Women's Connection—*On hiatus for the summer. See you in September!*

MONDAYS

Retirees – *On hiatus for the summer. See you in September!*

Women's Dinner Out— **Monday, August 14 at 5:30 p.m. Buddies Pub and Grill**, 1937 W. Grand River, Okemos.

TUESDAYS

Men's Group – Weekly, 8:00 a.m. Zoom 813 7514 8286. *Tentative hybrid meetings are first Tuesdays but not this month.*

PCO Crafts Ministry— **3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.**, Board Room—**next meeting is August 15**

Artists Circle—*Watch the weekly Announcements for any summer artists' gatherings.*

WEDNESDAYS

Conversation & Contemplation—*On hiatus for the summer. See you on Zoom on September 6 for an organization meeting!*

Caregiver Support Group - **4th Wednesdays 5:00 p.m.** Next Meeting is **August 23** on Zoom 517 329 2320; password is **hello**

THURSDAYS

Bible Study – Weekly, 9:30 a.m.
Zoom <https://msu.zoom.us/j/5147440526>



Video Devotionals Continue through the Summer at PCO.

Our summer sermon series is titled *Belonging: Building Community* and we want to extend the message beyond Sunday mornings.

Continuing through August, the pastors will be recording a short video that provides ways for you to continue to engage with the Sunday scripture. On Wednesday of each week, we email links to the videos, which appear on our church's YouTube channel. We invite you to engage these videos and to share them with your friends and family.

We're still waiting for church members to consider taking a turn in sharing their perspectives on the Sunday scriptures. If you are interested in recording a devotional, please reach out to Pastor Lisa. If you provide the content, we can take care of the technology!



PCO continues to collect personal care items for Advent House in the summer. The bin in the coatroom is looking a little empty lately. Toiletries for men are especially needed. Items can be dropped off on Sunday mornings or during regular church office hours.

ADVENT HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED OCTOBER AND DECEMBER

As part of its increased focus on reducing hunger in our local community, the Mission Committee has committed to increasing the number of meals prepared and served at Advent House in Lansing. That committee has already served one meal, and three other groups have signed up to provide meals in August, September, and November. If you belong to a PCO group—formal or informal—that would like to spearhead a meal on **Saturday, October 21** or **Saturday, December 16**, please let Ellen Hoekstra know. Only 6 volunteers are needed to serve each dinner. And there's flexibility—a member can volunteer to cook without serving and vice-versa.

Individual members are also welcome to serve. On Sunday, September 3, Ellen Hoekstra will be seeking volunteers for the October 21 meal—in much the same way that Barbara Dorr has collected names to volunteer meals at Loaves and Fishes. If you have questions, please contact either Ellen or Bill Given.

Youth Summer Mission Trip



In July, Rev. Rebekah Anderson (front row left) and Jonathan Townley (back row right) led a group of nine youth from PCO and 1st Presbyterian Church-Holt on a mission trip to Chicago.

To see what they did while in the windy city, visit PCO's Facebook and Instagram pages, or read their blog on Praying Pelican Missions website—at <https://www.ppm.org/mission-trip-journals/18743>

BOOK NOOK

By Ron Davr

“I Have a Dream”

by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sixty years ago, on August 28, 1963, according to Jonathan Eig’s new biography, *King: A Life*, Francine Yeager, a young Black woman from southside Chicago, and Gunny Gundrum, a National Park Service ranger in Washington, D. C., were highly impressed by Martin Luther King, Jr., and his speech, “I Have a Dream.” So was President John Kennedy.

The success of the speech was ironic. What people remember today is not the prepared speech but the improvised remarks, “I have a dream,” and “Let freedom ring.” Woven together, however, the two parts of the address were powerful.

The prepared speech was formal, befitting the occasion at the Lincoln Memorial, a rally calling for more jobs, freedom, and equality. King invoked the language of the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. He called attention to the “promissory note” in the Declaration of Independence—the promise to everyone of “unalienable rights” such as “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” King vividly contrasted those promises with present problems—racism, poverty, and job discrimination. The main themes in the prepared speech were injustice and the quest for justice.

Here King was reaching out to several audiences: those steeped in a life of segregation, Black militants championing at the bit of nonviolence, white supporters of civil rights, Kennedy aids watching in the White House, and a national TV audience. He relied on reason and history. His paragraphs and sentences were long. The imagery was clear. But King seemed restrained and formal.

Near the end of his prepared remarks, King evoked the call of Amos 5:24: “We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.” The crowd responded emotionally. Buoyed, King departed from his text. He dropped the dreadful line in his prepared remarks, “And so today, let us go back to our communities as members of the international association for the advancement of creative dissatisfaction.”

Instead, King told his followers not to wallow in despair but to return home and to fight the good fight. Then came the memorable words: “I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.” It was not a dream of material wealth but of racial harmony. Blacks and whites alike would be judged on their character, not on their color of skin. They would live peacefully together in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Everyone would be free and equal.

King closed on a classical American note: freedom. Here, however, freedom was more than liberation—being freed from hassles and whatever oppressed. It was deeper than liberty of choice—saying and doing as one pleases. King’s view even went beyond the Danish expression of “freedom under responsibility”—taking into account the consequences of one’s choices. King’s notion of freedom was deep and Biblical. It meant delivery into a new birth of freedom and justice, deliverance into loving and interdependent life, deliverance into the promised land, or beloved community.

Here King was speaking ultimately to God (“thank God Almighty”). He was focusing on the future. He relied on emotion and imagination. His images were personal and geographical, clear and passionate. His cadence slowed, becoming more rhythmic. Sentences and paragraphs were short. Language, emotion, and delivery were as natural as grass. The peroration was a prose poem.

King’s vision and eloquence unified the two parts of the speech. His vision included the legacy of the past, the needs of the present, and the promise of a better future. In rhetoric, parallel structure helped achieve harmony. Grammatical unity plus variety in wording equals harmony. In content, justice plus freedom equals racial harmony. Form matched content.

A man of conscience, King recognized the racial and economic injustices that called for change. A man of history, King knew that Americans would resonate to the theme of freedom. A minister of the Word of God, King drew from the Biblical well of brotherhood. A skillful orator on August 28, 1963, King fused all three roles and three themes. Ralph Abernathy was right: at that moment, the Spirit of God took hold of King and guided him aright.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963.



August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		8am - Men's Group @ 5:30pm - Middle School	8am - Golf Outing for 5:30pm - Worship and 7pm - Parish Life @ https://	9:30am - Bible Study -		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am - Worship Service 11:15am - 11:30am - Reception 2pm - Writing Life's 5pm - High School Youth		8am - Men's Group @ 5:30pm - Middle School 6pm - Administration 7:30pm - Communication	10am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Mission Committee 7:30pm - CECY	9:30am - Bible Study -		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am - Worship Service 11:30am - Sunday Adult		8am - Men's Group @ 6pm - PCO Crafts 7pm - Deacons @ https://	7pm - Session @ https://	9:30am - Bible Study -		7pm - Out on the Town
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am - Worship Service 11am - Birthdays 11:30am - Sunday Adult		8am - Men's Group @	10am - Staff Meeting 5pm - Caregiver Support	9:30am - Bible Study - 5:45pm - Handbell Choir		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
10am - Worship Service 11:30am - Sunday Adult		8am - Men's Group @		9:30am - Bible Study -		

Presbyterian Church of Okemos

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The Grapevine is a monthly newsletter of
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