

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS

From Pastor Lisa Schrott



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Rhythms of the Church Year

O God, yours is the day, yours also the night; you established the luminaries and the sun. You have fixed all the bounds of the earth; you made summer and winter. – Psalm 74: 16-17.

As I embrace my second summer here in Michigan, I can genuinely affirm that summer is a special time. A little slower pace feels like the perfect response to the hubbub of activities and meetings of post-Easter, late spring. Most of the church committees, including Session and the Board of Deacons will take the month of July off – calling meetings if the need arises.

We know that many of you are taking time this summer to travel – whether it is the familiar tradition of “up north at the lake” or checking out someplace new and exotic. We will miss seeing your face on Sunday mornings. I hope you will watch the Sunday service through our website or YouTube channel, as we explore our summer worship theme of *Belonging: Building Community*. To help keep everyone engaged, remember to check out the Continuing the Conversation videos Rebekah and I are recording each week. Please keep the conversations going! And if you would like record one, please let us know. We are happy to provide the technical help.

Not everything in the church is taking a pause. For the Adult Ed sessions following Sunday worship from July 2 – 30, I will be leading a Bible study on the book of Revelation. It will be available in person and via Zoom beginning at 11:30. **See page 2** for more information.

I am grateful for the community that PCO is and is called to be. I hope your sense of belonging deepens as we build community this summer, whether in the church building proper or connected to each other electronically. Enjoy the glorious weather that Michigan blesses us with in the summers!

Pastor Lisa

Summer Bible Study July Adult Education Hour: The Book of Revelation

As climate change, severe weather, political turmoil especially in the Middle East swirl around us, it is not uncommon to hear the refrain that we are in the *end times* as depicted in the book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament. Why has this book received so much attention in the media and yet many of us don't understand what is actually written in the scripture? Join Pastor Lisa for a 4-week Bible study on this book.

Week 1 will examine how the book of Revelation has been understood throughout history from the early days of the church, through the Reformation to the current day. Weeks 2 and 3 will examine the scripture itself, looking at the content in context of the times. Week 4 will ask us to consider how we respond to the text as Presbyterians in the United States in 2023.

As a guide for our discussion Pastor Lisa will use material from books written by two New Testament scholars: *Armageddon: What the Bible Really Says about the End* by Bart Ehrman and *Revelation: A Commentary (The New Testament Library)* by Brian Blount. Both are available in the church library.

Caregivers Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group will meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at **5:00 p.m.** on zoom throughout the summer. Meetings are scheduled for **July 26 and 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 July, we will celebrate Birthday Cake Sunday on Sunday, July 16. If you celebrate your birthday in June, please check the June Birthday List posted on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall and add your name by Sunday, July 9th if it is not there. Happy Birthday, Dear Tenacious Cancer and Dear Generous Leo!

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, July 2.**

Birthday Cake Sunday—3rd Sundays following worship unless otherwise noted. This month will be on **July 16.**

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, July 10 at 5:30 p.m.** Old Bag of Nails Pub, 210 Cascade Boulevard, Lansing. This is in the new development across Michigan Avenue from Frandor Shopping Center.

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 July 18**

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 **July 26** on Zoom 517 329 2320; password is **hello**

THURSDAYS

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



PCO Library News

You may have noticed some changes in our church library. We have weeded, cleaned, reorganized, and relabeled books and shelves. We have made room for new books and displays. Our goal is to spark a renewed interest in the library space and its offerings, while providing a collection of shared materials and information for our congregation.

Beginning on Sunday, July 2, the library will offer an assortment of new nonfiction books that cover topics such as racial justice, pop culture, LGBTQ themes, parenting, end times, and others. All of these new books are available for borrowing, and a complete list will be posted in the library. You will find instructions for checking out books on the library table.

This month, we feature two books by authors who have visited and spoken at PCO:

Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America by Jimmie R. Hawkins, WJK Press 2022

"In this compelling and informative volume, Jimmie R. Hawkins walks the reader through the many forms of Black protest in American history, from pre-colonial times through the George Floyd protests of 2020. Hawkins breaks American history into five sections, with subsections highlighting how Black identity helped to shape protest during that period. These protests include slave ship mutinies, the abolitionist movement, the different approaches to protest from Frederick Douglas, W.E.B. Dubois, and Booker T. Washington, protest led by various Black institutions, Black Lives Matter movements, and protests of today's Black athletes, musicians, and intellectuals, such as LeBron James, Beyonce, and Kendrick Lamar. Hawkins also covers the backlash to these protests, including the Jim Crow era, the Red Summer of 1919, and modern-day wars on the Black community in the form of the War on Drugs and voter suppression." (from the publisher)

Follow the New Way: American Refugee Resettlement Policy and Hmong Religious Change by Melissa May Borja, Harvard University Press 2023

"An incisive look at Hmong religion in the United States, where resettled refugees found creative ways to maintain their traditions, even as Christian organizations deputized by the government were granted an outsized influence on the refugees' new lives. American resettlement policies unintentionally deprived Hmong of the resources necessary for their time-honored rituals, in part because these practices, blending animism, ancestor worship, and shamanism, challenged many Christian-centric definitions of religion. At the same time, because the government delegated much of the resettlement work to Christian organizations, refugees developed close and dependent relationships with Christian groups. Ultimately the Hmong embraced Christianity on their own terms, adjusting to American spiritual life while finding opportunities to preserve their customs." (from the publisher)

This is just the beginning. We will adapt and grow as we learn which books and topics are of interest to our members and friends. We hope you take a look at our new books, and take one home to read.

Kathi Cook



Independence Day

Tuesday, July 4

Church is closed.

Staff does not report.

**The Children's Worship
Experience is on hiatus in
July and August.
We'll see you
in September!**

Serving Our Neighbors

On Saturday, June 17th a group from PCO shared God's love by purchasing, preparing and serving a dinner to those at Advent House Ministries. A big **"Thank You"** to Ellen Briggs, Sean Clark, Jean Cymbalski, Becky and Ed Gillespie, Jennifer Gordon, Rev. Lisa Schrott, Kent Workman, Wayne and Barbara Scott, and Jayne Zuhlke.

PCO continues to collect personal care items for Advent House. A bin is in the coat room for drop off on Sunday mornings or during regular church office hours.



The Mission Team in Iten, Kenya—2023



Andrea Kaitany, on the right, and the mission team .

From June 17—26, 2023, five members of PCO traveled to Iten, Kenya to volunteer at Simbolei Girls' Preparatory Academy. This mission team included Pastor Rebekah Anderson, Ellen Hoekstra, Cathy McCarthy, and Jill and Tom Schaberg.

The Simbolei Academy is the fulfillment of a long-time dream of former PCO members Richard and Andrea Kaitany and is the only secondary school dedicated to educating young women of the Rift Valley Province in Kenya .

Here are just a few pictures from the team's adventure. If you'd like to see more, check out PCO's Facebook and Instagram pages, or request a video link from the office.



Above, Jill and Tom Schaberg with their new friend Lena . Below, students in the school library.



- Above, Jill Schaberg and Pastor Rebekah Anderson snap a selfie with a few new friends from the Simbolei Academy.
- Below right, Ellen Hoekstra enjoys the scenery on a mountain in Kenya.
- Below center-How many Michiganders ever get a chance to see a lion in its natural habitat?



Support the Youth Mission Trip

*Prayers & Notes of Encouragement
Needed.*

From July 22nd to July 28th, 10 youth from PCO and First Presbyterian Holt, along with adults Pastor Rebekah Anderson and Jonathan Townley will be traveling to Chicago. They will aid local organizations that serve people who are unhoused and experiencing poverty while learning about the way poverty impacts people across the United States and in the city of Chicago.

The Board of Deacons is asking the congregation to support this trip with your prayers and notes of encouragement. Cards will be available to write notes and sign on Sundays July 9 and 16th. If you are not able to be here in person, watch for a link in the e-announcements where you will be able to leave a note electronically.

PCO and Crop Walk

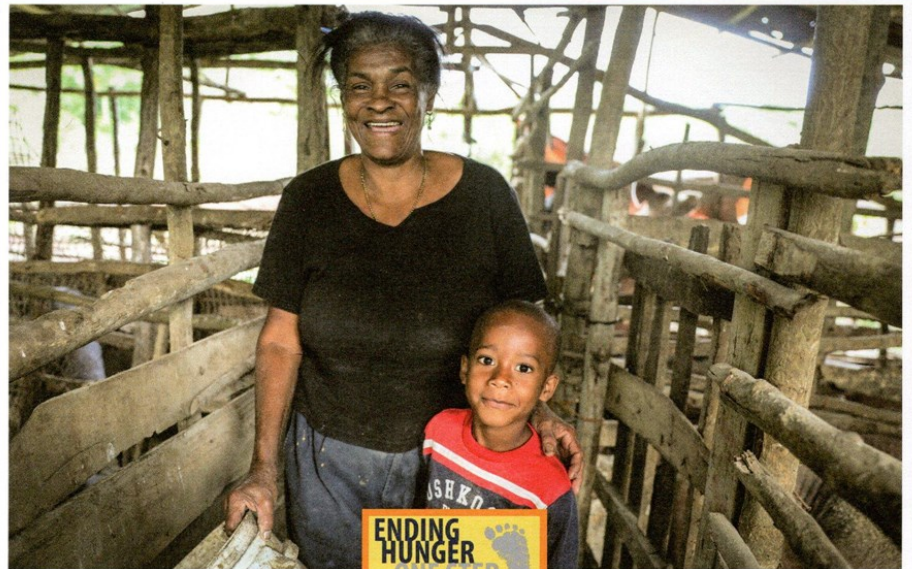
The CROP walk has been a PCO tradition for decades and PCO has been a top contributor during that time. See the Certificate of Appreciation to the right.

The Mission Committee is seeking a leadership team for organizing our participation in the 2023 walk. The communal walk for the greater Lansing area is scheduled for Sunday, October 8. If you are interested in serving as our CROP Walk coordinator or part of a coordinating team, please contact Pastor Rebekah.

More Time to Donate Pants

The clothing collection for boys in need been extended through **Sunday, July 9**. The Love Clothing Center in Lansing is in need of new and gently used jeans and sweatpants sizes 4T-adult. There is a bin in the coatroom. Donations can be dropped off on Sunday mornings or during regular office hours—Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Questions? Contact Jayne Zuhlke at 734 474 2853 or *jazuhlke at comcast dot net* (standard email setup).



An initiative of Church World Service • crophungerwalk.org

Church World Service

Certificate of Appreciation
to

Presbyterian Church of Okemos

*A national Cream of the CROP top fundraising team
with the 2022 Greater Lansing CROP Hunger Walk
raising \$8,954.30 to end hunger and poverty around the world.*

Presented by

Jeff Hoogen
National Community Engagement Manager
May 10, 2023



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Greater Lansing
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 08, 2023

LANSING, MICHIGAN

Parish Life Out on the Town: Carillon Concert at MSU



PCO member Laurie Harkema (above) is one of two assistant carillonists at Michigan State University. On June 4, she graciously played a concert for PCO and others, then led tour of the Beaumont Tower to see the instrument up close as one of the PCO Parish Life Committee's Out on the Town events. These events are designed to give parishioners an opportunity fun and fellowship outside the church.

Information about the next Parish Life Out on the Town event is below.

Save The Date!

Saturday, August 19
Parish Life: Out on the Town
Lansing Lugnuts Faith & Family Night
7:05 p.m.

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.



PCO handbell choir director Irene Shutt (above) was able to play a duet with Laurie during the tour. The concert was enjoyed by about 50 attendees.



Prayers for a Mission Partner

Prayers are requested for the people of Haiti, particularly in the city of Léogâne. Recently, severe storms caused massive flooding, nearly 8 feet of water in some areas. The Hôpital St. Croix (HSC) was flooded with 4 – 6 feet of water.

HSC is the mission hospital in region and the teaching hospital for our mission partner FSIL through the Haiti Nursing Foundation. Please pray for the patients whose care has been affected and the staff who are working to restore the facility and replace supplies and equipment that were damaged beyond repair. Please also keep the people of Haiti in your prayers as the country continues to face economic and political challenges, and as they prepare for hurricane season.

The PCO Mission Committee has sent \$4000 to assist the people of the area through the Haiti Nursing Foundation and Medical Benevolence Foundation. If you would like to help out, please contact David Horner or a member of the Mission Committee.



To PCO from Meridian Township

June 20, 2023

To Members and Staff,

Thank you so very much for your generous gifts to Meridian Cares. Your gift will be used to help those affected by the Know Hill Fire in December 2022 with long term needs that may arise.

Your generosity is great appreciated by our community.

Sincerely,

Katie Horne

Human Services Specialist



Public Policy Report

By Ellen Hoekstra

Despite Michigan's enactment of gun safety laws—safe storage, universal background checks, and Extreme Risk Protection Orders—some of us remain concerned that these efforts will make no difference. And, yes, there will continue to be gun violence. However, just as auto seatbelt legislation did not eliminate death or serious injuries from vehicular accidents, we have reason to be hopeful, based on research on states that were earlier adopters of such laws.

Connecticut and Indiana passed legislation similar to Michigan's Extreme risk protection order laws in 1999 and 2005 respectively. The single largest type of death by firearm in the US is suicide (20,000 lives every year or 50 every day), with half of US suicides being by firearms, the most lethal method. Nine out of ten firearm suicide attempts are fatal, compared to 0.5-3.0% of suicide attempts by other methods. This is important because ninety percent who attempt suicide unsuccessfully do not try again.

Mass shootings, defined as injuries or death for four or more, understandably get far more press coverage than suicide, despite these terrible incidents accounting for a significantly smaller proportion of gun injuries and deaths. According to Secret Service data, in 2017 three-quarters of mass attackers had either shared concerning communications with others or had other people express concerns about them. While not all of those who were aware of potential risks would seek an ERPO, certainly some would have, saving lives.

One specific concern regarding ERPO's regards enforcement in parts of the state. However, law enforcement is legally required to respond to court orders, and different levels of agencies can respond. For example, in Okemos, enforcement could come from the Meridian Township Police, and also from the Ingham County Sheriff's Office or the State Police.

Have we done all that needs to be done? **No, but as we are instructed "Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off" (Proverbs 23:18).**

In recent policy news:

- New federal income guidelines have been expanded for the nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), expanding the number of eligible families.
- The new state psychiatric hospital (Caro) has been completed.
- Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wrigglesworth has been appointed to the Michigan Community Corrections Board.

BOOK NOOK

By Ron Dorr

The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel **by Kati Marton**

According to Kati Marton, Angela Merkel's journey from a pastor's daughter in an East German hamlet to chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany was improbable, extraordinary, even singular. The odyssey involved a preacher's kid, research scientist in physics, apprentice in the Christian Democratic Union, chancellor, humanitarian, and the most powerful woman in the 21st century. Even Merkel's limits enhanced her humanity and humanness.

Pastor's daughter. Angela Merkel's father, Horst Kasner, gave his daughter a strong but quiet faith, fidelity to the Bible, sense of Christian service, and belief that love should express itself ethically in works. Her mother, Herlind Jentzch Kasner, taught her English and gave her the comfort and approval that her father didn't. Caution, self-control, logic, and clarity mattered. A gifted student, at ease with a gardener and in the silence of the woods around Templin, she grew increasingly frustrated with the constraints of East Germany and the Soviet Union.

Research scientist in physics. Entering the University of Leipzig at 19 in 1973, Angela Kasner said her goal was "to merge Christian ethics and science." She was a quiet, circumspect, ambitious, and brilliant student. She published her Master's thesis in an English academic journal. In 1977, she ("a friendly, open, natural girl") married Ulrich Merkel ("a regular guy, a man you could steal horses with"), a fellow physicist. Within three years, they parted ways. A "lost soul" in the 1980s, she found her lifelong partner, Joachim Sauer, and paid more attention to West Germany than to a decaying East Germany.

Politician: CDU apprentice and chancellor. The fall of the Berlin wall in November 1989, changed Angela Merkel's life. She left her unfulfilling life as a research scientist and entered politics. She rapidly became Chancellor Helmut Kohl's minister of youth and women in 1991 and minister of the environment in 1994. To her reliance on reason, concern for specific facts, and habits of hard work, she added patience and craftiness. She helped push Kohl out of office and, in 2005, began her four terms as Germany's chancellor. Marton focuses on Merkel's efforts to reunify East and West Germany, the growing dominance of France and Germany in the European Union, the first war in Ukraine in 2014, and the immigration crisis a year later. Of the 13 chapters devoted to Merkel's chancellorship, six of them are devoted to relationships with presidents and autocrats of other nations.

Humanitarian. "Merkel's emotional encounter with a Palestinian girl in Rostock in July 2015" led "to her most dramatic decision as chancellor: to open Germany's borders to a million Middle Eastern refugees." Horrified by other leaders' approaches to fleeing migrants, she said, "Nothing justifies violence against those who seek asylum. Germany will not turn away refugees." This decisive action "was part of her Christian background," a German theologian said. "It was her Martin Luther moment." Added Henry Paulson, "She has such a powerful sense of right and wrong." Most Germans supported her, but her action also divided the country.

The world's most powerful woman. In her last four years as chancellor, she faced problems new as well as old: Brexit, COVID, and growing opposition. But she also sought to improve the lives of those less privileged than she was. "We can't just think of ourselves. We are part of the world." A Pew Research Center survey in late 2020 called her the "most trusted leader" in the world.

In this illuminating biography, human relationships matter. So does character. Irony, complexity, and contradictions also appear. A daughter raised in East Germany never earned her father's vote for her as chancellor. A divorced Protestant "rose to lead the center-right, Christian, culturally conservative, and mostly male Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Germany." An emotional encounter between a Middle Eastern refugee, 14, and a world leader, 63, dramatically changed Germany's immigration practices. Such phenomena have made Angela Merkel more human and more humane. Her life is well worth studying.



Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany from 2005 through 2021.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>2</div> <p>10am - Worship Service 2pm - Writing Life's 5pm - High School Youth</p>	<div>3</div> <p>8am - Men's Group @</p>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <p>9:30am - Bible Study - 11:30am - Staff</p>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>
<div>9</div> <p>10am - Worship Service 11:30am - Sunday Adult 5pm - High School Youth</p>	<div>10</div> <p>8am - Men's Group @ 5:30pm - Middle School 6pm - Administration</p>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div> <p>10am - Staff Meeting</p>	<div>13</div> <p>9:30am - Bible Study -</p>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div>
<div>16</div> <p>10am - Worship Service 11am - Birthdays 11:30am - Sunday Adult 5pm - High School Youth</p>	<div>17</div> <p>8am - Men's Group @ 5:30pm - Middle School 6pm - PCO Crafts</p>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <p>9:30am - Bible Study -</p>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> <p>10am - Worship Service 11:30am - Sunday Adult</p>	<div>24</div> <p>8am - Men's Group @</p>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <p>10am - Staff Meeting 5pm - Caregiver Support</p>	<div>27</div> <p>9:30am - Bible Study -</p>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>
<div>30</div> <p>10am - Worship Service 11:30am - Sunday Adult 5pm - High School Youth</p>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>

Presbyterian Church of Okemos

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Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M.

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