

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS

From Interim Faith Formation Director Rebecca Mattern

Greetings, PCO family!

I give thanks to God for calling us together in this time as we seek and grow, laugh and cry, wrestle and wonder about what God is up to in our lives, our communities, and the world.

I am excited to serve and walk alongside you this next year as we journey in faith together in a time of transition. I look forward to hearing about traditions that bring life to you and PCO, imaginings for the future, longings for what was or could have been, and everything in between. I am no stranger to liminal spaces and find them often to be places of both grief and growth. My sense of call to ministry and to you comes out of making meaning while seeking the Holy in times of change.

God has called me to companion people of all ages in learning and wondering what it means to be a follower of Christ, living out his command to love God and neighbor; helping others discover and name their gifts and connecting those gifts to service; fostering relationships and connections that lead us to a richer understanding of ourselves, one another, and of God; and caring for others in the midst of the joy, sorrow, and mundane of life. This interim period is also a time for my discernment, as I too listen for where and how God is calling me to use my gifts for ministry.

I love being outdoors – sitting, hiking, marveling at creation, tending houseplants, loving on animals (though I have none of my own), reading, experimenting with arts and crafts, traveling (especially road trips) and spending time with family and friends.

I look forward to getting to know you and to growing in faith alongside you in this next year.

Rebecca



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Meet & Greet Rebecca Mattern

Following Worship on Sunday, October 8

*No Adult Education or Sunday School for Children & Youth
so everyone is free to say "Hello" and "Welcome!"*

Journey to 2030

As we prepare to celebrate our 60th anniversary, we are embarking on journey to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. The scriptures are full of journeys – some short and well defined and others more meandering. And while there may be general sense of where the path leads, it is on the journey that the people learn to listen for God’s voice and trust in God’s guidance.

We invite you to join us on this journey. Where do you see PCO in 7 years? How will we be engaged with our community? Who is missing from our Table? How can we promote and share a lifelong journey of faith that is life in Jesus Christ? Over the next several months there will be a variety of ways you can share your hopes and dreams, your visions and passions for PCO’s future. If you have questions, please reach out to a member of the Journey to 2030 team: Emily Conroy-Krutz and Jeff Arbour (co-chairs), Catherine Holdway, Doug Paterson, Matt Pearson, and Lisa Schrott.

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Save The Dates

Saturday, October 7

10:00 a.m.— 12 noon

PCO Participating in Solar Tour

(More information on page 7)

Sunday, October 8

Greater Lansing Community CROP Walk

(More information on page 3)

Sunday, October 22

Following Worship

Intergenerational Service Project following worship

Watch the announcements for more information.

Sunday, October 29

Following Worship

Congregational Meeting to elect Officers to Session

Friday, November 3

7:00—10:00 p.m.

UKirk Trivia Night

(More information on page 3)

Sunday, November 5

5:00—7:00 p.m.

Chili Cookoff and Game Night

(More information on page 3)

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Greater Lansing CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 08, 2023

LANSING, MICHIGAN

Thanks

From the Love Clothing Center

On behalf of the Love Clothing Center, please accept our sincere thanks for the donation of 40 pairs of new jeans and sweatpants for the children and teens we serve. This donation is truly a blessing for our outreach ministry!

Also, the donation from your congregation helps us positively impact the self-esteem, self-worth and confidence of the children and teens that we serve.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with PCO to further God's kingdom by sharing His love with those we serve at the Love Clothing Center.

Sincerely,

Debra Dawsey
Co-Director
Love Clothing Center

CROP Walk 2023

The 47th Annual CROP Walk is quickly approaching. The community walk is scheduled for **Sunday, October 8th** at 2:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Lansing. We will have a group from PCO walking together on that Sunday. If for any reason that day or time does not work for you, you can walk anytime and anyplace you want for "Your CROP Walk." You can also "rock" in a rocking chair for your Crop Walk.

You can sign up online at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/presbyterian-church-of-okemos>. We also have sign-ups in fellowship hall. Watch for more details in church announcements and on the PCO Webpage. See Kent Workman for questions.

UKirk Trivia Night

MSU UKirk trivia night fun(d)raiser will return to PCO on **Friday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** We hope you will join us for a night of fun trivia, fellowship, and show our support of MSU students. The evening will include a dessert auction and a silent auction.

Get your team(s) together now and even if you can't join us for trivia, you can sponsor a table.

Registration link coming soon to:
<https://www.ukirkmsu.org/whats-happening.html>

Chili Cook-Off & Game Night

Sunday, November 5, 2023 from 5:00-7:30 PM

Join our church family for a delicious & fun evening! We will enjoy a variety of chili dishes at **5:00** with games beginning around **5:45-7:30**. What a great way to spend a beautiful Fall night! Sign up on the church website under Serve - Food Preparation (<https://www.okemospres.org/signup/food/>) or the sign-up sheet on the kiosk to bring chili, a side dish or dessert to share with the group.

Feel free to bring along your favorite game, too! This is an event for all ages so come along and enjoy the night with us.



Weekly Conversation & Contemplation Class

The class meets Wednesday mornings from 10:00—11:30 a.m. on Zoom, #905-709-104, password 48864. Meditation, prayer, scripture readings with Lectio Divina, book study, and discussions are ways we deepen our faith.

Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers by Anne La Mott will be studied by the group this fall. Books are available at Schuler's Book Store or online. Katie Norton will lead the book study on alternative weeks.

This is a good time to join the group and we welcome new members.

Women's Dinner Out

Our next Women's Dinner Out is scheduled for **Monday, October 9** at 5:30 p.m. at Noosh Afghan Cuisine, 603 N. Waverly Rd, Lansing, MI 48917.

If you will be attending, please notify Candy Boldrey by Sunday, October 8, so we will know to expect you. Her email address is *cbold67 at gmail dot com* (standard email setup) and phone number is (859)421-0014 .

Birthday Cake Sunday

In September, we will celebrate Birthday Cake Sunday on **Sunday, October 15**.

If you celebrate your birthday in October, please check the Birthday List posted on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall and add your name by Sunday, October 8th if it is not there. Happy Birthday, Dear Libras and Scorpios!

Retiree Group

The Retirees (or nearly retired) will meet on **Monday, October 16** in Fellowship Hall at noon. You are welcome to bring a lunch, drink or snack. Strategic Planning members will facilitate a discussion about the future of PCO. Please join us for this important opportunity.

Women's Connection

Women's Connection will meet **Sunday, October 22** at 12:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for conversation and lunch, followed by a presentation, "*An Unexpected Turn*," by longtime PCO member Mickey Martin. All women are welcome and encouraged to invite friends. Questions: Shirley Rumming 655-4123 or *srumming at yahoo dot com* (standard email setup).

Caregivers Support Group

Those who would like support for their new roles with loved ones are encouraged to join us on zoom 517-329-2320 password hello. We meet on the fourth Wednesday from 5-6pm. **Wednesday, October 25** is our next discussion session. Topics vary depending on the needs and interests of those attending.

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.*

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 October 1st.**

Birthday Cake Sunday—3rd Sundays following worship unless otherwise noted. This month will be on **October 15th.**

Women's Connection— 4th Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 108. This month will be on **October 22nd.**

MONDAYS

Retirees — Noon at PCO on **3rd Mondays**. Next meeting is **Monday, October 16th.**

Women's Dinner Out— Usually 1st Mondays. Next gathering is **Monday, October 9th** at 5:30 p.m. at Noosh Afghan Cuisine, 603 N. Waverly Rd in Lansing.

TUESDAYS

Men's Group — Weekly, 8:00 a.m. Zoom 813 7514 8286. **Hybrid (In-person and on Zoom) 1st Tuesdays - this month Tuesday, October 3rd.**

PCO Crafts Ministry— 1st Tuesdays (*this is a news Tuesday*) at 6:00 p.m., Board Room-**next meeting is October 3rd**

Artists Circle-*Watch the weekly Announcements for artists' gatherings.*

WEDNESDAYS

Conversation & Contemplation—Weekly, 10:00 a.m. Zoom 905-709-104

Caregiver Support Group - **4th Wednesdays** 5:00 p.m. Next Meeting is **October 25th** on Zoom 517 329 2320; password is **hello**

THURSDAYS

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



Thanksgiving Baskets 2023

One of our Mission Committee's 2023 goals is to provide food donations to local residents in need. As Thanksgiving approaches, PCO will again give area residents gift cards to assist them in purchasing Thanksgiving groceries. Our goal this year is to provide fifteen \$75 food gift cards.

Member contributions, in the form of cash or checks in any amount, will be collected during the month of October. **Donations are due by November 1** and can be given as part of Sunday offerings, mailed or delivered to the church, or dropped off at a display table in Fellowship Hall. *(If you choose to contribute by check, please be sure to write Thanksgiving Baskets on the memo line.)*

Thank you for helping PCO feed our neighbors during this special time of year.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Gillespie at 517-332-5657.



Public Policy Report By Ellen Hoekstra

The state legislature returned to the Capitol immediately after Labor Day. Governor Whitmer had given legislators a lengthy list of her goals for them, including:

- 100 percent clean energy mandate, including implementing a carbon neutral energy standard by 2050 as well as moving permitting for larger wind and solar projects to the Michigan Public Service Commission and away from municipal boards.
- Providing paid family and medical leave for the 77% without access to this benefit.
- Putting into state law the federal affordable care act, which has faced legal challenges. This would include protecting people with pre-existing conditions, permitting young people to stay on their parents' insurance until they are 26, banning annual or lifetime coverage caps, and requiring insurers to cover certain essential services such as maternity care and mental health.
- Creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board in an effort to make prescription medications more affordable.
- Repealing several current abortion regulations including a 24 hour wait period law.

In other news:

- Standardized test results for Michigan's students in grades 3-7 are mixed, with scores below pre-pandemic levels in English language arts and math. Not surprisingly, children who entered kindergarten and first grade at the beginning of the pandemic were particularly affected by receiving education online.
- As one result of the Inflation Reduction Act, this fall Medicare will begin negotiating prices for 10 prescription drugs with no generic alternatives. Lower prices are expected in 2026. In future years, a larger number of drugs will be negotiated, under a tiered plan.
- Operation Safe Neighborhoods has met a new milestone, with more than 450 illegal guns as well as ammunition recovered by law enforcement officials.
- The Tobacco Free Report Card reports that 87% of school districts were in the best category of tobacco free school policy this year, a 240% increase since 2014. E-cigarettes and flavored products remain the gateway tobacco products for youth.
- Governor Whitmer launched a National Park Service Mobility Program to improve access to four of Michigan's national parks: Keweenaw National Historical Park, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, River Raisin National Battlefield Park, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Under this initiative, advanced mobility and electrification technologies will be identified and deployed to improve accessibility in these parks.
- Legislation has been signed into law to strengthen and enforce Michigan's child marriage ban. The bills increase the minimum age of consent from 16 to 18 and prohibit secret marriages.

Life at PCO in Pictures



In keeping with the Mission Committee's goal to provide food to local residents, the S4 Link Group & the PCO Youth Group prepared and served a taco meal at Advent House on Saturday, September 16.

Advent House Ministries Inc. has been helping people out of poverty and homelessness in Lansing for more than 30 years. Advent House shares a building with North Westminster Presbyterian Church but draws on the entire greater Lansing region for support, as according to the Advent House website, "all share a common belief and commitment to helping our brothers and sisters in need."

PCO member Bill Given has served as a member of the Board of Directors at Advent House and can answer questions you may have about volunteering or donating to this organization.



PCO Panels To Be A Stop on Solar Tour



This month, the Presbyterian Church of Okemos is participating in a nation-wide informational tour, organized by the American Solar Energy Society and Interfaith Power and Light, to promote the benefits of using solar power. As part of the tour, members of the PCO Green Team will be out by the church's solar panel array to answer questions and provide information to interested community members from **10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 7.**

Participation in the tour reflects PCO's designation as an Earth Care Congregation by the PC(USA).

Up-to-the-minute information about the benefits of PCO's solar panels can be found at <https://monitoringpublic.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/p/site/public?name=PCO#/dashboard>.

Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved
61,334.62 lb



Equivalent Trees Planted
463.44

Domestic Violence and Firearms

On September 14th, I joined other advocates of ending gun violence as Attorney General Dana Nessel and the leaders of Moms Demand Action announced the introduction of similar bills in both the Michigan Senate and House to prevent domestic violence with a firearm. Attorney General Nessel said that annually in Michigan, approximately 70 people (mostly women) and 20 children are killed in acts of domestic violence. These bills protect domestic violence victims by preventing those convicted of domestic violence misdemeanor crimes from possessing, using, purchasing, or carrying a firearm in Michigan for 8 years. These laws would help to prevent firearm injury and deaths of victims of domestic violence and children. According to the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, if a gun is present in a domestic violence situation, the rate of homicide exponentially increases by 500%.

I have a friend who tells the following story of domestic violence. Her nephew and his wife had a very bitter divorce. He had their child every other weekend. One Saturday, he and his ex-wife got into a verbal fight as he was to pick up his child. His ex-wife's boyfriend and the boyfriend's mother joined the verbal fight. Her nephew went to his car, pulled out a handgun and killed his ex-wife, her boyfriend, and that the boyfriend's mother. Her nephew says that he just snapped. What a tragedy! Without a firearm, this tragedy could not have occurred. Their child has lost both parents as her nephew will spend all his remaining years in prison.

The House and Senate are considering bills that would protect victims of domestic violence and lessen the abuser's ability to injure or kill their previous spouse or partner. Firearms and domestic violence are a dangerous combination. If you believe, as I do, that these bills are good public policy, please contact your Michigan Senator and State Representative.

David Detrisac - PCO Firearm Safety Taskforce

BOOK NOOK

By Ron Dorr

Lost and Found

By Kathryn Schulz

“Live in the layers,” the poet, Stanley Kunitz, once wrote. Kathryn Schulz’s memoir, Lost & Found, is a multi-layered book. It is part narrative, part character sketch, part philosophic inquiry, and part literary art.

First of all, Lost & Found is a finely-crafted narrative—really two stories—held together by “and.” Part I, “Lost,” centers on the life of Schulz’s father, Isaac Schulz, who died in the late summer of 2016. Part II, “Found,” focuses on Kathryn’s relationship with the person whom she calls “C.” and whom she will marry several months later. Part III, “And,” connects the two segments. Schulz’s stories, both large and small, are fascinating. How does one bear witness to a dying parent? What happens when people fall in love at first sight? How does Dante handle his unrequited love of Beatrice? Will 11-year-old Billy Cep outrun a falling meteorite?

Second, well-detailed character sketches of Kathryn, “C.,” and their families help to build interest, create suspense, and resolve tensions in these stories. The main characters are like all other human beings in some regards, like some others in some respects, and like no others in their idiosyncrasies. At 74, Isaac Schulz—“my refugee father . . . my brilliant, funny, adoring, endearing father,” died a “good death.” Margot Schulz was Isaac’s “rock, his comfort, his right hand and heaven knows his left, his fashion consultant, his ethics committee, and the most gorgeous woman he’d ever met.” She and he gave their daughter not only love of ideas but also the idea and example of mature, enduring love. John Edgar Wideman’s observation, “Past lives live in us, through us,” pertained to the family of “C.” as well as that of Kathryn.

Kathryn Schulz met “C.” 18 months before her father died. Isaac adored “C.,” perhaps, because the two were so alike. “Found,” the second part of the book, elaborates the similarities between Kathryn and “C.” in the face of so many differences—in age, background, socio-economic class, and religion. The differences in temperament created the most tensions. But both of them came from happy families, felt at home in nature, loved books, eagerly pursued higher learning (“C.” was a Rhodes Scholar), and became writers for The New Yorker (Schulz won a Pulitzer Prize).

Third, Lost & Found is a challenging inquiry and meditation. Schulz asks pertinent questions. What is love? How do we find it? How do we know that we have found it? What are the various kinds of loss in life? Why is loss, small and large, everywhere? How do we best grieve those losses? What is a good death? How are loss and love connected? She urges us to pay attention to the “andness” of life. The third most frequent word in our language today, “and” functions like “a linguistic superglue, capable of binding together almost anything.” It connects—linguistically, Biblically, intellectually, morally, emotionally, deeply, and meaningfully. In Philip Roth’s words, “Life is and.” Part III, “And,” elaborates these points as well as narrating “C.” and Kathryn’s wedding.

Fourth, this book is writing at its best. Like her father, Kathryn loves language and articulates it very well. Expressive verbs, metaphorical adjectives, and other figures of speech abound. Sentence structure is sturdy, graceful, and sound. Sentences vary in length from two words to 159. She moves easily from “some people” and “others” to “I”; she expands the “art of repetitive losing: cellphone, annually; wallet, quarterly; keys, monthly.” Feelings associated with love proliferate, even progress: pleasure, happiness, gladness, amazement, glee, bliss, delight, and “deep joy.” Schulz writes in a voice that is “soothing, bracing, tonic” (Walt Whitman’s words). Her tone is serious but not somber, occasionally playful but not irreverent, pointed but not dogmatic. Her writing is authentic and alive, clear and compelling, filled with telling examples.

Loss and love, Schulz concludes, teach us to tend our finite lives well, “bearing witness to all that we see, honoring what we find noble, tending what we know needs our care, recognizing that we are inseparably connected to all of it. . . . We are here to keep watch, not to keep.”



Author Kathryn Schulz



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:30am - Adult Ed @</p> <p>11:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>2pm - Writing Life's</p> <p>5pm - Middle and High</p>	<p>6:15pm - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>8am - Men's Group @</p> <p>11am - JoAnn Rinehart</p> <p>6pm - PCO Crafts</p> <p>7pm - Green Team @</p>	<p>10am - Conversation and</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm - Worship and</p> <p>7pm - Parish Life @ https://</p>	<p>9:30am - Bible Study -</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>10am - Solar Tour</p>
<p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11am - Welcome &</p> <p>1:30pm - CROP Walk @</p>	<p>6:15pm - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>8am - Men's Group @</p> <p>6pm - Administration</p> <p>7:30pm - Communication</p>	<p>10am - Conversation and</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Mission Committee</p> <p>7:30pm - CECY</p>	<p>9:30am - Bible Study -</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>		
<p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11am - Birthdays</p> <p>11:30am - Adult Ed @</p> <p>11:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>5pm - Middle and High</p>	<p>12pm - Retirees at PCO</p> <p>6:15pm - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>8am - Men's Group @</p> <p>7pm - Deacons @ https://</p>	<p>10am - Conversation and</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm - Session @ https://</p>	<p>9:30am - Bible Study -</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>		
<p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:30am - Service</p> <p>5pm - Middle and High</p>	<p>6:15pm - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>8am - Men's Group @</p>	<p>10am - Conversation and</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>5pm - Caregiver Support</p>	<p>9:30am - Bible Study -</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>		
<p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>11am - Congregational</p> <p>11:30am - Adult Ed @</p> <p>5pm - Middle and High</p>	<p>6:15pm - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>8am - Men's Group @</p>				

Presbyterian Church of Okemos

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