

The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS

From Pastor Lisa Schrott



As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. --

Colossians 2:6-7

Rhythms and Rootedness and Ordinary Time

June 8 is Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the birth of the church. June 15 we will begin a long liturgical season of the year known as Ordinary Time. The chancel colors will change to green and remain this way until Advent. While I love the traditions of each time of the church year, this year I am yearning for Ordinary Time. I am yearning for the pace to slow a bit, because the world seems so chaotic. So out of control. The 24-hour news cycle seems to be on hyper-drive, more like a 24-minute cycle. I understand the need so many have to back away and hibernate.

And yet, a question I have been pondering this month is what motivates us to engage in the wild and wonderful and sometimes anxiety-provoking world in which we live? What is it that gets us off the couch, off of our screens, off of “social media living” and into IRL (in real life) living?

As we been exploring what it means to be **Rooted in Christ & Engaged in Community**, I have been thinking about the sermon from the Willye Bryan and Prince Solace of the Justice League. It was titled: *Do Something*. I love the both prescriptive and non-prescriptive nature of this title. Do something. Not telling you what to do, rather to engage in the world somehow. So I am inviting you in June to do something. Not everything. Not even many things. But something. Something that draws you closer to God. Something that deepens a relationship. Something that nurtures your soul. Something that gives back to the church or community.

Sign-up for one of our **Intergenerational Mission Week** activities at the Edgewood Village, Okemos Food Pantry, Refugee Development Center, and helping to build the PCO Prayer Patch. Come to the **All-Church Picnic** on June 8. **Pray** for the team going to the Simbolei Academy in Kenya. Join us for **worship** in person on Sunday morning and make a new friend at fellowship time. Sit outside and enjoy the sun while you read a book from our **church library**.

Pastor Lisa

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**Deadline for the July Grapevine is
Monday, June 23rd.**

SUMMER 2025 WORSHIP STORIES OF OUR FAITH



June 15: Matthew 28:16–20 The Great Commission
June 22: 1 Kings 19:1–15a Elijah hears God in the silence
June 29: 2 Kings 2:1–2, 6–14 Elijah ascends to heaven
July 6: 2 Kings 5:1–14 Naaman is healed of leprosy

All Church Picnic Returns!

Join us after worship on **Sunday, June 8** to celebrate Pentecost (wear your red!) and Summer, and to kick off Inter-generational Mission Week with **FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN!**

Parish Life will fire up our new grill to prepare hotdogs, hamburgers and a vegetarian option. There will also be baked beans and beverages. **Please bring a salad or dessert to share**, and a lawn chair for outdoor seating. Have a favorite outdoor game? Bring that along too!

Volunteers are needed to help with set up, clean up (dish washing), and games. Please contact Lynne Cone or Mickey Martin to help out (info in the directory.)



Thank you

Dear PCO family,

I want to thank you all for all the support I've received in this period where I've been fighting off cancer. Truly, there are no words to express what your prayers and strength have meant. I pray for every one of you, knowing there are so many different concern and care areas in each life. May God bless you all!

Kathy Richardson

A Message from the APNC

We understand that hearing nothing, not even rumblings, can feel that work toward seeking an associate pastor has paused. We can assure you the work is ongoing with interviews and even visits. (We just can't share!) Coordination with candidates to take time from their home church to travel here to visit with the APNC and Pastor Lisa, see the facility, tour the area, and meet with the Committee on Ministry, especially during Lent and end of school year celebrations, is challenging and important work. We greatly appreciate your continued support and prayers for this discernment process for both the APNC and the candidates involved in this process. When we have a candidate to introduce, we will call a congregational meeting. We look forward to that day and thank you for your patience!

APNC (Candy Boldrey, Brett Cone, Laurin Gierman, Jerri Gillett, Zachary Krawczyk, Zach Nawyn-Hellinga)

Along the Way with Rebecca Mattern

Here is a reminder that you can follow Rebecca Mattern's journey on the Camino de Santiago through her blog: <https://rebeccamattern.home.blog/>.

Rebecca served as PCO's interim director of faith formation, then as the church's coordinator of pastoral care and youth ministry, from October 2023 through April 2025.

The Camino de Santiago or the Way of Saint James is a network of pilgrims' ways leading to the shrine of the apostle James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain.

Rebecca is walking more than 500 miles on the Camino, along with Rev. Kristin Stroble, Pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in East Lansing. Mark your calendars now to attend a joint worship service at Eastminster on **Sunday, August 17**. Rebecca and Kristen will have returned to Michigan and are scheduled to speak about their experience in Europe.

Dear PCO,

Thank you for all the ways you support UKIRK@MSU. Your annual pledge only begins to show your commitment to the success of our program. Making space for TRIVIA night twice a year provides another avenue to "spread the word" to the community! We are just completing our most active school years since the COVID era, and you helped!

Thanks again.

Norm Mackay, Board Member

As the academic year ends and Summer gets underway, some activities go on hiatus at PCO while others continue on a modified schedule. Check out the weekly e-Announcements for the most up-to-date information about what's happening here at church. Below is information about what's currently scheduled in June.

Women's Dinner Out in June

The women's dinner out will be on **Monday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m.** at Jolly Pumpkin at 218 Albert Avenue in East Lansing. Please RSVP to Jennifer Gordon at *gordonjms at gmail dot com* (standard email set up).

Retirees in June

We will meet on **Monday, June 16** at PCO for a picnic lunch and fellowship. We hope for a nice day to rev up the grill and enjoy the day from **12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.**

Details will be finalized for the Advent House meal that we are providing and serving on June 21. If you wish to help and haven't volunteered to provide food, money or your time, please let Jane Bobay know. (Contact info in the directory)

Caregiver Support Group

We will meet on **Wednesday, June 25** from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Zoom 517-329-2320; password is hello. A staff member from Tri-County Office on Aging will attend to share the resources available to caregivers.

Sign Up for Summer Fellowship

The sign-up sheets for June through August have been posted on the kiosk. Many programs, classes, etc., are on break during the summer, but people will still look forward to **SNACKS** during the fellowship hour. Please consider being a volunteer. Ideally two families share a Sunday, so if you would like to participate, ask a friend or contact **Shirley Rumminger** (contact info in the directory). We encourage "keep it simple" and appreciate whatever you care to put on the table, homemade or purchased.

If you would like to help with making **COFFEE** or **washing the dishes**, please check the sign-up sheet or contact **Dorinda Van Kempen** to (info in the directory) be added to the list.



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 (Check the Sunday bulletin for topics. Enjoy a time of fellowship after worship when no adult ed is scheduled)

Writing Life's Stories— This month ^{1st} Sunday, **2:00 p.m.**, Zoom 848 6124 7191— **next meeting is June 1.**

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

Women's Connection— *On hiatus until fall. We will see you in September!*

MONDAYS

Women's Dinner Out— This month will be **Monday, June 9** at 5:30 p.m. See left column for more info.

Retirees— 3rd Mondays at 12:00 noon This month we will meet **June 16** at PCO in Fellowship Hall.

TUESDAYS

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

PCO Crafts Ministry— Monthly, 1st Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAYS

Conversation & Contemplation—*On Summer Break until Wednesday, September 3.*

Caregiver Support Group - 4th Wednesdays, June 25th. 5:00 p.m. on Zoom 517 329 2320; password is hello

THURSDAYS

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

Youth Parents Night Out—*On hiatus until Fall.*

Birthday Cake Sunday

We will celebrate our June Birthdays on **Sunday, June 15**. If you were born in June, please check the list posted on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall and add your name by Sunday, June 8, if it is not already there.

PCO Library News

Stop by the PCO Library this month, and take a look at our new books honoring Pride Month:

The Widening of God's Mercy: Sexuality Within the Biblical Story by Christopher B. Hays and Richard B. Hays "A fresh, deeply biblical account of God's expanding grace and mercy, tracing how the Bible's narrative points to the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in Christian communities."

Outside the Lines: How Embracing Queerness Will Transform Your Faith by Mihee Kim-Kort "God's love for us breaks every boundary. So should our love for each other. Kim-Kort is a wife, a mom, and a Presbyterian minister. And she's queer. But instead of pushing her away from God, her queerness has brought her closer to Jesus and taught her how to love better."

One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins by Emmy Kegler "As a queer woman who grew up in the church, Kegler knows too well how Scripture can be used to wound and exclude. So she set out to fall in love with the Bible, wrestling with the stories inside, where she met a God who continues to seek us out—appearing again and again as a voice, a presence, and a promise."

Raising Kids Beyond the Binary: Celebrating God's Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children by Jamie Bruesehoff "Grounded in the unequivocal truth of God's deep love and limitless creativity, this book compels readers to celebrate youth in the brilliance of their uniqueness, the wisdom of their self-awareness, and the joy of their authenticity. These children need us, and the world needs them."

Embracing Queer Family: Learning to Live Authentically in Our Families and Communities by Nia Chiaramonte and Katie J. Chiaramonte "Whether you are a Queer person on the journey of self-awareness, an ally looking for resources, or a family member seeking advice for how to navigate a loved one's coming-out process, this book is for you."

(All of these new books will be on display and available for check-out. Stop by and show support for our LGBTQ family, community, and church members.)

Kathi Cook

Public Policy Report By Ellen Hoekstra

With the opening of outdoor farmers' markets, you will likely see people circulating petitions. The standard advice is to delay signing anything before you've had time to review it. Michigan and 17 other states don't prohibit pay-per-signature gathering.

In other news:

- The President signed a memorandum in support of a project (Brandon Road Interbasin Project) to stop invasive carp from moving into the Great Lakes, following talks with Governor Whitmer and House Speaker Matt Hall.
- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is offering student loan repayment to providers to begin or expand opioid addiction treatment programs. Funding comes from a settlement with the three largest pharmaceutical providers and Johnson and Johnson, an opioid manufacturer.
- Michigan's finalized rules will require physicians to order lead testing for 12 and 24 month old children.
- Studies show disparities in senior center funding because of differences in local funding, despite the growing aging population in Michigan.
- Only 49% of school millages passed this year, well below 2024 efforts. Analysts suggest that economic uncertainty may have been the cause.
- Both the chambers are proposing bills to limit student cellphone use.
- The big challenge to legislators and the governor is finalizing the state budget before their self-imposed July 1 deadline and the constitutional October 1 deadline. Largely due to steel, aluminum and auto tariffs, state officials have lowered revenue projections by \$136 million for this fiscal year and \$320 for next year,

Intergenerational Mission Week 2025

June 9—14th

Participate in one day's activity, or join in all week.

We will have opportunities to serve at several different PCO Mission partners in the area.

Everyone is encouraged to take part. It is truly a rewarding experience.

In Our Prayers

Please remember the Mission Team heading to Iten, Kenya in your prayers. The team is scheduled to visit the Simbolei Preparatory Academy for Girls from June 6—14, 2025.

BOOK NOOK

By Ron Dorr

Commencement Address by Ken Burns

Instead of highlighting commencement speeches at Michigan State University this spring, I am calling attention to an address by Ken Burns, given at Brandeis University's commencement on May 19, 2024. The speech was arresting, illuminating, eloquent, witty, and wise.

Near the very end, Burns spoke staccato-like to the graduating class. "Watch out, here comes the advice. Listen," he warned. "Be curious, not cool. . . . Choose honor over hypocrisy, virtue over vulgarity, discipline over dissipation, character over cleverness, sacrifice over self-indulgence. Do not lose your enthusiasm [in its Greek origin, "enthusiasm" meant to be inspired or possessed by a god]. , , , Insist that we fight the right wars. Denounce oppression everywhere. . . . Support science and the arts, especially the arts.

"Don't confuse success with excellence. Do not descend too deeply into specialism. Educate all of your parts. Do not get stuck in one place. Travel is fatal to prejudice. . . . Be in nature. Its sheer majesty may remind you of your own atomic insignificance, but in the inscrutable and paradoxical ways of wild places, you will feel larger, inspirited, just as the egotist in our midst is diminished by his or her self-regard.

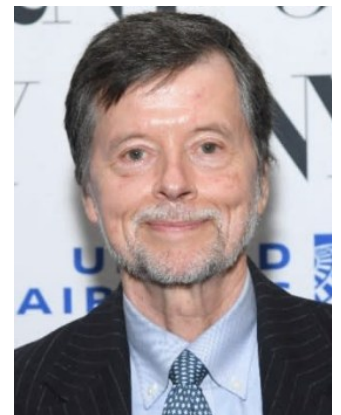
"Grief is part of life, and if you explore its painful precincts, it will make you stronger. Do good things, help others. , . . Doubt is central to faith. The opposite of faith is certainty. The kinship of the soul begins with your own at times withering self-examination." If you are trying to change human nature, "start with you." Burns also encouraged the graduates to "make babies. . . . You will have to worry, I mean really worry, about someone other than yourself. It is liberating and exhilarating, I promise. Ask your parents."

The prelude to these pithy pieces of advice came in several voices, all introduced by "Listen" or "Listen, listen." The first voice was his own. In his recording of history, he has presented human nature as "complex and contradictory." Americans' "greed and generosity, our puritanism and our prurience, our virtue and our venality parade before our eyes." Burns has listened "to the many varied voices of a true, honest, complicated past that is unafraid of controversy and tragedy." He has also articulated "an abiding faith in the human spirit" and affirmed the part that our "dysfunctional republic" plays in improving human history.

"Listen, listen" to the voice of Abraham Lincoln when, at 29 in 1838, he posed an essential question at the young men's lyceum in Springfield, Illinois. "At what point shall we expect the approach of danger" in our republic? Not by powers overseas, but by internal suicide. "If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher," Lincoln warned. Burns praised Lincoln's hope, prescience, and sagacity. He indicated our country's strengths: "Our work ethic," restlessness, innovations, "institutions of higher learning," our suspicion of power, our efforts to balance "individual and collective freedom," and our never-ending pursuit of the meaning of the phrase, "the pursuit of happiness." But Burns also named our weaknesses: "our devotion to money and guns and conspiracies, our certainty about everything," our blindness to what needs repairing—race relations, our refusal to accept responsibility for our wrongs, and our being "trapped by those old tired binary reactions, assumptions, and certainties."

"Listen, listen," to James Baldwin, interviewed once by Burns. "No one was ever born who agreed to be a slave, who accepted it." Yet "multitudes of people for reasons of their own enslave themselves every hour of every day to this or that doctrine, this or that delusion of safety, this or that lie. . . . We continue to shackle ourselves with chains we mistakenly think [are] freedom." American Revolutionary patriot, poet, and playwright Mercy Otis Warren recognized a beautiful and ugly soul in Americans. Jewish novelist Isaac Bashevis Singer advocated "a kinship of the soul" rather than "them versus us." Othering someone else "is the simplest binary way to make and identify enemies. But it is also the surest way to your own self-imprisonment."

"Vote, please vote," Burns concluded. Such action underscores "your citizenship and, most important, our kinship with each other."



Filmmaker & commencement speaker Ken Burns

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