

**MARCH/APRIL 2019**  
**NEW CENTURY PILGRIM'S PRESS**  
**PEOPLE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**INCLUSIVE, INSPIRING WORSHIP IN BEAUTIFUL SACRED SPACE**



**A reflection from U.S.-Mexico border**  
**By Mary Bjork**

For the past two weeks I've been volunteering at Oscar Romero House in El Paso, Texas. The former shelter for victims of domestic violence is now a hospitality house for refugees who've been released by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to join their families.

The house, which opened in February, is one of several hospitality houses under the auspices of Annunciation House, which was started in 1978 by lay Catholics. It sees an average of 70 new people a day, and guests stay until travel arrangements can be made by their families.

I, along with two traveling companions, have been staying at Columban House, which hosts Border Awareness Weeks for various groups. St. Joan of Arc Church in Minneapolis sent a group before we arrived, and while here two college groups have come through.

The experience has been rich, enhanced especially by the relationships that have been formed, even though temporary. And, I've never worked so hard in any other volunteer experience, or felt so useful.

Volunteers do a variety of tasks, which essentially revolve around whatever is needed at any given moment. The options include helping guests find clothes from the clothing room, passing out toiletries, preparing lunch bags for their travels and taking guests to the bus station or airport. Volunteers who are bilingual also help with intake.

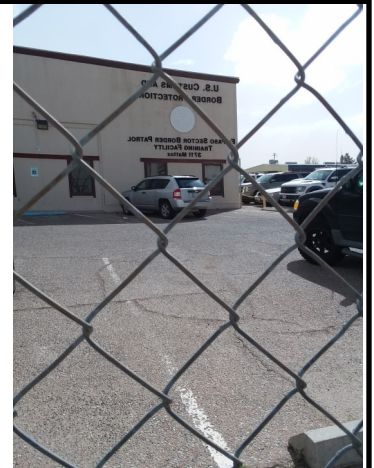


*Mary (left) and her traveling companions*

The needs are great, and we've heard stories of border patrol personnel taking crutches, medicine, shoelaces, diapers, baby formula and more. The experience upon arrival at the border for refugees seems to be more traumatic than the journey itself.

Still, the guests we've served have been so appreciative. And, in support of one another, they cook all the meals for the other guests.

*To learn more about Annunciation House, go to  
<https://annunciationhouse.org>.*



*U.S. Customs and Border facility*

# WORSHIP



**“The Earth Groans”**  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 31, 2019



**“Is Your Garage Door Open?”**  
Fifth Sunday of Lent  
April 7, 2019

## *Lent and Easter schedule*

- March 31* Fourth Sunday of Lent - “The Earth Groans”  
*April 7* Fifth Sunday of Lent - “Is Your Garage door Open?”

### *HOLY WEEK*

- April 14* Palm Sunday - “From Bayport to Bakersfield”  
*April 18* 7 p.m. **Holy Thursday** service with soup and salad prior  
*April 19* 7 p.m. **Good Friday Service** with Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hosted this year at People’s Church with Pastor Rich Larson preaching.  
*April 21* Easter! 9 a.m. Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Easter Service - “Ubuntu”

# LIFE AT PEOPLE'S

Greetings People's people,

I am so very pleased to now be part of this body of faithful followers of Christ, and to be working in partnership with Pastor Linda to provide spiritual care and nurture for all who come. I feel at home, even though I am still getting to know you all, and I am very much looking forward to our future together.

My sincere thanks for the various ways you all have welcomed me, and the kind words of encouragement that have been shared. I continue to be amazed at the energy and commitment of this fellowship, and at the numerous ways you are engaging with the world.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the one of Joshua leading the Israelites as they cross the Jordan River into the land of Canaan. As they are preparing to cross, among the instructions given to the people is to follow the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments. Joshua 3:4 says, "Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before."

Friends as we move together on this new journey of shared leadership and new possibilities, into a new proverbial land, I encourage us to keep in mind that we have a guide to help us. Let us stay fixed on the Holy One, made known to us through scripture and a host of other ways. And, let us be ever mindful that though we have never been this way before, the One we follow is always with us and will surely direct our path.

Blessings on the journey!  
Pastor Toya



## EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE

**Don't wait until the last day.  
Flower orders are due April 1  
to Kimberly in the office.**

# LIFE AT PEOPLE'S

People's has been please to host a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) group in its building on Friday afternoons throughout March. The small group, led by the Rev. Dr. Susan Allers Hatlie and Okogyeamon, is doing a restorative justice class inside the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater Friday mornings and needed a place to meet for post-class discussions. The group will conclude its time at People's on March 29.



The People's Congregational Church inclement weather policy, per the Leadership Team, will be to always hold Sunday morning worship service for whoever is able to gather, regardless of weather conditions. If the weather is hazardous any other day, the policy will be to cancel activities in accordance with the local school district's closing policy.



Bob Dickie has been inspired to put together a pictorial display of PCC members and friends to help us better know one another. He'll be at the church with his cell phone camera to take pictures on March 31, and April 7, 14 & 21. Once he finishes, the display will be set up for all to enjoy.

# LIFE AT PEOPLE'S

## CO-PASTOR UPCOMING SCHEDULE

**First Sunday of Lent, March 10, through Easter, April 21:**

*Lead Pastor: Rev. Toya Richards*

**Sunday after Easter, April 28 through June 2:**

*Lead Pastor: Rev. Linda Tossey*

**June 9 through July 14:**

*Lead Pastor: Rev. Toya Richards*

**July 21 through August 25:**

*Lead Pastor: Rev. Linda Tossey*



Audio files of sermons are now available on the People's website and Facebook page!!! They are also in the mid-week, just click on the button.



The NACCC leadership team is planning fifteen remarkably interesting workshops for the Annual Meeting and Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. One of the highlights will be hearing Rev. Charles (Chuck) Warnock whose timely message, "The Promising Future of Small Churches" can be helpful to all NACCC churches regardless of size. Come hear how churches have a future when they become engaged with their community. See how your church can take a fresh look at finding its place in your community. Warnock has recently been appointed the Minister in Residence for Small Churches for the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Join us in Cleveland for this year's exciting Annual Meeting and Conference, June 22 -25, 2019 .

For more information go to:  
[naccc.org/2019-amc-information.html](http://naccc.org/2019-amc-information.html)



# MISSIONS



**Feed A Family March Food Drive  
sponsored by Valley Outreach**



**The March 31st deadline is looming for  
donations toward the Valley Outreach food  
drive.**

PCC will participate with Valley Outreach and other community organizations to provide for our neighbors in need through the Minnesota FoodShare March 2019 campaign.

Please drop off food and hygiene items at the collection tables in the narthex and dining room.

We would particularly like to highlight the needs of individuals and families from a diversity of cultures in our community. Valley Outreach clients from various ethnic backgrounds were interviewed recently regarding the items that they would like to see available on the shelves. Here is their list of spices and other items:

Cinnamon, cumin, coriander, Himalayan salt, garlic powder, curry powder, ginger, red chili powder, black pepper, parsley, oregano, cilantro, Italian seasoning, basil, sugar, soy sauce, nuts, gluten free, products, Knorr soup mixes, coffee, healthy snack items, diapers, natural/organic peanut butter, natural/low sugar jam, name brand cereals, etc.

Please be generous with donations from the above list and the  
“Top Needs” listed on the right.

Questions? Please contact Kathy Iverson,  
[bkiverson745@msn.com](mailto:bkiverson745@msn.com) 651-351-2886

or

Mark and Michele Stephan,  
[markcstephan@aol.com](mailto:markcstephan@aol.com) 651-735-2651

# MISSIONS

YOUR \$25 DONATION  
EQUALS



VALLEY OUTREACH

## MENU OF TOP NEEDS

### CASH

A \$25 cash donation goes a long way in purchasing our top needed items. Check out what we can stock the shelves with for just \$25!



### HYGIENE

paper towels | toilet paper  
soap | shampoo/conditioner

### CANNED MEATS

tuna | chicken  
salmon | sardines

### GRAINS

pasta | rice | quinoa

### SPICES

salt/pepper | garlic  
cumin | cinnamon

### CEREAL

whole grain | hot or cold



# MISSIONS

## The Love Your Neighbor Team presents the “Who is My Neighbor?” FILM SERIES

*“The shortest distance between two people is a story.” ~ Patti Digh*

In February, the Love Your Neighbor Team hosted a “State of the Heart” coffee hour with shared stories about love - of, by, and for - our neighbors. That conversation was a prelude to a film series that answers the question “Who is my neighbor?” with stories that can cross the distance between us and the neighbors we don’t yet know. The films are recommended for adult audiences.

The question posed by the film series, “Who Is My Neighbor?” isn’t just a matter of curiosity, it’s a matter of Christian love. It’s a pathway to meeting new neighbors so we can love them as ourselves.

The series includes three films beginning during Lent and continuing into early May that are filled with tough, searching questions concerning faith, discrimination, imprisonment, and the search for home, hope, and community. They invite a wealth of Lenten reflections as we ponder what Jesus taught about connecting to one another in the name of love.

As we view the films together, will we be able to recognize our young adult selves in a street kid whose language and culture are a world away from our own as he tries to make sense of his life and do the right thing? Or better understand the lasting sting of hateful, ignorant judgement that is familiar territory for our neighbors of color, and do something about it? Or imagine ourselves in the bleak isolation of prison life and feel the uplifting power that poetry and language bring to incarcerated writers? Experiencing these stories with curiosity, respect, and empathy will open us to the connections that the series is all about.

These are films from independent film makers that are rarely offered in a small-town setting like ours, and we’re excited to share them.

*Please!* Come to the films and invite your friends. These will be public events held at People’s Church, and the presence of People’s people will tell our guests and the St. Croix Valley that we mean it when we say we are a church that’s built upon inclusivity and welcome.

We warmly invite you to subscribe to the series. The events are free, but optional series subscriptions (\$20 per person) will help us cover film licensing and other costs. With 30 subscriptions we’ll just about break even, and more will allow us to increase our support for the important work of our special series guests.

Series invitations with a brochure and subscription card are available in the church office. If you choose to subscribe, payments (checks payable to People’s Congregational Church and “film series” in the memo) are appreciated by Friday, March 29.

*Cont. . .*



# MISSIONS

Visit our information kiosk in the weeks ahead as it fills with information and resources about the films and the people whose stories they tell.

When the “Who Is My Neighbor?” film series was announced last Sunday in worship, there was an energy in the sanctuary that clearly said, “Yes!”, the people of People want to broaden our understanding and open our doors wide to all the neighbors we know and those we have yet to meet. This film series helps open the doors. We hope you’ll join us.

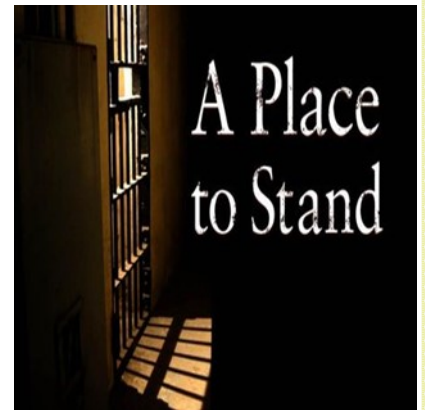
The Love Your Neighbor Team



*Friday, March 29  
Doors open at 6:45 p.m.  
Show begins at 7 p.m.*



*Sunday, April 7  
following 10 a.m. worship  
Show and facilitated conversation  
begin at 11:45 a.m.  
Child care will be provided  
for this event.*



*Friday, May 3  
Doors open at 6:45 p.m.  
Show begins at 7 p.m.*

## MISSIONS MEETING APRIL 9

The next missions meeting will be held at the church on Tuesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. for anyone interested in reimagining missions at PCC. Together, we'll be exploring a more holistic, systems approach to our call to learn from, relate to and partner with others.

# AROUND TOWN



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*Manifesting Unity and Building the Common Good*

## Spiritual Listening Training

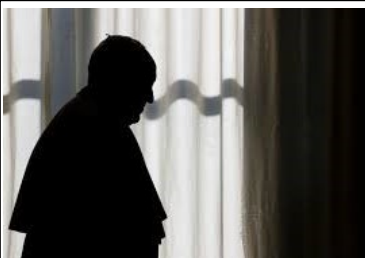
**April 5, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis**

For those interested in learning more about how to listen with the heart – and how to increase their capacity to relate to people living on the margins of society, City House is offering a workshop in spiritual listening. The work of City House inspires hope, trust, and healing through spiritual listening with people on the margins—including those experiencing poverty, addiction, and imprisonment. At this workshop, you will learn ways to develop your ability to listen in a compassionate, non-judgmental manner. See Kimberly for registration information.

## Earth Day and Endangered Species Day, April 22, May 17

Creation Justice Ministries has published resources for use in worship and reflection for faith communities in April and May of this year, centered around Earth Day's proximity to Easter and the later-appearing Endangered Species Day. Each year, Creation Justice Ministries offers Christian education materials to equip faith communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation.

Our 2019 theme is "Next Generation Rising" and focuses on children and youth leading the way for creation justice. This resource will feature stories such as that of the youth who brought the Our Children's Trust climate change lawsuit against the federal government. See Kimberly for more Information.



## A New Kind of Pope For a New Age

Stillwater Area Theological Discussion Group

**Rescheduled  
From  
January**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH—5:30 TO 7 P.M.**

**The Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter Restaurant,  
8390 Lofton Ave, Stillwater**

Sponsored by St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

651-439-2160 or [pastor@stpetersstillwater.org](mailto:pastor@stpetersstillwater.org) for more info

# AROUND TOWN

**JOIN THE  
2020 CENSUS TEAM**

**BE A CENSUS  
TAKER**

**APPLY ONLINE!**  
[2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs)

**2020 Census jobs provide:**  
Great pay  
Flexible hours  
Weekly pay  
Paid training

For more information or help applying, please call  
**1-855-JOB-2020**

Federal Relay Service:  
1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCD  
[www.gsa.gov/fedrelay](http://www.gsa.gov/fedrelay)

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

United States  
**Census  
2020**

## Help Wanted!

Want to work in the 2020 Census Operations? In your community? Census Day, April 1, 2020 is a year away, but Census 2020 Operations begin this summer 2019, and will continue intermittently through the summer of 2020. Who is eligible? We are seeking people of all ages (18+), and hours will be flexible. Weekly pay, mileage reimbursement, and paid training are all part of the opportunity. Learn how you can help collect important data that will determine Minnesota's representation in Congress, as well as funds allocated to roads, schools and hospitals. Applications are being taken immediately.

Go online to: [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs)  
or Call: 1-855-JOB-2020



## April 14, 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
490 4<sup>th</sup> Street N, Bayport, MN

### Meal Served at 5pm

This meal is provided to create a social connection  
throughout the St. Croix Valley

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# HAM & CHEESY POTATOES

## Green Beans and Dessert

Supported in part through a grant from the ELCA Domestic Hunger Program



## PEOPLE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church & Office 309 Third St. N., Bayport, Minnesota 55003

*A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES*

CO-PASTOR	Rev. Toya Richards, M. Div.
CO-PASTOR	Rev. Linda Tossey, M. Div.
OFFICE MINISTRY COORDINATOR	Kimberly Jackson
WORSHIP ACCOMPANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR	Sharon Neuenfeldt
MODERATOR	B.J. Stokes
VICE-MODERATOR	Paula Richey
TREASURER	Bill Stokes
CLERK	Sue Favilla/Mary Binger

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9:00am - 4:00pm, Tuesday—Thursdays  
9:00am – 12:00pm on Fridays

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Office) 651-439-5667

OFFICE E-MAIL ADDRESS: [office@peoplescongregational.org](mailto:office@peoplescongregational.org)

**WEB SITE:** [www.peoplescongregational.org](http://www.peoplescongregational.org)

Find us on  @PCCBayport

## Sunday Schedule

10:00am Worship

~10:15am  
Children's Activity

11:00am Fellowship

Find our calendar on our website:  
[www.peoplescongregational.org](http://www.peoplescongregational.org)



## PEOPLE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

309 Third St N  
Bayport MN 55003

March/April 2019 Print Newsletter