

JUNE 2019
NEW CENTURY PILGRIM'S PRESS
PEOPLE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



INCLUSIVE, INSPIRING WORSHIP IN BEAUTIFUL SACRED SPACE



Walking in a Monet painted by God
by Lori Mildon

During my two-week journey in late March and early April through Portugal that included days in Evora, Fatima, Lisbon, Sintra and other notable locations, I saw amazing cathedrals and temples.

I'm always at awe over the fact that these places were built as far back as the 1600s, and that there was no machinery used in the process. It was all by hand. The craftsmanship and the skills required are mind-boggling to me, and I am amazed at what was accomplished.

At the same time, when I sit in those places I don't feel God. I know God had a great hand in the making, but I just don't feel God's presence.

Now you put me on the trail hiking and walking by the ocean and outdoors, which also was part of my European journey, and everything changes for me.

The vegetation along the coastline was just incredible. Ferns, palm trees, succulent plants, poppies and bluestem grasses were all growing together. That doesn't happen in my world. Those are very different kinds of plants and need different climates.

I think, God how did you make this work? It is just so amazing. Then, I look over my shoulder and see the sea and rock formations and ocean crashing in, and I stand in absolute, utter awe at the creation.

I say thanks for it all – the cathedrals, humanity's ability and this beautiful place called earth. It's all amazing, and I feel it all over. I told my husband, it was like walking in a Monet painting that God had created.



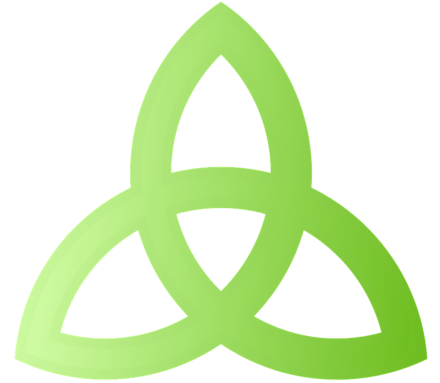
WORSHIP



June 9, 2019

“The Sixth Sense”

outdoor service



June 16, 2019

“G3: Who’s Leading Whom?”



June 23, 2019

“Fire That Never Burns”

outdoor service

A Sanctuary in the World: Outdoor Worship with People's Congregational Church

Alternate Sundays beginning June 9 - Sept. 1 @ 9:30 a.m.

People's Park, 5th Avenue N., Bayport
Bring your lawn chair or blanket and we'll provide the music, message and meaningful experience.

office@peoplescongregational.org, 651-439-5667

PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear People's Church,

On June 2, I will say my formal goodbye to you, as I preach my last sermon as your pastor. However, I also want to thank you in writing for these last four and a half years.

I began my path in ministry at a later age than most and was fortunate to step immediately into a Senior Pastor position where I served a congregation near Chicago for six and a half years. I moved back to Minnesota and have been serving our wonderful People's Congregational Church since December of 2014. And what an honor it has been. I want to thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your kindness. My heart is deeply touched when I think of how many of you have been lights in my life. It is my prayer that I have shed some light into yours.

My ministry has been to walk with you on your varying, wandering, joyful, and sometimes difficult paths. I have tried to speak and name new ways to see the Holy, as well as, lift up tried and trusted ways to open our hearts to God.

In turn, you have supported me and our church. Together we have grown the church, discovered and deepened our individual paths, have implemented more ways to reach out to others, and thoughtfully have used and redirected some of our resources.

Together, we have encouraged one another to follow the light of Christ in how we live individually and as a community of faith. We have been intentional in spreading the love of God by being advocates for the little, the lost, the least, and the last. By doing so, our path as a church has been steadily upward. I have all the confidence in the world that with God's guidance this momentum will continue.

Our church is profoundly blessed to have Rev. Toya Richards step into her role as your new Senior Pastor. Hopefully, you have felt the transition has been smooth and nearly seamless. People's Church deserves someone with her leadership and pastoral skills, and she deserves the loving and supportive congregation that you are.

Thank you, dear People's Church. I leave knowing I will miss you, yet am confident that you are in good hands. I know that you will continue to open yourselves to the guidance of the Spirit and to the love and compassion of the Holy One. I leave with my heart somewhat saddened, yet, my dear friends, my heart is full. Thank you, for all that you are and have meant in my life.

May the love and light of God continue shine brightly on each of you and People's Church,

Rev. Linda Tossey
Pastor Emeritus, People's Congregational Church

LEADERSHIP NEWS

Dear People's family,

We are a community of faith striving to live the People's Congregational Church vision. And as kindred, from time to time we need to share information on our financial wellbeing.

We have much to be thankful for, including the consistent generosity of members over our 100-year history. Currently 39 households regularly contribute monetarily to our work, which leaves a large footprint throughout the St. Croix Valley and beyond.

In addition, we continue to stay lean in our expenses, achieved through numerous volunteer hours and in-kind services. That's the good news!

The more challenging information is the fact that our current budget and performance indicates we will end 2019 with a loss of between \$25,000-\$30,000. Necessary expenses including salaries, utilities and supplies are budgeted, but we have no provision for unexpected costs.

Compounding things is the fact that of our 39 contributing households, 25 give \$1,000 or less a year and five households contribute about 60 percent of our budget. That imbalance is unhealthy.

So, here's what we need from you.

We ask that you consider increasing your current giving amount as soon as possible, and that you maintain that increased amount into 2020. Pledges or Sunday offering gifts are welcomed and encouraged. Our move to electronic giving also makes it easy to have your offering deducted directly from your account, regardless of if you're present on Sunday.

If increasing your financial gift is simply not feasible, then we ask that you join the effort in spirit. Every action – tangible and intangible – and has worth and value.

We have no doubt People's Church will weather this current financial challenge, but we need re-doubled efforts from each household in order for us to continue being a blessing for at least another 100 years. Thank you in advance!

The Leadership Team Finance Committee

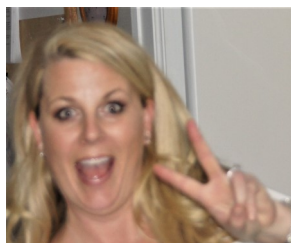
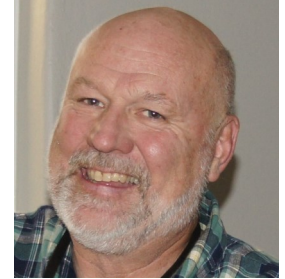
The NACCC leadership team is planning 15 remarkably interesting workshops for the Annual Meeting and Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. One of the highlights will be hearing Rev. Charles (Chuck) Warnock whose timely message, "The Promising Future of Small Churches" can be helpful to all NACCC churches regardless of size. Come hear how churches have a future when they become engaged with their community. 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.

For more information go to: naccc.org/2019-amc-information.html. Contact the leadership team if you are interested in being an alternate delegate.



LIFE AT PEOPLE'S

EASTER 2019



MISSIONS

It's a Wrap!

Looking Back at the The "Who is My Neighbor?" Film Series

The Love Your Neighbor Team "Who is My Neighbor?" film series concluded on May 3, and we want to thank all of you who came to a film, supported us with a subscription, or invited your friends and neighbors to attend a screening.

Through an independent feature film, a first effort by a local community activist, and an acclaimed documentary, the series offered unique explorations of issues related to the neighbors who are the focus of our work as a team - neighbors who are ignored, avoided or simply unseen, often because of the misplaced perception that they're not like "us". The films we shared revealed pain and challenge faced by these neighbors, but they also brought us cultural richness, surprising resilience, and a healthy measure of hope, too.

We looked into the lives of the Twin Cities Somali Muslim community, people of color in the land of Minnesota Nice, and inspiring and talented prison writers right here in Bayport. And in our audiences, we enjoyed the company of Minnesotans of color, Muslims, Somalis, Bhai's, and people outside of our church community from Bayport, Stillwater, Roseville and Minneapolis. Our little church held a richness of neighborhood that we celebrate and hope to expand.

There are many to thank for the success of this first film series experience. Series attendants, volunteers and well-wishers within our congregation top the list, but we also owe a great debt of gratitude to the following:

Our series subscribers, whose financial contributions supported both the film series and the work of area organizations working on behalf of the neighbors whose stories were told

Writer/ director of "A Stray", Musa Syeed, for generously sharing his film and the Film Society of Minneapolis and Saint Paul for connecting us to Musa and helping to make the film available

Multimedia artist Ifrah Mansour for her warm and gracious attendance at the screening of "A Stray"

Do Good Roseville members and film makers Nyia Harris and Carolyn Halvorson for responding to tragedy by bravely entering the world of filmmaking to tell stories of discrimination in the lives of Minnesotans and for facilitating a revealing post-film conversation

The Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop for their support and insights into the inspiring world of prison writers

The Video Project for offering films like "A Place to Stand"

The gifted writers now and formerly incarcerated in the Stillwater Correctional Facility who so kindly allowed us to share their work

The Bayport Public Library for their interest in the film series and in future collaborative possibilities

All the business and other area locations who displayed our film series poster

Pastors Toya and Linda for finding time and energy in this busy spring to give their unwavering support and assistance to our efforts.

The films are over, but the stories they told of immigration, other faiths, racism and prison life are not. In truth, we could not have done this without you. Thank you!

The Love Your Neighbor Team

Mary Bjork, Walt Richey, Jenni Shaller, Claire Spilseth, and Keely Vandre

MISSIONS

PEOPLE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**PEACE COMMUNITY GARDEN 2019
PLOTS AVAILABLE - \$40 FOR THE SEASON!
CONTACT THE OFFICE 651-439-5667**

Bayport Farmers Market

Mondays
June 17 - October 14

Village Green, Downtown Bayport

2:30 - 6:30 p.m.



Thank you to the People's Church volunteers who helped out at the Food Shelf during the week of May 6. Joe and Diane Legato, Jere and Dawn Fetter, Lori Mildon, and Kris Strasburg.

Valley Outreach does more than give out food to people. The Valley Outreach board, staff and supporters work to seek solutions to the root causes of food insecurity. As their Mission Statement says, "Valley Outreach is a bridge between the crisis of the moment and the solution of the future." To learn more about Valley Outreach and to volunteer anytime go to their website www.valleyoutreachmn.org.

Thank you,
Mark and Michele Stephan



PEOPLE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

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

SENIOR PASTOR	Rev. Toya Richards, 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 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday - Thursdays
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Fridays

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Office) 651-439-5667

OFFICE E-MAIL ADDRESS: office@peoplescongregational.org

WEBSITE: www.peoplescongregational.org

Find us on  **@PCCBayport**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Summer Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship

Outdoor Service

Alternate Sundays beginning
June 9 - Sept. 1



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309 Third St N
Bayport MN 55003

June 2019 Print Newsletter