

# The Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS



## From Pastor Lisa Schrott

### Play and Pray July: Rest, Relaxation and Recharging.

*On the sixth day God finished the work that God had done, and rested on the seventh day from all the work. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.*

Genesis 2:2-3

*The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. Jesus said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.*

Mark 6:30-32

Sabbath-keeping is part of our tradition as a people of faith. The Ten Commandments mandate we set aside time for rest, reminding us that God rested on the seventh day of creation. Jesus got tired. The disciples got tired. We get tired. This July we are taking our cues from Jesus and encouraging an intentional season of rest and recharging. Our regularly scheduled committee meetings, activities, and programs will take a break for a month.

Our Sunday morning services will have a bit of a different feel to them, with time set aside for silence and contemplative practices. There will be interactive pieces so that we may engage our bodies in worship. We will fellowship together following worship. Instead of an education time, we encourage you to take time to deepen your relationship to God and to others. Walk the labyrinth on our church grounds. Visit the chapel and ponder the light of the burning bush stained glass. Invite someone to join you on a walk or for lunch. No obligations. Celebrate opportunities.

We also invite you to explore your creative side and to help us reflect on our worship themes. We will provide a word or phrase as a prompt. You are invited to engage with that prompt - through photography, art, poetry, reflection, a memory, music - however God is calling you. We will share the contributions in our worship service, website and social media. You may submit your response to include your name or you can ask that it be unattributed. If you are using published material (e.g., a quote from a book or poem, a painting you love, a snippet of a song), please include the source information so we can attribute it appropriately. The prompts for this summer are: Trees, Path, World, Wonder, Beauty, and Justice. Send your submission to me at [pastorlisa@okemospres.org](mailto:pastorlisa@okemospres.org) (standard email set-up).

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**Deadline for the August Grapevine is Monday, July 22nd**



## Preparing for Ministry: Walking Along With Jonathan Townley

It is with great joy and a deep abiding love for our connectedness as a church, we share that at its June 19th meeting, the Session of PCO voted to support Jonathan Townley, placing them under our care, as they seek enrollment as an Inquirer for Ordained Ministry in the PC(USA). Kent Workman will serve as Jonathan's Session liaison. The next step will be for Jonathan to come under care of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. They will begin seminary education at Vanderbilt Divinity School in August. We look forward to walking alongside Jonathan during this journey. We will keep you updated on Jonathan's journey, as well as ways you can support them as they seek to discern their call in ministry.

**Jonathan Townley accompanied PCO Youth to Chicago in Summer of 2023**

## PCO Members Heading to North Carolina

The **Montreat Youth Conference** draws thousands of youth every summer to the mountains of North Carolina where they have an opportunity to experience faith formation alongside other youth and adults through worship, keynote, small group, shared meals, and play.

Youth leave Montreat knowing that:

- \* Their faith matters.
- \* They are loved as they are.
- \* They are part of a broad community of faith.

PCO Youth Becca Boldrey, Lucas Meland, Maddie Pearson and adults Jennifer Gordon and Rebecca Mattern will attend the conference July 14-20 and stay in a house with a group from New Hope Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, NC. The group will be commissioned during worship on **Sunday, July 7** and we will hit the road Saturday, July 13.

You are invited to accompany the group in these ways:

**Pray:** safe travels, growing faith, experiencing nature, fun, and friendship

**Provide:**

- \* snacks for the road (it's a 10+ hour drive!)
- \* notes of encouragement for the participants

Please deliver to Rebecca Mattern and/or the church office by **Thursday, July 11**.



CHANGING THE WORLD  
CONFIRMATION FOR THE MISSIONAL CHURCH



## Information about Confirmation

Youth 8th grade and older  
**Beginning September 8, 2024**

The tradition of confirmation has long been to welcome youth into membership into the church. Often, they join and disappear.

This year's Curriculum approaches confirmation as:

- A beginning point, rather than an ending point
- Building relationships and a sense of belonging
- Confirming youth into a lifelong journey of faith formation
- Engaging the world through a lens of Christian faith

Please Contact Pastor Lisa Schrott or Rebecca Mattern for more information and to sign up!

**During Adult Education Hour on Sunday, June 23, Pastor Lisa Schrott discussed issues coming before the 2024 PC(USA) General Assembly. If you were unable to attend but would like to hear the discussion, a Zoom recording is available. Contact the church office for a link**



# Intergenerational Mission Week Report

June 10th- June 15th



What a great week of connecting, partnering, and working together!!!  
Thank you to all who worked, prayed for, and fed the team through the week:

### Youth:

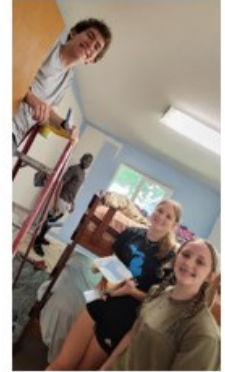
Gia Barouth  
Becca Boldrey  
Connor and Evan Haskel  
Alex Juarez  
Lucas Meland  
Maddie Pearson  
Nina and Emma Roya

### Meal Providers:

Jennifer Gordon  
Dorinda VanKempen

### Adults:

Sally Belloli  
Brett and Lynn Cone  
Dave Detrisac  
Becky Gillespie  
Jennifer Gordon  
Ellen Hoekstra  
David Horner  
Chandra and Sophia Juarez  
Deb Major  
Rebecca Mattern  
Brian McWilliams  
Christine and Roy Meland  
Juan Carlos Roya  
Jill and Tom Schaberg  
Gabrielle Shelton  
Barbara and Wayne Scott  
Dorinda and Gary VanKempen  
Kent Workman



### Tasks:

- Advent House - served shelter meal
- EVE - cleaned playground equipment, care for landscaping, cleaned and sorted clothing donations
- Michigan Refugee Hope - worked alongside residents to paint the interior of the house
- Edgewood Village - served breakfast, played bingo, weeded, picked up litter, assisted with block party
- Okemos Community Pantry - shadowed other volunteers and helped distribute food

## Youth Overnight



We burnt the palms from Palm Sunday in the center of the labyrinth as we prayed for what is broken in our world and imagined a new heaven and new earth filled with love and belonging. We also went to Meijer to purchase Simply Give Cards to support Okemos Community Pantry (and candy :).



**Special thanks** to the Deacons for providing dinner and breakfast; Trudy Sturk for organizing, Linda Cravotta and Catherine Holdway for making the deliveries, Sandy Detrisac for cookies, and Olivia Meland for joining.

**No Youth Parents' Night Out scheduled for July. Monthly meetings resume in August on the third Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. at Joe's on Jolly, 2364 Jolly Road, Okemos. (August 15, September 19, October 17, November 15)**

## Summer Pick-Up Choir

Sunday, July 21

Meet in Choir Room at 9:00 a.m.  
Chancel Choir Director Westin Sorrell  
will prepare  
the choir for the service with song.

## What *IS* Happening this Month?

As noted by Pastor Lisa on page 1, PCO aims to Play and Pray in July. Most committees and church groups will not meet; however, a few are still getting together. Below are those activities still scheduled to take place (as of this writing).

**Writing Life's Stories** on Zoom at 2:00 p.m. on **Sunday, July 7**. Zoom # 848 6124 7191; Passcode 48864

**Men's Group** on Zoom at 8:00 a.m. every week on **Tuesday**. Zoom #813 7514 8286; Passcode 48864

**Birthday Cake Sunday** following worship on Sunday, July 21. If you celebrate your birthday in July, please check the Birthday List posted on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall and add your name by Sunday, July 14 if it is not there.

**Caregiver Support Group** on Zoom at 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 24**. Zoom # 517-329-2320; Passcode hello

Watch the e-announcements and next month's Grapevine to see when groups resume regular meetings.



**Happy Independence Day!**  
**Church is closed on**  
**Thursday, July 4.**  
**Staff does not report.**



**Youth and adults take a moment to play during Intergenerational Mission Week. See page 3 for an overview of the week's activities.**

## Happy Snacking!

*Summertime* ... when we take *more* time to relax and visit with friends.

A favorite time at PCO is the fellowship hour following worship, especially as we enjoy coffee, tea, and refreshments together.

The summer sign-up sheets are posted for making coffee and providing the snacks, which are donated by our members. Would your family like to take a turn?

There are no rules! You may bring whatever you prefer, homemade or purchased in any combination, and simple is good! Ideally on each Sunday two families work together, so someone else might sign up with you, or you could invite a friend to share a Sunday.

Please sign up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall or contact Shirley Rumminger at 655-4123 or *srumming at yahoo dot com* (standard email set-up) to have your name added to the schedule or with any questions you have.



**Crumbs attract critters!**  
**If you are using the church kitchen this**  
**summer, please do a thorough clean-up.**  
**Thank you!!**

## CASS Community Social Services and PCO A Ten Year Anniversary

PCO has partnered with Cass Community Social Services in Detroit since 2014, back when I (Ellen Hoekstra) chaired the Mission Committee. At that time, the costs of PCO's renovations didn't allow the committee budget to include mission trips to other states, let alone other countries.

Therefore, the committee looked at in-state options for a weekend mission trip, including two suggested by Rev. Alice Townley. One was in Benton Harbor and the other—Cass—was in Detroit. (Alice had met Cass's executive director, Rev. Faith Fowler, a couple of times but did not know her well, despite their Methodist connection). The committee agreed on Cass for several reasons. Its overnight fees were lower, it was a shorter drive, and at that time, the city of Detroit was frequently in the press because of its bankruptcy proceedings.

Over our decade of partnership, we've made one or two mission trips per year, attended "Cass" events when they were in mid-Michigan, and welcomed them to our annual Alternative Christmas Market. Our biggest assist may have been after U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) didn't renew funding for Mom's Place, a program that provided shelter and programming for women with health problems and with young children. With PCO's assistance, state officials attended a site visit resulting in a state grant that bridged a six-month gap while Cass secured other funding.

After our first year, we asked for a one- or two-day project that we could plan and implement, rather than moving through a series of activities. We can be particularly proud of PCO's work in the building providing day programs Monday through Friday for adults with developmental disabilities. With our improvements, Cass received a facility rating in the mid-90's in their audit, and their grant was renewed. Some years, a PCO advance team makes a preliminary planning trip, and others, a few members return to finish a project. One year, the youth participating became so excited about mission work that they proposed and implemented a youth mission trip to the UP on a Habitat for Humanity project.

Cass Community Social Services, a non-profit initiated by Cass United Methodist Church, has 100 employees, and is blessed with 5000 volunteers every year. This agency provides food, shelter, medical care, and employment assistance. Food services include serving 700,000 meals a year, with help from their Freight Farm, a hydroponic garden inside a 320 square foot shipping container. Their Tiny Homes—a rent to own program—have received national publicity but they also have a residential shelter for homeless men with HIV/AIDS, a warming shelter, and more. Wayne State University physicians and medical students staff a free medical clinic. Employment services include work in their Green Industries program, recycling discarded tires into mud mats and glass into coasters. Such programs allow adults with developmental disabilities the dignity of earning income and provide gateway jobs for people who've returned to the community after incarceration.

Our annual mission trip to Cass will be taking place **Saturday, September 14**. Adults and middle school and high school youth are welcome. Upper elementary kids are also welcome **if** accompanied by a parent or other adult family member. Sign-up sheets will be available soon. As always, members who want to support this trip in other ways can bring food for our on-site Saturday lunch and pray for PCO's volunteers as well as for Cass's staff and the people they serve.



### Notebooks needed for CISM

Communities in Schools Michigan (CISM) received a generous donation of backpacks for the students they serve in Ingham County. They are now seeking items needed to fill the backpacks. Beginning **July 21 and running through August 11**, the Mission Committee hopes to collect **500 college-ruled spiral notebooks**—the kind that are narrowly ruled. Please consider donating some notebooks in the marked bin.



## Okemos Community Food Pantry

During Intergenerational Mission Week, on Wed., June 12<sup>th</sup>, several members of PCO including mission committee members and youth, volunteered to work and find out about this vital community resource located inside Okemos Community Church (OCC) .

The Okemos Community Food Pantry is open to serve clients on Wednesdays. Those served must live in the 48864 zip code and schedule an appointment to visit the pantry. They are allowed one visit a month, and during that visit are given lots of food options and personal care items, by community volunteers and OCC staff members.

PCO has donated to this food pantry for several years by generously placing food in the grocery cart located in Fellowship Hall or cash donated either personally or generated from church proceeds.

While visiting the Okemos Community Food Pantry, our volunteers were made aware of another way that PCO can donate, this being the 'Simply Give' campaign sponsored by Meijer of Okemos. Customers can purchase a food only gift-card at the checkout for \$10.00. The card goes to the food pantry to be distributed.

Meijer also specifies dates, called Meijer *Simply Give Double Dates*, which double the value of the cards. This will occur on **August 17<sup>th</sup>** and **September 14<sup>th</sup>**.

The *Simply Give* program runs year round to help the Food Pantries remain stocked and allows them flexibility to use funds for items best suited for families such as baby food, formula, diapers, and wipes. So next time you decide to donate to the local food pantry possibly think about the Simply Give program available through your local Meijer.

Whatever donation you decide – cash, food, or a simply give card – the need is great.

Thank you for giving!

**Becky Gillespie, Mission Committee**



## Policy Report By Ellen Hoekstra

As mentioned last month, state legislators are currently focused on the budget, with a goal of finishing the education portion before the July 4 holiday so that schools and colleges can plan for the next school year. The budgets funding various state departments, such as the Department of Health and Human Services (DCHS), are expected to be completed before October 1, the start of the next fiscal year. Budget finalization will be eased somewhat because current revenue projections are now higher than previously expected.

In federal news benefitting Michigan, twenty-eight Michigan districts will receive part of \$24 million in federal rebates to purchase electric buses, part of an effort to eliminate diesel buses that harm the environment and pose a threat to children's health. In our area, Lansing Public Schools is one of the major beneficiaries.

In state news:

- Some Michigan cities, including Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, are taking steps to limit homeless people's ability to camp in public places, to panhandle and more. At this time, the US Supreme Court is considering a case that may allow local governments to fully ban camps of homeless people. In 2022, Michigan's homeless population grew to about 32,500 people in 2022, up by 2500 from 2021.
- Michigan's public defender program has moved from being a cautionary tale to a national model, thanks to substantial increases in funding, strict standards, and a system that is flexible for varying county sizes. Defense teams now include social workers and investigators. Note that public defenders help indigent clients accused of **crimes**. Indigent people who need assistance with **civil** matters are served by legal service attorneys, organized in Michigan mainly on a geographical basis.
- The organization seeking to rescind the law giving the state permitting authority over wind and solar farms will not meet the deadline to make the November ballot.
- SB 27, sponsored by Sen. Sarah Anthony (Lansing), has been signed into law. This new law requires "mental health parity"—in other words, it mandates that insurers cannot have more stringent standards and limitations for mental health and substance abuse treatment than they do for physical health. PCO was represented at a Methodist-led day at the Capitol in support of this legislation.
- MDHHS highlighted the success of the 988 Suicide and Crisis hotline last month. Director Elizabeth Hertel said that Michigan's 988 hotline receives as many as 8000 calls per month, with an average speed of answer of 17 seconds. In March of 2024, our state received the seventh highest volume of 988 calls in the country with 8845 calls. Nationally, CDC reports that in 2021, 9% of high school students attempted suicide at least once.

## BOOK NOOK

*By Ron Dorr*

### A History of Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine:

More than 50 years of progress, 1970-2022

By Jan Krehbiel and Fred Derksen

Jan Krehbiel and Fred Derksen's history of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University from 1970 to 2022 is the most attractive, appealing, and people-oriented institutional history that I have ever read.

Start with the cover of the 292-page book. Thirteen photographs include 18 people, eight animals, two major buildings, the veterinary medicine campus, and one 3-cent stamp. All but two pictures are in color.

Dan LeBlanc was the excellent project manager. The graphic design and layout by Kelly Sandula-Gruner are splendid. Pages glisten. Few of the first 238 pages of text are missing a photo, floor plan, map, graph, or chart. Members of P. C. O. will recognize Jan, Jack Harkema, Bill Horne, Ed Mather, Dwight and Wilma Schwartz (in photos) as well as Ewen Todd and David Morrow (in the text). Eight caricatures drawn by Harkema are brilliant.

The dedication is a beautiful tribute, written in love and gratitude, to the College of Veterinary Medicine family. It includes faculty, staff, administrators, students, donors, and friends of the College—even “our animal patients” and other “generous animal lovers.” The dedication also reveals the tone, purpose, subject matter, and thesis of the book. Each chapter adds a new component of evidence for the thesis.

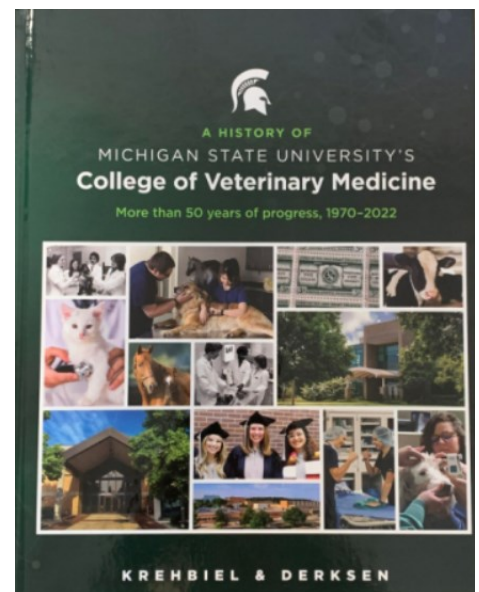
The tone of this work is impressive. It is positive, affirming, personal in its own way, and filled with reciprocal gratitude. Jan and Fred want to remember and honor “the individuals who made the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University so successful over the last half century.”

During those 50 years, C. V. M. has benefited from imaginative visionaries, excellent leaders, passionate teachers and students, extraordinary researchers, and humane supportive staff. Funding for these people, their work, and their buildings has come from M. S. U., the state legislature, federal government, foundations, alumni, donors, and other friends of the College. Disasters such as the PBB contamination of animal feed in the 1970s, COVID pandemic in the 2020s, and two recessions in between have prompted the College to adapt and adjust.

Evidence of such stunning success comes in persuasive propositions, specific examples, and telling facts. In 2018, M. S. U.'s College of Veterinary Medicine was ranked no. 1 among Big Ten universities, no. 5 in the U. S., and no. 11 in the world. The Veterinary Technology, or Nursing program “became a flagship model for other national programs.” “MSU's Mary Anne McPhail Equine Performance Center is the premier dressage performance center in the world.” The Learning and Assessment Center in Fee Hall may be unique, in which four colleges—Nursing and Human, Osteopathic, and Veterinary Medicine—collaborate to simulate non-threatening learning that precedes actual clinical practice.

No other college of veterinary medicine can match Michigan State's in the number of endowed chairs, which increased from 1 in 1985 to 15 in 2022. The number of cases of Guinea worm diseases tumbled from 3.5 million in 1986 to 126 in 2014. In 2022, C. V. M.'s diagnostic laboratory had “the highest accession numbers of any laboratory in the U. S. and runs more than one million diagnostic tests annually.” Photographs show startling changes: in the 1970s, white males predominated; in 2022, women greatly outnumbered men. Minorities have increased among both faculty and students.

In the final analysis, people and their stories shine in this book: Barbara Knust and Erica Ward—two students who benefited greatly from their experiences overseas; Pat LeBlanc—who adapted *Jeopardy* to enhance his teaching prowess; David Ellis—who instructed students well on the farm and mentored younger colleagues well at McDonald's; Del Franklin Bennett—who lived without electricity because he didn't want to cut down any trees on the farm; Fred Born—a veterinarian who drew exquisite portraits of animals' anatomy; Hilda Mejia Abreu—a vivacious associate dean who led efforts to diversify the College's students; Birgit Puschner—who navigated the College through the Covid pandemic; and Kimberly Dodd, now the 13th Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, who will build on the exemplary work in veterinary health and healing of stewards such as Jan Krehbiel and Fred Derksen.



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**Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M.**

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