



## Self Development of People Sunday

In Matthew 25, Jesus asks his disciples the profound question "where have you seen me?" In doing so, Jesus makes a statement about the importance of being able to see that God has a preferential option and redeeming love for the poor. As disciples of Jesus Christ, Matthew 25 also shows us that we are implored to recognize that Jesus' ministry was one of anti-poverty in which he promoted justice, encouraged the building of relationships and established economic equity. These are also the pillars on which Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) stand. On **April 7<sup>th</sup>** we celebrate Self Development of People Sunday as part of our One Great Hour of Sharing collection. Below is one of several stories of God in action.

### **Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People partners with Detroit youth collective**

Stitching up Detroit is a youth-run screen print and graphic design collective that helps provide a source of income to students. The project does live screen printing events. Project members developed workshops for the Detroit-based nonprofit Alternatives For Girls and four Detroit public schools, which resulted in participants each printing their own designs on T-shirts.

**FACT Stitching up Detroit includes a one-year training program for middle and high school students in graphic design, textile design and screen printing. After completing the training program, young people are able to receive FACT apprenticeships with the Stitching up Detroit Cooperative.**

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## A Posting from the Pastor

Once again, we find ourselves in the 'almost' position: winter is *almost* over (officially its been spring for more than a week now), spring is *almost* here. Lent is *almost* finished (though we have three weeks left), Easter is *almost* here. I'm taking my snow tires off this week; others will wait until the threat of snow is completely gone. Gardeners can't wait to get their hands in the soil; snow shovels won't be retired just yet. Only X number of days of denying yourself whatever has been given up for Lent; the Easter Egg hunt has the team of helpers cruising toward the celebration of the Son rise.

In WELLSPRINGS, a book of guided meditations by Anthony de Mello, a Jesuit priest, includes one called 'The Redemption'. He asks: *What does it mean to be truly alive?* Over the next two pages, he answers that question in a rather simple (though not simplistic) way. *One thing is certain: to be fully alive involves the renunciation of one's past and one's future.* He addresses his reasons by describing how each of these practices rob us of life.

*I therefore let go of my yesterdays, my propensity for living in the past. One way of living in the past is holding on to grievances...I make a list of people I resent, offering each an amnesty. The absolution will not come if I feel they alone are guilty, I am blameless. I must see myself as being co-responsible...He/She was an instrument used by God to bring me grace, as Judas was an instrument used by God to bring grace to humanity and Jesus Christ.*

*If I mean to give up living in the past, I must drop regrets as cleanly as I drop resentments. What I tend to look upon as loss ... I must learn to see as blessings. For in the dance of life all things cooperate to do us good. Having let go of resentments and regrets I also let go of my good experiences which, like worldly goods, can be accumulated – and if I cling to them, I shall once again be living in the past.*

*I have let go of my yesterdays. I have still to dispossess myself of my tomorrows...So I renounce my greed and all ambition to acquire, to achieve, to become somebody in the future. Life is not tomorrow, life is now. I push them all away. A blessed relief, for when I drop my greed, I drop my bondage to anxiety and am freed to be alive.*

*I come into the present to experience life as it is now, for eternal life is now, eternal life is here: I listen to the sounds around me...I become aware of my breathing in and out and of my body so as to be as fully present as I can.*

In the days of this month, this Lent, this spring, this Easter, God invites us not to be *almost* people, people possessed by the past, people poised to find tomorrow's treasure. *This is the moment that matters most.* See what a difference this can make, for it will surely slow us down to the speed of now; or as the Psalmist proclaimed: ***This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

See you in church!

Pastor Steve

## Maundy Thursday Service

In the absence of our own Good Friday service and a sunrise worship on Easter, Maundy Thursday becomes even more meaningful. It lends itself to participation and so we will gather – not in the sanctuary – but in Fellowship Hall. Tables have been set up for us to take part in the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his arrest, trial and execution. We will try to be in the room *with them*, sharing snacks of grapes, crackers, cheese and sparkling grape juice (and water). We'll move through John's reporting of the Upper Room, with singing and prayer and the words of Jesus.

Part of the reason for meeting downstairs is to make use of the stage. We will be visited by a guest from that long-ago night, giving us more to ponder as we come to the three most difficult and celebratory days in the calendar.

Due to the nature of the service, we ask only adults and teens to attend. We begin at 7pm.

## Egg Hunt

We are looking for volunteers as we prepare for this year's egg hunt on **Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm**. We will need egg hiders and group leaders the day of the hunt. If you are able to help **in any way** please contact the office. We had a great turnout last year with lots of smiling faces. This event is a great way to reach our community and is sure to be another egg citing event!

## Family Banquet

It has been called many things and evolved over the years but one thing that hasn't changed is the fellowship and the FOOD! We are taking reservations for our Family Banquet **Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm**! Everyone is invited to attend that includes men, aunts and uncles, grandparents, children and teens! Early reservations are greatly appreciated for food preparation purposes. Entertainment this year is Bob Eyer. The event will be free but donations will be accepted if you choose to do so. Please call, email, or mail the church office with your reservation today!

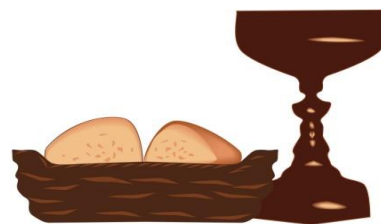
## The Next Generation Rises

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."*  
1 Tim. 4:12

The Lord created every living being on this world to flourish—to be fruitful and multiply. For millennia, humanity has benefitted from the beauty of this world, the produce from our fields, and the abundance of our seas. As we face the reality of our world today, we must consider what kind of world we want to leave to those who come after us: What are we passing on to children who are who are just now being born and growing up? Children, with their energy, their creative spirit, and their love for all of God's world, are showing us the way toward a future of hope.

## Girl Scout Craft Fair

The Girl Scouts are hosting a craft fair/yard sale **Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>** here at the church from 11am-3pm. There is still room for vendors and anyone looking to setup yard sale space. Vendors are \$25 and yard sale space is \$10. Proceeds benefit the troop. If you would like a space please call Rebecca at 317-4930. Make sure to stop by and check things out!



### Communion Dates 2019

April 18  
April 21  
June 9  
July 28  
October 6  
November 3  
December 1  
December 24



### Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>

Church cleanup and egg hunt

### Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>

Palm Sunday skit during worship

### Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>

Soup kitchen at the Salvation Army



### April Birthdays

Tim Kelchner	4/1
Fran Kirchdoerfer	4/1
Robbie DAngelo	4/2
John DAngelo	4/18
Kenneth Marshman	4/20
Walter Hause	4/29

**Happy Birthday!**

## April Assistants

### April 7

**Greeters:** Walter & Alison Hause  
**Ushers:** Dave Force, Kevin White  
**Assisting Elder:** Jim Ross  
**Acolyte:** Emma Botto

### Palm Sunday April 14

**Greeters:** Janice Moskaluk  
**Ushers:** Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu  
**Assisting Elder:** Joan Thomas  
**Acolyte:** Aaliyah DAngelo

### Easter April 21

**Greeters:** Youth group  
**Ushers:** Keith Botto, Emma Botto, Leighton Force, Robbie DAngelo  
**Assisting Elder:** Barb Huntington  
**Acolyte:** Morgan West

### April 28

**Greeters:** Jim & Carol Ross  
**Ushers:** Steve Hiller, Jim Ross  
**Assisting Elder:** Eugeniu Grigorescu  
**Acolyte:** Tyrone Birt

**Deacon Visitor for April:** Ernie & Joan Botto

**Have a wonderful month with family and friends!**

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**Worship service 10:15am**

**Sunday school for all ages during worship**

**Nursery available**

