



# Portal

## NOVEMBER 2022

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Senior Pastor

### ON MY MIND: GRATEFUL

John Pavlovitz delivered the annual Henry and Annabelle Larzelere lecture recently and, if you didn't hear it, I highly recommend it. At the end of his remarks, he offered three wise suggestions for self-care in tough times: Use social media sparingly and only to perpetuate goodness and speak truth; root yourself in community because being with other people can heal us; and cultivate gratitude and nurture hope like a gardener. I particularly liked his last suggestion to focus on gratitude and hope. So I am writing to you to offer my gratitude.

I am grateful for all of you who come to church on Wednesday nights for dinner. Our meal has become an outreach to our "outdoor" neighbors, and it warms my heart to see church members intentionally having dinner and talking with people who often get overlooked and ignored in our society.

I am grateful that we had Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell as our Associate Pastor for a year. She brought a refreshing energy and openness to The Peoples Church and we are better for it. I am also grateful to the people who have agreed to serve on the search committee to find our next Associate Pastor. I am grateful for the members of Campus Ministry who have taken on the work of keeping the program going while we search for a new Associate. I am grateful for the volunteers who have stepped up to keep our Adult Education programs going.

I am grateful for the new faces I see in church and the warm welcome you extend to them. I am grateful for all the people who are returning to church in person. I am grateful for the hundreds who watch online. I am grateful for the leadership that has brought monthly Taizé services to Peoples Church. I am grateful for the patient work of staff and parents who are organizing the children's Christmas pageant for December. I am grateful for every person who parks far away from church on a Sunday and leaves the parking lot for our older members and visitors. I am grateful for the new Elders and all the people who have stepped into positions of leadership.

I am grateful for our exceptional staff. Zack Matthews, Jess Beurkens, Zoe Aho, Beth Lundy, Vince Watson, Travis Nagler, Kathi Mitchell, Elisha Smith, Ally Szeles, Chris Kaminski, Judy Kabodian, Jonathan Reed, and Liz Reed are the reason this church continues to thrive – to say nothing of our preschool administrative team and teachers. We are so blessed!

I could go on and on, which is how gratitude works. Once you start counting your blessings, your cup will overflow. Mostly though, I am grateful for The Peoples Church – who we are and all we do to spread God's love in the world. From this well of gratitude comes my hope: my hope that we will continue to be the kind of church that makes the world better when times are tough.

Yours with faith and gratitude,

*Shawnthea Monroe*

## PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP



Hello PCYG Students and Families!

October was a great month! I love seeing the way you care about one another and the community. We did some awesome work with the Community Engagement Committee and I'm very proud of the effort you put into finding a meaningful way to connect with the greater community. We also participated in Coffee & Canvas with the Campus Ministry crew. It was wonderful to collaborate with a wider circle and to see what amazing artists you all are.

November is a very busy month! Saturday November 5th, is an **All-Church Game Night!** We will be in the Social Hall from 5:00-8:00 p.m., and there will not be PCYG on the 6th. **Youth Sunday** is November 20th! Youth Choir and Coppertones will be performing. We will have regular PCYG on both the 13th and 27th.

If you have any questions, or know any students who would like to be involved with PCYG, please reach out to me!

Joyfully,  
*Elisha Smith*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our Sunday School classes are growing! That is exciting for me, our staff, teachers, and students! We love making new friends!

We started our year 'in the beginning' and are now working through Genesis and Numbers. We are very thankful for all of our teachers who have volunteered to keep three Sunday School classes going each week!

I'm excited family events are back! I hope you can join us for **All Church Game Night** on Saturday, November 5th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the Snider Social Hall. Our last one (three years ago) was a great success with all ages coming together to play games and make new friendships. We'll be playing everything from Candyland to euchre. Snacks and dinner provided. Please register [here](#).

Mrs. Reed and I are thrilled that our children are preparing for a live **Christmas Pageant** on December 11th. The kids are so sweet as they rehearse to entertain you for "Out Standing in Their Field". We will have our traditional cookie party after the performance. If you would like to donate baked goods for everyone to enjoy, please contact me at [kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com). The cookie party is always a lot of fun and we welcome everyone who wants to congratulate our cast on a job well done!

Peace,  
*Kathi Mitchell*

## Family Game Night



## PEOPLES CHURCH PRESCHOOL

The seasonal changes in the fall fill our nature curriculum to the brim! The children have taken advantage of the exceptionally beautiful fall by collecting leaves and creating graphs about what colors they can find the most. The classrooms are using pumpkin scented playdough, baking apples, and having lots of pumpkin anatomy experiences! Our 4-year-old classroom studied Michigan's Little Brown Bat at the end of October, learning about how beneficial bats are to people as well as the fun of echolocation.

The Preschool Community is also so excited that we have welcomed back family events to our schedule. In September, we shared a meal at our Celebrating Families Potluck at Patriarch Park! For this event, families were asked to bring a dish to pass that represents their family's culture. We then collected as many recipes as we could and shared them with everyone. At the end of October, we celebrated with a Fall Family Fun Night. For this event, families and staff were encouraged to dress in costume. Children gave their parents a tour of their classroom and the school, and then participated in a fun activity in each room, followed by a trick-or-treat!



## MISSION SPOTLIGHT

**HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET PROGRAM:** The Holiday Food Basket Program has been in existence since the beginnings of The Peoples Church. It has been through many changes over the decades, but remains an outstanding program that reflects the generosity of the congregation. The program currently cooperates with Christian Services, which has a long-standing outreach and vetting program of needy families in the Greater Lansing area. This year, The Peoples Church will provide festive meals to 30 families and members, feeding up to 120 individuals.

In the weeks before delivery, The Holiday Food Basket Committee contacts the families through a personal telephone call. A post card is also sent through the mail reminding the family that they will be receiving a food basket donated by The Peoples Church for their holiday meals. A committee member then shops for ingredients found in traditional holiday meals, with an emphasis on fresh foods. The Friday night before delivery, grocer staff packs each food basket in preparation for Church volunteers to deliver to families the Saturday morning before the holiday from 9 a.m. to 11a.m. The Holiday Food Basket Committee has never been disappointed with the overwhelming response to the volunteer help with deliveries.

**HURRICANE SUPPORT:** The Community Engagement Ministry at its October meeting chose to donate \$3,000 to the United Church of Christ's Hurricane Support (Fiona and Ian). If you're interested in also donating to this fund, you may send your check to *United Church of Christ, PO Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194*. Please add in the memo "*Hurricane Fund 2022*".

## EDGEWOOD VILLAGE

Share the Christmas joy by providing a gift for a child at Edgewood Village, here in our local community. If you would like to purchase a gift, please contact church member Emily Anderson via e-mail at [anderson2910@icloud.com](mailto:anderson2910@icloud.com) or by phone at 517-648-0632. She will provide you with all the information you will need: gender and age of the child, item the child wishes and details for delivering the gift. If you would simply like to financially support this activity, that is an option too, please contact Emily.





**NICK KRIEDER, KATIE BETHEL & JUDY KABODIAN**

*Saturday, November 5th*

Please join us for a free concert in the sanctuary on Saturday, November 5th at 4:00 p.m. featuring Nick Kreider, baritone, and his wife, Katie Bethel, soprano. They will be accompanied by Judy Kabodian. The program will include music by Handel, Vaughan Williams, Barber and Floyd. Nick holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in vocal performance from MSU. He has sung with Caramoor, Opera Colorado, and Crested Butte Opera. He was the bass section leader at Peoples from 2013-2017 and is currently our tenor section leader. Katie holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in vocal performance from MSU and is currently the Assistant Director of Development for the MSU College of Music. **Please join us in person, or over YouTube Live-stream** (<https://www.youtube.com/c/ThePeoplesChurchofEastLansing>) for an afternoon of beautiful song!

**MSU HOLIDAY BRASS CONCERT**

*Tuesday, December 6th*

The Fine Arts Committee is pleased to invite you to attend the MSU Holiday Brass Concert on Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This holiday tradition returns after a three-year hiatus due to Covid. It features the top brass students in the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior and Graduate classes at Michigan State University, as well members of the faculty. Following performances by each of the individual classes, all the musicians join together to close out the concert with rousing renditions of familiar Christmas songs.

During intermission, attendees are invited to join friends in Friendship Hall for refreshments provided by the Fine Arts Committee.

Bring the family and invite your friends. The MSU Holiday Brass Concert is free and open to the public. It is a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas Season!



**MUSIC SUNDAY**

Music Sunday will be *December 4th* during the 10:30 worship service. The sanctuary choir will be performing Vivaldi's Gloria with orchestra. Please join us as we lift our voices in song!

**EARTH STEWARDSHIP**

**Reminder about Styrofoam Recycling!**

While most communities do not include Styrofoam (polystyrene #6) in their curbside recycling, there are several places to drop it off in the Greater Lansing Area. Nearby locations include the Meridian Township Recycling Center at 5976 E. Lake Drive in Haslett and the City of East Lansing Department of Public Works 1800 E. State Road (State and Coolidge). Dart Container in Mason has over 40 drop off locations in 30 counties. Nearby areas include; Williamston Twp 4990 Zimmer Rd, in Charlotte – Eaton Co Recycling Center 201 Hall St, and at the Dart facility in Mason located at 432 Hogsback Rd. To find out more about where to recycle materials, check the website for the Regional Recycling Coordinating Committee at [www.Michrecycles.org](http://www.Michrecycles.org). To get involved in the Earth Stewardship Team, contact the co-chairs Susan Kilmer or Bill Nash.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF THE WOMEN OF PEOPLES CHURCH

The Women of Peoples Church has supported women of the church since its inception in 1908 as the Women's Society. As women who share a common faith in the Lord, the Women of Peoples Church have come together for 114 years to demonstrate His love in all areas of life and to grow in Christian faith and responsibility through study, prayer, and service. Since its inception, we have built a wonderful legacy of community service, spiritual growth, and fellowship.

However, recent circumstances have made it difficult to fulfill our mission. The Covid pandemic the changing needs of our members have caused significant problems. Among them:

- We have been unable to recruit board members for the last couple of years, making it difficult to transact the required business.
- Attendance at Circle meetings has dropped significantly.
- Arranging the annual events that are so important to us, such as the Advent Celebration, Strawberry Brunch, and the Jewelry Sale, has become increasingly difficult without the support of a strong cadre of volunteers and a complete board.

In an effort to determine how WPC could better serve its members, we conducted a membership survey in April 2019. The results of that survey led us to make changes to our programming. That helped a bit, but the onset of Covid was a difficult time for our church as a whole and WPC in particular. When we resumed our post-pandemic activities, things did not return to the level we hoped for and recruiting new volunteers became very difficult. So, this past August we organized a strategic planning workshop to try and plan for the future. Participants included current and former WPC board members, past-presidents and members of the pastoral staff. The outcome of those discussions led to the sad realization that it was time to disband Women of Peoples Church.

We will be presenting a detailed proposal that will explain in greater detail how this process will work during the WPC annual business meeting, held at the Advent Celebration on December 11th. Membership will be asked to vote on disbandment and recommend disbursement of our remaining funds. We hope you understand this decision and will join us for what we hope will also be a joyful celebration of legacy of this wonderful organization.

**Cheryl Leece, WPC President**





Worship Ministry invites all church members to help create new sanctuary banners. The goal is to make origami peace crane chains, in colors that mirror our beautiful stained glass window.

**Origami lessons will be Sunday, November 6, following the 10:30 worship service in the Rotunda Room, and Wednesday, November 9, following the 5:30 meal in the Centennial Room.** Abby Barr, assisted by Bev Mason, will teach us the ins-and-outs of this craft.

*Why peace cranes?* Sadako Sasaki was two years old when she survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, although she soon developed leukemia. In the ten years she lived, she began to fold origami paper cranes – symbols of peace. In a few short weeks, the season of Advent will be upon us. As that time begins to enfold us, let us fold 1000 cranes to honor the one we call Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Announcing the first

### **John Wales Memorial Lecture**

*Tuesday, November 22nd at 5 p.m. in the Robertson Room*

John and his wife, Carrie, were longstanding members of The Peoples Church and active community members. John passed away in June 2020 after making a bequest to The Friends of East Lansing Seniors for the purposes of enhancing the lives of senior citizens in our town. These funds are used to help support AgeAlive's Town & Gown series, a collaboration among MSU, Prime Time, and Great Decisions, which provide regular opportunities for Michigan State students and community seniors to learn about the leading-edge research being carried at MSU. John was dedicated to conservation, and so these annual talks will address different aspects of environmental threat and protection.

We are thrilled that the first John Wales Memorial Lecture will be given by **Dr. Ethan J. Theuerkauf**, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences. Theuerkauf will speak about his exciting research on how and why coastal landscapes, such as beaches, barrier islands, and wetlands, change across timescales ranging from months to millennia. We hope you can join us for this exciting lecture, followed by a short reception. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Mary Anne Larzelere at [malarz@aol.com](mailto:malarz@aol.com).

### **REMEMBRANCE OF REV. RICHARD CAMPBELL DEVOR**



Former senior pastor of The Peoples Church, the Rev. Richard C. Devor, Ph.D., died in his home in York, Maine, on September 20, 2022. His commitment to social justice was evidenced in countless marches, protests, and leadership efforts to improve the lives of all people. Students, parishioners, friends and family found in him a friend like no other, offering humor, wisdom, and extravagant kindness.

## 2022 ADVENT CELEBRATION

**December 11th, 2022**

**11:45 to 1:00 p.m.  
Snider Social Hall**

Join the Women of Peoples Church for a special gathering celebrating the coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We will enjoy a delicious brunch, fellowship, music and more.

Our featured speaker will be The Peoples Church's beloved Mary West, who will speak on the topic: *A Word to the Wise*. Her presentation will focus on "practical wisdom," primarily wisdom that comes with age. Mary spoke on this subject at a meeting of the Lansing Woman's Club last January, where she received rave reviews.

We hope you can be with us on this special day. All ages are welcome. Tickets are \$10 per person; children under 8 are free. We will begin taking reservations on November 13th, following the 10:30 a.m. church service. Watch for the reservation table set up near the Welcome Desk. Please contact Susan Nowicki, Event Chair, at [susan.nowick@att.net](mailto:susan.nowick@att.net) or 847-651-0192 for more information or with questions.



### READING PEOPLE

Reading People will meet November 17th at 1:30p.m. in the Robertson Room to discuss *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley. Our discussion leader is Margie Steinkamp.

## November Birthdays

80 and over

**Margaret Bates**

**Sal DiFranco**

**Ellie Goff**

**Kenneth Hanson**

**Shelby Hollister**

**Chet Lewis**

**Gretchen Rosenbrook**

**Ronald Uken**

**Lana Wagner**

**Clifford Weil**

*If we have missed you, we apologize.*

*Please contact the office to make sure we have your correct information on file.*



### DORCAS CIRCLE MEETING

The Dorcas Circle is scheduled to meet at Coral Gables on November 15th at 7 p.m. We hope to see you there!

## Special Greeting Card Project Lets Kids Help Kids

Through an innovative new project, the children of the TPC Sunday School have used their artistic talents to help create a special collection of greeting cards that will be sold to benefit non-profit organizations that serve youngsters in need. This project grew out of a collaboration between the Christian Education Ministry and the Fine Arts Committee.

There will be a Christmas card collection with several designs and an All Occasion set featuring birthday, sympathy, get well cards, and more. The cards offer one-of-kind designs not available elsewhere, with the added benefit of supporting two deserving child-focused organizations:

- Ele's Place: A Michigan-based healing center for grieving children, teens, young adults, and their families. Their peer-to-peer bereavement support groups help hundreds learn to cope and begin to heal after the death of a parent, sibling, or someone close to them.
- The Nyaka Orphan AIDS project: Part of a community in Southwestern Uganda that provides comprehensive care for vulnerable children.

The cards will be sold in packs of 18 at a cost of \$20 per pack. They will be available for purchase beginning mid-November at Coffee Hour, through the church office, or at the Advent Celebration on December 11th. Contact Kathi Mitchell, Children's Christian Education with questions.



**NOVEMBER 2022 PORTAL**

ThePeoplesChurch.com

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