



Portal

September 2023

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe,

Senior Pastor

Rev. Haley Hansen,

Associate Pastor

ON MY MIND

Too Many Plates?

Ministry is like plate spinning. If you've been to a circus, you know what I'm talking about. It's the act where the guy spins plates on sticks, balancing one after the other, until there is a row of gravity-defying spinning plates. By the time he gets the last plate going, the first plate is wobbling dangerously and he has to run back and begin the whole process again. It's very exciting!

Peoples Church has many wonderful plates spinning these days. MSU is back in session and the campus ministry program is in full swing. Our ACHE (young adults) events are scheduled, the Sunday School calendar is filling up, and the youth group is back to weekly meetings. We have expanded our adult education offerings and I am planning to start our Confirmation Class in October (see inside for all the details). Add in Sunday worship, pastoral care, the developing Capital projects, and our annual Stewardship campaign, and you begin to see what I mean. There are lots of plates spinning.



Sometimes I worry that Pastor Haley and I won't be able to give everything (and everyone) the attention that's required. I imagine certain "plates" beginning to wobble and tip. How will we keep everything going?? That's where YOU can help.

Peoples Church has a wide variety of ministry and service opportunities, places where a bit of volunteer time and attention can really make a difference. Do you love working with children? You could teach Sunday school once a month. Do you like to sing? The choir is always looking for new members. Are you interested in helping the wider community? Our Community Engagement ministry needs new members to help us decide how to put our money to good use. Do you always come to church on Sundays? Perhaps you could be an occasional usher or greeter. Are you a person of faith? Well, maybe you'd like to serve as a mentor for one of our Confirmation students. Maybe you just want to find a small way to support me in my ministry. Just come to church! The more people in worship, the better it is for everyone.

I guess what I'm saying is, pick a plate! If you have some time and interest, I promise we can find a place for you to make a real difference.

The new church year starts September 10th at 10:30 AM. I am very much looking forward to seeing you there in person!

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe



FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

What is your earliest memory of money? Maybe a parent gave you some change to buy a snack at a baseball game. Maybe a family member handed you a dollar to place in an offering plate during church. Or maybe you earned a little money doing extra chores so you could save up for something special.

We each have many memories and stories about how we learned what money is, how it worked, and what it can do. We have stories about times when money made us anxious or when just the right amount of money seemingly came out of nowhere. We have stories about jobs, paychecks and saving up for big items.

Despite money's centrality in our lives, we're not all that good at talking about it. Along with politics and religion, it's one of the things we're told not to bring up at the dinner table. But what if instead of avoiding talking about money we decided to simply reframe the way we think about money? After all, money and possessions are one of the most common topics in all of scripture. Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story.

Starting Wednesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. I will lead a six-part financial wellness course called "Saving Grace." This program, which was created through the United Methodist Church, approaches saving, earning, giving, spending and debt from a Christian perspective. This is not a class on how to get rich quick nor is this a one-size-fits-all approach to finance. This program can help people no matter where they are in their lives or careers. Throughout the course, participants will learn how to create personal spending, saving, and giving plans with their religious and spiritual commitments in mind.

I truly believe that through honest conversations and remembering God's faithfulness and grace, we can shift our relationship with money. We can start to pull apart and explore some of our anxiety and move toward true financial wellness.

If you're interested in joining this class, please send me an email at hhansen@thepeopleschurch.com.

Yours in Christ,
-Haley Hansen



KICKOFF SUNDAY

Sunday, September 10
10:30 a.m.



Kickoff Sunday marks the return of our regular services, ministries, and programming. We will begin the day with our 10:30 a.m. sanctuary service, and enjoy a chicken dinner immediately following in Snider Social Hall. During mealtime, there will be an opportunity to hear from ministry and program leaders about the many ways to get involved in the life of the church.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School: Sunday school lessons in August focused mainly on different celebrations in the Bible such as the Year of Jubilee and the Festival of Booths. Students did a variety of activities from games to decorating party hats to using their imaginations to construct booths using marshmallows and spaghetti noodles. Over the summer we ran one to two classes each Sunday, but we will run three to four classes this fall.

Sunday School Teachers Needed: Sunday School is the culmination of work by many people, but especially by our volunteer Sunday School teachers who dedicate their time and energy one to two times a month to teach a lesson and lead activities. We Need more teachers! All materials—including a script—are provided!

Looking ahead: Please mark your calendars for the exciting events we have coming up!

Trunk or treat: This event will be Saturday, October 28 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the church parking lot. To make this event possible, we need trunks and treats! You can volunteer to pass out Halloween treats, donate treats or supplies, or help with games/activities. You are welcome to decorate your trunk!

Christmas Pageant & Cookie Party: Sunday, December 10. Sunday school students will perform a short play during the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 10. Our annual cookie party will follow the service.

If you are able to volunteer to help with Sunday School and/or our upcoming events, you can contact me by sending an email to ahayes-murray@thepeopleschurch.com.

Peace and Blessings,
-Alexa Hayes-Murray, Children's Education Director

PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

The Peoples Church Youth Group had an exciting summer, but we're ready for fall! We will resume our Sunday evening gatherings on Sunday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for good conversations, company, food, and games! Our youth choir will be rehearsing again beginning in September, which usually takes place before our normal Sunday evening gatherings. Email our youth choir director, Liz Reed, at lizreed@aol.com if you or your youth are interested! This is the time of the year when we welcome our incoming 6th grade students! If you know any new (or older) students who are interested in PCYG please contact me by emailing esmith@thepeopleschurch.com. Keep an eye on the church bulletin, weekly Peoples Church E-Blast, and our next Portal Newsletter for more PCYG updates, events, and announcements!

-Elisha Smith, Youth Director

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Helping Women Period is a local 501c3 non profit, founded by Lynne Tait and Amy Stephenson, to provide menstrual health products for people who are homeless or low income. These products are not covered by SNAP or any other welfare program, which leaves countless people without products many of us take for granted. In 2022, 1.14 million total items were delivered to local food pantries, schools, shelters and other outreach organizations.

The Peoples Church, through Community Engagement, is a recipient and donor of Helping Women Period. The Personal Needs Closet provides many items not provided with SNAP, including menstrual products donated by HWP, that are distributed to needy families in coordination with Christian Services. Community Engagement also supports Helping Women Period financially, thanks to our congregation's ongoing contributions. The need is great and ongoing. Their mission is well organized, heartfelt, and appreciated by many. To learn more about Helping Women Period, please visit their website www.helpingwomenperiod.org.

THE PEOPLES CHURCH 2023 WOMEN'S RETREAT

You will not want to miss this year's women's retreat at the **St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt Friday, September 22 and Saturday, September 23!** Join us for conversation, fellowship, and worship. This year's presenter is Shannon Craigo-Snell, who will lead a conversation about 'Serving God With Our Whole Selves.' The cost is \$120 single occupancy or \$105 double occupancy, which covers the program, four meals, and all accommodations. If you would like to register, or have questions about the retreat, please contact Beth Lundy by emailing blundy@thepeopleschurch.com. Scholarships are available upon request.



Shannon Craigo-Snell is a systematic Christian theologian. Since 2011, she has served as professor of theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where she teaches Masters and Doctor of Ministry students as they engage in multiple forms of ministry. Before arriving in Louisville, she was associate professor of Religious Studies at Yale University, where she taught undergraduates, masters students, and Ph.D. students. In all of her work, Shannon Craigo-Snell brings the wisdom of theology into conversation with contemporary issues so that each might teach and learn from the other. Embracing collaborative learning, she has co-authored one book with a pastor, co-authored another book with an activist, and co-authored articles with a liturgical theologian. Her areas of interest focus on feminist and Reformed theologies, theology and theater, anti-racism, and ecclesiology. Beneath these subjects is the larger need to rethink what it

means to be human together today. In 2014, Shannon Craigo-Snell was ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Since then she has been invited to teach workshops and lead worship in churches across the country.

HENRY & ANNABEL LARZELERE MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Peoples Church is hosting Kristin Kobes Du Mez for our annual Henry & Annabel Memorial Lecture on Sunday, November 12. Du Mez is a New York Times bestselling author and Professor of History and Gender Studies at Calvin University. She holds a PhD from the University of Notre Dame and her research focuses on the intersection of gender, religion, and politics. She has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, NBC News, Religion News Service, and Christianity Today, and has been interviewed on NPR, CBS, and the BBC, among other outlets. Her most recent book is 'Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation.'

Kristin will begin her time with us by giving a brief presentation during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, and then will give her full lecture, 'Jesus and John Wayne and the Evangelical Reckoning,' at 1 p.m. This free event is open to anyone who would like to attend, and all are welcome.



The Henry and Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture Series was established in 2017 to honor Henry and Annabel Larzelere's interest in continuing education on topics of international interest and theological thought. Henry and Annabel moved to East Lansing in 1938 where Henry was a new faculty member in the College of Agriculture at Michigan State University. They promptly joined The Peoples Church and became involved in the church community as well as in greater Lansing where they were active in a variety of civic activities. Henry and Annabel were world travelers who were always building bridges of hope and understanding. Our desire is that these lectures will inspire and strengthen us to serve with compassionate love as we strive to build a more just and peaceful world.

FINE ARTS COMMITTEE

The Fine Arts Committee has announced the installation of its latest exhibit, *“Where ART Thou?? –Playful Reflections on Religion and Scripture,”* by local artist and TPC member Chance Liscomb. The exhibit will be installed on September 7 and be on display throughout the halls bordering the church Sanctuary, the Kiosk in the Rotunda and Friendship Hall until December 7.

Chance is a versatile assemblage sculptor with a specialization in working with metal and wood. Along with some of his more familiar works, this show includes assemblages that highlight various messages from the Bible and provide a tongue-in-cheek look at religious ceremony, scripture and pomp and circumstance. With a range of whimsical to seriousness, the goal of the show is to inspire, contemplate, and strengthen faith through good Christian humor and folly.

In explaining the inspiration for his exhibit, Chance notes, “I love the Lord and God and the Holy Spirit completely. I love the truth and the way and the light. I know God had a grand sense of humor and to me, humor is a great tool to get people to laugh, let go and move on.

“My intentions are to have a humorous show about religion and how we see passages in the Bible and how they are interpreted and understood. My desire is to make light of things and get viewers to lighten up and laugh.

“I have thought about the concept for this exhibit for many years and am grateful for the opportunity to bring it to life here at The Peoples Church.”

Chance was born in Richmond, Virginia and grew up in the Shenandoah Valley. His parents, both artists, influenced and inspired him as a child. In 1990, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in speech communications from George Mason University. Shortly thereafter, he joined the United States Peace Corps serving in Mali, West Africa, from 1991-1993. Upon completion of his service, he returned to George Mason and earned a Master of Arts in education. In 1996, he went abroad for three years to teach art at the America School of Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain. Upon returning stateside, Chance taught high school art education while furthering his education at Virginia Commonwealth University. There he earned a Master in Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, specializing in sculpture and painting. Post-graduation, he served as an adjunct professor in art education at Lord Fairfax Community College.

Chance has exhibited his sculptures and paintings throughout the U.S. and abroad. He has created many commissioned pieces and works independently with galleries, collectors, organizations and communities throughout Michigan and Virginia.

Pick up a catalog for the exhibit across from the Welcome Desk. To learn more about Chance’s work visit his website at www.sculpturebychance.com/chance.

The exhibit was curated by Fine Arts Committee Chair Susan Nowicki and will be installed with the assistance of the artist and members of the Committee.



WEDNESDAY DINNERS ARE BACK SEPT. 13!

**Every Wednesday
at 5:30 p.m.
in the Social Hall**

Wednesdays @ Peoples Church is a community dinner followed by programming. All are welcome!



REGULAR SERVICES RESUME

In September, we are continuing our 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship services. Sept. 10 our 10:30 worship service resumes. Our 8:30 service resumes Sept. 17.

Monthly Taize services will resume Sunday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

Voices of the Community" commences again September 10 at 9:30 a.m. with an incredible speaker, Johnny Agar from Rockford, Michigan. Johnny was born with Cerebral Palsy, but has achieved many goals in his 28 years with the help of his family and "Team Agar." Johnny was featured on CBS twice within the last few months, and he and his father have been invited to compete in the Hawaiian Ironman 2024. Johnny has also written a book entitled 'The Impossible Mile: The Power of Living One Step at a Time.'

Please invite your friends and family to join us in The Robertson Room September 10 to hear about Johnny Agar's incredible story.



JOIN OUR CHOIRS!



Fall is almost here, which means it's time again for Sanctuary Choir and Clarion Ringers to begin rehearsals and Sunday performances. Whether you previously sang and rang with the choirs, or if you haven't but would like to try, you're invited to check it out! The Clarion Ringers rehearse Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., and the Sanctuary Choir rehearses Thursdays at 7 p.m. Sanctuary Choir's first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 7.

New Members Class

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 11:30 A.M.

Email blundy@thepeopleschurch.com to RSVP



Confirm, Not Conform: An Invitation to Confirmation

Dr. Monroe will lead the 2023-24 Confirmation Class on Wednesdays, beginning in October. The program will introduce students to some of the complex and fascinating aspects of the Christian faith. We will cover topics like scripture, prayer, and worship! We will explore the mysteries of The Trinity and Theodicy! We will explain why Baptists don't baptize babies and why Presbyterians love order! There will be service projects! There will be mentors! If you – or someone you love – is ready for Confirmation (8th & 9th graders preferred), please email Dr. Monroe at smonroe@thepeopleschurch.com.



THE PEOPLES
CHURCH

CAMPUS MINISTRY

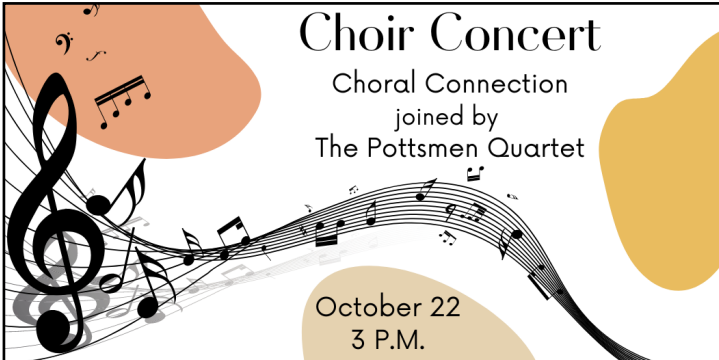
SUNDAYS | 11:30 a.m. Lunch & Lounge
Free lunch & good company.

THURSDAYS | 5 p.m. Dinner & Activities

1st Thursdays: Bible Study
2nd Thursdays: Make Space
3rd Thursdays: Book Club
4th Thursdays: Faith & Film

The Reading People

Led by Darlene Nikoloff, The Reading People will meet in the Robertson Room on Thursday, September 21, from 1:30 - 3 p.m. to discuss *The Forgotten Bookshop in Paris*, by Daisy Wood. We invite you to bring a sack lunch and join us at 1 p.m. for pre-discussion fellowship!



Choir Concert

Choral Connection
joined by
The Pottsmen Quartet

October 22
3 P.M.

THE GOOD WE DO

This summer has been a season of giving at The Peoples Church. We had our annual Undie Sunday collection to gather underwear, socks, and t-shirts for K-12 kids. TPC alone took over 2,000 packages of underclothes to Love Clothing Closet. We also collected financial donations for Maui wildfire relief, and raised \$7,600 between individual gifts and a contribution from Community Engagement. As we have been blessed, so we should bless others.

The Knitting People

The Knitting People will meet in the Robertson Room Thursday, September 28, from 1 - 3 p.m. to bless completed items and work on baby blankets, prayer shawls, slippers, hats, and mittens. We invite interested knitters and crocheters to join us to share in our ministry of creating needed items for people in our community. We have yarn and needles, and are ready to assist you in doing this good work!

NEWS FROM OUR DENOMINATIONS



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Subscribe to our denominations' newsletters:

- www.umnews.org/en/
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- ucc.org/news/
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ABC-MI ANNUAL GATHERING

Great Lakes Christian College

Doty Center
6211 W Willow Hwy Lansing, 48917

OCT | 13-14 | 2023

Registration is open!

\$35 per person, includes snacks, meals, and session materials. Individual and group registrations available. Register by visiting abc-mi.org/AG2023



Guest speaker

**SCOT
MCKNIGHT**

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The Peoples Church Preschool recently won TWO significant community awards! The first was the Lansing State Journal's Community Choice award for the best preschool in the area! Beginning in April, residents of greater Lansing voted for their favorite candidates in several categories, and Peoples Church Preschool came out on top for preschools! The second award was the 'Best of East Lansing Award' in the preschool category from the East Lansing Reward program. This program recognizes East Lansing businesses and organizations that have achieved excellence and made "the East Lansing area a great place to work, play, and live." Well done Peoples Church Preschool staff and leadership!

Peoples Church Preschool

