



I'M READY TO BLOOM WITH YOU!

It seems like just yesterday that I was with you and we all decided God was calling us together. That weekend was a whirlwind of events and introductions, culminating in two marvelous worship services. I was amazed at the ways the Spirit moved through The Peoples Church. I felt it in your gracious hospitality, in the soaring music of the choir, in the bright faces of your children, and in your affirmation of my call. Sitting in the office, waiting for the congregational vote to be tallied, I gave thanks to God for leading me to such a wonderful, faithful and gifted community. I am very excited to begin my ministry with you on October 15th.

Of course not everyone was able to attend the events of the candidating weekend, so I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to the wider community. My name is Shawnthea Monroe (no middle name) and I've been an ordained minister since 1995. I was raised in Vermillion, South Dakota, the eldest child of two professors. I hold degrees from the University of Minnesota (the other U of M), Yale Divinity School, and Chicago Theological School. My husband, Neil Mueller, is the trumpet professor at Central Michigan University (Fire up Chips!). We have lived in Minneapolis, New York City, New Haven, Boston, Fargo and Cleveland. Neil and I have three (mostly) grown children. Walter is finishing a degree in theater at CMU, Clara is a senior at Case Western Reserve University with a triple major in Mathematics, Economics and German, and Renold is a sophomore at MSU, majoring in Mathematics and World Politics. If you ask my children what I like to do, they will tell you I like to cook, garden, do Zumba, and watch old movies. All true.

As a minister, I have other interests and passions. Trained and ordained in the Congregational tradition, I believe that faith and service go hand-in-hand. I am an ardent student of scripture and theology, believing that the Christian tradition can provide a foundation for an abundant life full of meaning and joy. My greatest passion is preaching the Gospel—not just to adults but also to children. I love exploring how popular culture and Christian theology interpret and inform one another. And I fervently believe in something I think Anne Lamott once wrote, "God loves you just the way you are, and loves you too much to leave you that way."

As I said, I am anxious to begin my ministry with you. Yet as one chapter opens, another chapter closes. At present, I am carefully and prayerfully ending my ministry at Plymouth Church UCC. It is a bittersweet time in my life, so I cherish your prayers. Know that you are in my prayers as well. God has called us together and I look forward to the day when I am part of The Peoples Church.

Yours in faith and joy,

Dr. Monroe



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

*80 & OVER

10/2 - Dr. Clyde Flory
10/3 - Karen Flory
10/3 - William Dailey
10/6 - Dr. John Cantlon
10/8 - Dr. Don Davis
10/10 - Marilyn Down
10/10 - Ellie Miller
10/11 - Kenneth Beachler
10/16 - Gwyneth Schroeder
10/22 - Mary Henry
10/23 - Jerome Nilson
10/28 - Jan Calkins
10/29 - Barbara Plesscher

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/7 - Robert & LuAnn Cruse (30)
10/18 - Michael & Kathy Tungate (40)

If we missed you, please accept our apology. Contact the office to make sure we have your correct information on file.

PORTAL DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the November 2019 *Portal* is October 15. Submit content to Rachel Giddings at, rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com.

The *Portal* is a monthly newsletter that is mailed each month to opt-in subscribers and also included in the Friday email.

"RECYCLING RULES: KNOW IT BEFORE YOU THROW IT"

by The Earth Stewardship Committee

Recycling is important to direct materials for reuse into new products and to reduce the amount of trash that goes into the landfill. The Earth Stewardship Team of The Peoples Church advocates recycling and reusing materials whenever possible. The Peoples Church Preschool has been recycling for many years which also helps teach the children how to be good stewards of the environment. Recycling the right way is important so that as much material as possible can be reused. The essential key to good recycling is to provide the right items and it is critical that those items are clean and free of food and beverage residue. Items that are dirty can cause the entire load to be difficult to use or possibly not used at all. Know the basic rules for recycling the following materials:

Glass: rinse and separate tops and lids. Check to see if your curbside program accepts clear and colored glass. Lightbulbs and glass cookware are not accepted for curbside recycling.

Metal cans: rinse and recycle metal cans and lids from things such as soup and tuna. The paper wrapper doesn't need to be removed. Metal coat hangers, scrap metal, nails, and screws are not recyclable.

Paper: magazines, mail, and newspapers are accepted. No need to remove staples or windows from envelopes. Napkins, paper towels, tissue, or paper coffee cups are not accepted.

Plastics: check to see which types are accepted in your curbside or community program. Rinse and clean the containers and remove caps. Plastic bags and straws are not accepted. Grocery stores often have bins to recycle plastic bags.

Cardboard: flatten boxes and cardboard. Non-refrigerated paperboard or box-board (such as Kleenex or cereal boxes) are accepted. Most curbside programs accept cartons such as milk, cream, or broth but check the rules and always rinse them thoroughly. Any cardboard with food residue or grease, such as pizza boxes are not accepted. If it's clean, you can recycle the top lid of the pizza box.

Other: batteries should not go in the trash or curbside recycling bin they are accepted at specific locations. For special items, check the big recycling map in the hall across from the church office. Note that rope, twine, and wire of any material are not accepted and can jam up the processing machinery.

For more information on recycling, contact the Earth Stewardship Team or visit the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's recycling site: recyclingaccoons.org





COME OUT AND PLAY!

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool

Peoples Church Preschool



Est. 1951 (517) 332-2885

Our annual *Come Out and Play* event is a part of the recertification process for our Outdoor Classroom renewal each year and took place in August.

This year, preschool families and community members enjoyed a warm, sunny evening of play on August 29. Families enjoyed some old favorites including: bubble blowing, baking in the mud kitchen, and building water walls with funnels, tubing and containers.

New this year was a soon-to-be favorite: pet rock painting. The highlight of the evening was entertainment by talented members of the *Shaky String Band* who performed live-ly dance music for everyone during the event.



PEOPLES FORUM

Join us each Sunday for interesting and informative "Voices of the Community" at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room.

OCTOBER 6

LISA WILLIAMS, PhD AND CLARK MCCREEDY, PhD

"Birds, Industrial Contaminants, and Oil: Sad Stories with Hopeful Endings"

OCTOBER 13

MSU ASSISTANT BASKETBALL COACH

OCTOBER 20

LARRY PINGEL, VICE PRESIDENT, THE RATHBUN AGENCY

OCTOBER 27

PAUL TARR

"Michigan Mental Health System Historical Perspective"

NOVEMBER 3

REV. DR. SHAWNTHEA MONROE

"My Journey"

NOVEMBER 10

CAROLINE JACOBS, EDGEWOOD COORD.

NOVEMBER 17

JACKSON TWESGYE, NYAKA MISSIONARY

NOVEMBER 24

GUILLERMO DELGATO, ARTIST ON EXHIBIT

DECEMBER 1

MATT REED, FEDERAL ATTORNEY

DECEMBER 8

CLARE LUZ

"Age Alive"

DECEMBER 15

PENNY SWARTZ

"Christmas Readings"



This year our mission partner, Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project, is showing an exciting new documentary, *Victors*. This documentary showcases how our support in Uganda contributes to the building of a civil society through education and advocacy.

Studio C! is once again hosting this exciting event/fundraiser on **October 10**, at 6:30 p.m. Seats can be reserved for \$25 by calling 517.575.6623 or by visiting nyakaschool.org.

The creators of the documentary will be on hand to share their experience. Plan to join us for this fundraising event and help support the grandmothers and children of Uganda, while enjoying a movie! Popcorn and drinks are included!

FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

RECIPES BY GERRI LYNN



Gerri Lynn Nichols, our talented Hospitality Coordinator, shares a recipe with us each month. Enjoy!

SPINACH, ORZO FETA SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (16 oz.) package of uncooked orzo pasta
- 1 (10 oz.) package of baby spinach leaves, finely chopped
- 1/2 pound crumbled feta cheese
- 1/2 red onion, finely chopped
- 3/4 cup pine nuts
- 1/2 tsp. dried basil
- 1/4 tsp. ground white pepper
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar

DIRECTIONS:

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add orzo and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain and rinse with cold water. Transfer to a large bowl and stir in spinach, feta, onion, pine nuts, basil, and white pepper. Toss with olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Refrigerate and serve cold. Best when sits overnight!

TPC 24/7: Anytime, Anywhere!

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Stay connected to our church wherever you go by downloading the [free Connect - Our Church Community app](#) for iPhone and Android devices. Use it to communicate with your groups, RSVP to events, manage your giving, update profile information, and more.

Download the app using these links:

iPhone: search for "Realm Connect" in the app store

Android: search for "Connect Our Church" in the Google Play store

use code: thepeopleschurch when prompted



DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas Circle will meet **October 15** at 7:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. The program will be "Share a Favorite Book." For more information, contact Katie Slabaugh at 313.410.1113.

DEBORAH CIRCLE

The Deborah Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, in the Snider Social Hall, at 6:30 p.m. after the *WNL!* community meal. Join us on **October 16**; see you there!

THE READING PEOPLE

The Reading People will meet **October 17**, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Joanne Keith will lead us in a discussion of Toni Morrison's prize winning book, *Beloved*. Join us!

REBEKAH/HANNAH CIRCLE

The Rebekah/Hannah Circle will meet **October 23**, at 12:30 p.m. at Coral Gables Restaurant for lunch and fellowship. Join us!

THE KNITTING PEOPLE

The Knitting People will meet **October 24** from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Join us to knit and crochet blankets, shawls, hats, mittens and slippers. We have needles and yarn, and just need your willing hands! Bring completed items for blessing, and get ideas for new projects!

TPC 24/7: ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

The Peoples Church is BLOOMing in many ways! Stay tuned for more details in upcoming bulletins and *Portals* about how you can connect, GROW, serve, and share with us 24/7, anytime, anywhere!

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions will meet again on **November 7**, with Dr. Manuel Chavez, MSU School of Journalism, to learn about the history and issues involved in European Populism and Immigration. We will meet in the Robertson Room from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mass migration, and the problems associated with it, have directly abetted the rise of populist parties in Europe. Opposition to immigration was the prime driver of support for Brexit, it brought a far-right party to the German Bundestag for the first time since the 1950s, and propelled Marine Le Pen to win a third of the vote in the French presidential election. In addition to calling for stronger borders, however, these parties are invariably illiberal, anti-American, anti-NATO and pro-Kremlin, making their rise a matter of serious concern for the national security interests of the United States.

THE PEOPLES CHURCH VISITATION TEAM

The Peoples Church Visitation Team is under our Caring Ministry. Our volunteers visit members of our church who are in retirement homes or who are still at home, but unable to attend church on a regular basis. Our mission is to help these members feel connected to the church. We ask visitors to make a contact at least once per month. If you would like to be a part of the Visitation Team and this rewarding ministry, or if you know a member who would appreciate a visit, please contact Pat Brogan at 517.337.1446 or Gretchen Rosenbrook at 517.332.5132.

SAVE THE DATE!

On **November 3** at 7:00 p.m. join us for a screening in the Robertson Room of the film *Pittsburgh to Paris*, which takes a look at climate change. Afterwards an opportunity for a community conversation on this important topic will take place. Hosted by The Peoples Church Earth Stewardship Team. Join us!

PEOPLES 101

Peoples 101 is a 30-minute informal discussion about The Peoples Church. Bring your questions and meet with a Pastor and Welcome Ministry Members in the Robertson Room. **New Members Classes** take place in the Centennial Room and last roughly an hour and a half. Child care is provided. This meeting explores the history, governance, mission and values of the church as well as programming and volunteer opportunities. Membership is also discussed, but there is never any obligation to join. For more information, call Diane Shafer at 517.388.0437 or email at dm-shafer2001@gmail.com. You can also call Robin Matheson at 517.290.3223 or email at matheso4@msu.edu.

SCHEDULE:

OCTOBER 2	New Members Class during WNL!
OCTOBER 6	New Members Class
NOVEMBER 3	Peoples 101
DECEMBER 1	Peoples 101
JANUARY 5	Peoples 101
FEBRUARY 2	Peoples 101
MARCH 1	Peoples 101
APRIL 1	New Members Class during WNL!
APRIL 5	New Members Class
MAY 3	Peoples 101
JUNE 7	Peoples 101
JULY 8	New Members Class during WNL!
JULY 12	New Members Class
AUGUST 2	Peoples 101



FAMILY FUN EVENT

by Kathi Mitchell, Children's Education Director

We have had a fun beginning to our year! In Sunday School our theme is, "We Are One"—The community of believers was one in heart and mind (Acts 4:32). We are learning about faith, acceptance, forgiveness, and welcoming others. All are wonderful and important lessons for our children to learn! We hope you are planning to join us for our first Family Fun event—The Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 20. C2E2—Committee for Children's Education and Events—is planning games, activities, crafts and mission projects for children and adults. Lunch will be served, complete with apples with caramel and you can decorate your own pumpkin cookies! If you would like to help plan, set up, supervise a craft, or clean up, we would love to have your help! Contact Kathi Mitchell at: kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com; any amount of time is always appreciated!

~ HARVEST FESTIVAL ~

OCTOBER 20!
Snider Social Hall & Gym
 following the 10:30 a.m. service

**Everyone is welcome to join us
 for food, games, crafts, and fun!**




Upcoming events for The Peoples Church Youth Group:

October 4: High School Lock-In

October 11: Laser Tag

PCYG is always looking for volunteers to help with events and activities. If you are interested in being a volunteer, email Joe at: jkennedy@thepeopleschurch.com.



Upcoming events for The Peoples Church Campus Ministry:

October 6: Tie Blanket Ministry Day

October 20: Uncle Johns Cider Mill

October 27: Pumpkin Carving Contest

November 9: Campus Parking Lot Fundraiser

November 17: Friendsgiving Meal



WNL! PROGRAMMING

The WNL! community meal takes place in the Snider Social Hall downstairs. Join us!

OCTOBER:

Pastor Drew will be leading a study on Jonah. This prophet is often quoted and often misunderstood. Join Pastor Drew for this four week story.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! SCHEDULE

5:30 pm - Dinner

6:00 pm - Youth Choir (Youth Den)

6:30 pm - Adult Programming (Robertson Room)
Middle School Youth Group (Youth Den)
Yoga (Yellow Room, 3rd Floor)

~MENU~

OCTOBER 2

Minestrone Soup ~ Crackers
Italian Bake
Tossed Salad ~ Garlic Bread
Peach Cobbler & Whipped Cream

OCTOBER 16

Wild Rice Soup ~ Crackers
Ham & Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans ~ Corn Bread
Pineapple ~ Cookie

OCTOBER 9

Cream of Potato Soup ~ Crackers
Baked Chicken ~ Wild Rice
Mixed Vegetables ~ Biscuit
Seasonal Fruit ~ Brownies

OCTOBER 23

Chili & Vegetarian Chili ~ Crackers
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
Assorted Vegetables & Ranch Dip
Seasonal Fruit ~ Rice Crispy Treat

OCTOBER 30

Hamburgers & Brats
Potato Salad ~ Steamed Corn
Seasonal Fruit ~ Ice Cream Sundae Bar

Henry & Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture Series 2019

Unlearning God: How Unbelieving Helped Me Believe

***Featuring
Philip Gulley***

Quaker Pastor, Author and Speaker



**8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Worship Services,
Philip Gulley, Preacher**

**Noon Luncheon
Snider Social Hall
(Free Will Offering Collected)**

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Presentation,
Philip Gulley**

October 13, 2019

The Peoples Church
200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, MI

OCTOBER 2019 PORTAL

ThePeoplesChurch.com

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