

## MEET THE REV. DR. SHAWNTHEA MONROE!

After many months of prayer, profile reviews, candidate interviews and site visits, the Pastoral Search Team is pleased to introduce the candidate who by God's grace—and a congregational vote—will become the next Senior Pastor of The Peoples Church: The Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe-Mueller (she reserves the use of Mueller to legal items; around church she will simply be Shawnthea Monroe).

A native of South Dakota, Dr. Monroe holds degrees from the University of Minnesota, Yale Divinity School, and Chicago Theological Seminary. She has served on the board of the Louisville Institute, and the Deaconess Foundation, and she currently serves as the chair of the Discernment of Call for The Living Water Association (Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ). She is a member of the American Academy of Religion and has taught courses in preaching, pastoral leadership,



contemporary culture and theology, and grant writing for non-profit organizations. An accomplished writer, she is the author of *Not So Desperate: Fantasy, Fact and Faith on Wisteria Lane* (Chalice Press, 2006) and co-author of *Living Christianity: A Pastoral Theology for Today* (Fortress, 2009).

Dr. Monroe currently serves Plymouth Church UCC in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Before that, she was the pastor of First Congregational Church UCC (Moorhead, MN) and Trinitarian Congregational Church (Concord, MA). Shawnthea is married to Neil Mueller, who teaches trumpet at Central Michigan University, and they have three adult children. Besides her family and ministry, Shawnthea enjoys gardening, canning, and Zumba classes. Shawnthea and Neil say, "We look forward to settling in to East Lansing and getting to know the congregation and the wider community."

Plan to meet the Monroe-Muellers Saturday afternoon, July 20 (see details below), and of course, in worship on Sunday the 21st. Thanks be to God!

### Meet & Greet

Join us for light refreshments in the Robertson Room on **Saturday, July 20, 2019** from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. to meet Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe!

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



## “HELLO, I MUST BE GOING!”

If you got to stay up past midnight on New Year’s Eve back in the late 1960s, you could almost always catch a Marx Brothers movie on TV. I’m not sure why so many local stations ran these on New Year’s, but I remember seeing them three years in a row, while at the same time earning some serious New Year’s Eve babysitting cash as I “watched” two kids who had been in bed since 9:00 p.m.

This was my introduction to the classics: “Duck Soup” (that’s the one with the mythical nations of Freedonia and Sylvania); “A Day at the Races”; and “Animal Crackers,” the one that gave us the song (and title for this article), “Hello, I Must be Going.”

Hello, I must be going. I cannot stay, I came to say I must be going.  
I'm glad I came but just the same I must be going.

For my sake you must stay, for if you go away,  
you'll spoil this party I am throwing.

I'll stay a week or two, I'll stay the summer through,  
but I am telling you, I must be going.

Needless to say, I’m feeling a bit like Groucho as I prepare to take my leave. It’s not just the sorting, packing, and moving—never my favorite activities—but knowing how much I’ll miss worshiping and serving with you that’s making me Groucho, um, grouchy.

Nevertheless, this is the way every interim assignment ends. I told you on my very first Sunday that I would only stay for about a year; and now, since the Search Team has named their candidate, it’s time for me to move along.

One last thing—consider it my final challenge to The Peoples Church: All year long, I’ve been telling people that I don’t think I’ve ever served a church with this much potential. Of course, we’re not here for self-aggrandizement, we’re here to build the kingdom of God. But with that in mind, there’s no reason that The Peoples Church shouldn’t flourish under new leadership, continuing to be not just a landmark building, but a loving and welcoming congregation.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement this year—it really made a difference. Thank you for trusting the interim process, too. I’m sure there were times when you wondered if anything was happening, but the process worked and a new pastor will be here soon, so, “Hello, I must be going.”

*Pastor Case*

## LEADERSHIP Opportunities

It’s an exciting time to become more involved in the church and be with your church family. Do you know of someone who would be interested in becoming an elder of our church, or one who would serve on the nominating committee? If so, please send in your nomination, (and yes, you can nominate yourself!) by placing this form in the offertory plate or drop off to the church office. Consider becoming more involved in the ministries of this church and share your time and talents. We need 5 new elders, a treasurer, and 4 new nominating committee members. We will vote on this new slate of elders at the Fall Congregational Meeting. Contact Bev Mason (chair) at 517.256.3755, or email at masonbj2790@gmail.com.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info \_\_\_\_\_

### JULY/AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

\*80 & OVER

- 7/4 - Patricia Howell
- 7/9 - Nancy Wilson
- 7/11 - Lary Hill
- 7/12 - Dr. James Dalley
- 7/12 - William Walworth Jr.
- 7/16 - Helen Ramsey
- 7/21 - Dr. Martha Bristor
- 7/22 - Connie Close
- 7/23 - John Behrendt
- 7/24 - Dr. Rosemary Walker
- 7/25 - Marilyn Harding
- 7/30 - Mary Fossum
- 8/1 - June Toth
- 8/1 - Vivienne Kreer
- 8/9 - Dale Schuster
- 8/10 - Evelyn Davis
- 8/13 - Carol Bryson
- 8/14 - Rev. Barbara Scott
- 8/20 - Suzanne Goodrich
- 8/22 - Dr. Charles Blackman
- 8/24 - Kenneth West
- 8/25 - Dorothy Boettcher
- 8/25 - Barbara Lott
- 8/25 - Marjorie Lott
- 8/26 - Eleanor Heusner
- 8/26 - Charlotte Sprinkel
- 8/28 - Barbara Potter
- 8/31 - Donald Bailey

### JULY/AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/1 - David & Stephanie Skeels (30)
- 7/4 - Sal & Joanne DiFranco (66)
- 7/5 - Dennis & Gretchen Rosenbrook (61)
- 7/12 - Thomas & Christine Jury (50)
- 7/26 - Anthony & Lois Bauer (61)
- 7/28 - Curtiss & Renee DeMars-Johnson (40)
- 8/15 - David & Janet Ronk (67)
- 8/19 - David & Patricia Brogan (61)
- 8/20 - Dr. John & Irene Cantlon (75)

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



# MUD DAY!

by Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool

Peoples Church Preschool



International Mud Day is for everyone, both children, and the child inside of us. Set aside the electronic games. Turn off the television. Set down the smart phone, along with the apps. The purpose of this day is to help children, by bringing them back outdoors to learn about and enjoy nature, along with all it has to offer.

On Friday, June 28, the Preschool and Summer Camp children celebrated International Mud Day. This annual event happens every year at the end of June and it is one of The Peoples Church Preschool children's favorite traditions.

Children participated in activities such as a mud spa where toenails were painted with mud and children gave each other mud facials, mud body painting, mud immersion and a mud bakery.

Did you know? Soil microbes called mycobacterium vaccae are proven to have a natural antidepressant effect on the brain. This may mean that mycobacterium vaccae works by stimulating serotonin production, which makes you feel relaxed and happy!



# CHILDRENS CORNER: SUMMER UPDATE

by Ann Harvey, Children's CE Director

VBS ushered us into the summer season. "To Mars and Beyond" was a great time of exploring and being curious with some very wonderful children. We learned to go beyond with faith, boldness, kindness, thankfulness and hope with stories about Jesus and friends from the Bible. A big thanks to Woldumar staff, Peoples Church leaders, crew members, parents and kids who made it all possible. Thanks also to the generous people who gave gifts and scholarships that helped send some fortunate kids to camp!

We have a consistent bunch of children who are learning about the first century church this summer. We are tracing the disciples' paths as they follow Jesus through the Holy Spirit. We need some excited adults who would like to help occasionally in Sunday School. We use a very teachable curriculum so you do not need a deep Bible knowledge, just a heart for the kids! If interested, email Ann Harvey at, [aharvey@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:aharvey@thepeopleschurch.com) or Pastor Drew at, [dfilkins@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:dfilkins@thepeopleschurch.com).

## PCYG SUMMER EVENTS

PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

PCYG has some upcoming events scheduled for this summer; check out a summary of events below:

**Summer Lunches** meet every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. unless a special event takes place. Tentatively a picnic lunch at Potter Park Zoo is planned on **August 7**. There will not be a Wednesday lunch planned for July 17 and 24 due to the PCYG Mission Trip and vacation.

**The Michigan's Adventure** trip will be on **August 21**; make sure you save the date! More details to come.



The Undie Sundays donation drive is happening now and will run through August 11. We collect undershirts, underpants and socks for school-aged children which are donated to the clothes closet at Judson Memorial Baptist Church. The RED collection baskets will be at the Welcome Center this summer for collection. Contact Ruth Worthington at [worthin2@msu.edu](mailto:worthin2@msu.edu) with any questions.

## PEOPLES FORUM

**WILL RESUME IN THE FALL WITH A NEW LINEUP OF SPEAKERS**

# BLOOM! A NEW SEASON OF GROWTH

KICKOFF SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

SAVE THE DATE!



The next *Portal* deadline for the September issue is August 15.  
Submit content to [rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com).

JULY/AUGUST 2019 *PORTAL*

[ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://ThePeoplesChurch.com)

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