

Portal

SEPTEMBER 2022

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe
Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell
Associate Pastor

WELCOME HOME

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe



It's only September and I'm already making plans for Christmas. I'm not talking about church, although we have already made many (MANY) plans through December. Instead, I'm looking forward to Christmas at my house because that is the next time all of my children will be under one roof. When all my children are together, talking and laughing and playing games, I feel whole.

Now I understand why my parents were always asking when I was coming home. *Will you be home for Thanksgiving? What about Christmas? How long can you stay? What are your plans for the summer?* As a young woman, I thought they were being clingy, but now I see... they just wanted to have the family back together... to feel whole again.

The Peoples Church family hasn't been whole since March of 2020. If I had known that the communion service on Sunday, March 1st, was the last time I would see people, I would have paid closer attention. I would have lingered over the elements, spent more time passing the peace, hugged more folks after worship. How could we have known?

Now, after 30 months, we are trying to pick up where we left off, keeping up with our vaccines, and making plans for post-pandemic life. We're bringing back events we haven't had in years. There's a Women's Retreat this month, and the annual Chicken Dinner on Kick-off Sunday. Once again, we will gather for dinner on Wednesday nights, but we're calling it Wednesdays @ Peoples Church. My Bible study will be back in the Robertson Room but we've moved it to Mondays at 9:00 a.m. The Sunday school is already making plans for an IN PERSON Christmas pageant! We're even bringing back the 8:30 a.m. Sunday chapel service. We have lots of plans.

The big question is: will the people return to Peoples Church?

Honestly, this question keeps me up at night. Though we have been fully open for months now, at best we have half the number of people who used to join us on Sundays. Yes, there is still a lot of uncertainty, but in a sanctuary the size of ours, social distancing is a breeze. Plus, we encourage folks to wear masks if they wish. So where is everyone?

I can think of many answers to this question. I've been told August is vacation time, so perhaps people are enjoying these last summer weekends before the Fall. Some people have moved to other towns, or even other states in the last 30 months. Some people have experienced a change in mobility and can't get to church on a Sunday. Others have gotten used to worshipping when it is convenient, watching the YouTube recording at a time that fits their schedule. There may even be people who simply enjoy watching the live stream in their PJs with a cup of coffee on a Sunday morning. These are all valid reasons not to be in church on a Sunday. I'm not trying to make anyone feel guilty; I completely understand.

Continued...

But oh, how I miss you.

I miss the energy I felt when we would stand and sing the opening hymn. I miss the miraculous hush that came over the congregation when we entered into prayer. I miss the cacophony of voices when we passed the peace in a large crowd. I miss the rush of preaching to a sanctuary full of God's people, knowing that the Holy Spirit might move and take our breath away. I miss the unexpected connections and new friendships that form when we are all in the same place. I miss you.

Our new church year begins Sunday, September 11th. There will be one service at 10:30 a.m. The choir will be in full voice, the Sunday school rooms will be decorated and prepared for children, and the tables in Snider Social Hall will be set and ready to welcome you.

I hope we can get the family back together again!

-Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

PCYG

Elisha Smith

Hello PCYG Students and Families!

What an awesome trip to Michigan's Adventure we had this past month! It was so good to see everyone and enjoy one last fun event before the school year begins. It's hard to believe that summer is nearly over, September is here, and we are getting ready to begin our fall programming!

Join us on Sunday, September 11th following the service for a delicious Chicken Dinner and Ministry fair! This is where you will fill out your child's registration form and pick up their PCYG t-shirt! Regular PCYG will begin on **September 18th** in the Youth Den with the following schedule:

6:00-6:30 P.M. Youth Choir

6:30-7:00 P.M. Snack

7:00-8:00 P.M. Youth Group

I am looking forward to another awesome year. Please reach out to me with any questions!



Peoples Church Youth Group at Michigan's Adventure.

PEOPLES CHURCH PRESCHOOL

Dana Johnson



Peoples Church Preschool is honored to have earned "Best Child Care 2022" in an event facilitated by the Lansing State Journal. We would like to express our gratitude to the families and friends that took the time to vote for us online to help us attain this distinction. The Preschool's administrators would like to thank the teaching staff for the incredible work they do every day, the preschool families that allow us to teach and care for their children, and the leaders of The Peoples Church for their in-depth and continuous support.

Pictured: Michelle Clingenpeel, Dana Johnson, and Lindsey Bramlet with the 'Best Child Care 2022' Certificate.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Kathi Mitchell

All our Pre-K to 5th grade children are encouraged to join us for our Back to Sunday School party on **September 11th!** We will have games, treats and dancing in room 306 as a fun way for them to reconnect and learn about their new classmates.

Many of our children have moved up classrooms and are ready to learn deeper Bible lessons and stories. It is wonderful to see our students experience and learn about Jesus' love.

On **Sunday, October 30th from 6 to 7:30 P.M.**, we will host a Trunk-or-Treat! We would love to have you come enjoy cider and donuts, and decorate your trunk for the parade at 6:30. We are also excited to have an All Church Game Night on Saturday, **November 5th from 5-8 P.M.** All ages are invited to join us for board games and pizza in the Social Hall. Check your emails in October for more info and how to RSVP.

This year also brings the return of Carol Choir and Dance 149 for our elementary students and a live Christmas pageant for our preschool to 5th graders! Contact me at kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com for more information or to sign up your children. These experiences are truly special for everyone involved!

I look forward to another year of laughter, stories and learning with the wonderful children in our church family!

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

THE PEOPLES CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

6 - 7:30 P.M.



COUNCIL OF ELDERS

We Are Looking For New Members

The Peoples Church is looking for members who would like to serve as an Elder or a member of the Nominations Committee. Please see the job descriptions below and consider completing the expression of interest form on paper with the [PDF file](#) or online at <https://forms.gle/DNY3N3ThRxYGLWjH7>. Forms submitted by September 16, 2022 will be considered for a fall position.

The Council of Elders (3-year term)

The Council is responsible for the spiritual, physical, and overall welfare of the Church. The Council comprises 15 members, the Clerk, and the Treasurer, to be elected from the active membership of the Church at the annual Fall Election Meeting. In addition, there is one representative from each denomination. The typical meeting schedule includes a ministry meeting on the 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of each month and the Elders' meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Usually, the Elders take a month off in the summer and do not meet in December. Ministry meetings can vary and be rescheduled as needed. Special meetings can be called by the Chair of Elders when needed. Elders are elected to serve a three-year term and serve two terms consecutively. New members take office on January 1st.

Nomination Committee (2-year term)

The Nomination Committee has eight members and typically meets annually in August to recruit and select candidates for Elders and the Nomination Committee slate for the congregation to vote on during the annual fall meeting. Members are selected to serve two-year terms and must take a year off before serving again on the committee.

STARTING THIS FALL

At The Peoples Church



VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

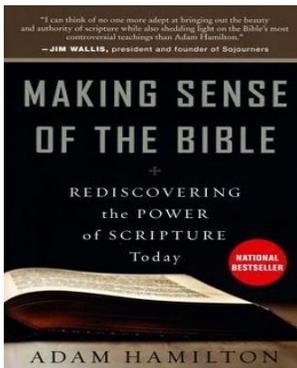
1st Sundays at 9:30 A.M. in the Robertson Room

We will meet on the first Sunday of each month October – April. Voices of the Community offers informative presentations that give voice to various community members on a wide range of topics.

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays at 9:30 A.M. in the Robertson Room

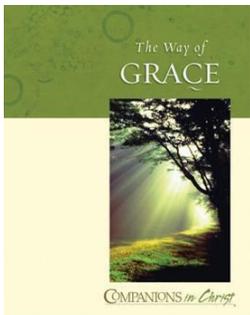
Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn't about a particular social issue, but instead it is about how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing. *Making Sense of the Bible* addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. We will address these often-misunderstood biblical themes leading to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving. This group is led by Pastor Devon.



COMPANIONS IN CHRIST: 9-WEEK COURSE

Wednesdays at 10 A.M. in the Library

Pastor Devon will be leading this class on Wednesdays at 10 A.M. in the library. *The Way of Grace* invites us to travel with 8 Biblical characters (or groups of characters) from John's Gospel who discover God's grace through their encounters with Jesus. More than a survey of the Biblical stories, it is a transforming interaction with the events and the characters. And it is an invitation for us to open our hearts to a deeper knowing of God's grace.



ENGAGING THE WORD

Mondays in-person from 9 to 10 A.M. in the Robertson Room

Wednesdays on Zoom from 9 to 10 A.M.

Led by Pastor Shawnthea, this group will discuss texts for up-coming sermons, along with other topics of interest.

The zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81906921959>.

Join us in person on Mondays or via Zoom on Wednesdays! All are welcome!



STARTING THIS FALL

At The Peoples Church

WEDNESDAYS @ PEOPLES CHURCH

5:30 P.M. in the Social Hall

A weekly community dinner.

6:30 P.M. in the Gym

Dance Aerobics led by Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe.

6:30 P.M. in the Robertson Room

Faith & the News - Join Pastor Devon for weekly conversation and study focused on important matters of faith raised by contemporary topics in the news.

7:30 P.M. in the Balcony

Adult Bell Choir led by Liz Reed.



TAIZÉ SERVICE

4th Sundays at 6:30 P.M. in the Chapel

The Peoples Church will now offer an evening Taizé Service on the 4th Sunday of the month, September through April. This service offers a meditative and reflective space to dwell in Christ's presence.



WEEKLY CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Sundays at 11:30 A.M. - Lunch in the Campus Lounge.

Mondays at 11:00 A.M. - Coffee at Blue Owl

Mondays at 6:30 P.M. - Grad Student Group (ACHE) on 1st and 3rd Mondays.

Tuesdays at 8:00 P.M. - Snack & Chat: Late Nights in the Campus Lounge.



PCYG (PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP)

Sundays from 6 to 8 P.M. in the Youth Den

Regular PCYG will begin in the Youth Den on September 18th with Youth Choir, a snack, and Youth Group programming. Special events throughout the year will be posted in the bulletin. Reach out to Elisha Smith if you have any questions!



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

During 10:30 Worship on the third floor - Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30 A.M. in room 302 - Carol Choir

Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20 - Dance 149

Special events will be announced as the year goes on.



STARTING THIS FALL

At The Peoples Church



WOMEN OF PEOPLES CHURCH

The mission of Women of Peoples Church (WPC) is to unite all women of the church to share a common faith in our Lord, to demonstrate His love in all areas of life, and to grow in Christian faith and responsibility through study, prayer and service.

Dorcas Circle

Meets on the third Tuesday of each month primarily at 7:00 P.M. with occasional daytime programs from September through November and March through June.

Rebekah-Hannah Circle

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from September through June generally at 1:00 p.m.

Phoebe Circle

Meets four times a year (in September, November, January, and April) on the fourth Wednesday at 9:30 A.M.



SANCTUARY CHOIR

Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 P.M. & Sunday mornings at 9:45 A.M.



Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the Chancel table? Are you looking for a way to serve The Peoples Church while making a joyful noise? Then this is an opportunity not to be missed. The Sanctuary Choir needs singers. We need YOU! We meet on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 P.M. and on Sunday morning at 9:45 to rehearse for the 10:30 service. Please join us!

"O That I had a thousand voices to praise my God with thousand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, would then proclaim in grateful songs to all, wherever I might be, what great things God has done for me!"



THE READING PEOPLE

3rd Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. in the Robertson Room

We have informal friendly discussions of a wide variety of books. Participants take turns leading the discussions for the month, although it is not mandatory. We welcome new members! If you have questions, contact Katie Slabaugh at kslab@hotmail.com.



PUB THEOLOGY

2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M.

We meet at Crunchy's to engage in conversation about faith, life, and what's happening in the world. C'mon out, everyone's invited.

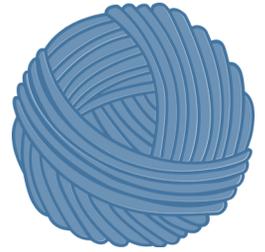
STARTING THIS FALL

At The Peoples Church

THE KNITTING PEOPLE

September 22nd from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. in the Robertson Room

We will meet in the Robertson Room to work on prayer shawls, mittens, hats, and baby blankets for our church family and local organizations. Please join us for a time of good fellowship and busy fingers! We have lots of yarn, needles and patterns to assist you in this ministry of generosity. Contact Mary Ann Larzelere at malarz@aol.com with any question you may have.



TOWN & GOWN

Two Tuesdays a month from 5:00 to 6:15 P.M. in the Robertson Room

Town & Gown is a discussion series for seniors in the Greater Lansing area to connect and engage with MSU faculty and one another. Sessions are free, but are limited to 30 registered participants. The first Town & Gown is on September 27th, stay tuned for more details.



VOLUNTEER AT PEOPLES

Welcome Desk

Volunteer at the Welcome Desk from 9:15 to 10:30 A.M. on Sunday morning by opening the desk, welcoming all, and closing the desk after worship. To sign up, click [here](#).

Greeters

Extend a warm welcome to all who enter The Peoples Church from 10 to 10:30 A.M. on Sunday mornings. To sign up, click [here](#).

Coffee Fellowship

Make and serve coffee, tea, and juice before and after the 10:30 A.M. service. You may also bring snacks, baked goods, or other foods to help add to the welcoming fare provided. To sign up, click [here](#).

Parking Attendants

Ensure that all cars parking are here for worship and pass out maps for alternative parking. To sign up, click [here](#).

All sign-up links are also available on ThePeoplesChurch.com under 'Outreach' then 'Volunteer at Peoples'.



ACHE:

1st & 3rd Mondays at 6:30 P.M.

Adults Connecting and Having Events is a young adult group led by Pastor Devon. Follow [ache_thepeopleschurch](#) on Instagram to stay up-to-date on planned events!



Even more church groups, committees, and ministries will be showcased at the Ministry Fair! The Realm calendar and weekly bulletin will continue to be the most up-to-date resources for events at The Peoples Church.



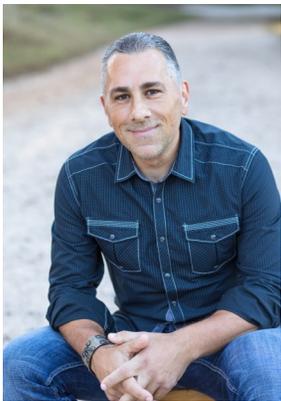
THE 2022 HENRY & ANNABEL LARZELERE MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

Living a Life of Sustainable Compassion

October 23, 2022

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

ThePeoplesChurch.com | 517.332.5073



Featuring: John Pavlovitz

Pastor, Writer, Activist

John is committed to equality, diversity, and justice—both inside and outside of faith communities. His books include *A Bigger Table*, *Hope and Other Superpowers*, *Stuff That Needs to Be Said*, and *If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*, which arrived in 2022.

Saturday, October 22

4-5 PM: Afternoon event for clergy and others who cannot attend the Sunday Service.

Sunday, October 23

8:30 & 10:30 AM: Guest preacher John Pavlovitz John Pavlovitz.

12 PM: Luncheon following the service.

1 PM: Lecture featuring John Pavlovitz.



The Henry and Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture Series was established in 2017 to honor their 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 MSU. They promptly joined The Peoples Church and became deeply 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.



EARTH STEWARDSHIP

Environmentally Friendly Tips

- It has been estimated that in the United Kingdom if each resident bent down ONCE a day to pick up a piece of litter, they would remove over 60 million pieces of rubbish from the streets and sidewalks every day. Just think what we could do in the United States!
- Modern washing machines, with modern washing powders, liquids, and tablets are just as effective at 50 to 60 degrees as they are at higher temperatures, so make sure you run your machine on low or an “eco” setting—and don’t use the prewash cycle.
- To help reduce the need for harvesting more pulp wood, change your computer settings so that “duplex” is the default. If your printer doesn’t print on both sides, save waste computer printing paper to use for drafts by printing on the other side.
- The comfort of our day-to-day life consumes vast amounts of electricity, and sometimes wastes vast amounts, as well. Given this, the ideal temperature for the inside of your refrigerator is 40 degrees. Similarly, the freezer should be set for 5 degrees. Any setting below these temperatures does NOT affect how well food keeps.
- Contrary to what is widely believed, lowering the temperature setting of heating does not cause extra consumption when the system is turned up again. For every degree you turn down your heat, you will save 5% on your heating bill.
- You can reduce your consumption of water by having taps fitted with aerators, which are quite cheap to purchase. The flow from the tap will feel stronger, but it actually contains less water and more air. Tap aerators can reduce the water usage from your taps by up to 70%.
- Since 1970, world production of goods and services has multiplied sevenfold. If you are weary of our over consuming society, don’t miss the international “Buy Nothing Day” at the end of November (the last Saturday). It provides an opportunity to think about the social, economic, and ecological impact of global consumption.



CROP WALK 2022

October 9th

The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Hundreds of religious groups, businesses, schools and others organize local walk events in their communities each year. A portion of the proceeds benefit local hunger fighting agencies and the remainder is targeted to assist countries facing famine and food scarcity. The Peoples Church has a long history of participating in the Greater Lansing Area CROP Walk. This year the 5k (3.2 mile) walk will take place, rain or shine, on Sunday October 9th (time to be announced) starting at Grace United Methodist Church 1800 Boston Blvd, Lansing 48910. No bikes, scooters, or skateboards allowed. Wagons and strollers are okay. Please consider being a walker and asking friends and family for donations or donate to someone who is walking. Sign up will be at the welcome desk area starting in mid-September.

THANK YOU FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BRING YOU UNDIE SUNDAY!

It's time for kids to go to school

The call goes out for all to hear

And we respect the Golden Rule

To do year after year.

The underwear and socks arrived

In droves, in piles, in bag and box.

So thanks to all and big high fives

For briefs and pairs of socks!

EDGEWOOD VILLAGE

Barbara Scott

On August 27, our beloved Rev. Barbara Scott died after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Shortly before her death, because of her declining health, Barb stepped down as the organizer and energetic leader of the Edgewood Village Partnership Design Team. In 2014, Barb and Charles Blackman, with support from the Community Engagement Ministry, committed to this partnership with the 135 unit low-income housing community in East Lansing in order to provide financial support, volunteer tutors, drivers, gardeners, and more. Hundreds of you, our church members and friends, have been involved in this ongoing partnership and continue to support this very important work. In tribute to Barbara's life and leadership, Design Team Members offer these comments:

From Val Nilson: Barbara was the epitome of love personified. She cared so deeply for others and put her love into action as she had done for so many years with the Edgewood Village project. Her passion for Edgewood was contagious, as she recruited many of us at Peoples Church to get involved. She sparked others to see the need and contribute in different ways. And as a follow up, Barbara never forgot to extol praise for the efforts of every single person. She was a rare and precious gem!

From Bob Steinkamp: One of my first memories of Barbara Scott was when she was looking for volunteers to work in the Edgewood Garden. I told her I would help. When I arrived, she was a force to be reckoned with, assigning duties and taking charge. I have always admired that about her.

From Kim Goals: Barbara was a dear friend to me for many years and such a special person. She tapped me early on to be a part of the Edgewood Design Team, and I'm so grateful to her for that. Through this connection, I've volunteered at Edgewood in many different capacities and found it to be one of the most rewarding things I've done. Barbara was a force of nature, for sure, as she was driven to make changes that better the world. She meant the world to me.

From Abby Barr: It's been a privilege to be in union with Barbara Scott, who is in union with God.

From Caroline Jacobs, Executive Director, Edgewood Village: What I will forever appreciate about Barbara Scott was her willingness to try. I think in the world we live in, it has become easy to feel overwhelmed and bleak. But Barbara always wanted to try. She was a never-ending well of energy and effort that I think many of us had drawn on when we were running dry. And as I am sure most know, she didn't just try. She succeeded. Many of the longest running programs at Edgewood have stayed feasible through her. The connection between Edgewood and the People's Church is robust and ongoing through her recruitment and support. Through Barbara, there are folks whose lives are tangibly better because she decided to try. May we all be willing to try a little more by her example.

From Mary Anne Larzelere: We are grateful for the gift that Barbara was to all of us. She enriched our lives with her work and her witness. She energized us to follow her example of discipleship, generosity and compassion. She modeled the joy of welcoming and loving our neighbors. How fortunate we are to be able to cherish memories of Barbara's abundant kindness and care that will forever be a blessing to our church and our community.



September Birthdays

80 and over

Anne Bailey

Marion Bird

Arylie Campbell

Renate Carey

Ron Dooley

Crary Grattan

Marilyn Grove

Mary Lou Johnson

Clare Mackey

James Panetta

David Smith

J. Clyde Spencer

September Wedding Anniversaries

Milestone anniversaries

Beverly & Terrell Oetzel (60 years)

Douglas & Marge Kik (30 years)

David & Kristi Lewis (30 years)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

F.A.M.E. (Fostering Academics, Mentoring Excellence)

The Community Engagement Ministry and the church have supported FAME in various ways over the years. FAME, which falls within the MSU School of Social Work, provides resources and programming to assist students in achieving their academic and personal goals and works collaboratively with the student to address and prevent barriers to retention and graduation. Services provided by FAME include individual life skills, coaching, mentoring, student advocacy and leadership opportunities, campus and community support, service referral and linkage, peer support and social events, emergency financial assistance, and independent living skill building and training workshops. You can learn more about the program at www.fame.socialwork.msu.edu.

A FAME student is a Spartan who has experienced homelessness, foster care, guardianship, kinship care, adoption or is independent. The Community Engagement Ministry is dedicated to supporting FAME and providing resources that are beneficial to the students, and the program itself. **We'll be reaching out to the congregation in the future, letting you know how you can help with specific needs**, which include: donations for their Care Closet, End of Semester Survival Kits, mentoring, and volunteers for their annual Harvest dinner, which is the week before Thanksgiving. TPC will be donating the Social Hall and food for this event.

For any questions regarding the services and support FAME provides, visit www.fame.socialwork.msu.edu or contact Ashley Hayden at haydenas@msu.edu.

JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 11TH FOR
FALL KICK-OFF

MINISTRY FAIR

An opportunity to browse, ask questions, and get involved with the wonderful groups that our church offers.

WORSHIP

Join us for 10:30 worship. The week following, we will return to both 8:30 and 10:30 services on Sunday mornings.

CHICKEN DINNER

Come together as a church family and enjoy delicious food as we celebrate the launch of fall events!

