

The Peoples Church of East Lansing cordially invites you to the  
Installation as Pastor for  
Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, MI 48823

A reception will follow the service in the Robertson Room.

If the spirit moves you, **wear red!** It is the traditional  
color to celebrate an ordination.

Please RSVP to Elizabeth in the church office  
at [eprice@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:eprice@thepeopleschurch.com) by October 15th, 2021



The next *Portal* deadline for the November issue is October 15th.  
Submit content to [eprice@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:eprice@thepeopleschurch.com)

OCTOBER 2021 PORTAL

517.332.5073  
ThePeoplesChurch.com

200 W. Grand River Ave.  
East Lansing, MI 48823



# Portal

October 2021

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell, Associate Pastor



## Celebrating Grace

My grandmother, Grace Sherwood Monroe, was a life-long Methodist. From the time she and her husband moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota, they were active members of the First United Methodist Church. Cecil served as the superintendent of the Sunday School, but it was Grace who ran the place. There were fall festivals, Christmas pageants, summer picnics, Easter programs, and even a yearly Victory Through Christ scripture contest. Grace knew every family and every child - and there were hundreds of them. She did all this in addition to being a member of the PTA, leading two Bible studies, and raising a family of seven children.

In April of 2018, I had the opportunity to return to Aberdeen, South Dakota, along with my father and my youngest son. Ren was working on a family history project for school, and he wanted to see the place where his grandfather and great-grandparents grew up. My dad insisted we visit the United Methodist Church. The interior has been updated over the decades, but on the outside it looks much the same, still standing in the center of Aberdeen. As we approached the entrance, my father regaled us with stories of growing up in the church. What fun they had had, and all of it due to his mother, Grace.

We were lucky enough to find the church open and the head secretary led us through the modern sanctuary to the "archives room." Like the Centennial Room at Peoples Church, the archives room at the Aberdeen UMC was a celebration of the past, going back to the founding of the church in the 1880s. There were old photographs on the walls, and plaques bearing the names of important people in the church's history. It was amazing to see photos from the last century, but there was not one photo or mention of Grace Sherwood Monroe.

My father was puzzled. His mother had devoted 34 years of her life to running the Sunday school programs, but there was no sign of her presence. On the other hand, there were prominent photos of the two families who had contributed the most money to the church in the 30s and 40s, the Holgates and the Lamonts. My father was crestfallen. This church had been the center of his childhood, the place where his parents had spent countless hours in devoted service. Yet they did not merit a mention.

As we walked back to the car, my dad was quiet. My son Ren asked him if he was ok. Dad said, "I guess only the rich get remembered." I stopped and said, "Wait a minute. Take a look at this place." We stood looking at the church, taking in the well-tended gardens, the Easter banners and signs advertising up-coming events. I said, "This church is here not just because someone paid for the building. This church is here because someone spent three decades creating a fabulous program for children and families. Your mother and father built this church and it is still a testament to their faithfulness." Dad smiled and said, "I guess you're right. And mom didn't do it for the recognition. She did it because she loved it."

That's true, I thought. But she really did it because she loved Jesus...and unlike Aberdeen United Methodist, Jesus does not forget those who devote their lives to His service. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

- Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

## October Birthdays

\*80 & over

10/2—Clyde Flory

10/3—Karen Flory

10/3—Bill Dailey

10/6—John Cantlon

10/8—Don Davis

10/10—Marilyn Down

10/10—Ellie Miller

10/11—Ken Beachler

10/20—Wes Reedy

10/22—Mary Henry

10/23—Jerry Nilson

10/28—Jan Calkins

10/29—Barbara Plesscher

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

## Community Engagement Presents at the Forum on November 7th

Community Engagement has been very busy this past year! Members of the ministry will give a brief overview of the organization we have supported with updates of how the church's money has impacted them. Organizations within our community and abroad have appreciated the funds and love given by our church. We look forward to sharing with the church and welcome questions and suggestions of how Peoples Church can have an even bigger impact in the future.

### Smile—It's That Time Again!

Can you believe it has been 5 years since the last Pictorial Directory? It is time for a new one and we need you to make it both meaningful and complete. Pictures will be taken by our own Kathi Mitchell of Blue Denim Photography, during the month of November. Keep an eye open for an email from the church to sign up via Signup Genius for you pictures. Every family unit will receive a free 8x10 portrait and will have the opportunity to order additional prints. Contact Beth Lundy, [blundy@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:blundy@thepeopleschurch.com), with any questions.

### Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry will be meeting weekly on Sundays and Tuesdays. Sunday's we meet after worship for Lunch and Lounge in the Campus Lounge, a relaxed group, where we eat and chat. Tuesday at 8 p.m. we meet for dinner and bible study. We try to plan other events throughout the month as well. **October 10th** we will be heading to Uncle John's Cider meal and carving pumpkins. We also have something spooky planned for later in the month, so keep your eyes peeled. If you or someone you know is interested, please email Rev. Devon Herrell at [dherrell@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:dherrell@thepeopleschurch.com).

### The Reading People

The book for **October 21st** is *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. Cheryl Leece will be the leader. We will meet from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Robertson Room.

### The Knitting People

We will meet **October 28th** from 1-3 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Join us to bless completed items and work on a variety of projects!

### Confirmation Class of 2022







The Confirmation class at The Peoples Church is a program of faith exploration for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The course is designed to teach young people more about the four denominations affiliated with The Peoples Church, as well as provide opportunities for in-depth Bible study, theological exploration, and service to the church and wider-community. Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell will lead the program with assistance from Rev. Dr. Monroe. If you are interested in knowing more about Confirmation Class 2022, please contact Rev. Herrell ([dherrell@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:dherrell@thepeopleschurch.com))

### Troop 2

Troop 2 welcomes you to join us as we celebrate our **100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with The Peoples Church!** Join us on **Sunday, October 31st, 2021** as we share our Scout Sunday presentation during the 10:30 a.m. service and host our long-standing tradition of Dutch oven cobblers with our Cobblerfest immediately following. We will be serving the sweet cobblers you all know and love. We will also have on display the historical 100-year-old original charter document with The Peoples Church, which is one of the longest relationships between a troop and an organization in the United States. We can't wait to celebrate with you all!

### A Matching Fund Offer from Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Ministry is committed to supporting colleges and seminaries affiliated with our four denominations: The American Baptist Church, The Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), The United Church of Christ, and The United Methodist Church. To that end, Community Engagement has created a **MATCHING FUNDS** opportunity. Any member of The Peoples Church who provides financial support to a denominationally affiliated college or seminary can apply to have those funds matched by Community Engagement. CE will match qualifying new gifts up to \$500. But act soon - the matching funds are limited and we will match on a first come, first served basis. Contact Bev Mason, [masonbj2790@gmail.com](mailto:masonbj2790@gmail.com), for further information.

  	<p>Save the Date!</p> <p><i>Congregational Meeting—Annual Fall Election Meeting</i></p> <p><i>Sunday, November 7th, 2021</i></p> <p><i>(More information to come)</i></p>	  
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## Peoples Forum

Sundays; 9:30-10:15 a.m.; Robertson Room

**10/03** – “What is that tall building over there?”, Tom Fehrenbach, East Lansing Development Authority, and Dave Ledebuhr, TPC Liaison

**10/10** – “Getting to Know You”, Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell, TPC Associate Pastor

**10/17** – “The Big, Beautiful New McLaren”, John Patterson, VP Support Services for McLaren Hospital

**10/24** – Elaine Hardy, East Lansing Diversity Director







## Fine Arts at The Peoples Church



Members of Peoples Church are invited to admire the new collection decorating the halls of our church.

### “Stitchery”

*This exhibit is largely composed of stitchery art from the Permanent Collection of The Peoples Church, donated by members and friends over the 54 years of the Fine Arts Committee’s existence.*

*In 1981 Celia Skarstad, a member of Peoples Church and a weaver, exhibited many pieces of her art. She donated some of her work to the Church and several are included in this exhibit. Two other former members of our Church, Carol Bailey, and Maria Thompson also donated a few pieces to our Church.*

*Maria’s is the large white stitched cross on a red background and is called “Cruzembordada,” (embroidered cross). Both women contributed many pieces to our annual Christmas Bazaars. Carol was known for her cloth dolls. The three Ecclesiastical Panels were created by Margared Yuill in 1972.*

*In January, 2009, an invitational exhibit of stitchery was hung and called “Creative Stitchery and Fiber Art”. Several members of Peoples Church exhibited pieces of their work, including former member Faye Dragosh, and current members: Jan Reed, Jan Perron, and Betty Moore. One piece in the current exhibit is in the Kiosk and it is “Diamond Cove” by Jan Reed.*

*As a point of history, the Kiosk, located in the East Hall, was commissioned by the Fine Arts Council in 1982, to honor Linda Bauer Thomson. It was built by Charles Finkel and paid for with memorial funds donated in Linda’s honor.*

*This exhibit was curated and hung by the following members of the Fine Arts Committee; Chair: Sue Mills, Mary Liechty, Susan Nowicki, Jan Reed, Nancy Wilson and special friend Kelton Reedy.*

## Henry and Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture Series

We are pleased to invite you to the 5th annual Larzelere Memorial Lecture, to be held on **October 17th** in our sanctuary. Our speaker, Rev. Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell is a Professor of Theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She has authored several books and numerous articles. In addition, she co-authored *Living Christianity: A Pastoral Theology for Today* with Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe, and *No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice* with Christopher Doucot. We welcome you to join us for this lecture and discussion of how we can build a more just and inclusive society.



### Lecture Title:

Christianity, Racism, and the Blessing of Faith

### Description:

In this lecture, Rev. Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell offers a theological perspective on the topic of racism. As an introduction, it covers where we are regarding race in the United States and how we got here, including pivotal points of American history rarely taught in school. This lecture views race and racism through a specifically Christian lens and points forward to how we can faithfully respond to the present moment. With lots of room for questions, discussion, and new ideas, Craigo-Snell will engage what race and faith mean to The Peoples Church.

### Schedule

**10:30 a.m.**—Worship Service, with Guest Rev. Dr. Craigo-Snell

~Service will be followed by a noon luncheon~

**1:00–3:00 p.m.**— Presentation, Rev. Dr. Craigo-Snell in the Sanctuary



## New Normal

By Dana Johnson, Director, Peoples Church Preschool

Peoples Church Preschool



I would like to thank the leadership of the church and especially the Facility staff for keeping us all safe and healthy throughout the ongoing Covid pandemic.

Facility Director, Zack Matthews, and his team, Vince Watson, Travis Nagler, and Eliza Orr, have done a wonderful job of keeping PPE stations stocked, repeatedly cleaning to reduce transmission risk, and keeping our large building clean and sanitized.

Because of this support the preschool program has been able to continue operations fairly normally. We continue to be fully enrolled and going strong, as we teach the next generation to be kind and smart human beings that take care of each other and the earth.



## Town & Gown Monthly Schedule

We are pleased to share the good news that our Great Decisions programs will now be coordinated by the MSU’s AgeAlive Senior Ambassadors Town & Gown program. The program continues until mid-December and meets weekly on Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Participants may either attend in the Robertson Room or join by Zoom. We invite you to join us as we welcome Town & Gown to our church community! You can register to [attend via this link](#). For more information about future speakers, please take a look at this [flyer](#).

**10/05** — Dr. Benjamin Smith, Department of History, University of Warwick, UK, a historian of modern Mexican history.

**10/12** — Dr. Mónica Ramírez-Montagut, Director of the MSU Broad Art Museum

**10/19** — Dr. Jennifer Cobbina, School of Criminal Justice

**10/26** — Dr. Matt Grossmann, Department of Political Science & Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research

**11/02** — Dr. David Lowry; Department of Plant Biology



# CHILDREN'S EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLES CHURCH



We are back! We've had a wonderful return to Sunday School and it is joyous to hear the 3rd floor full of children's voices again!

I have so many things to tell you about!

First, as always, Sunday School can't happen without teachers! If you are good at crowd control and can read and open glue sticks, have I got the job for you! It's only 40 minutes of your time, but will make a huge difference in some children's lives. Remember, you can enjoy the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. service with the announcements, hymn, and passing the peace, then watch the sermon later on our YouTube channel. Contact me if you can help. Thank you!

I'm excited that our first Family Event is coming up! The Harvest Festival is back on Sunday, October 31st. Yes, Halloween—and children are encouraged to wear their costumes to church! Everyone is welcome to join us in the Snider Social Hall after the 10:30 service. There will be food, games, crafts, activities, and of course, fun and fellowship! Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up. Please contact me if you can help that day.

Our pageant cast is busy rehearsing for this year's virtual Christmas Pageant. I'm so proud of these kids taking time out of their busy weeks to learn their lines and songs. It can be time consuming, but they're doing an awesome job. I can't wait to see the final show!

Peace and blessings to you all!

~Mrs. Kathi



## PCYG PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Hello PCYG Students and Families!

It has been wonderful to be back together with you all for the past few weeks! I am so excited about what this year has in store for us as a PCYG family. As a reminder, we are requiring masks during youth group time, and any time you are in the church building! Watch your emails, as I have some exciting October events planned for us. I don't want to share details yet, but be on the lookout for more info soon!

High School PCYG: Sunday evenings 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the youth Den

Middle School PCYG: Wednesday evenings 5:30–7:30 p.m. beginning with the community dinner in the Snider Social Hall.

Joyfully,

Elisha Smith



## PEOPLES CHURCH CAMPUS MINISTRY



*Who ARE these people?*

### *Peoples Church Campus Ministry—It Matters*

You, like me, may be looking at the generations coming behind you and wonder about them. It is so easy for us to assume that the values with which we grew up must be the values of those who follow us. It is too easy for older generations to look down on our young adults and lump them into unfair categories - without taking into account the societal and cultural pressures in which they have been raised. Gen Z is what we call the emerging adults that currently make up our college campuses. These individuals were born in the mid-late 90's through about 2012, and have been impacted more harshly by the societal and cultural consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to an article published in May 2020 by Pew Research, at least 50% of the oldest of Gen Z (18-24) reported a significant job loss or pay cut due to the pandemic.

Gen Z is more racially and ethnically diverse than any previous generation, 22% of whom have at least one immigrant parent, which will eventually result in the first generation to reach a non-white majority. Politically they tend toward progressive and pro-government thinking; they are pro-diversity and less likely to subscribe to the US superiority complex. Gen Z recognizes the impact humans have on global warming, are more likely to understand the dynamic of white privilege, and more inclusive in defining both marriage and gender.

Gen Z has no memory of a life before smartphones and Google, they have had constant immediate access to the world from the beginning of their lives. They understand connection through the eyes of virtual gaming and Zoom and online meeting/classroom platforms. Gen Z reports higher rates of depression and anxiety and has experienced the fear of mass shootings more than any generation previous. Coinciding with the recently publicized statistics stating the majority of people in the US do not attend church regularly and the rise of the *Nones* who claim no specific religious affiliation, emerging adults do place an emphasis on spirituality and spiritual health while most do not claim to be "religious."

So, People's Church, it is into this chaotic space that we enter. Some of you may be wondering why we would focus our resources on this demographic as they most certainly will not make up the pool of largest donors. I am reminded of one of my favorite stories in the Gospel of John, where Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well. I have always loved her and this brutally honest exchange between she and Jesus. At the end, filled with excitement she leaves her water jug at the well and runs back to the village making sure everyone in earshot could hear of her encounter with the Messiah.

We are in the business of meeting young people where they are, engaging them in relationship and connecting them with the God who loves them endlessly. It is God who does the transforming, while we walk alongside and encourage young adults to bravely trust in God and their community. As we introduce them to the power of serving and connecting, so often they cannot wait to tell their stories, just like the woman at the well that day. I truly believe that as we plant the seeds of faith and challenge this generation to the gift of intentional spiritual growth, we will see our society strengthened and the values of Jesus lived out more prominently.

Thank you for your investment in this journey - I am grateful!

Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell