

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 10:30 A.M.**— The Peoples Church sanctuary service. Dr. Du Mez will give a brief presentation.
- 12 P.M.**— Following the sanctuary service, there will be a luncheon with Dr. Du Mez in Snider Social Hall.
- 1 P.M.**— Dr. Du Mez will give her full lecture, 'Jesus & John Wayne and the Evangelical Reckoning.'



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

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ThePeoplesChurch.com

## THE HENRY & ANNABEL LARZELERE MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

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.



## THE PEOPLES CHURCH ANNUAL HENRY & ANNABEL LARZELERE MEMORIAL LECTURE



Lecturer:  
Kristin Kobes Du Mez

'Jesus & John Wayne,  
and the  
Evangelical Reckoning'

Free Event

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023

200 W. Grand River Ave. East Lansing, MI

## FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

We at the Peoples Church are thrilled to welcome Kristin Kobes Du Mez as our keynote speaker for the seventh annual Henry & Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture.

Dr. Du Mez' most recent book, *'Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation'* has become essential reading on the damaging impacts toxic masculinity and Christian nationalism have had on our country and communities of faith. During a time of great polarization, Dr. Du Mez invites us to reckon with our history in order to better recognize our current cultural, political, and religious climate. Through this improved understanding, Dr. Du Mez' work allows us to approach our task of being the church in the world with fresh eyes.



**Rev. Haley Hansen**

## JESUS AND JOHN WAYNE

Jesus and John Wayne is a sweeping account that reveals how American evangelicals have worked for decades to replace the Jesus of the gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism — or, in the words of one modern chaplain, with a “spiritual badass.” As Kristin Kobes Du Mez explains, the key to understanding this transformation is to recognize the role of culture in modern American evangelicalism. Evangelical books, films, music, clothing, and merchandise influence the beliefs of millions, and evangelical popular culture is teeming with muscular heroes — mythical warriors and rugged soldiers, men like John Wayne, Mel Gibson, Donald Trump, and the Duck Dynasty clan, who assert white masculine power in defense of “Christian America.” The values at the heart of white evangelicalism today — patriarchy, authoritarian rule, aggressive foreign policy, fear of Islam, ambivalence toward #MeToo, and opposition to Black Lives Matter and the LGBTQ community — have transformed the faith, with enduring consequences for all Americans.

*Excerpt from 'Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation'*

## ABOUT KRISTIN KOBES DU MEZ

Kristin Kobes Du Mez is a Professor of History and Gender Studies at Calvin University and a New York Times bestselling author. 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.'*



Learn more about Dr. Du Mez and follow her work by visiting her website, [kristindumez.com](http://kristindumez.com).