

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

10:30 A.M.— Rev. Dr. William Yoo will preach during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

12 P.M.— Following the worship service, there will be a luncheon in the Snider Social Hall.

1 P.M.— Rev. Dr. William Yoo will give his full lecture, 'Striving and Struggling for a More Perfect Faith and a More Perfect Union: The Past, Present, and Future of Racism and American Christianity'



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

Featuring:

Rev. Dr. William Yoo

Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History,
Columbia Theological Seminary



*Striving and Struggling for a
More Perfect Faith and a
More Perfect Union: The
Past, Present,
and Future of Racism and
American Christianity*

**SUNDAY, NOV. 10,
2024 AT 1 P.M.**

200 W. GRAND RIVER AVE.
EAST LANSING, MI

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Peoples Church is thrilled to welcome Dr. William Yoo as our keynote speaker for the eighth annual Henry and Annabel Larzelere lecture!

A minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Dr. Yoo is an associate professor of American religious and cultural history at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

His research involves examining the histories of racial injustice, settler colonialism, and slavery in the United States, and his latest book is titled, "What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church."

If we as Christians want to pursue racial justice, we must first understand racial injustice and the ways it is part of our histories and identities. Dr. Yoo's work invites us to engage deeper so we might be more faithful in our witness to God's outstanding grace.

Rev. Haley Hansen



STRIVING AND STRUGGLING FOR A MORE PERFECT FAITH AND A MORE PERFECT UNION: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF RACISM AND AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY

Throughout American history, Christians have desired to honor God and country. They found inspiration in scriptural passages such as Hebrews 12:1-2 to look toward Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of faith" as well as the principles found in the U.S. Constitution that bind citizens toward the formation of "a more perfect Union." Yet the history of American Christianity is simultaneously hopeful and horrible. Roughly one hundred years ago, Reinhold Niebuhr, a son of first-generation German immigrants who ministered as a pastor in Detroit and then taught theology at Union Seminary in New York City, observed how one of the saddest ironies of American Christianity was the failure among white churches to enact racial justice and reconciliation. James Cone and other Black theologians agreed with Niebuhr's assessment, but they also criticized Niebuhr's efforts to end racism as lacking in depth, empathy, and mutuality.

Christians across many races and ethnicities have applied their religious and patriotic convictions to create new communities, resist oppression, and transform societies. At the same time, Christianity has also been one of the greatest dividing forces in the country, with close connections to slavery, settler colonialism, racial prejudice, religious intolerance, and exclusionary immigration laws. In his lecture, William Yoo traces the history of racism within American Christianity to reveal past motivations, identify present legacies, and offer lessons toward a better and more racially just future.

ABOUT REV. DR. WILLIAM YOO

Rev. Dr. William Yoo has explored American Protestant missions in Korea, Korean American religious communities, and the history of slavery and racism in American Presbyterianism. His upcoming book examines how settler colonialism and slavery shaped Protestant Christianity in early North America. He uses diverse primary sources to highlight the experiences of Indigenous peoples, African descendants, and abolitionists. Currently, he is researching Reconstruction and the Civil Rights Movement. As a Presbyterian minister, he aims to write, teach, and preach with honesty, integrating Reformed perspectives to enhance current ministry practices. He joined Columbia Theological Seminary in 2014 and lives in Decatur, Georgia, with his spouse Sarah, a middle school teacher, their two teenagers, and two cats.

