

SUNDAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 14, 2014


REJOICE
HEARTILY IN THE LORD, IN
my God is
THE JOY OF MY
SOUL
-Isaiah 61:10-



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

200 W. Grand River Ave. | East Lansing, MI 48823
517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com

SUNDAY MORNING

8:30 a.m.

Worship Service, Chapel

9:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
Children's Chapel*
Confirmation Class
PCYG Open Hang Out
Peoples Forum*

9:45 a.m.

Carol Choir Rehearsal*

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service, Sanctuary
Children's Sunday School*

11:30 a.m.

Coppertone Rehearsal
Campus Ministry*

**Off this week*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

5:30 p.m.

Community Meal

6:00 p.m.

Dance 149
Youth Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m.

Faith Builders | Children's Education
Adult Formation
Peoples Church Youth Group
Yoga Class

**WNL! returns Jan. 7.*

CHURCH OFFICE

Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings. Call 517-332-5073.

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Dr. Jonathan Reed, Music Director
Elizabeth Reed, Children's Music Director
Judy Kabodian, Organist
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COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Elders meet at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Robertson Room.

Crystal Branta, Chairperson
elders@thepeopleschurch.com



ABOUT OUR CHRISMONS TREE

The beautiful ornaments that adorn the tree at the front of the Sanctuary are known as Chrismons - *CHRIST MONograms*. They have been made over a number of years by the children, youth and adults of The Peoples Church. Chrismons are always made of white and gold materials to signify Christ's purity and majesty.

Historically, a number of plants and animals have been used to represent God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Many of these can be found on our tree. **See how many you can find.**

Lamb - *Jesus, Lamb of God.*

Dove - *Ancient symbol of the Holy Spirit.*

Fish - *Ancient symbol of Christ.*

Butterfly - *Resurrection, new life.*

Scallop Shell (with drops of water) - *Baptism*

Rose - *Christ as both God and man.*

There also is a creché (nativity scene) placed on our tree. **Do you see it?**

Be Amazed! 

The Peoples Church | Annual Campaign 2015



**GIVE
ONLINE**

ThePeoplesChurch.com

ALL ARE WELCOME | *Whether you are young or old, rich or poor, doubtful or hopeful ... no matter where you are in your faith journey, YOU are welcome here. For those with children, be assured that noises and wiggling are signs of a church that is alive and growing; your entire family is welcome in worship.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP | 8:30 A.M.

Prelude

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

arr. Lani Smith

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Andrew Pomerville

Call to Worship (Based on Isaiah 12:5-6)

Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God's works.

Sing praises to the ends of the earth.

Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,

for great is the Holy One in our midst,

blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.

Gathering Hymn

(Please stand if able.)

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

No. 136

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Week Three: JOY

We light the first candle for hope.

Hope for a world that is broken and hurting.

We light the second candle for peace.

Peace for where disharmony and violence rule.

We light the third candle for joy.

Joy for those who despair and long for more.

We can experience joy, when we are expectant like Mary.

We can experience joy, when we are terrified like Joseph.

Let us pray together:

God, in this season suspended between hope and fulfillment, let us never forget what you have done. May we be overwhelmed by your joy, which flows in wave after wave. May we experience true joy through your child. May we make straight the path for the Lord, that together we may see God's glory revealed. Amen.

Choral Response "The People Who Walked in Darkness" (Verse 1)

No. 86

*The people who walked in darkness awaken to see a great light.
The people who dwelt in the land of shadow rise to a star shining bright.
His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Father Forever, Prince of Peace.*

Prayers of the People

(During the pastoral prayer there will be a time to offer prayers of joy and concern, voiced aloud or silently for and on behalf of others.)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ *(Please stand if able.)*

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
(Pew Bible Page 744, Large Print Page 1,122)

New Testament Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28
(Pew Bible Page 1,062, Large Print Page 1,613)

Sermon

"I Know Who I'm Not"

Rev. Drew Filkins

Offertory

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

arr. Janet Linker

Act of Praise

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication (Based on Psalm 126)

Though we could be resentful,
we come to give thanks.

Though we could be complaining,
we come to offer appreciation.

Though we could be upset about what we lack,
we come in gratitude for what we have.

We offer these gifts this morning,
singing songs of joy and rejoicing together. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sending Hymn "Joy to the World" **No. 134**

Benediction *(Please stand if able.)*

Benediction Response "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Refrain) **No. 113**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Postlude "Joy to the World" arr. Michael Burkhardt



"Silent Night, Holy Night ..."

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS ZOO OUTING

Join your Peoples Church friends and family for an evening outing at Potter Park Zoo's Wonderland of Lights from 5 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 19. Registration includes parking, access to the zoo, reserved classroom space for our Peoples Church group as well as plenty of hot cocoa, snacks, cookies and crafts to enjoy. Cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Questions? Contact Meaghan Gonzales at mgonzales@thepeopleschurch.com.



CONNECT

NEW MEMBERS CLASS | JAN. 11

Have you begin thinking about becoming a member of our faith family here at The Peoples Church, while worshipping with us during this holiday season? We encourage you to join us for our next New Members Class. We'll host the 90-minute class with optional tour in the Robertson Room on January 11, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. (Following the class, you will be invited to formally join the church on January 25). Please contact the church office if you plan to attend, and also indicate if you will need childcare. We look forward to meeting with you!

PEOPLES 101

Want to know more about The Peoples Church? Our monthly informal Q&A session, Peoples 101, is hosted on the first Sunday of each month in the Robertson Room following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The next Peoples 101 will be offered Jan. 4. All are welcome.



SERVE

SOUTHSIDE KITCHEN

Volunteers are needed to help serve lunch at the Southside Kitchen each month through 2015. Peoples Church members are invited to serve on the third Tuesday of each month: We are looking for help on Feb. 17, March 17, May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15. Questions? Contact Jan Perron at RPerron631@aol.com.

PERSONAL NEEDS BANK

Help stock the Personal Needs Bank. We collect bar soap, deodorant, sanitary pads, tampons, disposable diapers, baby wipes, disposable razors (men's and women's), shaving cream, dish soap, facial tissue or paper towels. The Personal Needs Bank is a joint ministry of The Peoples Church and All Saints Episcopal Church. We have served more 200 families in 2014. Donation baskets are located in the Main Sanctuary and at the Welcome Center in the Northwest Entrance. Thank you for your continued and generous support of this important ministry to our local community.



GROW

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Interested in digging deeper into scripture? All are welcome to join in Monday Morning Bible Study, which gathers at 11 a.m. each week in the Centennial Room. Join us for study and friendship. We are currently reading and discussing N.T. Wright's book, "Matthew: 25 Studies for Individuals and Groups." For more information please contact Mary Hill at (517) 339-2502, Barb Potter at (517) 332-4733, or Pastor Drew.



THURSDAYS WITH JESUS

All women are welcome to join Thursdays With Jesus at 6:30 p.m. each week in the Robertson Room. Their fall study is "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruits of the Spirit."

THURSDAY MEN'S GROUPS

Our *MORNING MEN'S GROUP* meets at 7:00 a.m. in the Robertson Room and the *AFTER-NOON MEN'S GROUP* meets at 12:00 p.m. in the Library each week.

THE LONGEST NIGHT | DEC. 17

For many, Christmas does not arrive with the joy and happiness as advertised on television or in greeting cards. It can be a challenging and painful time for many who have experienced loss, separation and heartache. It is important that those who feel this way during the holiday season know they are not alone.

Acknowledging this, The Peoples Church hosts a special worship service, "The Longest Night." It will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 17 in the McCune Chapel.

All are welcome to participate as we join with one another in prayer, the reading of scripture and songs of reflection.

May the Word of God shine light into our darkness and may the Christ child always be a sign of hope in the face of despair.



SUNDAY RECYCLING PROGRAM

NEXT DROP-OFF: POLYSTYRENE FOAM (SECOND SUNDAY)

The Peoples Church Recycling Program is a volunteer service to the members of our faith community. Items can be dropped off near our sign in the Northwest Entrance. Please be sure to only drop off items at this location on the Sundays that they are to be collected. It is difficult for us to store all of the items we recycle. Also, clean and rinse the items you bring in. Soiled items will be discarded in the trash. Recycle many other items each day at our Recycling Center across from the Church Office.

FIRST SUNDAY: SMALL BATTERIES

SECOND SUNDAY: POLYSTYRENE FOAM

THIRD SUNDAY: PLASTIC #1--7

FOURTH SUNDAY: GREEN GLASS

SIGN UP | Return forms to Offertory Plate on Sunday or the Church Office during the week.

POTTER PARK WINTER WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS

__ YES! We want to attend the Dec. 19 Peoples Church outing to Potter Park Zoo.

Contact Name: _____ Number Attending: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Make checks payable to **THE PEOPLES CHURCH** and indicate "POTTER PARK ZOO OUTING" in the memo line.

SIGN UP: SOUTH SIDE KITCHEN

__ YES! I would like to volunteer to serve at the Southside Kitchen in 2015.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Month(s) Available: _____

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA MEMORIAL GIFTS (PLEASE PRINT)

_____ YES! I would like to make a \$20 contribution to the Sanctuary Decorating Fund. Please accept my gift:

_____ In memory of

_____ In honor of

_____ In celebration of

_____ To the Glory of God

Given by: _____

Please make checks payable to **THE PEOPLES CHURCH** and indicate "Poinsettias" in the memo line. DEADLINE TO ORDER IS DEC. 15.

Questions? Contact Dee Przybylski at 517-332-5073 or dprzybylski@thepeopleschurch.com