

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2018



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.

Worship Service, Chapel

9:30 a.m.

- * Carol Choir Rehearsal
- * Confirmation Class
- * PCYG Bible Exploration
- * Peoples Forum

10:30 a.m. 

Worship Service, Sanctuary

* Children's Sunday School

11:30 a.m.

- * Coppertones Rehearsal
- * Lunch & Lounge | Campus Ministry
- * Dance 149

6:10 p.m.

* Youth Choir

6:30 p.m.

* High School Youth Group

* **WILL RESUME IN 2019**

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT LIVE!**

**Will resume on
January 9, 2019.**



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

THE PEOPLES CHURCH STAFF

Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings.

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

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

Alan Canady, Chairperson
elders@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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6:00 p.m. Family Service

9:00 p.m. Traditional Candle-light Service

ASL Interpreted Service

The Peoples Church is proud to welcome ASL interpreters for our 10:30 a.m. worship service and for special events.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 23, 2018

Prelude

"Noel Polonais"

Judy Kabodian, organ

Alexander Guilmant

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Betsy Aho

Worship is both personal and communal, formal and informal, intimate and casual. Here at The Peoples Church, we recognize that people come to worship God in both joy and pain, faith and doubt, with laughter and with tears. Our worship tries to reflect a desire both for meditation and celebration. Please know you are invited to participate in any and all ways you feel led. Our songs, prayers, words and actions are the works of imperfect people trying to worship a perfect God.

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

People: The shepherds were the first to hear the joyful announcement of Christ's birth – the good news of great joy for all the people.

Leader: Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed.

People: We have also heard this wonderful news. We welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and though we do not see him now, we follow him.

People: And we worship him filled with glorious joy!

Gathering Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

No. 113

Procession of the Light of Christ

Jack Filkins and Kaitlyn Gronowski, Acolytes

Call to Confession

Leader: God is light! In God there is no darkness at all. Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

All: O promised Christ: we are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. O promised Christ: we are a broken people. Our wholeness depends on your coming. O promised Christ: we are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises. Our hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your wholeness, and for your help. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The good news of this Advent season is grace and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

All: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

Congregational Response "Then Cleansed Be Every Life from Sin" (On Jordan's Bank) No. 96
**Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within;
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

First Reading Psalm 118: 1-9
(Pew Bible Page 609; Large Print 898)


Communion (8:30 a.m.)

Children's Moment (10:30 a.m.)

Passing the Peace of Christ *(Please stand if able)*
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Second Reading Matthew 1: 18-25
(Pew Bible Page 966; Large Print 1,468)

Anthem "Child of the Manger, Child of the Cross" Craig Courtney

Sermon "Do You See What I See?" Rev. Betsy Aho
 [@Connect2TPC](https://twitter.com/Connect2TPC) [#TPCsermon](https://twitter.com/Connect2TPC)

Hymn of Response "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 121

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

(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.

Thanksgiving and Dedication of Gifts

Offertory

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

J.S. Bach

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

Generous God, we marvel at your lavish gifts to us: life and breath, food and shelter, opportunities for work and play, and especially hope and peace in Christ. We pledge ourselves to mirror the glory of your self-giving love, to continue the pattern of generosity we see perfectly revealed in Christ, whose coming we long to celebrate. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Joy to the World"

No. 134

Benediction

Benediction Response

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Postlude

"Sussex Carol"

arr. Dale Wood

TALENT SHOW

"We Hunger For Your Talent" Talent Show and Empty Bowls fundraiser is coming live to The Peoples Church Snider Social Hall on **February 3, 2019** following the 10:30 a.m. service! Seeking talent of all ages and all kinds! The congregation is invited to enjoy Gerri Lynn's famous chili, make donations for handmade empty bowls to fight hunger, and be bowled over by the talent on stage! More details in the January *Portal*.

GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

Pastor Betsy leads this covenant group through curriculum and discussion that moves participants toward closure of unresolved grief as a result of death, illness, divorce or other losses. This group is an 8 week commitment, with consistent attendance appreciated. The group will meet on Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. January 24 - March 21, 2019 (no meeting on March 6). Space is limited, and registration is required by contacting Pastor Betsy. Whether you are dealing with recent loss or loss from a long time ago, this group has something healing to offer you.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Wednesday Night Live! is on a holiday break for the remainder of the year. Programming will resume January 9, 2019.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Mark your calendars! Join us for lunch and fellowship on **January 13** at Beggar's Banquet after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. No need to RSVP! The Welcome Ministry has tables reserved for The Peoples Church. All ages welcome.

CONNECTED HEARTS IN CHRIST (CHICs) WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Connected Hearts In Christ (CHICs) Women's Bible Study starts a brand a new study on the Book of Romans beginning **January 10, 2019**. We meet on Thursdays in the Robertson Room from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and all are welcome! This group had 8 members in the Fall and we'd love to see it grow. If you've been looking for a gathering to share faith and fellowship, CHICs might be the perfect answer. Contact Beth Lundy at lundybb@comcast.net with any questions.

THE PEOPLES FORUM

There will not be a Peoples Forum held on December 30 and January 6 due to the Christmas and New Year holiday. Programming will resume on January 13, 2019.

2018 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

THE PEOPLES CHURCH



6:00 p.m. Sanctuary; Family candlelight service
with Youth & Children's Choirs

9:00 p.m. Sanctuary; Traditional candlelight service
with the Sanctuary Choir

ASL interpreters provided at both Christmas Eve worship services.
Half of the offering will go to the MSU Food Bank.



CHRISTMAS 2018 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

IN MEMORY OF ...

Edna & Wilbur Brookover and Laura & Ernest Hillman Jr., by Patty & George Brookover
Our parents, Arthur & Marjorie Gard and Edward & Thelma Wegenke, by Gary & Sandra Wegenke
Kevin A. Kelly, our wonderful husband & father, by Jamie, Daniel & Michael Kelly
Roy H. & Marion Heil, by Susan Heil-Godfrey
Our parents, George & Katie Kerr and Jan & Harry Jury, by Tom & Chris Jury
Our parents, by Tom & Lynne Hoffmeyer
Beloved parents, grandparents & great grandparents, Rollie & Marilyn Ledebuhr who loved their Lord and this church, by Jane & Dave Ledebuhr
Carol O. Ekern, by Fran Ekern
My parents and sister, Harold & Vivian Laser and Marlene Stemen, by Sandy Draggoo
Anna Jones, Louis Lessard Sr., & Judith Lessard, by Alicia & Lou Lessard and Family
Lyn J. Babbit, by Paul C. Babbit
George & Libby Kohl, beloved parents and grandparents, by Linda and Rachel Kohl
Bruce Aldrich, by Joyce Aldrich
Our son, Peter J. Dragosh and our nephew, Michael A. Wittmann, by Faye & Steve Dragosh
Robert Toth, by Dee, children, and grandchildren
Albert A. White, by his loving family
George & Jean White, by their loving family
Wayne & Glenna Steinkamp, Bernie Steinkamp, and Margaret & Charles Steinkamp, by Bob & Margie Steinkamp
Carrie Wales, by the John Wales family
Our grandparents, Jack & Polly Reed and Tom DeSimone, by Hallie & Christopher Reed
David VanLooy, by Dot VanLooy
Parents and Grandparents, by the Woolsey Family
Dr. Robert N. Thomas, by his wife, Dorothy and sons, Scott & Robert
John Stoughton & Rev. Jong Ku Kim, M.D., by Joyce & Hyung Kim
My parents, Kathryn & Hugh and brother Fred, by Ken Beachler
Dean & Paula Telder and Harry & Adelia Przybylski, by Dave & Dee Przybylski
Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Stone, by the Stone Family
Bettye Donahue, Ruth Ann Ference, Margie Kinzley & Edith Newman, by the Rebekah-Hannah Circle
Stanley & Doris Brower and Marie Brower, by David Brower
Ele Stover, by Mary & Ken West
Michael Harrison, who loved the music of Christmas, by his family
Dr. Curt & John Liechty and our parents, by Lana & Steve Wagner
Curt & John Liechty, by Mary Liechty & Family
Bob, Julie, David & (canine) Reilly, by Audrey, Pat & Pam Martin
Adele & William Longhway and Jerry & Nancy Longhway, by Margie & Bob Steinkamp
Thomas H. Vaughn & Steward B. Hoffman, by Merrilyn Vaughn-Hoffman & Family
Dear friend, Marge Joslin, by Dottie & Jim Spousta
Celia Marxer & Carol Turner, by Frank Marxer
My sweet dog, Lionel, by Loretta Johnston



CHRISTMAS 2018 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

IN MEMORY OF, CONTINUED...

Lou & Esther Nowack and Gail, Camille & Gordon Rockwell, by David Rockwell & Mary Nowack
Barb & Keith Lawton and Max Hall, by John & Mindy Lawton
My precious wife Peggy, by Dr. Randy Wirth
Ruth & Wilbur Wright & their son's families William, Howard & Richard Wright, by Joan Wright
Dr. Geoff Sumner-Smith, by Mary, Lynn & Jann
Howard E. & Daisy T. Angell, by Jann Angell
Mark Latterman, by The Latterman Family
Harold & Wilma Hicks, by The Hicks Family
Dr. Harry Allis, M.D., by Susan Allis
Dr. Dave Mills, D.D.S., by Susan Allis
Dad & brother, Peter & Chris Schroeder and celebrating mum, Gwyneth Schroeder, by Judy Schroeder
Dear friend, Olivia Reed, by Aram, Judy & Aaron Kabodian

IN HONOR OF...

Our parents, Herbert W. Conner, Jr. & Hester Marie Conner and Robert C. & H. Irene Dosser, by Andrew & Sandra Conner
Lary & Mary Hill, cherished parents, grandparents and great grandparents, by the Whittaker Family
Dear friend, Sharon Dawson, by Dottie & Jim Spousta
Our mother, Mimi, with love from Elizabeth, Arran & Sean Burpee

IN CELEBRATION OF...

Our family, Tom, Heidi, Beth and Kate, by Carol & Sandy Bryson
The lives of Claude & Norma Raak, by Bruce & Joel Raak
The lives of Ev & Rita Lothrop, by Sue Lothrop
Our family, Bill, John, Kathleen, Jack & Lola, by Jake & Maxine Ferris
Our families, by Ray & Janet Perron
Our wonderful parents, Eleanor & Richard Stubbs, by The McGaw & Stubbs Families

TO THE GLORY OF GOD...

Richard & Kay Comstock