

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018



*"Go from your country, your people
and your father's household to the
land I will show you."*

Genesis 12:1



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

5:30 p.m.

Community Meal

6:00 p.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal
Children's Education

6:30 p.m.

Adult Formation Classes
Peoples Church Youth Group
Yoga Class

THE PEOPLES CHURCH STAFF

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

Reception Desk 332.5073

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Dr. Jonathan Reed, Music Director
Elizabeth Reed, Children's Music Director
Judy Kabodian, Musician in Residence
office@thepeopleschurch.com

Abigail Waller, LMSW, Grief Counselor
Appointments by Pastoral Referral

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.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

TODAY the Pastoral Search Team will be conducting a Congregational Survey during both worship services.

All completed surveys must be returned or emailed to church by Monday, September 17. Thank you in advance for your participation in this important part of the Search Team's self-study of our congregation.



Children through 5th grade are invited to participate in Sunday School following the Children's Moment during the service. Please be sure to check-in your child at one of the kiosks located in Friendship Hall, prior to the worship service, to receive a name tag for your child. Julie Bills, Children's Christian Education Director, will lead the children to the classrooms on the third floor for Sunday School. At the conclusion of worship, you may pick up your child on the third floor; please show the security code you received at check-in to the teacher.

ORDER OF WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Prelude

"Lord, All My Heart Is Fixed on Thee"
Judy Kabodian, organ

Johann Ludwig Krebs

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 (Based on Psalm 139:1-6)

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: As we gather to worship, we acknowledge that the Lord our God knows us: God knows us better than we know God, better than we know each other, and even better than we know ourselves.

People: **"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways."**

Leader: "Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me."

People: **"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; too lofty for me to attain."**

Leader: Let us worship the God who knows us so well, and who loves us with an everlasting love!

Gathering Hymn

"The God of Abraham Praise"

No. 49

Procession of the Light of Christ

Zach Palsrock and Jack Filkins, Acolytes

Call to Confession (Psalm 139:11-12, 23-24)

Rev. Betsy Aho

Leader: "If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

People: **"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."**

Leader: Let us join in a prayer of confession.

(continued)

Prayer of Confession

God of Abraham, God of grace, life pulls us in many directions, and presents many possibilities. Sometimes we do not know which way to turn or make wrong choices. There are so many claims upon our time, so many demands for our attention, that the very range of choices drives us to distraction. It is then that we need you. Yours is the ultimate claim on our lives; help us to listen for it above all the other claims that are made on us. Because we cannot go everywhere or do everything, help us to get our priorities right, to know where you want us to go, what you want us to do and what we may have to leave behind; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (based on Romans 4:20-25)

Leader: Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness, and also to all who believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for the sake of our righteousness." Hear and believe these words of God's grace, experienced through Jesus' love, for the forgiveness of our sins.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Congregational Response "Do Not Be Afraid" (chorus only) No. 76

Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Chosen and beloved, you are my own.

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you: by your name I called you for my own.

First Reading

Hebrews 11:8-12

(Pew Bible Page 1,212; Large Print 1,833)

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.

Anthem (10:30 a.m.)

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Sanctuary Choir, directed by Dr. Jonathan Reed

Richard DeLong

Second Reading

Genesis 12:1-9

(Pew Bible Page 11; Large Print 16)

Sermon

"Divine Journeys, Divine Destinations"

 [@Connect2TPC](#) #TPCsermon

Rev. Case Van Kempen

Responsive Hymn

"O God, Who Gives Us Life"

No. 53

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.

Thanksgiving and Dedication of Gifts

Offertory

"The God of Abraham Praise"

arr. Flor Peeters

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 (Presbyterian Church of New Zealand)

Each of us is a fragile miracle, evidence of God's creative hands, and amazing grace. We are each unique, unrepeatable gifts to the world. We are proof of God's love. And so we who are the gifts of creation now give gifts to our Creator, gifts brought in love. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Be Still, My Soul"

No. 819

Benediction *(Please stand if able)*

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.**



Today's Floral Offering

Given in memory of my wife, Sue Behrendt, by John Behrendt.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE

Monday Morning Bible begins tomorrow, **Monday, September 17, 2018**. Pastor Drew will open up the often overlooked Hebrew scriptures of Leviticus and shed some light on these ancient laws. Join us in the Robertson Room at 11:00 a.m. each Monday. All are welcome to participate.



SERMON PREPARATION GROUP:

By popular demand, the Sermon Preparation Group is coming back! Everyone is welcome to join us as we talk about the upcoming week's texts and possible directions for the message. We will meet this **Wednesday, September 19**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fischbach Library (note the updated time and place). This will be the regular meeting time and location, so if you can't make it this week, please join us in the future. For more information, contact Pastor Case.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Family Bible Study has been postponed until October 21, 2018. Please stay tuned for more details in the October *Portal*.

EDGEWOOD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Edgewood Village tutoring and mentoring programs are starting up soon. Tutors for K-5 are needed Monday through Thursday, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. This is a one-on-one or small group setting. Usually tutors sign up for one day a week. Mentors are also needed for young women and young men on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. This is a group setting with various activities and purposeful discussions led by the Edgewood Village staff. Contact Mimi Burpee, 517.349.0806 or mimiburpee@gmail.com for more information.

THE PEOPLES FORUM

On Sunday, September 23, 2018, The Peoples Forum invites you to get "Up Close with Case." Rev. Case Van Kempen will be our guest at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room. Join us!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Join Pastor Case, Wednesdays, in the Robertson Room, as he leads a discussion based on his book, *Hard Questions People Ask About the Christian Faith*. This discussion will tackle some difficult questions that people ask about faith and provide some answers. Join us at 6:30 p.m. (after the community meal at 5:30 p.m.).

READING PEOPLE

Reading People will meet in the Robertson Room on **Thursday, September 20**, at 1:30 p.m. Barbara Potter will lead the discussion of the book, *My Beloved World*, by Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor. This book is the 2018 One Book, One Community selection.

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Join us Tuesday mornings for fellowship and wonderful faith-focused discussion. Beginning this fall, we will be reading Rev. Case Van Kempen's book, *Daniel: Daring Faith in Dangerous Times*. We gather at 7:00 a.m. each Tuesday in the Robertson Room.



VISITATION TEAM

The Peoples Church Visitation Team will be meeting on **Tuesday, October 9, 2018**, at 1:00 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Rev. Case Van Kempen will be our guest speaker.

Henry & Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture Series 2018

Faithful Witness In a Wailing World

Featuring **Rev. Traci Blackmon**

Executive Minister of Justice and Witness
Ministries, United Church of Christ



8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Worship Services,
Rev. Traci Blackmon, Preacher

Noon Luncheon
Snider Social Hall
(Free Will Offering Collected)

October 28, 2018

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

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Presentation,
Rev. Traci Blackmon

You are cordially invited to join in celebrating the
Installation of
The Reverend Dr. Andrew Pomerville
as Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life at Alma College



Sunday, September 30, 2018

4:00 p.m. Installation Service
Dunning Memorial Chapel

5:00 p.m. Dinner
Van Dusen Commons, Tyler-Van Dusen Campus Center

R.S.V.P. for dinner to 989.463.7081
by September 24, 2018

PRACTICING PEACE:

Developing Spiritual Practices That Foster Peaceful Living

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

September 21-23, 2018 • St. Francis Retreat Center

Registration going on now! • wpc@thepeopleschurch.com

Sponsored by:



Do you love to make music? The Peoples Church Sanctuary Choir and the Clarion Ringers are always looking for new members.

Sanctuary Choir rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and we sing most Sundays during the school year. Join us this Thursday and help us make a joyful noise!

Clarion Ringers rehearse each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Ring with us!