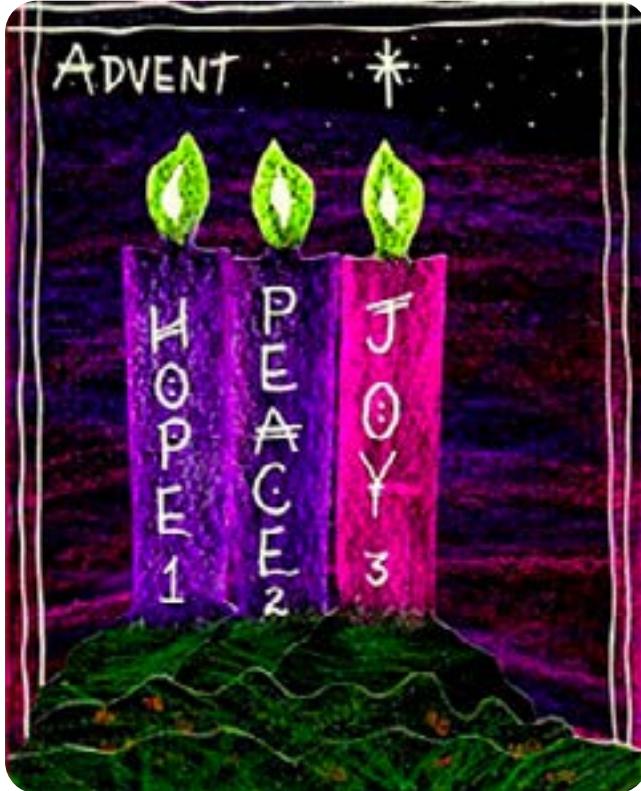


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2020



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

All regularly scheduled Sunday programs have been suspended until further notice.

Worship Service:

10:30 a.m. - in the Sanctuary &
Livestream on YouTube

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

WNL! programming will return when it is safe to do so. Updates will be provided as they happen.

A community meal will still be served for those who need one. Meals can be picked up in the Northwest entrance of the building.

ASL Interpreted Service

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



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.

Reception Desk 332.5073

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe 908.4442
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Rev. Drew Filkins 908.4448
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Rev. Penny Swartz 332.6074
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Elisha Smith 332.6264
Youth Director
esmith@thepeopleschurch.com

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

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

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

Bob Cantrell, 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.



To join the worship service via telephone, please dial **517-583-3949** and follow the prompts.

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE!

[CLICK HERE!](#)

ORDER OF WORSHIP | DECEMBER 13, 2020

Prelude

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
Judy Kabodian, organ

arr. Janet Linker

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Call to Worship

One: You who are poor, why have you come?

All: To hear good news.

One: You who are brokenhearted, why have you come?

All: To heal our hearts.

One: You who are captive, why have you come?

All: To hear words of freedom.

One: You who are prisoners, why have you come?

All: To be released from what binds us.

One: You who mourn, why have you come?

All: To receive comfort.

One: Know this truth, the baby who was born to us has brought hope, peace and joy.

All: Let us light the candle of joy as we wait upon the Lord.

One: Let us worship the King who brings comfort and joy this morning.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1, 3 and 4)

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us
adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O
come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Text: John Francis Wade (1743); trans; Frederick Oakley (1841)
Music: John Francis Wade (1743); harm. The English Hymnal (1906)
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Penny Swartz

God in this season suspended between hope and fulfillment, may we never forget what you have done. May we be overwhelmed by your mercy, which flows in wave after wave. May we be honest about the darkness within us, and perceptive of the light around us. May we make straight the path for the Lord, that together we may see God's glory revealed. Amen.

Adoration Response

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (verse 2)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Text: Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale (1853); alt.

Music: German Folk Melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones (1953)

Copyright: 2013

CCLI#: 1698862

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

A Reading from Scripture Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Children's Christmas Pageant

"The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper"

by, Ruth Elaine Schram and Mark Cabaniss

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Drew Filkins

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.

Invitation to Give

Offertory

[Click here to give your offering to our virtual Offertory Plate](#)

Act of Praise

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

Prayer of Dedication

We have seen the joy on our children's faces as they proclaimed your wonderful story. Let us turn to you with joy and gratitude as we give you a portion of our time, our talents, and our treasures. May these gifts be used to spread your hope, peace, and joy to all the world. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Joy to the World" (verses 1, 2 and 4)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts (1719)

Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel (1742); arr. Lowell Mason (1836)

Copyright: 2013

CCLI#: 1698862

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

"Trumpet Tune on Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

arr. Janet Linker

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

REFUGEE SERVICES CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

TODAY is the last day to get your gift cards in for the Refugee Services Christmas Collection. A designated box is located in the church office where you can drop off your cards. Or, you may donate electronically to The Peoples Church and designate the donation for 'Refugee Services.' This year, even with the challenges of Covid, the families and individuals who are gifted with Meijer and Target gift cards will be grateful of your generosity. Spending of these gifts is closely supervised by the staff at St Vincents Refugee Services and the most popular purchases are shoes and boots.

THE PEOPLES CHURCH PRAYER CHAIN

Our church has a very active, energetic and viable prayer chain that includes about 40 prayer warriors praying daily for cherished individuals who need the comfort and healing of prayer. People may have lost loved ones, have friends or family who are ill or have the need for mental, emotional or physical support. To request prayers, all it takes is approval from those needing prayers, an agreement to support this covenant group and periodic updating. Grieving individuals may receive prayers for 1 year. All other requests need updating every 3 months. Know that you may always extend these guidelines, if needed. Contact the church office or Janet Perron at: jrperron@comcast.net if you have a prayer request, or if you are interested in joining the prayer chain. It helps to have **Peoples Church Prayer Group** on the subject line.

CHICs BIBLE STUDY GROUP



CHICs (Connected Hearts in Christ) Small Group will be starting a discussion of *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. In this book, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations. She is undaunted by the most difficult passages and wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries. The group will start on **January 7** over Zoom and meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining us please email Beth Lundy at Lundybb@comcast.net or 610.246.0029 by call or text.

THE PEOPLES FORUM IS BACK

The Peoples Forum is ready to resume beginning, **December 20 at 9:30 a.m.** The committee has secured knowledgeable speakers, with varied subject matter, and will present in a Zoom format. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

December 20:	Christmas Readings Barb Dunlap, Sue Mills & Penny Swartz	January 10:	Bernie Porn Political Strategist
February 7:	Will Repko MSU Debate Coach of National Champion Debate Team	March 7:	Neil Mueller Trumpeter

[Join the Zoom meeting here](#); Meeting ID: 867 6240 8427; Passcode: Forum. Or, you can dial 1 301 715 8592 and enter the meeting ID: 867 6240 8427; Passcode: 770490. Email questions to [Mary West](#).

VIRTUAL GROUPS



Below are some of our currently offered Bible studies or fellowship groups that meet virtually, via Zoom.

SERMON PREVIEW GROUP: meets each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. To join, [click here](#); Meeting ID: 841 4703 4632. You can also dial 1.929.205.6099 and when prompted enter 841 4703 4632.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE: meets each Monday at 11:00 a.m. We are currently studying Romans. To join the meeting, [click here](#). Or, on your Zoom app enter meeting ID: 369 714 134 and enter the passcode: MMB. You can also dial 1.312.626.6799 and when prompted enter meeting ID: 369 714 134 and then passcode: 456440.

TUESDAY MORNING MENS GROUP: meets each Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. To join, [click here](#). The meeting ID is: 963 085 991. You can also dial 1.646.558.8656 and when prompted enter the meeting code 963 085 991. They are studying the book, *Strength to Love* by Martin Luther King, Jr.

WEDNESDAY NOON MENS GROUP: meets each Wednesday at Noon. To join, [click here](#).



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA MEMORIAL GIFTS

_____ **YES! I would like to honor a loved one with a poinsettia this holiday season.**

(A suggested donation of \$20 is appreciated! Please make checks payable to THE PEOPLES CHURCH and indicate "Poinsettias" in the memo line.)

Please accept my gift:

_____ **In Memory of**

_____ **In Honor of**

_____ **In Celebration of**

_____ **To the Glory of God**

Given by: _____

[Click here](#) to fill out an electronic form **OR**, fill out the form above and drop off to the church office; **Deadline to order is December 18, 2020.**

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE

After careful consideration, the Council of Elders decided that the Christmas Eve service should be live-streamed only—not in-person. There was no way to maintain the safety of worshippers and limit the number of people in attendance. We were afraid that we would have to turn people away. This decision is in keeping with the recommendations from the PCUSA, the UMC and the UCC. While we know that this will come as a disappointment to many people, we are doing this for the good of all. The Elders trust you will understand.

Join us on-line for our Christmas Eve service, December 24th at 7:00 pm. It will also be available on our YouTube channel. On behalf of the Council of Elders, we wish you a safe and blessed Advent season.



VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP*

Our virtual fellowship hour is back! Join us, virtually each Sunday, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service for fellowship. It's easy! Grab a cup of your favorite coffee and a sweet snack and log on to Zoom.

You can join the meeting by clicking on this link: [Join Zoom Meeting](#), or in your Zoom app enter Meeting ID: 885 9630 8098 and when asked for a password enter: TPC (please note, this is a new meeting link ID and passcode).

Don't have access to internet? No problem! You can still join us from ANY phone! Dial by your location; see below:

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Enter the Meeting ID: 885 9630 8098 and password 680020

* Please note: For those who are with us in person for worship, there will not be a fellowship until further notice. Virtual fellowship will continue for those at home.

