

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 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
Senior Pastor, United Church of Christ
smonroe@thepeopleschurch.com

Rev. Drew Filkins 908.4448
Associate Pastor, American Baptist Church
dfilkins@thepeopleschurch.com

Rev. Penny Swartz 332.6074
Minister Emeritus & Associate Pastor, NACCC
pswartz@thepeopleschurch.com

Rachel Giddings 908.4453
Communications Specialist
rgiddings@thepeopleschurch.com

Dana Johnson 908.4449
Preschool Director
djohnson@thepeopleschurch.com

Zack Matthews 908.4444
Facility Director
zmatthews@thepeopleschurch.com

Kathi Mitchell 908.4447
Children's Christian Education Director
kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com

Gerrilynn Nichols 908.4432
Hospitality Director
gnichols@thepeopleschurch.com

Dee Przybylski 908.4446
Office Administrator
dprzybylski@thepeopleschurch.com

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 20, 2020

Prelude

"He Is Born"
Judy Kabodian, organ

arr. Diane Bish

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Call to Worship

Rev. Drew Filkins

One: Our season of waiting is nearly over.
Our hearts are filled with hope, with peace and with joy.

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever!
Come, let us worship the Lord!**

One: This season has been an especially difficult time.
And yet, we look to the heavens for a sign of God's presence.

**All: On those who have lived in darkness, a bright light will shine!
Come, let us worship the Lord!**

One: Today, we light the last candle, the candle of love.
For Jesus is coming and his light will fill the world!

**All: We come into God's presence with great expectations.
With hope, peace, joy and love in our hearts, let us worship the Lord!**

Gathering Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (verses 1 - 3)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new born King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Angels We Have Heard on High
Text: French carol; trans. James Chadwick (1860)
Music: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1937)
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

Prayer of Adoration

Almighty God, your face has shone upon us. The young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel, "God with us." Your presence shall hereafter be a source of comfort and guidance to all that call on your name. You will walk beside us, your breath shall give us new life, your arms will console us, and your hands will welcome us home. May we ever and always praise you. 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.**

Children's Message

Anthem

"A Virgin Most Pure"

arr. Carl Halter

A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell, Hath brought forth a Baby, as it hath befell, To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin, Which Adam's transgression hath wrapped us in. REFRAIN: And therefore be merry, set sorrows aside; Christ Jesus, our Savior, was born at this tide. Then God sent an angel from heaven so high To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie, And bade them no longer in sorrow to stay, Because that our Savior was born on this day. REFRAIN: Then presently after the shepherds did spy A number of angels that stood in the sky; They joyfully talked and sweetly did sing, "To God be all glory, our heavenly King!" REFRAIN:

A Reading from Scripture Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

"Ready or Not"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Hymn of Response

"What Child is This" (verses 1 and 3)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthroned him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

What Child is This

Text: William Chatterton Dix (1871)

Music: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. Christmas Carols New and Old (1871)

Copyright: 2013

CCLI#: 1698862

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Penny Swartz

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

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the arrival of your son, we offer these gifts to you and your work through this church. May this money, dedicated in Jesus' name, bring tangible comfort and real peace to your children. This is our desire and our prayer. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Once in Royal David's City" (verses 1, 2 and 4)

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Once in Royal David's City
Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1848); alt.
Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1849); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1919)
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

"God Rest Ye, Merry"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANK YOU!

A HUGE thank you to all who participated in the Edgewood Village Giving Tree Project. Your generosity provided gifts to 79 children whose Christmas morning will be a little brighter because of you! ❤️

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.

WITH OVERWHELMING THANKS...

To the congregation: You are the true points of light in the darkness, the heroes who are welcoming to strangers in a strange land and champions of kindness and generosity. In these unique times, together we have shared over \$1000 with our neighbors who are refugees. Thank you for your Christmas donations for the Refugee Services collection!

THE PEOPLES FORUM

The Peoples Forum kicked off this morning at 9:30 a.m. with Barb Dunlap, Sue Mills, and Rev. Penny Swartz who shared some Christmas reading with us. We hope you were able to join us, but if you couldn't make it, please mark your calendars for our upcoming forums:

- 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: This group will resume on January 6.

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](#).

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24 • 7:00 p.m.

Join us for our ONLINE ONLY Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

The service will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel; [CLICK HERE](#) to join the service or, go directly to The Peoples Church of East Lansing YouTube page and click on the December 24 service.

On behalf of the Council of Elders, we wish you a safe and blessed Advent season.



VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP*

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)
- +1 346 248 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.



LONGEST NIGHT VIRTUAL SERVICE

DECEMBER 21 • 7:00 p.m.

Join us for our **ONLINE ONLY** Longest Night service at 7:00 p.m.

The service will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel; [CLICK HERE](#) to join the service or, go directly to The Peoples Church of East Lansing YouTube page and click on the December 21 service.

The program for this service can be found here.