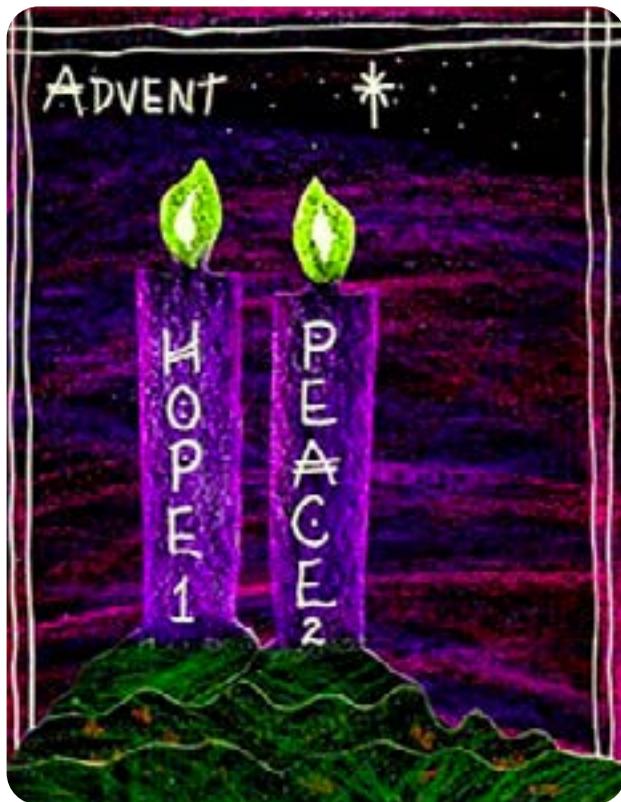


FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 6, 2020



Music Sunday



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

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 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
Associate Pastor, NACCC
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Rachel Giddings 908.4453
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Preschool Director
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Kathi Mitchell 908.4447
Children's Christian Education Director
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Gerrilynn Nichols 908.4432
Hospitality Director
gnichols@thepeopleschurch.com

Dee Przybylski 908.4446
Office Administrator
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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 6, 2020

Prelude

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
Judy Kabodian, organ

arr. Diane Bish

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Call to Worship

Rev. Drew Filkins

One: Our journey in this season of Advent began with hope, for Jesus is our hope and our salvation.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and bring the gift of hope to all who are in need.

One: Today, we light the second candle, the candle of peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, comforting us in the midst of chaos and discord.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and bring the gift of peace to the people.

One: We light this candle and pray for God's peace to be present in the world, in our homes and in our hearts.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, and bless our time of worship!

One: All you people of peace, together let us worship our God!

Gathering Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (verses 1 - 3)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the ever lasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley (1739)

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1840); arr. William Hayman Cummings (1855)

Copyright: 2013

CCLI#: 1698862

Prayer of Adoration

God of peace, we gather this morning with a sense of longing. We come seeking to be reassured that sooner rather than later all will be right with the world. We open our hearts to your presence in our lives. We open our minds to your instruction. We open our hands that we might be participants in bringing about your vision for the world. We praise you for filling our hearts with your spirit. We praise you for making us eager for your word. We praise you for the abundance of love you bestow upon all creation. 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.**

Anthem

"Star Carol"
Dr. Jonathan Reed, conductor

John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies; Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star shining bright in the sky this Christmas night! Follow me joyfully; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory, Bear the news with its message of good cheer; "Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us. Hurry to Bethlehem to see the son of Mary!"

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping: Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep. Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

Let us all pay our homage at the manger, Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night; Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

A Reading from Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Sermon

"Peace that Surpasses all Understanding"

Rev. Penny Swartz

Anthem

"Mid-Winter"

Bob Chilcott

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and arch-angels may have gathered there; cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Mid-Winter
Text: Christina Rossetti (1872)
Music: Gustav Holst (1906)
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

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

God of promise, we are blessed to have enough to share with others. Accept this offering and the spirit in which it is given. Through the ministry of this church, teach us to walk in your light of hope and peace. May all your people prepare themselves for Jesus' coming. Amen.

Anthem

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

John Rutter

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign; Star and angels gave the sign. Worship we the God-head, Love incarnate, love divine; Worship we our Jesus: But where with for sacred sign? Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine; Love to God and all men; Love for plea, and gift and sign; Love for plea, and gift and sign.

Communion

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Communion Prayer

Sending Hymn

"Love Has Come" (verses 1 and 3)

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Love Has Come
Text: Ken Bible (1996)
Music: *French melody*; arr. Eric T. Myers (2012)
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

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

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Floral Dedication:

Given in memory of our parents, Duane and Margaret LeRoy and Billy and Virginia Hanel, by Duane & Pat LeRoy.

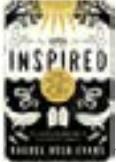
EDGEWOOD VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS—COVID STYLE!

You're invited to help the children at Edgewood Village enjoy a wonderful Christmas. If you would like to purchase a gift for a child at Edgewood Village please contact Emily Anderson via email at: Anderson2910@icloud.com or via telephone at 517.648.0632. She will provide you with all the information you will need: gender and age of the child, item the child wishes and details for returning the gift. If you would simply like to financially support this activity, that is an option too! Please contact Emily, and thank you!

REFUGEE SERVICES CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

For the last many years we have opened our hearts to our refugee neighbors with various gifts. This year, even with the challenges of Covid, we will be gifting these families and individuals with Meijer and Target gift cards. Spending of these gifts is closely supervised by the staff at St Vincents Refugee Services and the most popular purchases are shoes and boots. A designated box will be in the church office if you wish to donate cards. Or, you may donate electronically to The Peoples Church and designate the donation for 'Refugee Services.' Donations may be made starting now until December 13. Email Ruth Worthington at: worthin2@msu.edu with any questions.

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.

2020 ADVENT CELEBRATION

Join the Women of Peoples Church virtual Advent celebration on **December 9 at 10:00 a.m.** Dr. Shawnthea Monroe will be the guest speaker and will also include musical interludes with our treasured organist, Judy Kabodian and favorite soloist Will Johnson. The WPC Annual Business Meeting will also take place during this event, which will feature a presentation of the 2021 Board of Directors slate and review of revisions to the WPC Constitution for approval. Join the event [here](#); meeting ID: 846 5138 7985.

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.

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](#).



THE PEOPLES FORUM IS BACK

The Peoples Forum is ready to resume beginning, **December 20 at 9:30 a.m.** Although the Forum has been in recess since last March, 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

The Zoom link and more specifics will be posted closer to the above dates. Email questions to Mary West at mkwest1@comcast.net.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Next week, **December 13**, our virtual Christmas pageant will premier! We are so proud of our cast and want to celebrate with our traditional post-pageant cookie party. Of course, it will be done via Zoom, but Pastor Drew and Kathi Mitchell would like to personally deliver cookies to each family the Friday before.

We would love these to be homemade! If you care to donate a dozen individually wrapped baked treats, please contact Kathi Mitchell. We need a total of 7 dozen, traditional and gluten free. These can be dropped off at the office by the morning of Friday, December 11 or we can arrange a pickup. Thank you for helping us show appreciation to these wonderful actors!



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.





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.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

For the past thirteen years The Peoples Church has been able to bless forty-eight different students with *The Peoples Church Academic Scholarship*, thanks to the generosity and kindness of the Dooley family. This year we are thrilled to announce that there were three students who received the scholarship. These students have been a part of The Peoples Church family for many years, and we are so proud of what they have done and will continue to do!

Chloe Mellor

Chloe was confirmed at The Peoples Church and remembers the fun she had volunteering with Vacation Bible School last summer. Chloe is currently studying at LCC, where she is enjoying classes in history, business, and design and communication. During quarantine she has taken up creating homemade cards and attending different zoom Bible studies.



Samuel Mellor

Sam was confirmed at The Peoples Church in 2018 and his favorite memory is attending MSU basketball games and going to Crunchy's with his mentor and friend Bruce. Sam is currently studying at LCC where he is pursuing Environmental Science and will eventually transfer to MSU. He is keeping himself busy by working hard at Dunkin Donuts!

Madeline Moreno

Maddy has been a part of The Peoples Church for many years and has fond memories of volunteering at Vacation Bible School and being a part of The Peoples Church Youth Group. She is currently studying at Michigan State University where she is a part of the Lyman Briggs and Honors Colleges. She is also a part of the Osteopathic Medical Scholars Program through MSUCOM.

