

SUNDAY WORSHIP

JANUARY 10, 2021



*"...Go and search diligently for the child...
Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered
him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Matthew 2:8, 11



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 is still 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
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Rev. Penny Swartz 332.6074
Minister Emeritus & Associate Pastor, NACCC
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Youth Director
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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.

Kari Naghtin, 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 | JANUARY 10, 2021

Prelude

"Brightest and Best Are the Stars of the Morning"
Judy Kabodian, organ

arr. Janet Linker

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Call to Worship

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come;
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**All: Lift up your eyes and look around;
Sons and daughters gather together, they come to you.**

One: Then you shall see and be radiant;
Your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

**All: They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim their praise of the Lord.**

One: Arise! Shine! For your light has come!

All: Let us rejoice and give praise to the Lord!

Gathering Hymn

"As With Gladness Men of Old" (verses 1, 2 and 4)

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

As With Gladness Men of Old
Text: William Chatterton Dix (1858)
Music: Conrad Kocher (1838); abr. William Henry Monk (1861); harm. The English Hymnal (1906)
Copyright: 2013
CCL#: 1698862

Prayer of Confession

Source of salvation and bringer of light, we fail to sense the mystery of your love. We confess we are more impressed with famous people than we are with your amazing glory. The princes of this world are more real to us than the One who reigns over time and eternity. Your priorities are not our priorities; we are more interested in securing our own power than in securing justice for the poor. We are more focused on personal prosperity than on relief for the oppressed. Save us, we pray, from our self-serving ways. Let the light of your forgiveness shine on us and free us from our sin. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response "We Are Forgiven"

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Children's Message

Anthem

"Now Let Heaven and Earth Adore Thee"

J.S. Bach

Text by Arthur Westbrook

Now let heav'n and earth adore Thee, All men and angels bow before Thee, With harp and lute in clearest tone! Joined by faith to choir immortal, We pass beyond Thy pearl-built portal, And sing before Thy shining throne. No human ear may hear, No eye may vision clear such joyous things; Wherefore be glad, our song outpour, Praise God on high forevermore.

A Reading from Scripture Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

"The Wise Seek Him Still"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Hymn of Response

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright" (verses 1, 3 and 4)

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noon-day light? 'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.

While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face, let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

Text: Charles Coffin (1736); trans. John Chandler (1837) alt.

Music: trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1609); harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1910)

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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

Holy One, we present our gifts to you and to your Son. May this offering bring light to those who dwell in shadow and may these small tokens of our faith inspire more generosity. We give and live in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Seek Ye First" (verses 1 and 2)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Seek Ye First

Text: Stanza 1: Karen Lafferty (1971); Stanzas 2-3, anon.

Music: Karen Lafferty (1971)

Copyright: 2013

CCLI#: 1698862

Benediction

Benediction Response

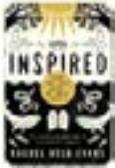
Postlude

"Allegro in D Major"

G.F. Handel

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 meets each Thursday over Zoom 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.

PCYG VIRTUAL GROUPS

The Peoples Church Youth Group continues to meet weekly via Zoom. The Middle School group meets each Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and the High School group meets each Sunday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. If you have a child in middle or high school that is interested in joining the PCYG, email Elisha Smith for more information and to get the Zoom link.

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.

THE PEOPLES FORUM

The Peoples Forum is back and offering monthly presentations from a dynamic lineup of guest speakers! The meetings will take place via Zoom, once per month (for now), at 9:30 a.m. Be sure to 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: 848 3386 7143. Or, you can dial 1 301 715 8592 and enter the meeting ID: 848 3386 7143. 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.

TUESDAY MORNING MENS GROUP: meets each Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. To join, [click here](#). The meeting ID is: 837 5361 0456; passcode is: TPC. You can also dial 1.301.715.8592 and when prompted enter the meeting code 837 5361 0456 and passcode 160971.

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

WEDNESDAY PCYG MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP: meets each Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. If interested in joining this group, email [Elisha Smith](#), PCYG Director.

SUNDAY PCYG HIGH SCHOOL GROUP: meets each Sunday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. If interested in joining this group, email [Elisha Smith](#), PCYG Director.

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.



