

THE PEOPLES CHURCH STAFF

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

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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 3, 2021

Prelude

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"
Judy Kabodian, organ

Johann Pachelbel

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Call to Worship

One: A new day has dawned, a new year begun;
All: O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice.
One: The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future;
All: O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path.
One: We enter this new year with hope and excitement;
All: O Lord, remind us that You lead us.
O Lord, guide us as look to You, and worship You. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" (verses 1 - 4)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea, Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Text: Reginald Heber (1827); alt.

Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1861); desc. David McKinley Williams (1948)

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Prayer of Confession

Why are we always willing to descend into the worst areas life offers to us, but reluctant to come into your presence, Holy One? Why can we stand on sin's shaky foundations, yet find it impossible to dance in your joy? Why are we so quick to trumpet our hollow achievements, and do not seem to be able to hear your whispers of hope for us? Forgive us, Grace's Glory, and fill us with your mercy. May we set our hope in Jesus Christ, who came so we might become your children, inheritors of love, peace, and faithfulness forever.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

One: In Christ, God's salvation has come; God's peace kisses our cheeks, wiping away our tears, and faithfulness takes us by the hand to lead us home to God.
All: God has called us, God has claimed us, God has redeemed us. This is good news for all of creation! Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

"My Vision, My Shepherd"

arr. Nancy Grundahl

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, thy child let me be; Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever, forever!

A Reading from Scripture Ephesians 1:3-14 (CEB)

Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. 4 God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God's presence before the creation of the world. 5 God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan 6 and to honor his glorious grace that he has given to us freely through the Son whom he loves. 7 We have been ransomed through his Son's blood, and we have forgiveness for our failures based on his overflowing grace, 8 which he poured over us with wisdom and understanding. 9 God revealed his hidden design to us, which is according to his goodwill and the plan that he intended to accomplish through his Son. 10 This is what God planned for the climax of all times: to bring all things together in Christ, the things in heaven along with the things on earth. 11 We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to his design. 12 We are called to be an honor to God's glory because we were the first to hope in Christ. 13 You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. 14 The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory.

Sermon

"Called and Sent"

Rev. Drew Filkins

Hymn of Response

"Here I Am, Lord" (verses 1 and 3)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Here I Am, Lord

Text: Daniel L. Schutte (1981); alt.

Music: Daniel L. Schutte (1981); harm. Alfred V. Fedak (2011)

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Communion

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

It is time to go share God's purpose which has been disclosed in Jesus Christ. We share this purpose with others by the way we live: with the words on our lips, by the deeds of our hands, with the prayers in our minds, and through the gifts that we offer. May our gifts and lives be used to build the kingdom of God. Amen!

Release of Installed Pastor

Leader: Our church family is constantly changing. Babies are born. Children grow up. Couples marry. Loved ones and friends come to the end of their earthly lives. People come and people go. It is important and right to mark these beginnings and these endings. Today, we share a time of farewell with Rev. Drew Filkins, who was called to serve this church in 2013.

Drew: I thank the members and friends of The Peoples Church for the love, kindness, and support shown to me these last seven years. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation: We give thanks to God for your ministry and we offer our forgiveness and love. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes and thank you for all the ways you have shaped our family of faith.

Drew: I offer my forgiveness and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together as well as our parting is pleasing to God.

Leader: Do we, the members and friends of The Peoples Church, release Rev. Drew Filkins from the duties of Associate Minister?

Congregation: We do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do we offer our encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

Congregation: We do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you, Rev. Drew Filkins, release this church from turning to you and depending on you?

Drew: I do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and for the relationship with another pastor who will come to serve?

Drew: I do, with the help of God.

Leader: This is a time of parting. We have spoken words of gratitude, forgiveness and release. May God watch over The Peoples Church and Rev. Drew Filkins and his family as we mark this moment of parting. Let us pray:

O God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy and true, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we shared together with Pastor Drew was marked by laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments, love and sorrow. May we hold fast to our cherished memories as we move in new directions. May your Spirit watch over Pastor Drew as he seeks to serve you in new and wonderful ways. We pray all this in Jesus name. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (verses 1 and 2)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Text: Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)
Music: William Marion Runyan (1923)
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Benediction

Benediction Response "Go Now in Peace"

**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

"Rigaudon"

Andre Campra

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANK YOU!

Thank you again to all who participated in the Edgewood Village Giving Tree Project. The friends and members of The Peoples Church were able to provide gifts to 79 children from 30 different families. Gifts were provided to kids from age new born to age 17. Some of the more popular items included Lego sets, art supplies, clothing, coats and snow pants, dolls, toy trucks and cars, learning toys and gift cards. Many thanks to one and all for your support of this activity!

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 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: 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 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](#).

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.

