

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021



"And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him."

Mark 1:10

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

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.

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



!!NEW PHONE NUMBER!!

To join the worship service via telephone, please dial **(844) 933-0517** and follow the prompts.

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE!

[CLICK HERE!](#)

ORDER OF WORSHIP | FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Prelude

Prelude on "O Waly Waly"
Judy Kabodian, organ

arr. John Leavitt

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Call to Worship

One: We come to worship the God who walks with us through every challenge.

All: We recall how Jesus faced challenges and temptations in the wilderness.

One: When Israel wandered through the wildness, she was not alone, for God was there.

All: God does not abandon us in times of struggle. God's presence is everlasting.

One: Children of God, do not fear. Whatever trials we face, we are not alone.

All: We come to worship the One who gives us strength for every journey and courage for every test. Let us rejoice in God's magnificent presence!

Gathering Hymn

"Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days" (verses 1 - 4)

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win, O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passion-tide, yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Text: Claudia F. I. Hernaman (1873)
Music: Day's Psalter (1562)
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, as we enter into this wilderness of Lent, bless us with clear sight. Help us to see beyond our obsessions and self-pity. Remove the blinders of indifference and apathy. Take our focus off our own preoccupations and sins and give us a vision of your world renewed and restored. Remind us that we are a baptized people, washed in the waters of mercy. May our Lenten journey take us from despair to delight, from sorrow to salvation. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response "Restore In Us, O God"

**Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Children's Message

Anthem

"To the Cross, Lord, Lead Us Singing"

David Lantz III

To the cross, Lord, lead us singing, to the cross where You have died; where Your blood flows like a river, that we may be purified. To the cross, Lord, lead us singing, singing with the hosts on high, Calvary's anthem of redemption, ransomed sinners justified. Holy, holy, worthy, worthy, God's own Son has paid the price. Holy, holy, worthy, worthy, Sinless Lamb, the sacrifice.

Yours the victory at Calvary, suffering there to end the strife. In Your wounds we now find healing, in Your fearful death, our life. Holy, holy, worthy, worthy, God's own Son has paid the price. Holy, holy, worthy, worthy, sinless Lamb, the sacrifice. To the cross, Lord, lead us singing, singing to the Great I Am; Calvary's anthem of redemption, songs of praise to Christ the Lamb, songs of praise to Christ the Lamb.

A Reading from Scripture

Mark 1:9 -15

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." 12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Sermon

"Baptized for Good"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Hymn of Response

"Baptized in Water" (verses 1 and 3)

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King; heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King; born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in Water

Text: Michael A. Seward (1981)

Music: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis (1985)

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

God of blessing, we have glimpsed your mercy in the water and the word. May we see the world through your eyes and use this offering to bless others in Christ's name. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing" (verses 1 and 2)

"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

Go, My Children, with My Blessing
Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1983)
Music: Welsh Melody
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

"Toccata in G Minor"

Johann Pachelbel

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GREAT DECISIONS

On **February 25** at 4:30 p.m., Dr. Rebecca Malouin will be our speaker on "The Role of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic." Dr. Rebecca Malouin is the Director of the Master of Science in Global Health Program, the Director of Research for the Institute for Global Health and Associate Professor in Family and Community Medicine at Michigan State University.

All programs will be virtual, via Zoom, at 4:30 p.m. To join, [click here](#). The meeting ID is 914 0271 4182 and the passcode is WHO.

Interested participants can email malarz@aol.com to be added to our mailing list or with any questions. The *Great Decisions Guide Book* is available as a digital edition on Amazon for \$22.99 if you are interested in learning more!

THE READING PEOPLE

The Reading People will meet on **February 25**, via Zoom, at 1:30 p.m. They will be discussing *The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett. To join the meeting and discussion, open Zoom and enter the meeting ID: 636 517 5503 and passcode: katiejeff

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is still going strong—virtually! Each week there is a video featuring a Bible story, lesson, discussion and craft. For more information or to sign up for the video links, email Kathi Mitchell at: kmitchell@thepeopleschurch.com.

THE PEOPLES FORUM

The Peoples Forum offers monthly presentations from a dynamic lineup of guest speakers! The meetings will take place via Zoom, once per month, at 9:30 a.m. Mark your calendars for our upcoming forums:

March 7: Neil Mueller, Trumpeter

April 11: Marie Blair, Concert Pianist

[Join the Zoom meeting here](#); Meeting ID: 952 4386 8996 and passcode is TPCPF. Or, you can dial 1 301 715 8592 and enter the meeting ID: 952 4386 8996 and passcode TPCPF. Email questions to [Mary West](#).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS! We are in the beginning stages of planning *Knights of North Castle* to visit Woldumar Nature Center **June 21-25, 2021**. Woldumar had a successful summer camp last year with no COVID cases, so we feel it is safe to plan for VBS this year. If your child is in K-5, you will receive a survey, so please keep an eye out for that in your email. Parental input is vital to help us gauge participation. Thank you!

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: As men of faith, we read the Bible and other books, listening for God's voice and direction for our lives. We also listen to each other, looking to support and challenge each other's walk of faith. As we endeavor to do so, we find ways to put God's word into action in our lives and in God's wider kingdom on earth. If you are interested in participating in this group, they meet 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. They are reading *Life on the Vine: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit*, by Philip D. Kenneson.

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:

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

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.



WALK & TALK WEDNESDAYS

**Each Wednesday
February 24 - March 31**

You're invited to come to the church, walk the labyrinth in the Snider Social Hall, and have a conversation with Rev. Penny Swartz. The point is to experience a “mini-pilgrimage” by following an intentional, guided walk toward a centering point where you might experience God and God’s word for you. During the upcoming season of Lent in these continuing unprecedented times of Covid-19, walking this sacred path may be exactly what your soul and spirit need.

Walking the church’s labyrinth will be by appointment only in order to follow the CDC Covid guidelines. Walks and subsequent conversation will be offered on Wednesdays in 90 minute blocks of time, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Email pswartz@thepeopleschurch.com or call 517-648-8987 to schedule a time to walk and talk.