

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 14, 2021



*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but
may have eternal life."*

John 3:16



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 648.8987

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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.



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 | MARCH 14, 2021

Prelude

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
Judy Kabodian, organ

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Call to Worship

One: Beloved in Christ, why have you come to worship this morning?

All: We come to celebrate the love of God in the form of Jesus Christ.

One: God's love reaches through the shadows of our lives to embrace us.

All: We come to celebrate the light of God in Jesus Christ who offers love and acceptance, not judgment and rejection.

One: Trust in the Lord who leads us in the way of light and love.

All: We will trust the light of God's love in the midst of our own struggles. Come, let us celebrate God's son, Jesus Christ!

Gathering Hymn

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" (verses 1, 2 and 4)

O Splendor of God's glory bright, from light eternal bringing light; O Light of Light, light's living spring, true Day, all days illumining:

Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love, rain down your radiance from above, and to our inward hearts convey the Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

O Lord, with each returning morn, your image to our heart is born; O may we ever clearly view our Savior and our God in you.

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Text: Ambrose of Milan c. 374; trans. composite

Music: Trier ms., 15th cent. adapt. Michael Praetorius (1609)

Copyright: 2013

CCLI#: 1698862

Prayer of Confession

God of healing and wholeness, we confess that we have made ourselves miserable through our sinful ways. We are impatient, complaining, and troubled. We love the night because it hides the evil we have done and the doubt that shows on our faces. We seem content to dwell apart from your light and your love, and yet we yearn for your holy presence. We cry out to you in our trouble; save us from our distress and forgive our sins, 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

"Heavenly Light"

A. Kopylow

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine, O Light Divine! May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light. Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation. All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar. O shine from above, Divine Light of love! Show us the way unto our God, we pray. Thou our beacon and guide shalt be. Light Divine, we praise Thee!

A Reading from Scripture John 3:14-21

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Sermon

"Good Light"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Hymn of Response

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (verses 1 and 3)

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast." I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad, I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright." I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
Text: Horatius Bonar (1846); alt.
Music: English County Songs (1893); harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams (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

In a spirit of trust, loving God, we open our hands and offer our gifts. We hope that this offering will bring light and hope to those in need. Let your Spirit dwell in these gifts and in this church. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me" (verses 1, 3 and 4)

God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice; God, be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning, strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way, and from beneath, above, and all ways: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me
Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan (2004)
Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan (2004)
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

"O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"

arr. Dale Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW MEMBERS

We are blessed to have so many visitors attending The Peoples Church virtually and in person and so many interested in learning more about our wonderful faith community! We are thankful that technology gives us the opportunity to share God's word and offer programs and classes virtually! Are you interested in learning more? Consider joining us for our next Zoom New Members Class on April 18! Sign up by contacting Robin Matheson at matheso4@msu.edu or 517-290-3223.

TROOP/CREW 2: SCOUTING AT THE PEOPLES CHURCH AND 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

Troop and Crew 2 continue to scout virtually and outdoors in our 100th year with The Peoples Church. While Covid is taking some adjusting to, as it is for all, scouting has continued for both boys and girls ages 11-21. We are meeting virtually every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. (see www.troop2el.org). Additionally, we are sponsoring a family tubing night at Hawk Island in March, following all BSA, state and local health guidelines. Those interested in checking us out, email us at info@troop2el.org.

Save the date for Troop 2's 100 year celebration on Sept 18, 2021. Planning has started and we are calling all former alumnus scouts and scouters, church or other supporters, to tell us your story or join us in our 100 year celebration. Email us your name, contact information, your relationship to Troop 2 and the dates of your involvement to: 100yearAnniversary@Troop2EL.org. Please feel free to include any memories you wish to share! Or visit our [website](#) to submit your contact information using the 100 year survey.

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:

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](#).

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

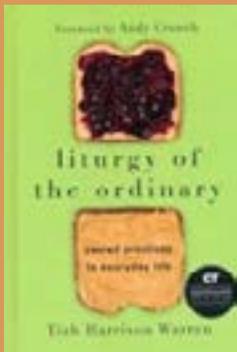
**Each Wednesday
in March**

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 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.

CHICs WOMEN'S GROUP



CHiCs (Connected Hearts in Christ) Women's Study will be starting a new book: *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren.

If you are interested in joining us for this discussion, via Zoom, every Thursday evening from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. please call Beth Lundy at 610-246-0029 or email at lundybb@comcast.net. Members of the group laugh together, pray together and read together. Join us!