

Sanctuary Service

January 8, 2023



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com

Sunday Schedule

Chapel Service: 8:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary & Livestreamed on YouTube.

Sunday School is held after the Children's moment.

Nursery Care is provided for Children Under 3.

A Nursing Room is available for those who need it. Ask an usher or the Welcome Desk for directions.

W@PC

Wednesdays @ Peoples Church is a weekly community dinner followed by programming. Join us at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall!

ASL Interpreted Service

The Peoples Church is proud to welcome ASL interpreters for our Sunday worship service and for special events.

Sensory Tool Kit

A Sensory Tool Kit is reserved for individuals who get overstimulated during church services and need something to help calm the nervous system. The kit can be borrowed at the Welcome desk.

THE PEOPLES CHURCH STAFF

Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri., and Sunday mornings. Phones are monitored from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Reception Desk (517) 332.5073

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Judy Kabodian, Musician in Residence

Elizabeth Reed, Children's Music & Bell Choir Director

Dr. Jonathan Reed, Director of Music

Rev. Penny Swartz, Minister Emeritus

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Elders meet at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Robertson Room. Diane Shafer, Chair (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.

JOIN US REMOTELY!

To join the online livestream of the worship service, click [here!](#)

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

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE

[CLICK HERE!](#)



Order of Service | January 8, 2023

Prelude

Sonata II: Allegretto
Judy Kabodian, organist

Felix Mendelssohn

Please take this opportunity to fill out the black attendance pad found at the end of your pew.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

***Call to Worship**

One: The heavens opened and the Spirit descended.
The voice of God spoke to all people:

All: "This is my Son, the Beloved."

One: The servant of the Lord brings justice to the nations.
He will not grow faint or weary in his task.

All: "This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased."

One: Jesus brings sight to the blind
And release to the captive.

**All: This is God's Son, our Savior.
Let us praise and worship our Lord.**

***Gathering Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (v. 1,2,4)

no. 12

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all. We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree. Then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867
Music: Welsh Folk melody, 1839
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

Prayer of Confession

God of Light, we confess we have wandered far from your well-lit path, stumbling through shadows of our own making. The shiny idols of worldly success and status have grabbed our attention. Our faith dies down to embers and we feel isolated and empty. We long to bask in the glory of your love and see ourselves revealed in that clear light. Forgive our sins and heal our hearts so we may be light-bearers in a world of shadows. We pray in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

***Confession Response** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (v. 3) no. 93
**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Anthem

Love Came Down at Christmas
Sanctuary Choir, directed By Dr. Jonathan Reed

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 Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; Worship we our Jesus; But wherewith for sacred sign? But wherewith 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.

First Scripture

Isaiah 42:1-9

Second Scripture

Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon

Named and Claimed

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Hymn of Response

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters (v. 1-3)

no. 490

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb. Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise! We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit –born. By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us, God, transform!

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters
Text: Ruth Duck, 1987
Music: The Sacred Harp, 1844
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

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



To make a gift online, please scan the QR code.

***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

As we offer our gifts and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, peace, and life to all in need. We dedicate this offering and our lives to you. Amen.

****Sending Hymn***

As with Gladness Men of Old (v. 1-4)

no. 150

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.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

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)

Copyright: 2013

CCLI#: 1698862

****Benediction***

****Benediction Response***

Postlude

How Bright Appears the Morning Star
Judy Kabodian, organist

Andreas Armsdorff

Floral Dedication



Today's Floral arrangements are a gift from Paul Babbit
In celebration of all January birthdays!

PROGRAMMING AT THE PEOPLES CHURCH

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP: After the service, please join us in Friendship Hall for freshly brewed coffee, sweet treats, and fellowship!

CAMPUS MINISTRY: Campus Ministry will meet today for lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the College Lounge.

TAIZE SERVICE: This month's Taizé Service is January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Services consist of repetitive and meditative singing, prayer, Scripture, and silence. It is a powerful, quiet, contemplative worship experience. This service is inter-denominational and all are welcome.

ACHE: Adults Connecting and Having Events is a young adult group that will meet on January 19th & 26th this month. To keep up with events, follow ache_thepeopleschurch on Instagram.

PUB THEOLOGY: Pub Theology will gather at 6:30 p.m. on January 12th at Crunchy's to engage in conversation about faith, life, and what is happening in the world.

ENGAGING THE WORD: Led by Pastor Shawnthea, this group meets in-person on Mondays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Robertson Room and Wednesdays on Zoom from 9 to 10 a.m. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88178100531>.

WEDNESDAYS @ PEOPLES CHURCH: A community dinner is hosted every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall, followed by your choice of dance aerobics with Shawnthea Monroe, or Faith & the News bible study in the library. We hope you can join us for Wednesdays @ Peoples Church!

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP: The Tuesday Morning Men's Group is currently reading *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God* by Dallas Willard. We continue to meet at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Robertson Room.

MEN'S WEDNESDAY NOON DISCUSSION GROUP: Please join us in the Robertson Room for our discussion of John Pavlovitz's book "A Bigger Table".

CHICs (CONNECTED HEARTS IN CHRIST): In January, CHICs (Connected Hearts in Christ) Women's Small Group will be starting a new book, *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Lately, many have become disillusioned with Christianity. This book demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share communion, read scripture together and tell each other the reality of their lives. This book is an account of their journey toward wholeness and will ring true for both believers and skeptics. If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, contact Beth Lundy at lundybb@comcast.net or (610)246-0029.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY: Held on the first Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room, these informative presentations give a voice to various community members on a wide range of topics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP AFTER THE SERVICE: The Worship Ministry is looking for volunteers, who are able, to help take down Christmas decorations directly after the service, Thank you!

TOWN & GOWN: The next Town and Gown session is on Tuesday, January 10 at 5 p.m. in the Robertson Room. Dr. Lara Apol will present "*Poetry as a Healing Art*".

TELL-A-TAIL: The Library Committee is sponsoring a Tell-a-Tail program for children on the second Wednesday of every month, January – May from 6 – 7p.m. in the Church Library. Children will be able to practice reading aloud to Reba, a therapy dog. Reading aloud to a dog has been shown to improve reading proficiency. Children may bring their own book or select a book from the Library. Reading sessions will last about 10 minutes per child. Please plan to come January 11.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: The American Red Cross will host a Blood Drive in the Snider Social Hall on Friday, January 13 from 10 a.m.-3p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Give and enter sponsor code 'Peoples Church EL'.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT: Join us for the 1st Annual Peoples Church Euchre Tournament! Friday, January 20th from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 per person and includes pizza, snacks and beverages. Points will be kept individually, so there is no need to find a partner. Sign-up by emailing office@thepeopleschurch.com. Space is limited to 32 experienced players.

READING PEOPLE: The Reading People will meet on January 19th in the Robertson Room from 1:30 to 3 p.m. to discuss *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. Led by Liz Raduazo, we will discuss this award winning novel about Lakshmi, a woman who escapes from an abusive marriage and becomes a highly regarded henna artist and confidante to the wealthy women of Jaipur, while her own secrets remain hidden. We invite you to join us for a lively discussion!

REBEKAH-HANNAH CIRCLE MEETING: We will gather for lunch and fellowship at Coral Gables on January 25th at 12 p.m.

THANK YOU: "*We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.*" -Winston Churchill. Profound thanks to all who donated to the Refugee Services shoes and boots fund. The generosity of the Peoples Church congregation is astounding.