

# SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

## FEBRUARY 28, 2021



*"You shall be the ancestor of a  
multitude of nations"*

Genesis 17:4b



**THE PEOPLES CHURCH**

200 W. Grand River Ave. | East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.332.5073 | [ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://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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**Elisha Smith** 332.6264  
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.



## !!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 28, 2021

## **Prelude**

"God Moves in a Mysterious Way"  
*Judy Kabodian, organ*

arr. Homer Whitford

## **Welcome to The Peoples Church!**

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

## **Call to Worship**

One: We are invited to walk with God.  
We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.

**All: How awesome to stand in the presence of our Creator!  
We bring our praise to glorify God.**

One: God calls us by name and gives us new names.  
We are summoned to faithfulness and fruitfulness.

**All: God not only speaks to us but also listens.  
God hears our cries and meets our need.**

One: Let the ends of the earth remember and turn to God.  
Let the families of all nations worship the Creator.

**All: We will pay our vows to the One who calls us.  
We praise the God of all nations and all peoples.**

## **Gathering Hymn**

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" (verses 1 and 4)

*God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place, flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space, we, your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you. Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.*

*As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew, children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you. May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun. Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.*

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens  
Text: Catherine Cameron (1967)  
Music: Attr. William Moore (1825); harm. Charles Anders (1969)  
Copyright: 2013  
CCLI#: 1698862

## **Prayer of Confession**

**God of our ancestors, we come to you, confessing that we have set our minds on human things. We have sought to gain the world—so many things to buy, so many things to do. Yet we are not satisfied. Life's meaning eludes us. Your ways seem out of date; your promises appear as the hopes and dreams of a past generation. But in our hearts we sense an eternal design which is for all generations, a way of life more satisfying than we have allowed ourselves to explore. Oh God, we confess our need for you.**

## **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**

"I Sing As I Arise Today"

arr. Joseph W. Clokey

*I sing as I arise today; I call upon the Trinity; I now invoke the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three, in whom creation now is joined, the vaulted sky, the sun so bright, the shining stars, the sea so deep, the rushing wind, the snow so white. Christ within me, Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ to guide me, Christ in rising, Christ in sleeping, Christ in working, Christ in speaking.*

*I sing as I arise today; I call upon the Father's might, the will of God to be my guide, the eye of God to be my sight, the Word of God to be my speech, the hand of God to be my stay, the shield of God to be my strength, the path of God to be my way. Christ in heart of all who love me, Christ in mouth of neighbors near me, Christ in eye of all who see me, Christ in ear of all who hear me.*

*I sing as I arise today; I call upon the Trinity; I now invoke the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three. Amen.*

#### **A Reading from Scripture** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-17a

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." 3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

15 God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed.

#### **Sermon**

"What's in a Name?"

Rev. Penny Swartz

#### **Hymn of Response**

"The God of Abraham Praise" (verses 1, 2, and 4)

*The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above, the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love! The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed, we bow before your holy name, forever blest.*

*Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will. In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still. Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand, deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.*

*You have eternal life implanted in the soul; your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll. We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name: the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!*

The God of Abraham Praise

Text: Moses Maimonides (12th cent.); stanzas 1 & 3 Thomas Olivers (1770); stanzas 2 & 4 Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett (1884, 1910)

Music: Jewish melody (17th cent.); adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers (1770)

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***

**Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. Amen.**

#### ***Sending Hymn***

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again" (verses 1 and 3)

*God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you, put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.*

God Be with You Till We Meet Again  
Text: Jeremiah Eames Rankin (1880)  
Music: William G. Tomer (1880)  
Copyright: 2013  
CCLI#: 1698862

#### ***Benediction***

#### ***Benediction Response***

#### ***Postlude***

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

arr. Homer Whitford

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).

## 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

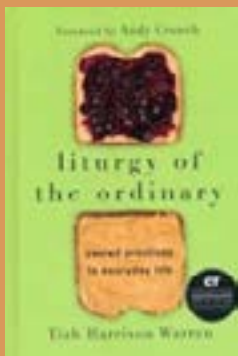
**Each Wednesday  
March 3 - March 31**

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 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](mailto: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](mailto:lundybb@comcast.net). Members of the group laugh together, pray together and read together. Join us!