

Sanctuary Service, First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com

SERVICE INFORMATION

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

Sunday School takes place after the children's moment.

Professional 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.

Please join us after the service in our front lobby for coffee hour and fellowship!

LISTENING DEVICES

We now offer listening devices that amplify sound from stage microphones, which are available upon request.

ASL INTERPRETED SERVICE

The Peoples Church is proud to welcome American Sign Language interpreters for our Sunday worship services

SENSORY TOOL KIT

A Sensory Tool Kit is reserved for individuals who get over-stimulated 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

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe (517) 908.4442
Senior Pastor, United Church of Christ
smonroe@thepeopleschurch.com

Rev. Haley Hansen (517) 908.4448
Associate Pastor, United Methodist Church
hhansen@thepeopleschurch.com

Adam Droscha (517) 908.4452
Communications Specialist
adroscha@thepeopleschurch.com

Alexa Hayes-Murray (517) 908.4447
Children's Christian Education Director
ahayes-murray@thepeopleschurch.com

Jess Beurkens (517) 908.4446
Finance Administrator
jbeurkens@thepeopleschurch.com

Dana Johnson (517) 908.4449
Preschool Director
djohnson@thepeopleschurch.com

Beth Lundy (517) 908.4453
Membership Coordinator
blundy@thepeopleschurch.com

Zack Matthews (517) 908.4444
Facility Director
zmatthews@thepeopleschurch.com

Elisha Smith (517) 332.6264
Youth Director
esmith@thepeopleschurch.com

Vince Watson
Events Coordinator
vwatson@thepeopleschurch.com

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, you can find **The Peoples Church of East Lansing on YouTube!**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@TPCEASTLANSING



THE PEOPLES CHURCH
OF EAST LANSING

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE
HERE!



Order of Service | December 3, 2023

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

Prelude

Fantasia on “Nun komm’ der Heiden Heiland”

J.S. Bach, arr. Neil Mueller

Neil Mueller, Trumpet

Judy Kabodian, Organ

Acolytes:

Theo & Gabe

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Haley Hansen

One The day of the Lord is coming; lift up your voices!
Cry out and praise the God of our salvation!

**All We await God’s coming day with anticipation.
May God bless us with peace and patience.**

One Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.
Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

**All We will prepare the way for the One who is coming.
With joy and hope, we worship God in this season of Advent.**

***Gathering Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1-2, 6-7)

no. 88

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: Latin prose (pre-9th cent.)

Music: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1852); arr. John Weaver (1988)

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CLI#: 1698862

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our sinfulness is hidden by our selfishness. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the time we have been given. In times of stress, our church turns inward rather than focusing on our mission to the world. We are sorry for all the ways we have failed you, O God. Forgive our sins and prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

****Confession Response***

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

no. 96 v. 2

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Children's Message

Lighting of the Candles

Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Sanctuary Choir directed by Dr. Jonathan Reed

arr. Gustav Holst

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food. Rank on rank the host of heaven sends its vanguard on the way, as the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away. At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Lord most high! Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon

"Comfort for the People"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Hymn of Response

Comfort, Comfort Now My People (v. 1-3)

no. 87

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God. “Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1671

Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551

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Pastoral Prayer and 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



To make a gift online, please scan this 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

God of hope, you have done great and wonderful things for us. Bless this offering and all our gifts. May our gifts and our lives shine with the light of Christ. Amen.

Service of Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of love and mercy, we thank you for this time of communion. We pray that this meal would strengthen and inspire us to be more like Jesus. May our love for one another be as great as the love we have for you. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (v. 1-2)

no. 81

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Text: Charles Wesley (1744)
Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard (1830); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906)
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****Benediction***

****Benediction Response***

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

Lift Up Your Heads
Judy Kabodian, Organist

Seth Bingham



ANNOUNCEMENTS

8:30 SERVICES: There will be no 8:30 a.m. services during the month of December. We encourage all of our regular 8:30 service goers to join our 10:30 a.m. services during Advent and Christmas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: If you would like to make a poinsettia dedication this Christmas season, please sign up for a poinsettia order at the Welcome Desk, or email your order to office@thepeopleschurch.com by **Sunday, December 10**. Please include your name, and who your gift is in memory, celebration, or honor of. Poinsettia orders are \$20. Checks should be made payable to The Peoples Church with 'Poinsettias' indicated in the memo line. Poinsettias will be displayed during worship on **Sunday, December 17** and can be picked up following the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Because Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday this year, there will be only one morning worship service at 10:30 a.m., and there will be **two evening services at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.** We hope you will join us in celebration, adoration, and worship this Christmas Eve.

CHURCH TOUR: Join the 'Talk 'n Tour' **today following the 10:30 a.m. service** if you are interested in learning more about our beautiful church. Meet at the front of the Sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: This year's children's Christmas Pageant will be a performance of 'The Reluctant Innkeeper,' which will take place **during the 10:30 service next Sunday, December 10**. A cookie party will follow the service! If you are interested in donating cookies to the cookie party, please contact our children's education director, Alexa, by emailing ahayes-murray@thepeopleschurch.com.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: On **Sunday, January 21, 2024, following the 10:30 a.m. service** there will be a special congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on the proposed Capital Campaign. If you are unable to attend the January 21 meeting, you may pick up a 'Request for Absentee Ballot' at the Welcome Desk, or one can be mailed or emailed to you upon request. Subscribers to the weekly E-Newsletters have the option to scroll down in those emails to the Capital Campaign announcement and print their own ballot request at their convenience.

EDGEWOOD VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Share Christmas joy by providing a gift for a child at Edgewood Village. If you would like to purchase a gift for a child, or if you would like to support this program financially, please contact Emily Anderson via e-mail, anderson2910@icloud.com, or by phone, (517) 648-0632, and she will provide all the information you will need.

SNOWPANTS COLLECTION: The annual Snowpants Collection is underway! Please donate new or gently used children's snowpants, coats, hats and mittens/gloves. All are donated to the Love's Clothing Closet at the Judson Baptist Church, where they work with families who've contacted Christian Services, to provide clothing, pajamas, shoes and boots, and winter gear. Look for the new box outside of the church office.

PEOPLES CHURCH EUCHRE TOURNAMENT: The Peoples Church second annual Euchre tournament will be **Friday, January 19, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.** Cost is \$10 per person, and space is limited to 32 participants. The signup list is in the church office!

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

MSU BRASS HOLIDAY CONCERT: The Michigan State University Brass will perform a concert of holiday, classical, and popular music at The Peoples Church **next Sunday, December 10 at 7 p.m.** This family-favorite event, which is sponsored by the TPC Fine Arts Committee, will include talented student musicians and their professors from the MSU College of Music. The concert is free of charge, and at intermission concert-goers will be treated to an offering of Christmas cookies and hot beverages.

PROGRAMMING AT THE PEOPLES CHURCH

ACHE: Adults Connecting & Having Events is a group for young adults that meets twice a month for activities and events. On **Saturday, December 16 at 7 p.m.,** ACHE will host its annual Christmas party in the Campus Lounge. Contact Pastor Haley at hansen@thepeopleschurch.com to RSVP.

COLLEGE MINISTRY: On **Tuesday, December 5 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.,** in the MSU Union Ballroom, the Peoples Church is co-sponsoring a Holiday Harmony Bash with the University Activities Board! Our Campus Ministry will be representing the Christmas holiday! On **Wednesday, December 6 at 7 p.m.,** Campus Ministry is co-hosting an Advent Lessons and Carols service at the Alumni Chapel! This will be a short service with treats afterward. For more information, contact Pastor Haley by emailing hansen@thepeopleschurch.com.

ENGAGING THE WORD: Pastor Shawnthea leads the in-person study group on **Mondays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Robertson Room,** and the **Wednesday Zoom session from 9 to 10 a.m.** The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068627263>. Pastor Haley leads a Bible Study at **9:30 a.m. on Sundays in the Robertson Room.** This week's passage is Isaiah 11:1-6.

PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP: PCYG is meeting tonight for their regular gatherings! Music rehearsals begin at 5 p.m., and the regular gathering starts at 6:30 p.m. **The PCYG Christmas party is coming up on Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.!** For more information about PCYG, contact Elisha, by emailing esmith@thepeopleschurch.com.

PORCH OF HEAVEN: Porch of Heaven is a Lectio Divina service that takes place **Mondays at 6:15 p.m. in the Telder Room.** It involves reading scripture, silence, mindfulness and sharing. Visit Porch of Heaven tomorrow evening, or email Tom Schaberg at tschaberg1@gmail.com for more information.

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP: The Tuesday Morning Men's Group is currently reading the Christmas story as described in gospels Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Beginning in January, the group will be reading 'Meeting Jesus for the First Time,' by Marcus J. Borg. The Tuesday Men's group meets at **7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Robertson Room.**

WEDNESDAYS @ PEOPLES CHURCH: Join us **every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in Snider Social Hall!** At **6 p.m.** Pastor Shawnthea teaches dance aerobics in the gym, and Pastor Haley leads a discussion on faith and the news at **6:30 p.m.** All are welcome!