



Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ
4704 Thirteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Peoples Prodder

April Prodder

WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 a.m.

*Adult Church School
Sunday at 9:00 a.m.*

*Bible Study
Thursday at 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

HOLY COMMUNION

*First Sunday
10:00 a.m. Worship*

*Nursery available during
10:00 a.m. service*

Rev. Brandon Harris
Senior Minister

Volunteer Transition Team Governing Oversight:

Robert Hendricks, Moderator

Administrative:

Nina Faulk-Knight

Carolyn Veiga

Facility Maintenance:

Esther Yarborough

Volunteers' Coverage:

Pat Ellis

202-829-5511
www.peopleschurchucc.org
Follow us on Twitter
[@PeoplesCongUCC](https://twitter.com/PeoplesCongUCC)

Dear Peoples Church Family:

There is an old spiritual that describes the loneliness and trial of Jesus during Holy Week it simply states, Jesus walked this lonesome valley. This Holy Week is like none other we have faced before. We collectively we feel the heaviness of the valley. Many in our congregation are healthcare providers, some of us have lost loved ones or know those who are ill. We feel the loneliness of the valley. We are unable to gather together, to find our way to our favorite pew, to wave across the aisle to each other, to gaze at the dazzling rose windows, and be reassured by the melodies from our Moller Organ.

These are indeed challenging and trying times. It was challenging, for those who journeyed through the first Holy Week. Jesus disciples felt the fear of seeing their teacher and friend handed over to be crucified. Jesus bore the great agony of death. His disciples lingered at the tomb on Holy Saturday with no hope of a resurrection. We need Holy Week, we need to be reminded that God knows the sorrows of our lives. We need the stories of Peter and his denial of Jesus, of Joseph and the borrowed tomb, of Mary and those who gathered at the foot of the cross. For in their human stories we find our story, all of us saints and sinners, lost and found, fearful and brave.

We need Holy Week dear Church for in it we find the heart of our faith. Darkness never has the last word. We may walk through a dark valley but there is a rolled stone, there are angels waiting to proclaim good news, there is an empty tomb, and a risen savior. Church, we are a resurrection people! Our faith has declared through the centuries that even in the darkest hour, our lives are grounded in a great hope. That Jesus died, rose, and will come again. We anchor ourselves in the good news of the resurrection, death, fear, anxiety, despair never have the last word.

Bill Gaither, penned these words in a hymn that sums up our Easter faith so well.

"Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future And life is worth the living just because He lives." I pray that the good news of the resurrection will give you joy, hope, and peace. Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

In the Hope of the Resurrection,
Rev. Brandon C. Harris

MISSION AND VISION OF THE CHURCH



MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The Mission of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ is:

- To worship God and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to labor for peace and justice so that the world may become the kingdom of God on earth;
- To foster within its membership, by its teaching and its ministry, the spirit which was in Christ;
- To be to its membership and the community a source of spiritual refreshment, guidance, transformation, comfort and support;
- To impress upon its membership the need for mutual loyalty and charity;
- To teach its young people the noble traditions of its past; to point them to the possibilities of its future, and to give guidance in the building of Christian character; and
- To educate and develop its members for consecrated and sacrificial service.

VISION OF THE CHURCH

“...so we, who are many, are one body in Christ and indi-

vidually we are members of one another.” (Romans 12:5 NRSV)

Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ is a progressive Christian community called by faith, led by hope, and united by love to build strong and committed disciples for Jesus Christ and to be a spiritual presence locally and globally in service to humanity. This vision is lived out through our focus on relationship with the Lord, which produces perspective; scholarship in study of the Scriptures, which produces focus; stewardship awareness in our giving and sharing which produces trust; and fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ, which produces unity.

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it, for there is a vision for the appointed time...” (Habakkuk 2:2-3 NRSV)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit the church website: www.peopleschurchucc.org for additional information. To make online donations go to: <https://peopleschurchucc.org/online-giving/>

Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Dial In 🙏
515-604-9545, Access Code: 659959#
Bible study is every Thursday at 6pm
Noon prayer meeting is every Wednesday at Noon.

Confirmation Class 2020

Due to the Coronavirus and Church closing, Confirmation 2020 has been canceled until further notice.

The Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the availability of Peoples Church Scholarships to graduating seniors of Peoples Church, Peoples Church Community Members and designated D.C. Public High School enrolling at accredited post-secondary institutions of higher learning in Fall 2020. Applications will be available to applicants on March 15, 2020 and can be found on the Peoples Church Website under the 'Scholarship' tab. Applicants can also apply via hard-copy forms, which can be found on table at glass-door entrance of the church. The deadline date for applications will be Friday, April 17, 2020. Instructions on how/where to submit applications will be on the forms. Any questions regarding applications, please email us at scholarship@peopleschurchucc.org

The Hospitality Circle will present the RUPERT B. CLARK SERVICE AWARD to deserving church members in June 2020. Nomination forms will be available on the information table across from the church office and are to be submitted no later than Thursday, April 30, 2020. Completed forms may be given to Marie Whitaker, President of Hospitality Circle, Walter Faggett, Chair of the Hospitality Circle Rupert Clark Service Award Committee or any of the Members whose names are included on the form.

Special Thanks

The family of Mrs. Vaster Q. Bridgewater would like to express our sincere thanks to Reverend Brandon Harris, Minister Geneva Hudson and the members of Peoples Church, friends and neighbors who, supported us during our time of bereavement. Your prayerful words, beautiful cards and monetary gifts were appreciated. May God continue to bless you and yours and keep us all in His love and care.

Peoples Congregational Church
Invites You To



**JOIN US FOR
WEDNESDAY WORD**

A Devotional Teleconference
Every Wednesday from April 1-29
7am - 7:30am
Dial in Number: (605) 475-5950*
Passcode: 8964544

*This is not a toll free number. Charges may apply.

Evangelism & Outreach: A Core Value

The Evangelism & Outreach (E&O) Committee invites you to journey with us as we transition our approach toward E&O. We believe that E&O is a core value of the church, which does not need a separate committee. Jesus commanded his disciples to “go out and spread the Good News” in Matthew 28:16-20. The responsibility of the Great Commission may often seem like a daunting task given daily life challenges. The activity of church evangelism and outreach is not just the responsibility of the Senior Minister or the E&O Committee. It is everyone’s responsibility and relates to how we show up in the world: Evangelism = God’s Good News in Action and Outreach = The Church and the Community Working Hand-in-Hand.

Sometimes we overanalyze what E&O looks like or we worry about taking on another commitment. E&O is simply the sharing of one’s faith through testimony, random acts of kindness and compassion we extend to others. It’s the seed of faith and a sense of belonging as we engage in intercessory prayer on behalf of someone facing a challenge. It’s the seed of compassion you extend as you pass by someone on the street. We share the Gospel consistent with the parable of the sower (found in Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:4-15). The “seeds” approach looks for ways to improve church recognition and advancing church growth within Ward 4, Petworth and other surrounding areas.

We plant the seeds of faith, hope and love every day in dynamic and often quiet ways. We practice E&O more than you think and perhaps the season of Lent can help raise our awareness and understanding about what it means to “share the Good News”. Here are examples from several church members:

- While getting her own lunch, she leverages the McDonald’s \$1 menu to buy hamburgers for the homeless man sleeping on a grate downtown. She greets him with a smile and a hamburger!
- Three generations of men from the same family help support the community SHARE program (Peoples UCC is a host site). SHARE is a community food program, providing affordable groceries each month for \$22. Each order provides several meals, consisting of meats, fresh vegetables and pantry staples
- He has his own health challenges but still finds time to provide rides to church for elderly members
- For the past several years during Lent, she coordinates with women at Peoples UCC, other area churches to collect and distribute a variety of community needs: food, clothing, household items, children’s school supplies and books
- He observes a troubled person begging for money at a gas station. He offers to pray with them as he continues to pump gas
- She opened her home over the holidays for a group of members to prepare and send Christmas cards to incarcerated persons

There are many more E&O stories. We are a generous congregation and we invite you to share your E&O testimony. Do you have a “seed” E&O project? Whatever your E&O practice or vision is, we’d like to hear about it! Contact E&O at info@peopleschurchucc.org.

Epistle to the Congregation of Peoples Church

Dearly Beloved Peoples Church, I greet you with Jesus Joy and God's Love. We have experienced a long and burdened season of darkness; but there is hope and light within our reach. As it is written, "The poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble." (Psalm 34:6) We have been promised, "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." (Psalm 30:5b) The Lord is ready for us to seek Joy and to begin to remember His Promises for us. We will never be forsaken.

Hope is always a possibility despite the many dark nights of the soul. When you think that all is lost, you only have to remember that God is always near. If we pray, why do we worry? If we worry, why do we pray? "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) We are to follow the Scripture lessons that are made known to us through prayer and meditation. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4: 6-7) That purpose is for us to return to the Throne of God with prayer and supplication.

We are to seek God's face and to pray without ceasing. We have come this far by faith and faith will move us in to the new season that God has already prepared for us.

Do not fear the future that God has designed for us, for God is already there. Let us seek the new vision that is before us. As the prophet informs us, "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time;" (Habakkuk 2:2-3a) We will rejoice in the Lord and we will sing a new song to the honor and glory of God. Let the people say, Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Carolyn Veiga

Wellness Corner

COPING WITH THE COVID-19 CRISIS (aka Coronavirus)

How to Manage Your Emotions and Reduce Stress

By Diane Kern, Ph.D., Creator of

Happy and Healthy U™: “*Learn to Love Life and Live Well*” Workshops

Introduction:

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented health crisis that is disturbing and disruptive to us all. While acknowledging the need to be mindful and protective of our physical health and safety, it is just as important to address the mind-body connection as it relates to this distressing situation.

Below is a guideline for stress reduction and management in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. The recommended strategies are presented in the form of my *SPIES (Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Emotional, and Social)* model for total self-care across five dimensions.

Use Your *SPIES* to Help Manage COVID-19 Related Stress

[Read More Here](#)

Submitted by The Wellness Ministry



2020 MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES (FROM THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION)

January: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

February: "Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established." (Proverbs 16:3)

March: "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continuously be in my mouth." (Psalm 34:1)

April: "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

May: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and to not rely on your own insight; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

June: "I can do all things through Him (Jesus Christ) Who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

July: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

August: "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." (James 5:16)

September: "What no eye has seen, or ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him." (I Corinthians 2:9)

October: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come into His presence with singing. (Psalm 100:1-2)

November: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2)

December: "She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

April 2020 LECTIONARY READINGS

April 5 Sixth Sunday in Lent

Old Testament: Ps 118:1-2, 19-29
Gospel: Matt 21:1-11
Epistle: Phil 2:5-11

April 12 Easter

Old Testament: Ps 118:1-2, 14-24
Gospel: Matt 28:1-10
Epistle: Col 3:1-4

April 19 Second Sunday of Easter "Holy Language "

Old Testament: Ps 95
Gospel: John 20:19-31
Epistle: John 20:19-31

April 26 Third Sunday of Easter "Breaking Bread"

Old Testament: Ps 116:1-4, 12-19
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35
Epistle: *****

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Church School	Sunday	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	Elmes Center
Pre-K	Sunday	9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Nursery
Adult Church School	Sunday	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Corbin Lounge
Men's Bible Study	Sunday	9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Quiet Room
Youth Ministry	1st and 3rd Sunday	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Youth Lounge
Noon Prayer Service	Wednesday	12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.	Corbin Lounge
Bible Study	Thursday	6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Corbin Lounge



CHOIR REHEARSAL

Voices of Peoples	Tuesday	6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Fellowship Choir	Wednesday	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Rhythmic Choir	Wednesday	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir	Saturday	11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
Men's Chorus	Saturday	10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
Peoples Children and Youth Choir	1st and 2nd Saturday	9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

CHURCH BOARDS MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

Board of Christian Education	1st Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Board of Trustees	2nd Wednesday	6:45 p.m.
Church Council	3rd Wednesday	6:45 p.m.
Board of Christian Social Action	4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Board of Deacons	Saturday before the 1st Sunday	12:00 p.m.



GENERAL INFORMATION

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK FAN PAGE, TWITTER & LIVE STREAMING NEWS:

Our website address is www.peopleschurchucc.org. The website is constantly being updated, so click the refresh button when you visit. Our Twitter handle is @PeoplesCongUCC. You do not need a Twitter Account to follow Peoples Church.

The Prodder, Website, Facebook Fan Page, Twitter and Live Streaming exist to further the social connection with the membership of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ and with the community to promote outreach and notices of important Church events. The social networking tools are designed for easy mass communication and media sharing. Through the Website, members and users can access the Online Giving page to donate to the General Operating Fund and purchase tickets for Church events and fundraisers. Members/users can view the Events Calendar to participate in the life of the Church. Members can advertise Church events through the Website, Facebook Fan Page and Twitter. Members/users can view live streaming of Church Worship Services and other special liturgical services from the Website on Facebook Live. The Website is the “**New Front Door of the Church,**” and allows members/users to interact, communicate and connect to foster connectivity and community.

PLEASE NOTE: By attending Worship Services and other liturgical services at Peoples Church, your image may appear on camera during the transmission of live streaming.

Prodder Guidelines: All announcements and flyers must be submitted by the third Tuesday of the month by 12:00 Noon. Announcements and flyers can be emailed to info@peopleschurchucc.org. Do not mail information. Announcements should be no more than 50 words and should be informational about Peoples Church events or members and their families. Announcements may be edited.

NO PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEO, OR AUDIO

RECORDING: This policy has been adopted to protect the musicians and speakers who are a part of the worship services and special events at the Church. The cooperation of the congregation is essential to the observance of this policy by visitors and guests. Photographs and CD recordings of worship services and other events are available as produced by the designated Church photographers and the Sound Engineer. Please contact the Church office to request specific photographs and/or recordings. Thank you.

Facility Reservations: If you wish to reserve space for an event and/or activity, please contact Ms. Yvette Hunter, Operations Specialist, at the church office on (202)

829-5511 or email yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org to complete a reservation contract. Facility reservations can also be made online through the church's website: www.peopleschurchucc.org. Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis; however, religious events and funerals take precedence. Peoples Church is a multi-use venue so reservations are necessary. Member and non-member reservation fees apply.

Floral Arrangements for the Altar: To order a designer floral arrangement to remember your loved one or recognize a special day, contact Vernandi Richardson, (202)829-5511 or Diane Miller for additional information.

Facilities Committee: First Aid Kits have been placed in the Main Office and the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen area. **Incident Reporting Forms** are also available in the Main Office for completion. All incidents must be reported on the forms, regardless of how small the incident is. The completed forms should be given to any member of the office/volunteer staff.

MINISTERS EMAIL

Rev. Brandon Harris, Senior Minister

CHURCH MODERATOR'S EMAIL ADDRESS:
moderator@peopleschurchucc.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
(202) 829-5511 (Office)

Ms. Yvette Hunter, Operations Specialist,
Yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org

Ms. Donika Palmer, Administrative Assistant
dpalmer@peopleschurchucc.org

MAINTENANCE

Mr. Lawrence McDaniel
Mr. Akien Ingram
Ms. Maureen Betton

