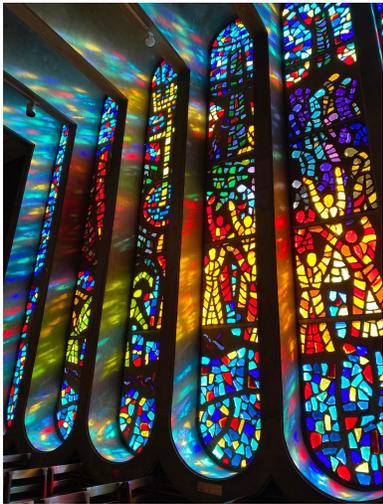




A Reflection from Rev. Harris



At the beginning of 2020 as a congregation we committed ourselves to a new vision for the year; Renew, Reach, Restore. What we did not imagine is how just a few months later our world would be turned upside down. At the beginning of this week, I wrote about letting go of Uzziah moments (Isaiah 6) in order to see God's glory at work here and now thus enabling us to say to God "Here I am, send me!" The plans for vision 2020 were disrupted. Yet, we have been enabled to engage this vision in ways that we could not imagine.

Our weekly broadcast enables us to keep our congregation worshipping together and reaching people across the country and world. Our youth are engaged in mission work supporting a campaign to raise funds to send masks to Haiti. The racial justice offering has enabled us to support the work of racial justice throughout the country. God is still speaking and if we are to respond to God's voice we have to be willing to let go and then say yes to God. I've been convicted on this theme this week by reading "Leading With The Sermon: Preaching as Leadership" by Bishop William H. Willimon. Dr. Willimon writes "Trouble is, no human gathering survives or thrives without continual transformation, refitting, and repositioning- particularly an institution that's accountable to a living God." None of us could have imagined January 2020 the world as it is now, perhaps at this moment God is calling us to new dreams, new visions, and new plans. Perhaps, God wants to use this time for us to heal, to become whole, to work, and to pray for the Church, the nation, the families, the individuals, God has called us to be. May we set our hearts and our hands to the work of reaching, renewing, and restoring the world around us and within us.

Weekend Worship:

We invite you to worship with us this weekend, The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday July 26^h at 10am on our website [Peoples Church UCC \(peopleschurchucc.org\)](http://Peoples Church UCC (peopleschurchucc.org)), Facebook, and YouTube. Back by popular demand this Sunday is the Rev. Khristi Adams, Firestone Endowment Chaplain of the Hill School. She will preach “We Cannot Stop Praying” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

New Sermon Series: In the month of August, Rev. Harris and Rev. Thomas will be preaching a new sermon series through the Book of Acts entitled “The Church Dispersed.” The entire congregation is invited to participate in this sermon series by reading Acts together. The Revs encourage you to purchase the “Acts: Scripture Journal” which enables you to both read the book of Acts and journal on the side pages. We want to encourage everyone to read Acts as a community of faith as we grow in our knowledge of the Bible. The journal can be purchased on [Amazon](#) or [ESV Scripture Journal: Acts \(Paperback\)](#)



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You are also invited to worship with us on Wednesday mornings at 7 am for the Wednesday Word Prayer Call and Noonday Prayer. Lastly, all are also invited to join us for Bible Study Thursday evening's at 6 pm via Zoom.

Bible Study: This week Bible Study will be led by Rev. Harris. The session is titled “*For the Bible Tells Me So part 2: Biblical Interpretation & History*”

Join us on Thursday evening with the information below:

Dial-in# +1 301 715 8592 US Meeting ID: 992 6852 3678 Password:

784420 Join Zoom Meeting: Click on link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/99268523678?pwd=NFZrUzNIUXBXczJkMWVxZlVZcl>

[U5UT09](#) Meeting ID: 992 6852 3678 Password: 784420

Vacation Bible School:

You are invited to help this year's campers reach their goal to provide 1000 masks for covid 19 relief to children in Haiti. (You can donate via the church website or [tithely](https://tithely.com) (a way to give via your cell phone). Of course, you can always send a check to the church address. Make sure that you write VBS - Haiti Mask Up Campaign in the ledger.

You also are invited to attend the final Monday morning zoom meeting on July 27 at 10 am. Church members are welcome to see and participate in this innovative Youth-in Action virtual experience. You can find the zoom link on the church website.

Church Updates:

1. The UCC is a key partner in the Poor People's Campaign so we look forward to our continued involvement. For more information on the Poor People's Campaign please go to <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org>.
2. The Central Atlantic Conference on Justice and Witness compiled resources for our association, you may find them here: <http://www.cacucc.org>.
3. Physically distant vigils have ended however for more information regarding organizing in the DC area please visit [festival center](#).

Enhanced Communications with our Members:

Well-being Check-in Calls: As you know, our Church is fully engaged in continuing support and encouragement to our members and the community during this season of pandemic and social justice imperatives. Our leadership sees the need to reach out to our members to ensure their access to Church information and services while we remain under social distancing restrictions. The Church office volunteers, augmented by other Church members, will be calling members beginning July 1 to check on well-being and inquire about technology support at home. Your response to the volunteers will greatly enhance improved communication from the Church.

Special Request: Peoples Congregational UCC is migrating to a *new email platform* and, therefore, is requesting updated contact information. By this time, you should have received an email request from Deacon Francis Smith requesting updated contact information. The email was entitled, *Peoples Congregational Church Contact Information Request Form*. The form will ask you for your most recent contact information. If you have not responded, we request you do so. If you have not received an email from Deacon Smith, please email him at fsmith7527@gmail.com so that we can ensure the Church will be able to keep you abreast of our activities as we move forward. Thank you for your assistance with updating our database and church directory. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Care for Our Church Family: Please continue to reach out to each other during this time. If you know anyone in need, particularly those who may need assistance with groceries, medicine, or other needs please reach out to the church at 202-829-5511 or info@peopleschurchucc.org. Additionally, if anyone is sick or shut-in during this time please continue to notify the church.

Spiritual Resources of the Week:

Resources for Children/Youth

1. Resources for Families for At Home Spiritual Formation from the UCC
<https://www.sneucc.org/resources-for-faith-formation-at-home>
2. The BibleProject (Youth/Adults) <https://bibleproject.com/>
3. The Story Makers (Children/Young Teens)
<https://www.storymakersnyc.com>
4. The Social Conscience Series: Racial Equity Collection
<https://www.varsitytutors.com/equity-collection/list?>

What the Revs are Reading This Week

Rev. Harris

1. [Leading With The Sermon: Preaching As Leadership by William H. Willimon](#)

Rev. Thomas

1. [Jane Crow: The Life of Pauli Murray by Rosalind Rosenberg](#)

What the Revs are Listening To This Week

Rev. Harris

1. Rev. Mahogany Thomas's sermon from Trinity UCC

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST {VIRTUAL REVIVAL
MONDAY NIGHT}

Rev. Thomas

1. [My Anger, God's Righteous Indignation / Willie Jennings \(Response to the Death of George Floyd\)](#)