



Rev. Brandon Harris
Senior Minister

Rev. Mahogany S. Thomas
Executive Minister

Worship Service
Each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion
First Sunday at 10:00 a.m.



Wednesday Word
7:00 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer
12:00 Noon



Bible Study
Each Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

202-829-5511
www.peopleschurchucc.org
Follow us on Twitter
@PeoplesCongUCC

Peoples Prodder

April Edition

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Peoples Church Family:



For the past year we have collectively endured great trial, struggle, loss and change. Our world has been shaken but what seems like an enduring wilderness season. Lately, there have been slow signs of hope emerging, just as we witness the beautiful flowers bloom across our region. From the increase of vaccines and those vaccinated, to a timetable from our governmental leaders as our world slowly begins to reopen. We are witnessing signs of hope emerge in the world.

We enter the season of Eastertide with the reassurance that God has been with us even in the dark seasons in our life and world. There is power and hope in the message of Eastertide, God is still at work raising us into new life!

We need over and over again to hear dear Church the good news of the gospel! 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, and despair never have the last word. God is still at work raising us, raising our Church, raising our community, and world into new life! We pray this season of Eastertide that we will look and witness the signs of new life that God is blooming in our lives.

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!

Rev. Brandon Harris

Executive Minister's Corner

Easter came early this year, and perhaps we, too, can delight in the news of the Resurrection a bit earlier than expected. The Resurrection is the story our faith emerges from, and we get to celebrate that intimately even in this virtual space. Jesus lives, and because of His life, we get access to a new covenant in His body. This is the consistent hope of the Resurrection – regardless of what lies ahead.



With hope, we also hold in tandem our sorrows. We remember the crucifixion with agony and the grief that accompanies witnessing a wounded Jesus. We hold to the laments of those who loved Jesus, knowing we, too, grieve with them as they watched Jesus on the cross. Yet, after death on that old, rugged cross, we entered into a new narrative, one where death does not have the last word. The emerging of a new narrative is our new beginning.

Life begins anew for each of us. These days, with the newness of life, I give God thanks for the women who arrived at the tomb early that morning. I give God thanks for the weeping women who came together in their grief as witnesses of the Resurrection. These women prepared spices and oil to anoint the deceased body of Jesus, and yet, Jesus of Nazareth was not there. He had indeed risen. The stone was rolled away. And with that came the invitation from Jesus into a new life.

New life seems so close and yet also so far. For this, we also know to be true in our current reality: tough days continue with us. We have all witnessed reoccurring violence, brutalized bodies, mass shootings, hate speech, abusive power and ongoing trauma. Even with our hope for new life, hard times are with us. We are not removed from them, and yet, somewhere in this story, we get to see resurrections daily, anew. With more and more vaccines on the rise and hope merely around the corner, we get to see Resurrection daily, anew. With spring emerging, cherry blossoms in bloom, we get to hold Jesus anew. This is the season of our Resurrection.

Together, may we see the Resurrection. May we hold the promises of a new covenant that is with us because we know Jesus. May we hold on to hope of the Resurrection, knowing we too get to participate in new life.

May it be so. Amen.

LECTIONARY READINGS for April 2021

Easter

April 4, 2021

Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

Gospel: John 10:1-18

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Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

Old Testament: Psalm 133

Gospel: John 20:19-31

†

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

Old Testament: Psalm 4

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

†

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

Old Testament: Psalm 23

Gospel: John 10:11-18



Announcements

Visit the church website: www.peopleschurchucc.org for additional information.
To make online donations go to: <https://peopleschurchucc.org/online-giving/> or
Tithe.ly at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2030372>.



The Adult Church School Class invites you to join in every Sunday morning from 8:45 - 9:45.

Meeting ID: 883 9085 7788

Passcode: 438381

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88390857788#,,,,,0#,,438381# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,88390857788#,,,,,0#,,438381# US (Chicago)

Sunday Morning Praise and Worship Teleconference 9:00

Call-in-Number 720-740-9739 Access Code 4684874

The Line Opens at 8:55 a.m.

Wednesday Word: A Devotional Teleconference

Join us every Wednesday 7:00am-7:30am for prayer,

Dial-in Number 605-475-5950 I

Passcode 8964544#

Prayers of the People: Wednesdays at Noon

Join Minister Hudson every Wednesday at noon for prayer, scripture, reflection, joys, concerns and hymns! Call-in Number 515-604-9545 ID 659959#

Join Rev. Brandon Harris for Bible Study

Every Thursday at 6 p.m. Virtual Bible Study is held via Zoom and Dial In

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=NFZrUzNIUXBXczJkMWVxZlVZclU5UT09>

Meeting ID: 992 6852 3678 Password: 784420

Virtual Children's Church School Every Sunday Class 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://peoples-church-school.eventbrite.com>

Update from the Reopening Committee:

Informational updates on the work and progress of the Reopening Committee will be published on a monthly basis to keep the congregation informed. Plans for Peoples Church to move forward and reopen our doors are being developed. We ask for your continued prayers as we work on your behalf.

The Nominating Committee

Nominations for Church Officers, Boards, and Committees are open. Please take a few moments to consider nominating yourself or another church member, with their consent. Forms may be found on the Church website. Once you have found a position of interest, please submit your form by email to nominations.peopleschurchucc@gmail.com. The DEADLINE for submitting Nomination Forms is Sunday, May 16, 2021. Thank you for participating!

The Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ Scholarship Committee

The Committee is pleased to announce the availability of Peoples Church Scholarships. Graduating seniors of Peoples Church, Community Members, and designated D.C. Public High Schools seniors are eligible. Students must be enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution of higher learning in Fall 2021. Applications are available on the Peoples Church Website under the 'Scholarship' tab. The deadline for applications is Friday, May 7, 2021. Instructions on how/where to submit applications will be on the form. Any additional questions regarding applications, please email us at scholarship@peopleschurchucc.org

The Capital Campaign for Peoples Church: Reimagined 2021

Church Family, we have all been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in varying ways. However, one enduring fact remains; we are still here; by the grace of God. Our corporate faith and trust in God have gotten us through one year without physical contact in our Beloved Church. We have embraced the technology of virtual Worship, events, activities, and governance meetings with grace and thankfulness. The Capital Campaign Community of Faith is reimagining its efforts to commit to a 2-year ministry to eliminate our debt. We remain focused on our guiding theme of: "Faith-raising With an Attitude of Gratitude." We are resuming our fundraising efforts on multiple media platforms and making virtual appeals to our congregation and friends of Peoples Church to reach our goal of debt elimination. As we continue our journey together in one accord, we pray that you will join us to promote our continuing mission and vision of Loving God and Loving Neighbor. **Visit our website for an advance purchase, \$30 minimum donation of our 130th Anniversary Commemorative Poster - Limited Edition. All Proceeds support the Capital Campaign!**

The Diaconate's Financial Assistance Program:

A Financial Aid Fund is available to help those in need of assistance with certain bills such as utilities or perhaps rent (in limited situations). Church members in need or their referrals may apply for assistance by submitting a Diaconate Financial Application Form with supporting documents. The application can be obtained from the church office or downloaded from the church website: www.peopleschurchucc.org under Church Forms. The form may be submitted by email to: DiaconateFinAid@peopleschurchucc.org or by mail to the church. The Diaconate has helped hundreds of applicants over many years thanks to your contributions. We encourage your continued support by donating to the Diaconate Board using the [Tithe.ly](#) app located on the church website in the left-hand column or by mailing a check to the church payable to the Diaconate Board.

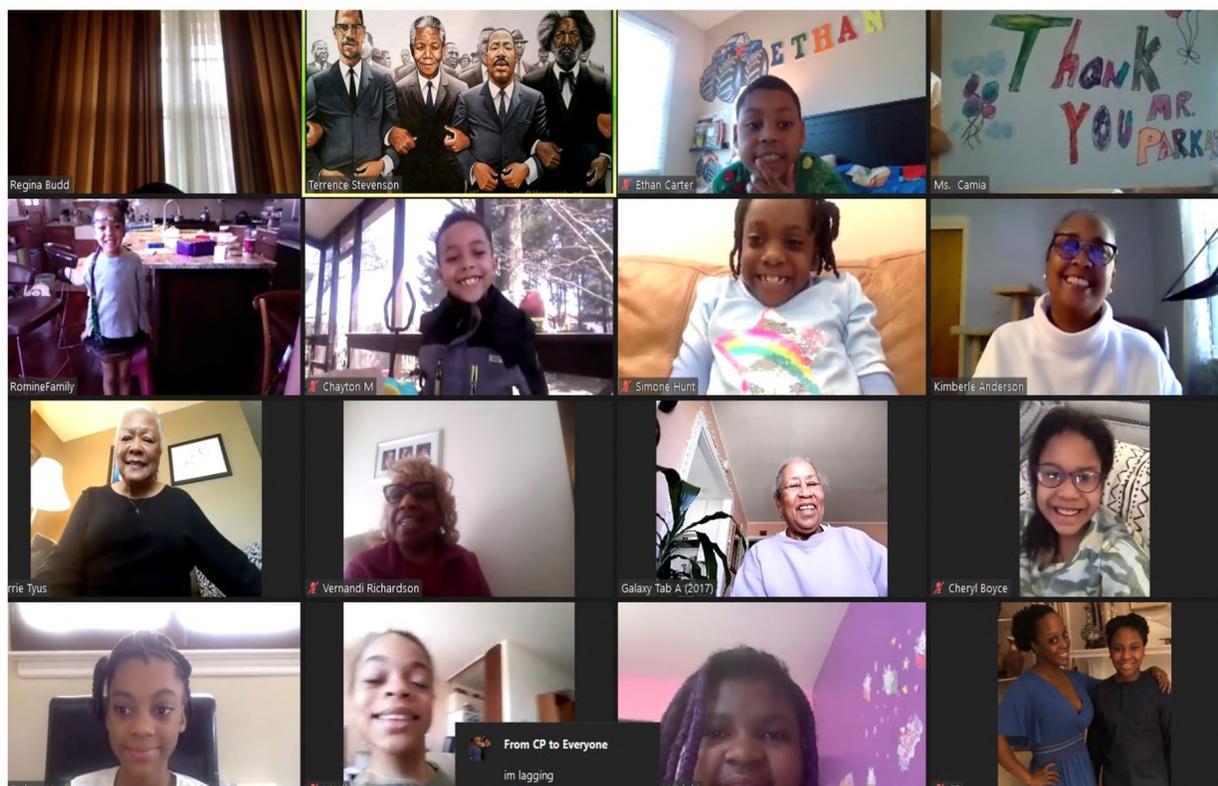
Rupert B. Clark Service Award

The Hospitality Circle will present the **RUPERT B. CLARK SERVICE AWARD** to deserving members in the fall of 2021. Nomination forms are available on the church website at peopleschurchucc.org; and can be submitted electronically. Nominations are to be submitted no later than Wednesday, June 30, 2021. The two signed letters of support for the nominees can be submitted electronically to hospitalitycircle@peopleschurchucc.org. Questions may be submitted to Marie Whitaker, President of Hospitality Circle, or to Dr. Walter Faggett, Chair of the Rupert B. Clark Service Award Committee at hospitalitycircle@gmail.com.

The Pastoral Care Ministry

We have revitalized the Prayer Request and the Identify Sick and Homebound request forms linked to the Church's website Peopleschurchucc.org. If you feel the need for prayer or a visit or know someone who does, please feel free to use the forms there or direct others there. An email can also be sent to pastoralcare@peopleschurchucc.org. Please be sure to include a contact method.

Special thank you to Clyde Parker from Church School!



April 2021 Board of Trustees (BOT) Progress Report

We greet you in the name of our Risen Savior in this Spring of 2021, as we keep our commitment to maximize transparency with this month's update on behalf of the Peoples Church Board of Trustees ("BOT").

Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning HVAC Installation Project Complete

We are thrilled to inform you that Peoples' new \$1.4 million HVAC (Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning) system has been installed by ABM. This complicated, expensive, and critical project for our church began several years ago and spanned many generations of the Board of Trustees. ABM's final payment is in processing. In addition, effective March 1, Peoples Church entered a 3-year, reduced price, preventive maintenance contract with ABM, complete with an extension of the warranties during the 3-year term.

In 2019, the BOT established the Capital Expenditures Committee ("CapEx"), to manage major capital projects of greater than \$50,000, from start to completion, even if they span several years. BOT advisory member, Jeff Banks, has ably chaired the CapEx, working closely with BOT co-chair, Cynthia Robbins and *pro bono* counsel, James McCullom, Esq., our team negotiated a 'disputed' \$85,750 duct cleaning allowance in the ABM contract down to a much reduced \$5,750, despite ABM's repeated protestations. Join us in celebrating this resolution via negotiation vs. litigation! Others working on this project were CEC members Hampton Cross and Careina Williams; BOT advisory member Judge Inez Smith Reid; along with engagement from the BOT's Wilbur Jackson and Earlene Jenkins; current and former BOT members; our Church Staff who managed the day-to-day and punch list items; and many others that supported this project.

Next Steps: Water/Moisture Management and Mold Abatement

The new HVAC system's improved air circulation will greatly reduce moisture buildup. The next step is to manage other moisture issues by installing sump pumps and redirecting water from our church. This work will be followed by removal of any remaining mold. With Jeff's and Cynthia's successful negotiation, we have the funds to finish the mold remediation and the BOT has voted to apply the balance of the Cornerstone loan toward urgently needed sanctuary roof replacement costs. We have much to be thankful for here and we want to thank all who contributed as we "rise, shine, and give God glory!"

Join Us at Regular BOT Meetings- Second Wednesday, 6:45-8:30 PM

All are welcome to attend. We gather informally at 6:30 pm to meet, greet, and begin our official meeting promptly at 6:45 pm. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84084882196?pwd=OEJCSzVQNfY3R05HQVRDbkQ1alVQZz09>

Wishing You a Safe, Serene Spring,
Agnes C. Powell and Cynthia Robbins
Board of Trustees Co-chairs

2021 MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES

January: “..The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.” (Psalms 111)

February: “..my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God..” (Psalms 84)

March: “..I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations; therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever..” (Psalms 45)

April: “..All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.^[1]” (Psalm 22)

May: “Praise the LORD!
Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.” (Psalm 113)

June: “I can do all things through Him (Jesus Christ) who strengthens me.” (Psalm 130)

July: “Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. (Psalms 48)

August: “will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth” (Psalm 34:1-8)

September: “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament^[a] proclaims his handiwork. (Psalm 19)

October: “..Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver Let him rescue the one in whom he delights!” (Psalms 22:1-15)

November: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord;” (Psalms 16)

December: “O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.” (Psalm 96)

Peoples Congregational Church
Invites You To

**JOIN US FOR
WEDNESDAY WORD**

A Devotional Teleconference
Every Wednesday in March
7:00am - 7:30am
Dial in Number: (605) 475-5950*
Passcode: 8964544#
*This is not a toll free number.
Charges may apply.

In Memoriam



For members who transitioned in 2021

Daisy Jackson Cox
Passed on January 8, 2021

Edward Carter
Passed on January 8, 2021

Joe L. Greene
Passed on January 10, 2021

Wilson Hull
Passed on January 21, 2021

Martha Bradley
Passed on March 30, 2021

GENERAL INFORMATION

EMAIL ADDRESS MINISTERS

Rev. Brandon Harris, Senior Minister
seniorminister@peopleschurchucc.org

Rev. Mahogany Thomas, Executive Minister
executiveminister@peopleschurchucc.org

CHURCH MODERATOR

Dawn A. Kum
moderator@peopleschurchucc.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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

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

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Mr. Lawrence McDaniel
Mr. Akien Ingram

SUNDAY

Worship Service
Each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion
First Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Adult Church School
Each Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Word
7:00 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer
12:00 Noon

THURSDAY

Virtual Bible Study
Each Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

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 Saturdays	9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

CHURCH BOARDS VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

Church Council	1st Wednesday	6:30 p.m.
Board of Trustees	2nd Wednesday	6:45 p.m.
Board of Christian Social Action	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Board of Christian Education	4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Diaconate Board	Saturday before the 1st Sunday	12:00 p.m.



MORE GENERAL INFORMATION

MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS: 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.

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.

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.

THE PRODDER

The Prodder and Multi-Media platforms 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.

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.

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.

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.

FIRST AID KITS

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. The completed forms should be given to any member of the office/volunteer staff.