



PEOPLES PRODDER

May/June 2024 Newsletter



Minister's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ,

"A Reflection on A Pastor and People after One Year"

Proverbs 27:17 from the Message translation of the Holy Scriptures reminds us, ***"You use steel to sharpen steel, and one friend sharpens another."*** Over the past year, as we have been together as a pastor and people, I have attempted to create causes for us to be together and engage with one another at all levels, allowing those interactions to make each of us sharper/better.

During this interim period as your interim minister, my focus and commitment have been fostering new relationships and renewing old ones within the congregation. I approached this task with intention and dedication, understanding the importance of solid connections in building a thriving community. Our work still needs to be completed. We have more to do, but here is how the Spirit has allowed and is allowing this transformation to come about:

Active Engagement

I have made a conscious effort to actively engage with members of the congregation, both new and old. I established personal connections by attending events, services, and gatherings and showed genuine interest in getting to know each individual.

Listening and Understanding

I prioritized listening to the congregation members' concerns, ideas, and feedback. By creating a safe space for open dialogue, where every voice was respected and heard, I could understand the community's needs and address any issues that may have arisen in the past.

Building Trust

Building trust is crucial in forming meaningful relationships. I ensured transparency in my actions and decisions, always keeping the congregation's best interests at heart. My personal or professional transparency helped establish trust and credibility among the members.

Facilitating Communication

I implemented various communication channels to facilitate better member interaction. Through the Prodder, social media updates, and regular announcements, I kept everyone informed about upcoming events and initiatives, fostering a sense of unity and inclusivity.

Organizing Community Events

I gave directions and instruction for organized community events and activities that brought people together in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. These events provided new and old members opportunities to interact, bond, and form connections outside the regular church setting.

Empowering Leaders

I identified potential leaders within the congregation and empowered them to take active roles in various initiatives. By delegating responsibilities and encouraging leadership development, I motivated individuals to contribute their skills and strengths to the community's growth and inspired them to realize their full potential.

Recognizing Contributions

I made a point to acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of both new and old members. By publicly recognizing their efforts and achievements, I encouraged a culture of appreciation and positivity within the congregation.

Overall, by prioritizing relationship-building and fostering a sense of community, I facilitated the development of new relationships and the renewal of old relationships during my interim period as a minister. Through my efforts, I aimed to create a welcoming and nurturing environment where everyone felt valued, supported, and connected.

Our work continues, and as it does, may this past year serve as encouragement for the days ahead. The most challenging period may still be ahead, but we must trust that the God who brought us thus far on our way will be our constant guide. May the warmth and beauty of Spring and Summer fill our hearts with joy and hope as we continue to grow in faith and love.

I am loving you into God's next for you!

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds



Prayer Meeting Dial-In

Wednesday Word Devotional Conference Call

605-475-5950 Access Code: 8964544#
Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday Noon Prayer Service

Call 518-992-1039, Access Code: 659959#
Prayer Service is every Wednesday at Noon.

Thursday Virtual Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting: Click here to [join](#)
Dial-in# +1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 992 6852 3678 Password: 784420

Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday Morning Praise and Worship Teleconference

Call-in-Number 720-740-9739 Access Code 4684874
The Line Opens at 6:55 a.m.

Virtual Adult Church School

Adult Church School Every Sunday from 8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

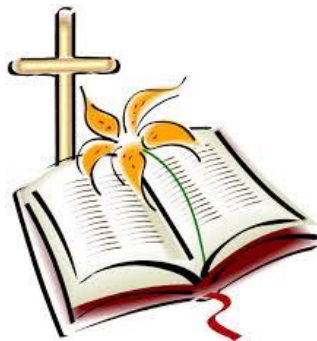
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88390857788?pwd=RmZoY2xqeTBIRVdTK09XWFY5cG9OQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 4429 8433 Passcode: 853640

Church School meets every second and fourth Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel September- June

Sermon By Phone

Available every Sunday at 12:00 p.m. Dial 1-202-318-5405



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Peoples Church! All individuals who participate in our Worship and Liturgical Services and/or Events may have their images appear on our Social Media Platforms, Live Streaming, or communication documents. By attending these Services and Events, you tacitly agree to having your image displayed.

MUSIC MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are several opportunities for you to participate in the music ministry at Peoples. We invite you to come and be a part of the Adult Choir or the Praise & Worship Team. Instrumentalists are also welcome.

The Adult Choir is now recruiting new members.

Open: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass.

Qualifications: Must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the church. Must have sufficient vision to see the director twenty feet away.

Experience: No application accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed or whistled in the shower.

Wages: Satisfaction and joy in God's service.



Hours: Sunday mornings with occasional opportunities for overtime (at above mentioned wages).

Rehearsals: Once a week except in the summer.

Apply: By attending the next rehearsal. Saturdays from 10:30 am - 12 noon.

Organ Coaching Available!

This spring and summer, Dr. Robert Jefferson, our Minister of Music, is offering free (yes, FREE) coaching to youth and young adults who want to learn organ techniques. Participation has only two requirements: that the child can play the piano (with music or by ear); and that he/she can attend adult choir practices on Saturdays, from 10-noon. Let's continue the legacy of organ music at Peoples Church. For more information, contact Dr. Jefferson at drrobertjefferson@gmail.com.

 <i>In Memoriam</i> 	
Bezelle Thomas Passed on January 23, 2024	Sam Ewing Passed on April 5 th , 2024
Yvonne Grasty Passed on January 28, 2024	Maureen Butts Passed on May 6, 2024
Gwendolyn Jenifer Passed on February 23, 2024	Florida Ella Greene Passed on May 19, 2024
Norma Kelley Passed on February 27, 2024	Terry Thomas Passed on May 27, 2024

SAVE THE DATE! Poor Peoples Campaign March and Assembly - June 29th!

People's members, Judith Howell, Vivian Jackson, and Wilbur Jackson, participated in the launch of the 40 days of preparation for the national march of the Poor Peoples Campaign on Saturday, March 2nd at the Church of Epiphany followed by a march to the Wilson Building. This launch event took place in over 30 state capitals on that day. The national event will take place in DC on Saturday, June 15th. Stay tuned for more information



The Washington Jazz Arts Institute (WJAI) is accepting applications for its Summer 2024 Jazz Mentor Camp for youth between 12-21 at Peoples Church from June 24th-July 19th, 9-2pm daily (Mon-Fri). Participants must attend all sessions . Please apply at WJAI.org or reach out to Davey Yarborough or Esther Williams at Arts@WJAI.org.

SAVE THE DATE! The 2024 Vacation Bible School Day Camp is scheduled for August 5-9!

Do you know any children between 5 and 13 years old looking for a fun-filled week of faith, friends, and adventure? Peoples' VBS is here for you! Sign up using the QR code and your name will be added to our mailing list for updates and priority access to Early-Bird Registration. You may also return to this space for updates.



"POSSE Scholarship nomination period is now open. The POSSE Foundation provides full four year leadership scholarships to DC, MD and VA youth. Peoples Church, as a community partner, can nominate up to 10 youth. Applicants must be in their junior year of high school. Several Peoples Church members have received this scholarship in the past. Nominations close in August, 2024 . For more information, please visit possefoundation.org. Contact Yvonne Hinkson at yehinkson@gmail.com to submit a nomination or for more information."

Bible Trivia



- 1) According to the bible, how many pearly gates are there?
A) 7 B) 10 C) 12 D) 14
- 2) Which couple lied to the Holy Spirit by keeping back a portion of their sold possessions?
A) Adam and Eve B) Ananias and Sapphira C) Boaz and Ruth
- 3) Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in ____ place ?
A) two places B) three places C) one place D) many places
- 4) After receiving the Holy Spirit, they began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance. The Jews heard them speaking in their own language, and were marveled because they knew they were Galileans. Not able to believe it, the Jews said, "they were ____"?
A) Not Galileans B) Reading from a book C) Playing D) Drunk

Ans. 1) C 2) B 3) C 4) D

Helping the Homeless in Downtown DC -- **DOWNTOWN DAY SERVICES CENTER**

As part of the Housing Justice work of the CAC Justice and Witness Action Network – the DC Team is soliciting resources for unhoused residents of downtown DC served by the Downtown Day Services Center. These items include:

For Men: socks, shoes, underwear, T-Shirts, hygiene items

For Women: underwear, socks, shoes, feminine hygiene items

Summer Season: hats, sunscreen, Insect Repellent,

General Items: books, puzzles, games

The Team will be delivering these items on Saturday, July 13, 2024.

Collection box will be located in the atrium until **Thursday July 11, 2024.**

Please see **Vivian Jackson** for more information.

Find out more about the Downtown Day Services Center at <http://www.downtowndc.org>



Worship and Fellowship



Peoples Church Staff



First Congregational UCC



Jackson Family & Dr. Robert Jefferson



Active Shooter Training



Potomac Association Revival



CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Have you moved? Do you have a new e-mail address? Has your contact information changed? If so, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the office so that we may update your contact information. Thank you!

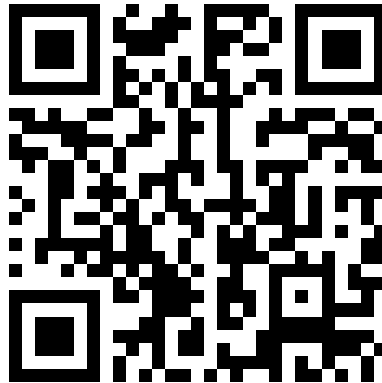
Name(s) _____

Old Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Email _____

REALM REGISTRATION



**Scan the QR Code: Peoples Realm
Sign-Up, Sign-in or Make a Donation**

**Peoples Congregational
United Church of Christ**

4704 Thirteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
Phone: 202.829.5511
Follow us on Twitter
@PeoplesCongUCC

We are on the Web!
www.peopleschurchucc.org



Love God & Love Neighbor

Prodder Guidelines

The Peoples Prodder is our Monthly Newsletter to inform our community about recent announcements, updates and information pertaining to the life of our congregation.

All announcements and flyers for the upcoming edition of the Prodder must be submitted by 12:00 Noon on the 20th of the prior month.

Announcements and flyers can be emailed to info@peopleschurchucc.org.

Please do not mail information; electronic submissions are required. Announcements should be between 50-200 words maximum and should be informational about Peoples Church events or members and their families. All announcements may be edited and submissions are subject to final approval by the Ministers.

Contact Information

Interim Minister

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
interimminister@peopleschurchucc.org

Church Moderator

Brenda B. Smith
moderator@peopleschurchucc.org

Administrative Staff

Operations Specialist
Yvette Hunter
yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org

Maintenance Staff

Towanda Chew
Sterling "Stan Evans"





WHAT'S UP DIGITAL MINISTRY

We Need ☞☞ You to Serve & Teach

The Multi-Media/Tech Team is currently recruiting members to serve as **Digital Ambassador Tutors** to provide basic computer assistance to our church members who are not comfortable with our ever changing world of technology and social media platforms.

Openings for Tutors: Basic Realm or Group Leader, iPhone, Android or laptop Literacy, Zoom Host or User, Basic Gmail, Google Suite or Outlook, Microsoft Suites, social media use, (AI) or whatever you are willing to share. Each one, Teach one!

Qualifications: Must have lots of love, compassion and patience for those who want or need to learn new technology. They may be able to in-turn help you succeed at something tomorrow! Must be willing to volunteer for 15 minutes on a Sunday, maybe an hour + a month.

Experience: No applications or resumes; just bring your God given Gifts or the experience you have acquired.

Wages: For Lent "I am a Church Member" Pg 5, states "God placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, **to teach**, to give, and in some cases, to die for the sake of the Gospel"

Hours: Sunday mornings with occasional opportunities for overtime (at above-mentioned wages).

Sessions: On Sundays after church, once a week, by appointment in-person or on zoom

Apply: Complete form below:



📱🖥️🎧 I am on the tech team, but no one notices what I do until I don't do it!

✂ Return to Nina Faulk-Knight at Front Office ✂


Ambassador's Full Name: _____

Primary Phone: Cell ()-()-() or Home ()-()-()

Preferred Tutoring Subject(s) :1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Skills/Interests/Hobbies: _____

Comments or Suggestions: _____



Life-CPR

THE WELLNESS MINISTRY PRESENTS

American Heart Association Approved CPR Course

Get Certified in Basic CPR techniques

Space is limited to 10 people. Register today!

Saturday, June 22
at our Fellowship Hall.
The course starts at 9:30 AM

Training includes:

- Learn about Emergency Situations.
- Compression for Adult and infants.
- Use of Automated External Defibrillator.
- Treatment of choking.

REGISTRATION SHEETS AVAILABLE IN THE FOYER
COST: \$65


MASS POOR PEOPLE'S & LOW-WAGE WORKERS' ASSEMBLY


MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON AND TO THE POLLS


SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE 29, 2024

10 A.M. 3RD & PENNSYLVANIA NW WASHINGTON, D.C.

WE ARE A RESURRECTION, NOT AN INSURRECTION!

 Bishop William J. Barber, II
Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

 National Co-Chairs,
Poor People's Campaign:
A National Call for Moral Revival



JOIN POOR PEOPLE, LOW-WAGE WORKERS, LABOR UNIONS, MORAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND COALITION PARTNERS FOR THIS MASS CONSCIOUS SHIFTING EVENT. IT'S TIME TO MOBILIZE AND ORGANIZE OUR VOTES AS DEMANDS! WE ARE COMMITTED TO NON VIOLENT ACTION.

VISIT [POORPEOPLESCAMPAIGN.ORG](https://poorpeoplecampaign.org) TO JOIN US



JOIN THE SERVICE HERE

<https://facebook.tv/venue/sunday-6302024-peoples-congregational-ucc-view/2545678901234567>

Caribbean-American INTER-FAITH SERVICE

You are Invited

SUNDAY June 30, 2024

10:00 AM - Noon (EST)

SERMON
PILLARS OF PEACE

 **Rev. Leddell Bragg-Reynolds**
Interim Minister
Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ

 **Ambassador A. Shabazz**
Guest Speaker
Daughter of Dr. Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X Shabazz

- **Hajji Rooknudeen Ali**
Islamic Society of the Washington Area
- **Ras Dr. Wayne Rose**
School of the Sacrament, Ras Tafari University
- **Dr. Carolivia Herron**
Tijereth Israel Congregation
- **Invited**
Hindu Temple of Metropolitan Washington

Peoples Congregational UCC
4704 13th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20011