



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

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Interim Minister

Sunday, December 1, 2024
10:00 a.m.

"... that they may all be one." John 17:21 (NRSV)

Love God and Love Neighbor

ENTER TO WORSHIP...

The Order of the Word
First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
The Liturgical Color is White

CENTERING THOUGHT

“Repentance is the response to grace that overcomes the past and opens out to a new future. Repentance distinguishes Christian life as one of struggle and conversion and pervades it, not with remorse but with hope. The message of Jesus is not “Repent,” but “Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near.”

— John Shea

PROCESSIONAL

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Warren Romine and Monique Neal

MORNING HYMN

Watch Ye Saints
(Insert)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minister Geneva Hudson

CALL TO WORSHIP**

Minister Geneva Hudson and Malcolm Wyatt

Reader 1: In Isaiah 11:9, the prophet declares, “They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea.”

Reader 2: The first candle is lit as a sign of hope that truth will prevail and justice be done for all people.

As we pray and work for truth, compassion, and justice, near and far—

All: Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now

****Invocation**

Minister Geneva Hudson

Gracious One, we confess that sometimes our eyes are half shut because we grow tired of looking for Your presence. And we confess that at other times our eyes are half open because we are afraid to see too much. Even during “holiday time” our eyes might fill with tears, because this year, like every year, we know that what takes place in our home has little to do with Your birth into this world. But we are not sure how to make any of it different. All we can do is ask for Your forgiveness. Forgive us for eyes too dimmed by familiarity; hearts too dulled by past pain; and minds too numbed by consumerism and self-centeredness. Forgive us, we pray, and make us new again. Give all of us a bigger vision of what You can do— are doing—in us and among us. We pray in Advent yearning. Amen.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

AFFIRMATION**

Deacon Carrie Tyus

We are not alone; we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, and in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 98
Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 3: 1-13

Deacon Malcolm Carpenter

Deacon Kenneth Parker

COVENANT

Minister Geneva Hudson

We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and in our purpose to walk in the ways of God, made known or to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ to proclaim the Gospel to all humankind, exalting the worship of the one true God and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of the beloved community. Depending as did our fathers and mothers upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the City of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

GLORIA PATRI**

Saint Hilary of Poitiers

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, Amen*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

A WORD ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

Geoffrey Pierce

SERMONIC SELECTION

Norman Hutchins

Emmanuel

SERMON

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

"THE FIRST CHRISTMAS"

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister Geneva Hudson

THE ORDER OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Giving of the Bread

The Giving of the Cup

MUSICAL SELECTION

No. 229 AAHH V. Michael McKay (A Perfect Sacrifice)

Jesus Paid it All, There is a Fountain

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

OFFERTORY

Minister Geneva Hudson

Musical Selection

Israel Houghton

Lord You are God

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Minister Geneva Hudson

DOXOLOGY**

Thomas Ken

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above Ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen*

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

Calvin Jones

Faye Zealand

CLOSING HYMN**

Traditional

Walk in the Light

BENEDICTION **

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

POSTLUDE

Once in Royal David's City

Dr. Robert L. Jefferson, Director of Worship and Peoples Congregational Choir
Minister Diedre D. Gray, Assistant Director of Worship and Peoples Praise

*AAHH- African American Heritage Hymnal

** All who are able, please stand

...DEPART TO SERVE

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PEOPLES CHURCH

- For weekly “What's Happening” submissions and monthly Prodder submissions, please send all newsletter articles to email: info@peopleschurchucc.org. The deadline for “What's Happening” is Wednesday at noon. Prodder submissions must be submitted by 12:00 Noon on the 20th of the prior month.
- A confirmation email reply will be sent upon completion of all requests.

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 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Elems Center Classroom
September- June

Sermon By Phone

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

Weekly Announcements

Peoples Church will be closed on December 25th, 26th and 27th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

Welcome to Peoples Church!

All individuals who participate in our Worship and Liturgical Services and 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 have your image displayed.

Dear Members of the Church Community,


We want to ensure that you have the best possible communication with our Interim Minister to address any needs, concerns, or messages you may have. His email address is interimminister@peopleschurchucc.org. Please note that the Pastor's Sabbath is on Monday, a time dedicated to rest and reflection. If you need to contact the Pastor via email, we kindly ask that you keep in mind the following schedule: if you send an email on Sunday or Monday, please understand that the Pastor is not likely to respond until Tuesday, as these are his days of rest. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in respecting the Pastor's need for Sabbath rest. Your patience and consideration are highly valued as we seek to support our Pastor's well-being and continued service to the congregation. Should you have any urgent concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Front Office. Thank you

Music Ministry Announcements

Peoples Congregational Choir is now accepting new members. 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 choir. Rehearsals are on Saturdays from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. There are also opportunities to sing with Peoples Praise, our praise & worship team. Rehearsals are on Saturdays from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Instrumentalists are also welcome. Join us as we rehearse music for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Come sing with us!

The Music Ministry at Peoples UCC is growing and expanding, and we are looking for a few people with the desire to help in our growth by providing administrative support. If you are interested, please reach out to Min. Diedre Gray, Assistant Director of Worship msdedeemusic@gmail.com or LeAta Jackson leatarj@gmail.com

In Memoriam

 Bezelle Thomas Passed on January 23, 2024	Terry Thomas Passed on May 27, 2024
Yvonne Grasty Passed on January 28, 2024	Bernice Johnson Reagon Passed on July 16, 2024
Gwendolyn Jenifer Passed on February 23, 2024	Marie Lee Passed on August 7, 2024
Norma Kelley Passed on February 27, 2024	Debra Long-Doyle Passed on October 15, 2024
Sam Ewing Passed on April 5, 2024	Gwendolyn Pla Passed on October 21, 2024
Maureen Butts Passed on May 6, 2024	Lucille Herring Passed on October 28, 2024
Florida Ella Greene Passed on May 19, 2024	Julia Hull Passed on November 23, 2024

Sermon Talk-Back

Rev. Bragg-Reynolds will lead Sermon Talk-Back on the following Sundays after worship in the Corbin Lounge.

Sunday, December 1, 2024
Sunday, December 8, 2024
Sunday, December 15, 2024
Sunday, December 29, 2024

Sermon talk-back allows you to ask questions, delve deeper into the sermon, and follow up on trauma-informed Bible study.

Prayer Requests: Rev. Bragg-Reynolds has asked us to be a praying church. Surely, we can agree that there is power in prayer. The Book of James 5:14 reads, *“Are any among you sick? They should call on the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.”* We don’t have elders in our church, but we have ministers, deacons, and prayer groups. The Bible says pray without ceasing and that’s what we would like to do at Peoples, but we need to know who is sick, who is in the hospital, rehab, or just needs prayer. Often, we hear about someone who had been ill, was in the hospital, or lost a loved one, and the church did not know. Beginning in October, there will be boxes and prayer request cards on the table in the atrium, the entrance to the Elmes Center, and in the pews. Put your prayer requests in one of the boxes, in the offering basket, or on the website. We will share your needs with the ministers and other prayer groups. If you wish for the prayer request to remain confidential and shared only with the minister, please note that. Let us remain connected as a church family to care for and support one another. Please let us know your prayer needs so that we may lift you in prayer.

Sick and Shut-in

We would also like to know who may be sick and shut-in, hospitalized, in rehab, or confined to their homes and who may have lost loved ones. This information can be given to the office or sent to pastoralcare@peopleschurchucc.org.

Birthday Recognition

As before, we would like to acknowledge all birthdays and anniversaries each month in the Prodder starting in January 2025. If you would like to be included, please let Marie Whitaker and your Birthmonth Club know. Also, indicate if you would not like to be included.

The Governing Body Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in person in the sanctuary and online via Zoom and by phone. During the meeting, we will discuss Financial Updates, Operational and Administrative Updates, and Facility updates.

Members of the Pastoral Search Committee

Amber Romine, Chair	Tuere Marshall
James Mack, Co-Chair	Jennine Jackson
Jeff Banks	Brenda Jones
Brenda Ewing	Tanielle Parker
Carol Hamilton	Thomas Pinder

The Food Pantry not only provides food to nourish the body but also love to nourish the spirit. Join us as we collect personal care and winter items for our Christmas distribution. Items will be collected through Sunday, December 15. Boxes for your donations will be located in the Atrium.

Holiday
Fundraiser

TROOP 544 BOY SCOUT WREATHS ARE BACK!

Adorn you door with beautiful, fresh, and festive holiday balsam. or supplies. All sales will help support Troop 544 with camping adventures, purchasing equipment and providing fee reductions for scouts needing financial assistance

There are two ways to purchase.

Email your order to akapamack@gmail.com. Your order will be delivered or available for pick up on December 6, 2024. Make checks payable to Troop 544.

- OR -

Order online at <https://giftitforward.com> for additional selections and to have the order shipped directly to you. (Prices are higher for on-line purchases.) Use fundraising-code: TR544DC001 and make sure to mention Troop 544 as the Scout. Your order will be shipped directly to you.



Thank you for your suuport.

Your Scout's name: **TROOP 544**



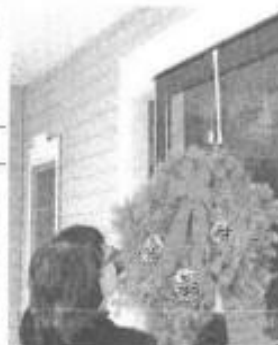
Classic Wreath \$35



Spray \$25



LED Lights \$10

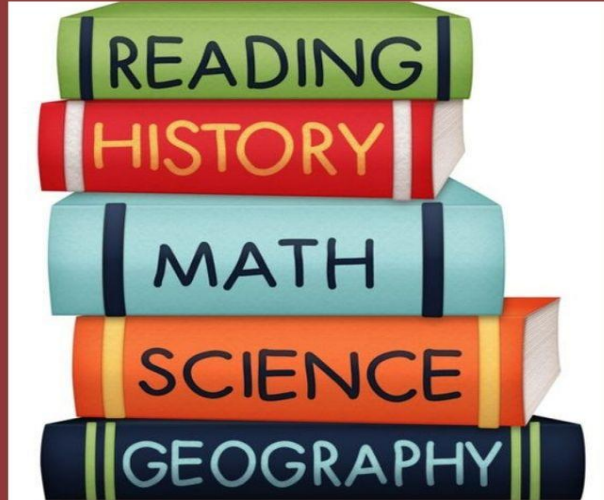


Hanger \$5

APPLY TODAY!

2024 PEOPLES CHURCH BOOK GRANT APPLICATION

Deadline: December 6, 2024 by 5:00 pm



Applications are being accepted now for Book Grants to be used for the Spring 2025 Semester! Book Grants are available for church members in undergraduate school and are **due on December 6, 2024 by 5:00 pm.**

BOOK GRANT MATERIALS

Applications should be requested by emailing
scholarship@peopleschurchucc.org

**Note: Book Grant applications can be completed fully online.*

QUESTIONS?

✉ scholarship@peopleschurchucc.org

Direct Links to Online Giving for Donations

REALM



Scan the QR Code and **Click on {Give Online} below.**
You can TEXT to Give-Please text **GIVE2PEOPLES** to 73256, followed by the gift amount.