



PEOPLES PRODDER

December 2024 Newsletter

Minister's Message

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

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

How are you? How is your soul in this season? Is the peace of Christ with you? What about goodwill toward all humankind?

As I have pondered these questions for the last several weeks, remembering that Christmas is the season to give, three actions—actually, three gifts we can each give—came to mind. Of course, we provide these gifts throughout the year. Still, during the beautiful season of Christmas, we remember the Creator's gift of their Son and consider how we might follow such an example as we increase our individual ability and desire to give.

1. Christmas is the season to give Love.

Our Holy Parent in Heaven and our Savior, Jesus Christ, are the most outstanding examples of Love. A beloved scripture teaches, "For God so loved the world, that God gave God's only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Our Savior taught us by example to love everyone, God, and our neighbors as ourselves.

2. Christmas is the season to give service.

Our Lord and Savior ministered personally to the people, lifting the oppressed, giving hope to the discouraged, and seeking out the lost. He gave sight to the blind, healed the sick and the lame so they could walk, and raised the dead. At Christmastime, I think of the missionaries, who, as representatives of Jesus Christ, freely give their time and service to all humanity. I think of all the brothers and sisters who spend many hours serving faithfully in their callings. Also, at this time, I think of all the men and women serving in the military to ensure our safety. Thank you for your service!

But even if we are not serving the Lord or our country full-time, our opportunities to serve are limitless. Kind words and deeds can lift burdens and cheer up hearts! Our God in Heaven invites us all to give service. And when we do, "Verily I say unto you, since ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me," are the words we will hear.

3. Christmas is the season to give forgiveness.

Forgiving others brings peace and joy to our lives. Nothing will bring us more of the Spirit of God than to be kind, considerate, charitable, long-suffering, and forgiving. There is Nothing that will bring more joy to us than to be ready and willing to forgive the trespasses of our neighbors against us, and there is Nothing that will bring more condemnation to us than to harden our hearts and to be bitter and vindictive in our feelings towards those by whom we are surrounded. To receive forgiveness for our sins, we need to forgive others.

Forgiving others allows us to overcome anger, bitterness, or revenge. And who wants to feel those feelings at Christmas? Forgiveness can also heal spiritual wounds and bring the peace and Love only God can give.

Siblings, this Christmas season, let us all give the best gifts. Let us sacrifice with grateful hearts our favorite toys—not the ones we've worn out. And let us give the gift of Love, the gift of service to those around us, and the true gift of forgiveness. For as we repent, the Holy One of Israel forgives us. I testify that He lives. He is the King of kings, the Prince of Peace, our Savior, our Redeemer, and our Friend.

May this Spirit of Christmas be with you always!

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

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



Music Ministry Announcements

Join the Music Ministry Team in a churchwide forum on Sunday, September 8th, immediately following church service!

This is your opportunity to chat with the music ministry team and express your vision for the music ministry at Peoples UCC. We want to know your thoughts and concerns. Join us!

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

Instrumentalists are also welcome. Peoples Choir is now accepting new members. Rehearsals are Saturdays from 10:30 AM - 12 noon. Join us as we plan music for the upcoming year. Come sing with us!

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.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

“Dr. King’s Beloved Community”

“We stand today between two worlds – the dying old and the emerging new. I am aware of the fact that there are those who would argue that we live in the ghastly period of human history.”

–Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 1956

The Peoples Board of Christian Social Action (BoCSA) invites you to join us on **Sunday, January 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and examine what it means to “live into the Beloved Community.” Dr. King proclaimed and invited others to oppose the same (or status quo) until the “Beloved Community” is realized: **never accommodate discrimination, never accept bigotry, and reject conditions that favor the few over the many, leaving many in poverty amidst great prosperity.** Even with the distress of the time in which he lived, Dr. King held the belief that in the midst of the discomfort, still rests the opportunity for ‘a new world’ ... ‘and an old world passing away.’ May it be so today.

 <h2 style="margin: 0;"><i>In Memoriam</i></h2> 	
Bezelle Thomas Passed on January 23, 2024	Florida Ella Greene Passed on May 19, 2024
Yvonne Grasty Passed on January 28, 2024	Terry Thomas Passed on May 27, 2024
Gwendolyn Jenifer Passed on February 23, 2024	Bernice Johnson Reagon Passed on July 16, 2024
Norma Kelley Passed on February 27, 2024	Marie Lee Passed on August 7, 2024
Sam Ewing Passed on April 5, 2024	Debra Long-Doyle Passed on October 15, 2024
Maureen Butts Passed on May 6, 2024	Gwendolyn Pla Passed on October 21, 2024
Lucille Herring Passed on October 28, 2024	

Bible Trivia



- 1) Who was the first man in the Bible?
A) Noah B) Peter C) Adam D) John

- 2) Where did Adam and Eve live at the beginning of the world?
A) Jerusalem B) Bethlehem C) Garden of Eden

- 3) Who were their three sons listed in the Bible?
A) Abel B) Seth C) Cain D) All of them

- 4) How many brothers did Joseph have?
A) 6 B) 9 C) 15 D) 11

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

Baptism of Johnathan Lloyd Jolley, Jr., Ronald Reid Van Houten Allen, and Mees Doets Bluit Allen



**Peoples Congregational
United Church of Christ**

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@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
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Church Moderator

Diana Haines Walton
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Administrative Staff

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Maintenance Staff

Towanda Chew
Sterling "Stan" Evans



CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

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

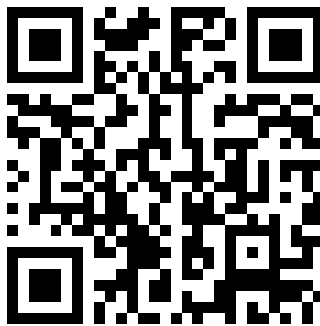
Name(s) _____

Old Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Email _____

REALM REGISTRATION



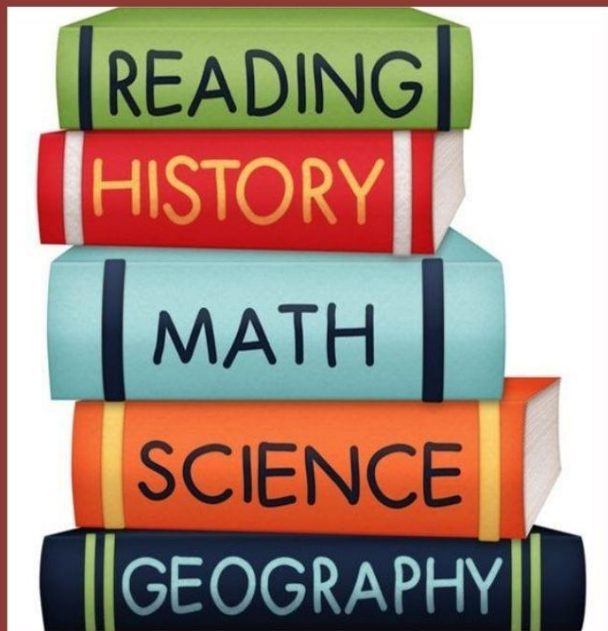
**Scan the QR Code: Peoples Realm
Sign-Up, Sign-in or Make a Donation**



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

Notes

