

# Black History Month



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

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds  
Interim Minister

Sunday, February 2, 2025  
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  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.  
The Liturgical Color is White

**CENTERING THOUGHT**

“The kingdom of God isn’t announced with handshakes (however momentous), political flourishes, or speeches that move the heart. As in this place, it will be known in thorough healing work: painstaking attention to particular bodies, committed lives, strategic action; the binding and silencing . . . of hatred and injustice that will not want to leave or lose their grip —the mighty works, in daily life, of flourishing community.”  
— Janet Morley, *Companions of God*

**PRELUDE**

Will Thompson

*Softly and Tenderly*

Davey Yarborough

**OPENING HYMN**

No. 540 AAHH James W. Johnson, J. Rosamund Johnson

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Minister Geneva Hudson

**\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Minister Geneva Hudson

Leader: Welcome, beloved community, to this time of worship, where we gather to seek understanding and share in love. As we come together, let us remember that knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

**People: We gather as one body, seeking to honor each other's gifts and perspectives.**

Leader: In our worship today, we are reminded that we are not only called to know but to act with compassion. We recognize that our faith is not just about our own understanding but how we can support one another in our journey.

**People: We come with open hearts, ready to listen and learn, acknowledging that our paths may differ.**

Leader: Let us remember that our actions have the power to either strengthen or stumble one another. May we be mindful of our responsibilities as we worship together.

**People: We choose to lift each other up, committing to build one another in faith and grace.**

Leader: So, let us worship in spirit and in truth, led by love, and guided by the wisdom of the Spirit.

**People: May our voices rise together in praise, and may our hearts be united in love as we worship the One who calls us to a deeper understanding of community. Amen.**

**\*\*INVOCATION**

Minister Geneva Hudson

Gracious God, as we gather here today, we seek to embrace the wisdom of Your Word, acknowledging that while knowledge informs us, it is love that truly binds us together. Open our hearts to one another as we worship, encouraging us to build each other up in faith and grace. May Your Spirit guide our thoughts and actions, helping us to live out our commitment to unity and compassion. In Your love, we find our strength. In Your presence, we find our purpose. We pray this in the name of the one whose life fulfilled your Holy vision. Amen.

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

No. 244 AAHH George Bennard

*The Old Rugged Cross*

**\*\*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 READINGS**

Psalm 111  
I Corinthians 8: 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

**SONG OF PREPARATION**

Richard Smallwood, Bill Gaither, Gloria Gaither

*Center of My Joy  
Davey Yarborough*

**SERMON**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**"ONE OF THOSE TIMES"****INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

Minister Geneva Hudson

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

The Giving of the Bread

The Giving of the Cup

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

No. 256 Andre Crouch

*The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**OFFERTORY**

Minister Geneva Hudson

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

Billy Taylor

*I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel to Be Free  
Esther Williams Yarborough, Soloist*

**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 hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen*

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**CLOSING HYMN**

No. 264 AAHH Isaac Watts

*At the Cross***THREEFOLD AMEN**

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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Elmes Center Classrooms from September- June**

## Weekly Announcements

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.

**SAVE THE DATE:** February 8, 2025 9:30 – 11:00

Special Governing Body Meeting to vote on the 2025 budget and amendment to the bylaws regarding term limits for Church Council members. Please forward any questions or concerns to [moderator@peopleschurchucc.org](mailto:moderator@peopleschurchucc.org)

**Dear Peoples Church Members,**



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](mailto: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

### Sermon Talk-Back

Rev. Bragg-Reynolds will lead Sermon Talk-Back immediately following the service in the Corbin Lounge. Sermon talk-back allows you to ask questions and delve deeper into the sermon.

### Members of the Pastoral Search Committee

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

 <b>In Memoriam</b> 	
Thomas Pinder Passed on January 10, 2025	Mary Elizabeth Rowe Passed on January 26, 2025

**The Girl Scouts of Peoples Church** invite you to the Girl Scout Sunday Service on March 9, 2025, at 10:00 am. Kim R. Ford, CEO of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital and past President and CEO of Martha's Table will deliver the message "Character Matters" to celebrate the 113th Birthday of Girl Scouts and 56 years of Girl Scouting at Peoples Church. All are invited to help celebrate this wonderful occasion.

### Continuing the Celebration of Peoples Church

A **Juneteenth program**, sponsored by the music and cultural arts ministries, will be presented, under the direction of Dr. Robert L. Jefferson, Director of Worship and Peoples Congregational Choir. This is an open call and invitation to all members, neighbors and friends to participate! This is an historical production featuring song, dance and spoken word, written by our own Virginia Artist.

There are many opportunities to participate, including both **on stage and behind the scenes**. We need **you** to make this a great event.

Speakers, singers, dancers, stage manager, prop master, costume manager, marketing/PR team, recruitment, logistics, ushers and greeters, production assistance. This is an awesome opportunity for fellowship and a tangible contribution to the spiritual life of Peoples Church. Also, we intend to have fun! We will begin to meet for planning and rehearsals in January. For more information, please email [PeoplesUCCMusicMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:PeoplesUCCMusicMinistry@gmail.com) . The program will be on **Saturday, June 21, 2025**.



FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
2/8 <b>Governing Body Mtg.</b> 9:30-11:00 am	3/2 <b>WJAI/National Sorority Youth Concert</b> 3:00 pm	4/12 <b>Easter Jazz Vespers</b> 5:00 pm	5/11 <b>Mother's/Women's Day</b> 10:00 a.m.
2/23 <b>Boy Scout Sunday</b> 10:00 am	3/4 <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 4:00-700 pm	4/13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 am	
	3/5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 12:00 Noon	4/17 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00 pm	
	3/9 <b>Girl Scout Sunday</b> 10:00 am	4/18 <b>Good Friday Service</b> 12:00 Noon	
		4/20 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 6:30 am and 10:00 am	

**The Ethics of Faith & Work:  
A Webinar for Federal Employees and Related Workers  
Monday, February 3, 2025 7:30-9 pm**

In 2025 those working within and in partnership with Federal agencies will likely face situations requiring moral discernment and ethical clarity. This webinar will explore key frameworks and resources to help those who work in and with the government respond from their own faith values to a range of potential policy and personnel decisions. The webinar, offered to UCC congregants in the DMV, will *not* offer a one size fits all solution or easy answers to complex situations. It will provide space for participants to begin working through their own values, commitments, and redlines.

**Facilitator:** We will be led by Dr. Tim Snyder, a practical theologian and scholar of American religion who works at the intersection of church and society. Dr. Snyder has written on the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and is the author of *Lived Vocation: Stories of Faith and Work* (Fortress Press, 2024).

**Webinar Access:** Please note that participation in the webinar will be confidential; the video, audio, and names of participants will not be visible. **Join us at [this link](#).**

## **NOTICE TO CHURCH MINISTRIES, CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS**

Many ministries within the Peoples Church have become accustomed to receiving donations through the church and later receiving a check for their funds. However, this practice, its associated expenses, and the required processing time have grown, so the church can no longer support it.

You may recall that the Treasurer managed the funds transfer. People's Church has been without a treasurer for over two years, and it is not prudent for the church to pay an accountant to oversee this function. In addition to having no Treasurer to manage the process, the transaction fees for credit cards and other electronic payment transactions are withdrawn from the church bank account monthly.

Starting March 1, 2025, ministries, clubs, circles, and organizations will be asked to manage their funds directly rather than having them deposited into the church account. The dropdown will no longer be an option on the church's financial systems.

For credit card transactions, you can investigate Square, Clover, Merchant Services, PayPal, and other options.

Peoples Church will no longer manage the following ministry, clubs, and organizations: Balcony Circle, Camelia Circle, Boy Scouts, Deacon Dues, Easter Advent, Girls Scouts, Hospitality Circle, Jazz Society Dues, Lenten, Men's Fellowship, Scrooby Circle, Women's Fellowship, Women's Fellowship Dues, and Xmas Advent.

UCC offerings such as Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, and the Christmas Fund will remain managed through church systems.

Thank you for your understanding, continued support, and cooperation.

## “Helping Those in Need”

Peoples Church is receiving donations for the Palisade and Eaton Canyon Fire victims who have lost everything due to the fires. We are collecting the following items listed below. Please place all items in the clear bend in the Atrium on the table. **Thank you!!!!!!**

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziplock-type bag.

- 1-gallon resealable plastic bag
- Washcloth
- Toothbrush (in original packing)
- Fingernail or toenail clipper (packaging removed)
- Bath-size bar of soap (in original packaging)
- Travel-size deodorant (3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol)
- Travel-size lotion (3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free, NEW only)
- Travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz. or less, NEW only)
- Travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz. or less, expiration date of 1 year)
- Sturdy wide-tooth comb (6” minimum teeth, packaging removed)

All items need to fit inside a one gallon Ziplock bag.

**Do NOT add any extra items or toothpaste.** A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its final journey. Value: \$15.00 Support the Shipping and Processing Fund: \$2.00 per kit.

Thank you for your continued support,  
Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett



### 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.