



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

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Interim Minister

Sunday, January 12, 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
Baptism of the Lord
Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
The Liturgical Color is White

CENTERING THOUGHT

“Why did Jesus become human when he could have stayed God? Why was he baptized with us when he could have stayed on the banks of the Jordan and supervised? . . . Because he loves us, and because he has come to lead us through the waters of life and death into life eternal.”

— Barbara Brown Taylor

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

No. 217 AAHH

Jesus the Light of the World

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Praise and Worship

Arthur Tannous

Just Want to Praise You

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

Minister Francis Smith

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters,

People: and in the temple, God’s people say: “Glory!”

Leader: The heavens opened, the Spirit descended,

People: and a voice sounded: “This is my Beloved One.”

Leader: Do not fear, for God has spoken:

People: “I have called you by name, you are mine.” Thanks be to God!

****Invocation and Savior’s Prayer**

Minister Francis Smith

Merciful God, in baptism, You promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In Your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from all that binds us. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace through Christ. We pray the prayer that we’ve been taught by saying, Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 29
Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Deacon Warren Romine

Deacon Gladys Boyd

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*

SONG OF PREPARATION

Israel Houghton

Alpha & Omega

SERMON

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

“My Child, the Beloved”

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

OFFERTORY

Minister Francis Smith

MUSICAL SELECTION

Davey Yarborough

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Davey Yarborough, Saxophone

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Minister Francis Smith

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

CLOSING SONG

Minister Diedre Gray

May the Grace of God be with You

BENEDICTION **

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

POSTLUDE

Traditional

Over My Head

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.

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 Elmes Center Classrooms September-June

Sermon By Phone

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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMUNITY OF FAITH
FAITH-RAISING WITH AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE
2ND SUNDAY MORTGAGE ELIMINATION OFFERING

HONORING THE GIFTS OF EACH GENERATION

Children Changers Teen Tithers
Alpha Achievers Millennial Movers
Gen X Givers Baby Boomers Bridgers

Golden Gifters

Weekly Announcements

Peoples Church will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2025 in observance of the Martin L. King 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.

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

Are you interested in attending Adas Israel's Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat service and dinner? Please use the following link to register: <https://calendar.adasisrael.org/events/category/shabbat/>

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

January 19, 2025

The Rev. Canon Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr

"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 most 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 19, 2025 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." Our keynote speaker, **The Rev. Canon Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr.**, a UCC ordained minister, is the first Canon for Racial Justice and Healing for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. 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.

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

Sermon Talk-Back

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

January 12, 2025

January 26, 2025

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

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 |

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 Birth Month Club know. Also, indicate if you do not want to be included.

Continuing the Celebration of Peoples Church.

A **Juneteenth program** will be presented, sponsored by the music and cultural arts ministries, 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. The program will be on **Saturday, June 21, 2025**.

VISION AND EYE HEALTH

Vision health is very important for personal health and quality of life. The incidence of eye disease increases with age. For this reason, a dilated eye exam is recommended yearly after the age of 60 for the general population. Because of the higher incidents of glaucoma in the black/African American population, a yearly eye exam is recommended after age 40.

COMMON EYE PROBLEMS

Cataract

Cataract is a clouding of the eye lens. It can occur at any age but incidents increase with aging and individuals on certain medication. Cataracts are easily treated by removal of the clouded lens and replacement with an artificial lens. Surgery is usually performed in an outpatient surgical center.

Diabetic Retinopathy

Diabetic Retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in American adults. With retinopathy there is progressive damage to the blood vessels of the retina, the light sensitive tissue at the back of the eye that is necessary for good vision. It usually affects both eyes. DR progresses through stages and early intervention reduces the risk of vision loss. Risk factors for DR are: 1. Longer duration of disease. 3 out of 4 people with diabetes more than 15 years will develop DR 2. Type I diabetes. 3. Poorly controlled diabetes. 4. Hypertension 5. Black/ African Americans have a higher incidence of DR.

Hypertensive Retinopathy

Hypertensive Retinopathy is a result of damage to the inner layer of the blood vessel due to uncontrolled hypertension. This results in damage to the optic nerve and vision loss. Hypertensive Retinopathy only occurs when hypertension is poorly controlled.

Glaucoma

Glaucoma is the most common cause of blindness among black/African Americans in the US. It is caused by increased intraocular pressure in the eye which leads to destruction of the optic nerve resulting in vision loss. Treatment to lower the pressure is effective in slowing down the process. In early stages oral medication is used to reduced in the intraocular pressure. Laser or Surgical procedures are also used. Early stages of glaucoma are asymptomatic and is only diagnosed by a complete eye exam.

Aged Related Macular Degeneration

Aged related Macular Degeneration is caused by changes in the deep layers of the retina and the surrounding blood vessel resulting in central vision loss. The risk factors for AMD are advancing age and smoking. There is no cure for AMD. Treatment modalities including intravenous injections and intraocular injection help to slow down progression of degeneration. Vitamin supplements are also prescribed.

Early treatment is critically important to prevent vision loss. Therefore, yearly eye examinations are extremely important.

Submitted by Wellness Ministry

“Sermon Notes”





| JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1-16 Bible Study 6:00 pm | 2-8 Governing Body Mtg. 9:30-11:00 am | 3-2 WJAI/National Sorority Youth Concert 3:00 pm | 4-13 Palm Sunday 10:00 am |
| 1-19 MLK Sunday 10:00 am | 2-9 Boy Scout Sunday 10:00 am | 3-4 Shrove Tuesday 3:00-6 pm | 4-17 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm |
| | | 3-5 Ash Wednesday 12:00 Noon | 4-18 Good Friday Service 12:00 Noon |
| | | 3-9 Girl Scout Sunday 10:00 am | 4-19 Easter Jazz Vespers 5:00 pm |
| | | | 4-20 Easter Sunday 6:30 am and 10 am |

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.