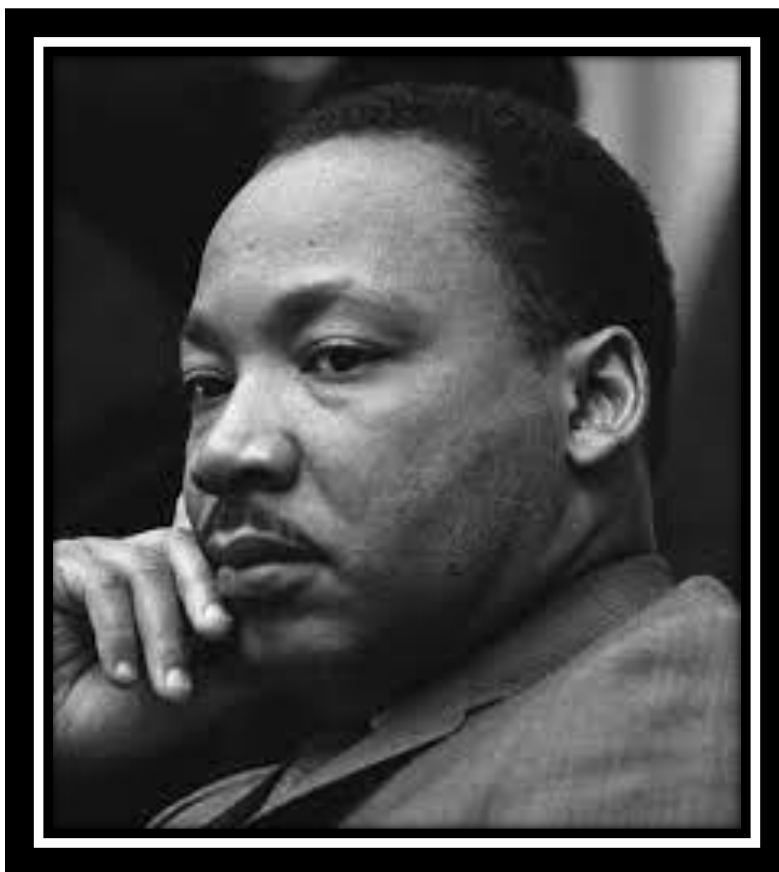


# Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday



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

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds  
Interim Minister

Sunday, January 19, 2025  
10:00 a.m.

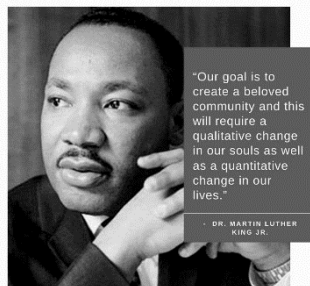
*"... that they may all be one." John 17:21 (NRSV)*

*Love God and Love Neighbor*

ENTER TO WORSHIP...

The Order of the Word  
**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**  
Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.  
The Liturgical Color is Green

**The Beloved Community**



I want to use as a subject, "The Birth of A New Age." Those of us who lived in the 20th Century are privileged to live in one of the most momentous periods of human history. It is an exciting age, filled with hope. It is an age in which a new world order is being born. 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. They would contend that the deepest of deep rumblings of the discontent in Asia, and we have risings in Africa, the naturalistic longings of Egypt and the racial tensions of America, are all indicative of the deep and tragic midnight which encounters our civilization. They would argue that we are going backwards instead of forward, that we are retrogressing instead of progressing. But far from representing retrogression or tragic hopelessness, the present tension represents the necessary pains that accompany the birth of anything new. It is both historically and biologically true that there can be no birth or growth without birth and growing pains. Wherever there is the emergence of the new and the fading of the old, that is historically true and so the tensions which we witness in the world today are indicative of the fact that a new world is being born and an old world is passing away.

– Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., 1956

[\["The Birth of a New Age," Address Delivered on 11 August 1956 at the Fiftieth Anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha in Buffalo.\]](#)

**PRELUDE**

Musicians

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**

No. 540 AAHH  
Johnson/ Johnson

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Benjamin Bragg-Reynolds

**\*\*Call to Worship**

The Prophet Micah told us that the LORD requires us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. As we celebrate Martin Luther King's witness, let us be called to worship by some of the prophets of the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1963, in his challenging letter to complacent white clergy in the South, Dr. King wrote,

"We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

**O God, we pray, transform our silence into action, our fear into courage.**

President John F. Kennedy in an address that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 said, “The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities; whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated.”

**O God, we pray, help us to love you and to love others as ourselves.**

Rosa Parks said, “You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right. I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.”

**O God, we pray, remind us that you did not give us a spirit of fear.**

Ann Braden, a white Southern activist and ally of the Civil Rights movement wrote, “In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed.

**O God, we pray, help us to envision and struggle for a world where justice will roll down like water, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

**\*\*Prayer of Confession** (adapted from a quote from Dorothy Day)

God of justice, we confess that in the pursuit of our own dreams and desires, we have not always been civil, not always humane, not always right. Guided by your Spirit, what we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as You intended them to do. Help us to be your witnesses, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute – the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, so that we can, with your help, change the world. Enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, and to love our enemy as our friend. Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news:

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and empowered to love.**

**Nature of the Occasion**

Robert Hendricks

**SALUTATIONS, ADAS ISRAEL**

Rabbi Aaron Alexander

**SALUTATIONS, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

Musicians

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Psalm 91  
Amos 5:24  
Matthew 5:43-45

Regina Romero  
Lilianna Wheeler

**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*

**Musical Selection**

Spiritual

*Ride On, King Jesus*

**CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION**

David Jackson

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

Mark Fax

*I Have a Dream*

**INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Vivian Jackson

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr.

**OFFERTORY**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

Bernice Johnson Reagon

*Ella's Song*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**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*

**REMARKS**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**CLOSING HYMN**

No 542 AAHH

*We Shall Overcome*

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr.

**POSTLUDE**

Civil Rights Anthem

*Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around*

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

\*\*\*The Call to Prayer was written by More Light Presbyterian Board Member Eric Thomas. Eric serves as Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn and is a Ph.D. student at Drew University.

\*\*\*Special thank you to the choir members from First Congregational United Christ of Christ for participating in today's service.

## 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

#### Sermon By Phone

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

## Our Guest Preacher for Today



**Reverend Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr.** is currently serving as the Canon for Racial Justice and Healing in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. He has pastored UCC and Baptists congregations in Southern California, New York City, and North Carolina. He holds degrees from George Mason, Wake Forest, Columbia Theological and Emory University, along with post-graduate certificates in pastoral theology/leadership and contemplative studies from the Morehouse College of Pastoral Leadership, and the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, respectively. Currently earning the PhD in Public

Theology and Community Engagement at Hampton University, Dr. Hill is passionate about the work of racial justice and healing; working with lay and ordained leaders of the to engage in the work of healing across racial divides and facilitates courageous, faith-rooted, dialogue about race and justice.

## Weekly Announcements

### 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](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 next Sunday, 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	Tanielle Parker
Carol Hamilton	



## In Memoriam



Dr. Thomas Pinder passed away on January 10, 2025. The funeral service for Dr. Pinder will be held on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, with visitation beginning at 10:30 a.m. and funeral service at 12:00 noon. A burial service will occur at Rock Creek Cemetery, followed by a repast in the Fellowship Hall.

### 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](mailto:PeoplesUCCMusicMinistry@gmail.com). The program will be on **Saturday, June 21, 2025**.



JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
1/16 <b>Bible Study</b> 6:00 pm	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
1/19 <b>MLK Sunday</b> 10:00 am	2/9 <b>Boy Scout Sunday</b> 10:00 am	3/4 <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 4:00-7:00 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

## “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,  
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.