



PEOPLES PRODDER

March Newsletter

Minister's Message

Pastoral Reflection for March: Hope and Resilience in the Season of Lent

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

– Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

Dear Beloved Community,

As we journey together through this Lenten season, we find ourselves amid great uncertainty and disruption. The atmosphere around us feels heavy with political turmoil and seemingly insurmountable challenges. Our nation has entered a new chapter with a new administration, and while many may reflect with hope and anticipation, others may feel overwhelmed by anxiety and fear. This Lenten season calls us to pause, reflect, and renew our spirits together, grounding ourselves in God's eternal promises.

The prophet Isaiah speaks a powerful truth into our lives during this tumultuous time: ***"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."*** It is an invitation to trust, to depend on a God who walks with us in our struggles, and to find strength in our hope. As a Black congregation, our history is marked by endurance and resilience in the face of adversity. We remember the words of our ancestors, who spoke of faith as the cornerstone of survival during times of oppression and despair.

In this season of Lent, as we prepare our hearts for the resurrection of Easter, we are reminded that hope is not a passive state but an active practice that requires action, courage, and community. Let us engage in acts of justice, compassion, and love while lifting our prayers for our country, leaders, and neighbors. We may observe many aspects of our society that need transformation; let us be catalysts for that change. Let us rise as advocates for social justice and equity, ensuring our voices are heard as we push against the tide of injustice.

Isaiah reminds us that those who hope in the Lord will ***"soar on wings like eagles."*** This imagery invites us to elevate our vision beyond the immediate storms. In the face of division and chaos, we are called to rise higher, to see the world through a lens of divine possibility— and to believe in the promise of renewal. As a community, let us nurture one another's hopes, strengthen one another's spirits, and encourage one another to run and not grow weary in our pursuit of justice, peace, and love.

During this Lenten season, I invite you to engage in daily reflections that ignite your hope. Consider dedicating time each week to prayerfully lifting those who are feeling lost or disheartened. Participate in a community service project aligned with our love and justice values. Take moments to reflect on the beautiful tapestry that is our congregation— a gathering of diverse voices united in faith, hope, and love.

May we, as a community of faith, refuse to be defined by turmoil but instead be uplifted by our collective strength. Together, let us embrace Isaiah's promise: We will walk and not faint, for our hope is anchored in the Lord, who empowers us and guides us even through the darkest seasons.

In hope and solidarity,

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Interim Minister

“Peoples Church FYI”

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

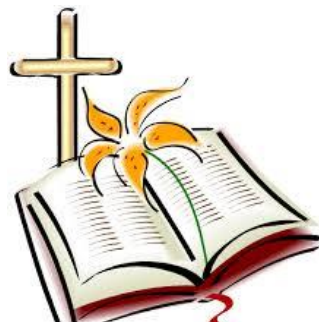
**Adult Church School Every Sunday from 8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
Join Zoom Meeting**

<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
Elmes Center Classrooms from September- June**

Sermon By Phone

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





SPECIAL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Continuing the Celebration of Peoples Church

A **Juneteenth Program** will be sponsored by the Music and Cultural Arts Ministries, under the direction of Dr. Jefferson, Worship Leadership. This is an open call and invitation to all members, neighbors, and friends to participate! This is a historical production featuring songs, 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, and production assistants. This is an awesome opportunity for fellowship, and a tangible contribution to the spiritual life of Peoples Church. Also, we intend to have fun! For more information, please email PeoplesUCCMusicMinistry@gmail.com. The program will be on **Saturday, June 21, 2025**

In Memoriam	
	
Thomas Pinder Passed on January 10, 2025	Mary Elizabeth Rowe Passed on January 26, 2025

The Pastoral Search Committee would like your feedback. Please use the QR code below to access the survey. After completing it, please return it to the Church Office. Your input is valued and appreciated.



The Girl Scouts of Peoples Church invite you to the Girl Scout Sunday Service on March 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. 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!

Housing Justice: Reimagining Downtown DC - Webinar, March 22, 2025 4-5 p.m.

The UCC Justice and Witness Action Network, Washington, DC Team invites you to attend a virtual informational session describing a proposal to address housing insecurity in Downtown DC. This proposal is a follow-up to the concept paper that was presented to the Potomac Association in Fall 2022, challenging DC's plan to convert empty downtown commercial buildings only for the rich while at the same time bulldozing homeless camps in the same area. The concept has evolved to a plan that addresses both the unhoused and housing insecure while also generating funds to support the endeavor. Come, learn about this proposal, raise your questions, offer your expertise, be a part of the change. See flyer for Zoom link and contact information.

**HOUSING JUSTICE
REIMAGINING DOWNTOWN DC**

Building HOPE..

**Creating residential space for our unhoused and housing-insecure neighbors
SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025, 4-5pm virtual**

This is an informational session about a proposal for

a public-private partnership between the city of Washington, DC, downtown educational institutions, and a hostel operator to convert downtown office buildings to a hostel-type design that would accommodate our unhoused and housing-insecure neighbors.

COME JOIN US
Organized by

DATE CHANGE

**JUSTICE + WITNESS
ACTION NETWORK**
WASHINGTON DC

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3281562325?omn=86065724844>

For more information:
Lauri Winter
lauriwinter@yahoo.com
Vivian Jackson
dr.vjackson@gmail.com

**Helping our
unhoused neighbors
in Downtown DC**

**DOWNTOWN
DAY SERVICES
CENTER**

As part of the Housing Justice work of the UCC Potomac Association's Justice and Witness Action Network – the DC Team is soliciting resources for unhoused residents of downtown DC served by the Downtown Day Services Center. These items include:

For Men: socks, shoes, underwear, T-Shirts, hygiene items
For Women: underwear, socks, shoes, feminine hygiene items
General Items: books, puzzles, games, rain gear


The Team will be delivering these items on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

Collection boxes will be located in the atrium and available for donations until **Thursday March 13, 2025.**

Please see **Vivian Jackson** for more information.

Find out more about the Downtown Day Services Center at <http://www.downtowndc.org>





**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
PEOPLES CHURCH
2025 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION TIMELINE**

**Nominating Committee
Peoples Church 2025 Nominations and Election Timeline**

**Saturday, March 1, 2025
Nomination Period Begins**

**Thursday March 8, 2025
Nomination Forms Available to the Congregation**

**Sunday, April 13, 2025
Recruitment Sunday**

**Thursday, May 1, 2025
Deadline for Nomination Forms**

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025
Present Draft Slate for Approval at Church Council Meeting**

**Friday, May 9, 2025
Slate Distributed to Congregation**

**Thursday, May 22, 2025 (Virtual)
Nominations from the Floor**

**Sunday, June 1, 2025 (Virtual)
Meet and Greet the Candidates**

**Wednesday, June 4, 2025
Candidates Brief Bio/ Final Slate**

Friday, June 20th through Sunday June 29th - Electronic Voting!

**Monday July 7, 2025
Church Clerk will Notify Elected Candidates**

**Tuesday, July 8, 2025
Results Posted on Church Website, Emailed to Congregation**

Wellness Corner

COLORECTAL CANCER

Colorectal cancer is a cancer that develops in the tissues of the colon or rectum. Colorectal cancer typically affects older individuals but can happen at any age. The average age of diagnosis is in the 50s and 60s. However, the incidence in younger individuals is increasing. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. The cancer usually begins with a small clump of cells called polyps. Polyps are generally benign, but over time, some polyps may become cancerous. Polyps are usually asymptomatic.

Many people with colon cancer don't have symptoms initially.

Symptoms may include:

A change in bowel habits, such as more frequent diarrhea or constipation.

Blood in the stool

Ongoing abdominal discomfort such as cramps or gas.

Weight loss

Tiredness

The exact cause of colorectal cancer is unknown, but several factors can increase the risk. These include:

- Age
- Family history
- Inherited genetic disorders
- Unhealthy lifestyles such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, low physical activity
- A diet high in processed foods and low in fruits and vegetables.

Colonoscopy is considered the gold standard for colorectal screening. Other screening methods include:

a. Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT), which detects blood in stool samples

b. DNA-FIT (Cologuard) detects abnormal DNA and blood in stool samples.

FIT and Cologuard are noninvasive and can be used at home. However, neither test is as accurate as a colonoscopy. When the results from either test are positive, a colonoscopy and a biopsy must still be performed.

In July 2024, the FDA approved the first blood test as a primary screening tool for people at average risk for colorectal cancer. The test is called Sheild. This test looks for the presence of specific changes to DNA floating freely in the blood. These changes indicate the presence of a tumor or precancerous growth in the colon. The five-year survival rate varies with the stage at the time of diagnosis. Early-stage cancer has a high cure rate.

The US Prevention Service Task Force recommends that people aged 45-75 who are at average risk for colorectal cancer should be screened regularly. If a colonoscopy is performed and the initial study is negative. It should be repeated every 10 years. FIT or Cologuard should be repeated every 1 to 3 years.

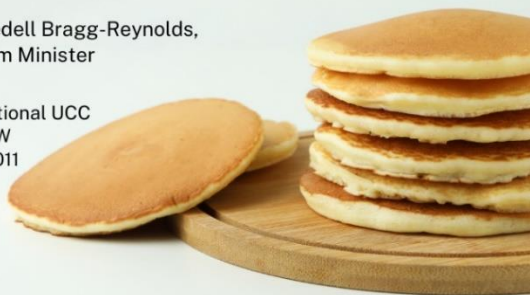
Submitted by the Wellness Committee

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 4, 2025 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds,
Interim Minister

Peoples Congregational UCC
4704 13th Street NW
Washington, DC 20011



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Service at 12:00 noon
Sanctuary

Ashes to Go
7:30 a.m.
Front of the Church

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg Reynolds, Interim Minister



*The National Sorority of
Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated
Beta Chapter*

&



Present
A Jazzy Youth Concert

*Featuring the students and alumna of the
Washington Jazz Arts Institute*



Sunday, March 2, 2025

3:00 p.m.

*Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ
4704-13th Street, N.W.*

Washington, DC 20011

Donation \$30.00 ~ Children under 12-Free

Tickets may be purchased by Zelle or PayPal - nspdkbeta23@gmail.com
from members of Beta Chapter or

Eventbrite.com: A Jazzy Benefit Youth Concert (a fee is added)

If you are not able to attend donations may be made to WJAI.org

Proceeds to benefit the Washington Jazz Arts Institute and the Beta Scholarship Fund

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR YOUTH.

Geneva Hudson, Fundraising Committee Chair

Gwendolyn Robinson, Beta Chapter President

Anona Huntley, Regional Director

Margaret Galloway, National President



Happy Birthday to:

<i>Eric Boyd</i>	<i>03/01</i>	<i>Randy Spencer</i>	<i>03/14</i>
<i>Austin Bowie</i>	<i>03/02</i>	<i>Setu Van Iare-Hodges</i>	<i>03/16</i>
<i>Sylvia Broome</i>	<i>03/04</i>	<i>Aubrey Adams</i>	<i>03/17</i>
<i>Diana Haines Walton</i>	<i>03/04</i>	<i>Gail Shipp</i>	<i>03/18</i>
<i>Inga Ervin</i>	<i>03/06</i>	<i>Jessie Clarke</i>	<i>03/19</i>
<i>Beatrix Fields</i>	<i>03/08</i>	<i>Carroll Swanson</i>	<i>03/20</i>
<i>Daniel Veiga</i>	<i>03/08</i>	<i>Malcolm Moore</i>	<i>03/21</i>
<i>Deborah Hamilton-Diggs</i>	<i>03/09</i>	<i>Tamara Johnson</i>	<i>03/21</i>
<i>Shayla Wright</i>	<i>03/10</i>	<i>Cara Hampton</i>	<i>03/22</i>
<i>Najah Brooks</i>	<i>03/10</i>	<i>James Beete</i>	<i>03/25</i>
<i>Gerard Bragg-Reynolds</i>	<i>03/13</i>		

Happy Anniversary!

Robert & Carolyn Veiga 03/24

Bible Trivia



- The Bible is the most popular book ever written.
A. True B. False
- What is the first book in the Bible?
A. Luke B. Revelation C. Mark D. Genesis
- What is the last book in the Bible?
A. Revelation B. Psalm C. Genesis D. Proverbs
- Which book did Jesus directly write
A. Exodus B. 1 Chronicles C. Jeremiah D. None

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Have you moved? Do you have a new e-mail address? Has your contact information changed? If so, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate so that we may update your contact information. Thank-you!

Name(s) _____

Old Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Business _____ Mobile _____

Sunday, February 2, 2025



Celebrating Mrs. Moseley and Mr. Loines Birthdays with Family



Boy Scout Sunday 2/23/2025



**Peoples Congregational
United Church of Christ**

4704 Thirteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
Phone: 202.829.5511
Follow us on Twitter
@PeoplesCongUCC

We are on the Web!
www.peopleschurchucc.org



Love God & Love Neighbor

Prodder Guidelines

Newsletter
DEADLINE

The Peoples Prodder is our Monthly Newsletter, which informs 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 yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org.

Please do not mail information; electronic submissions are required.

Announcements should be a maximum of 90 words and 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
interimminister@peopleschurchucc.org

Church Moderator

Diana Haines Walton
moderator@peopleschurchucc.org

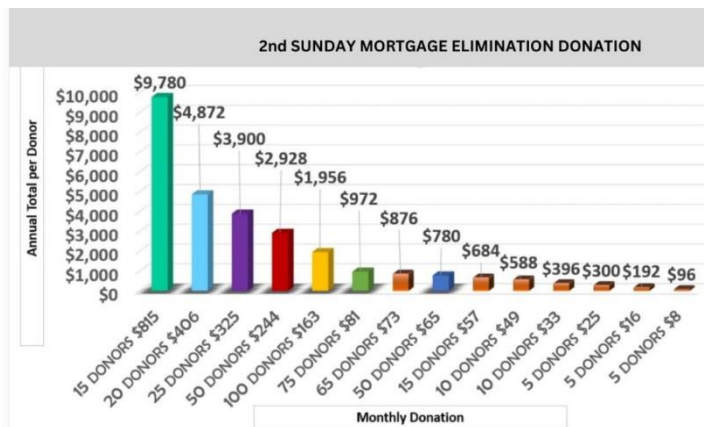
Administrative Staff

Operations Specialist
Yvette Hunter
yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org

Maintenance Staff

Towanda Chew
Sterling "Stan" Evans





2nd SUNDAY MORTGAGE ELIMINATION DONATION

Please consider selecting one of the Monthly Donation Categories in the 2nd Sunday Mortgage Elimination Donation Graph above to create your recurring financial gifts either online or by postal mail.

Remember, these financial gifts are above and beyond your usual tithing and offering donations for our Beloved Church.

Of course, if you are unable to commit to the recommended donation amounts on the graph, all donations to the Capital Campaign Community of Faith are greatly needed and appreciated.

Select Peoples Church or REALM for Online Donations

Select Menu Option: Mortgage Elimination

[Complete the 2nd Sunday Mortgage Elimination Donation Form](#)

[DONATE at PeoplesChurch.org](http://DONATEatPeoplesChurch.org)

[DONATE on REALM](#)

Send questions or comments to CapitalCampaignPUCC@gmail.com

RALM REGISTRATION



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