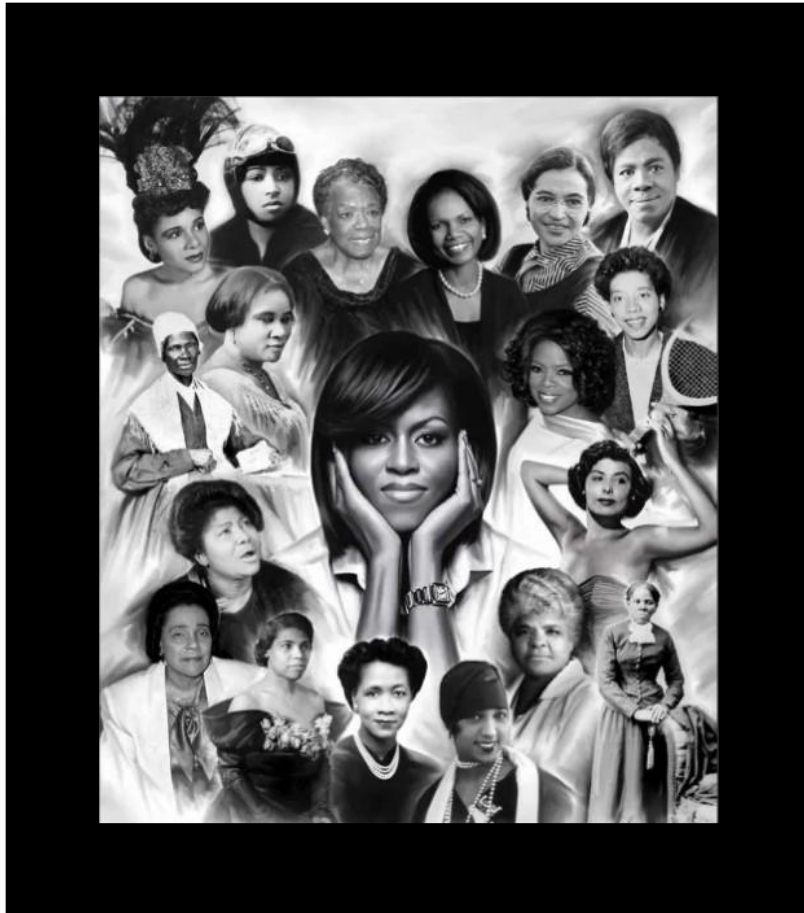


Black History Month



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

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Interim Minister

Sunday, February 16, 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
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
The Liturgical Color is Green

CENTERING THOUGHTS

“We must always be a strong presence, an unrelenting force working for equality and justice until the freedom gates are fully open.”

— Dorothy Height

“Let us never forget that Black history continues to define American history.”

— Yvette D. Clarke

“History has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.”

— Michelle Obama

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

No. 540 AAHH James W. Johnson, J. Rosamund Johnson
Lift Every Voice and Sing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

Deacon Diane Miller

Worship Leader:

In a beginning before humans were formed and nature knew God’s great presence, the Spirit moved over the universe.

People of God:

Ashe! The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. (Psalm 24:1-2)

Worship Leader:

In quiet peace God created humans, women and men, colorful, balanced and creatively diverse and the beauty of God’s love filled the earth

People of God:

Ashe!

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22: 37-39)

Worship Leader:

In honor of Black History Month we remember names because of the ancestors who made a way out of no way with God before them, beside them, and lovingly guiding succeeding generations:

Nana Yaa Asantewa of Ashanti, Taharqa, ruler of Napatan Kush, Queen Nzingha, West African military ruler, Mansa Musa I, Emperor of the West African Islamic Empire

People of God:

Ashe!

Worship Leader:

Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, Gabriele Prosser, Nate Turner, and Denmark Vesey, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth and Jerena Lee, WEB DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King, Jr, Ida B. Wells, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Ella Baker

These and more represent the great cloud of witnesses. Their spirits linger with us creating new generations of warriors, preachers, prophets, teachers, activists, organizers, mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters of the African Diaspora.

People of God:

Ashe!

After this, I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed with palm branches in their hands. (Revelation 7:9)

Worship Leader:

Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!

People of God:

Ashe and Amen!

****Invocation and Savior's Prayer**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Worship Leader: Let us Pray

Spirit of Abundance, God of Grace, Mother of Hope, We pause now to remember those stories that are all around us, But so often passed over, Those stories that when told are shared because Of what someone is, not who they are. This month in our nation's character Is Black History month. Help us to realize that Black history is All our histories. May the day come when these stories Are so wildly taught that no month need Be separately divided. We know this day will not come until we as a people Make different choices. We pray now for those new choices. May we come to see a day where the prison system Becomes redemptive, not punitive. A day where the legal system learns to focus more squarely on the facts, And the not colors of our skin. A day where our schools are as well funded, as the needs demand. May our role models be allowed to excel when they thrive, And not be taken down for their rich heritage. We know this will require a shift in power. And this can be scary for some. Give those full of fear - hope. May we come to know grace, So that our hearts will not be hardened to the pain around us. There are so many beautiful stories needing to be told. And we need to get the chance to hear them.

Widen our vision so that the history that is shared this month, And every month, Come to be known as our history too. We are most human when we see the humanity in others.

Worship Leader: As our Savior taught us, so we pray

People of God:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Worship Notes

Ase (or àṣẹ, or ashe; pronounced ah-shay) is a West African philosophical concept through which the Yoruba of Nigeria conceive the power to make things happen and produce change.

Call to Worship for Black History Month was written by Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Minister for Racial Justice UCC. Copyright 2020, Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission is granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

MUSICAL SELECTION No. 462 AAHH John Thompson, Randall Scraggs
Lord Prepare Me

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Lamentations 3:19-26 Hunter Parler
Psalm 90 Raven Featherstone

****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*

STATEMENT OF OCCASION Deacon Cynthia Prather

MUSICAL SELECTION No. 443 AAHH Edwin Hawkins
This Day

**“THE ESSENTIALITY OF OUR STORIES”
A CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION**

KATHY ENGLISH HOLT
DR. GOULDA DOWNER
WILBUR JACKSON
DR. TUERE ANNE MARSHALL

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

OFFERTORY Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

MUSICAL SELECTION Gilbert Patterson/James Cleveland

When I think of the Goodness of Jesus/No Ways Tired

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*

****BENEDICTION** Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

POSTLUDE Andrae Crouch

God Is on Our Side

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

- 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.

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

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.

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. 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

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	

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">In Memoriam</h2> 	
<p>Thomas Pinder Passed on January 10, 2025</p>	<p>Mary Elizabeth Rowe Passed on January 26, 2025</p>

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.

If you know of a young job-seeker who cares about Rock Creek and the environment, please share the following link for more information:
<https://secure.everyaction.com/McOqkg-lNE-XuhCi2hw2wg2?emci=d9baf86e-2be2-ef11-88f8-0022482a97e9&emdi=a18c7203-76e2-ef11-88f8-0022482a97e9&ceid=5204547>

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, 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**.

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

The UCC Justice and Witness Action Network, Washington, DC Team is pleased to invite 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 Potomac Association 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
SUNDAY MARCH 2 - 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

JUSTICE + WITNESS
ACTION NETWORK
WASHINGTON DC

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.
Proverbs 31:8-9

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3281562325?omn=84630154254>

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



FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
2/23 Boy Scout Sunday 10:00 a.m.	3/2 WJAI/National Sorority Youth Concert 3:00 p.m.	4/12 Easter Jazz Vespers 5:00 p.m.	5/11 Mother's/Women's Day 10:00 a.m.
	3/4 Shrove Tuesday 4:00-7:00 p.m.	4/13 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m.	
	3/5 Ash Wednesday 12:00 Noon	4/17 Maundy Thursday 6:00 p.m.	
	3/9 Girl Scout Sunday 10:00 a.m.	4/18 Good Friday Service 12:00 Noon	
		4/20 Easter Sunday 6:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.	

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.

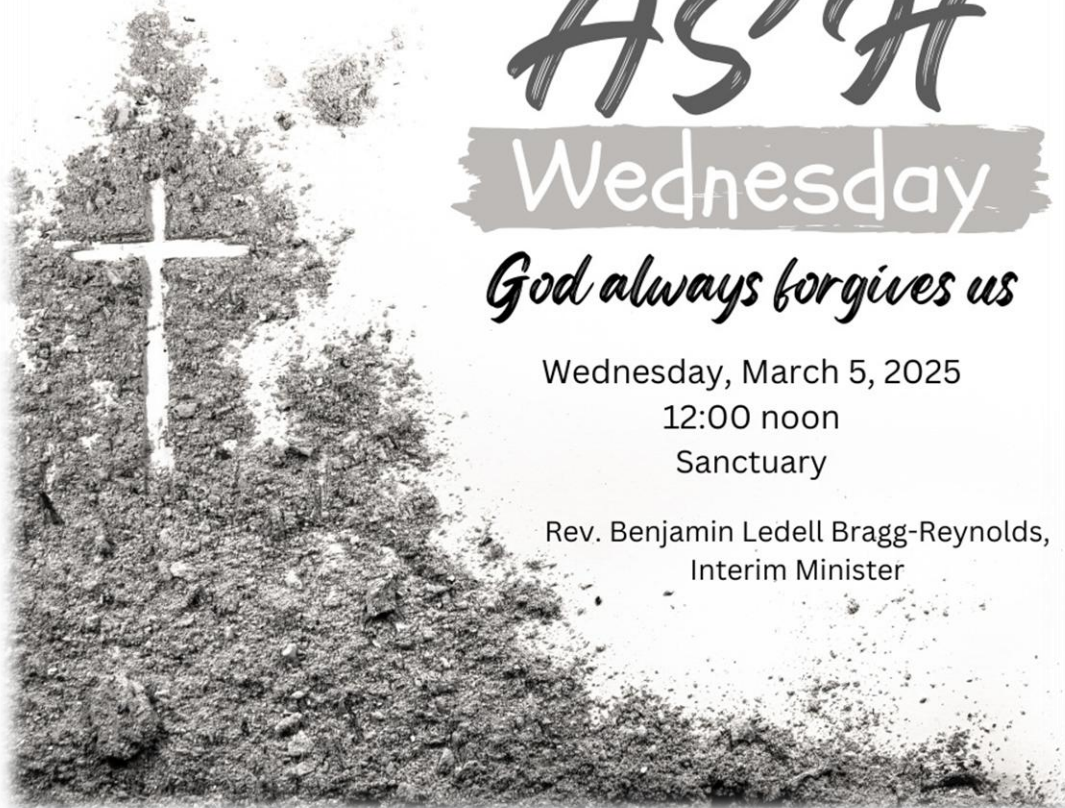
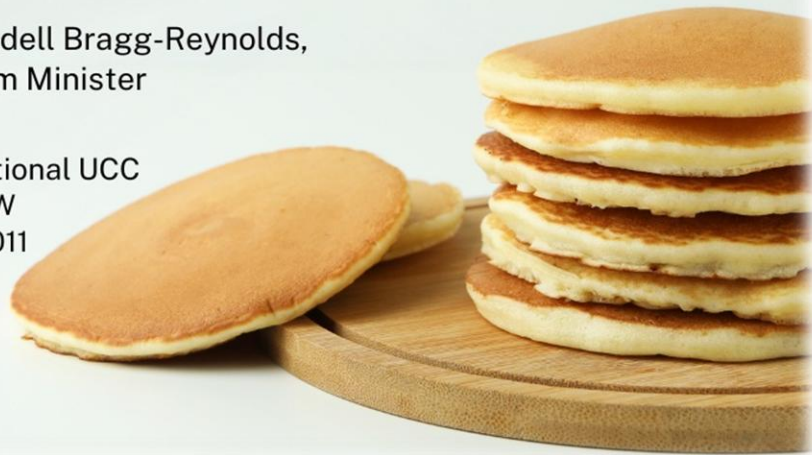
Thank you for your understanding, continued support, and cooperation. -Board of Trustees

Shrove Tuesday

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

God always forgives us

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

12:00 noon

Sanctuary

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds,
Interim Minister



January 24, 2025

Dear Beloved Community of Family and Friends,

We are excited to share our plans to launch a legacy project during Black History Month in February 2025 and invite you to partner with us. The purpose is to tell the stories of our Black/African families and communities (our own stories) – our family histories - for future generations, lest they be forgotten. For this reason, the project is named “**USISAHAU**.” The word **USISAHAU** is SWAHILI in origin and loosely translated to mean “lest we forget.” There are many formats such conversations can take, including interviews, questions and answers, etc. Our goal this year, is to have at least 100 stories posted to the website which is www.usisahau.org/.

We want to ensure that we share our stories across generations. Young and old should partake in these conversations about their family’s history. If we do not tell our stories in whatever form (e.g. video, music, etc.), they will likely be forgotten; or told by others who may distort the facts or downplay their importance. We must share the truth of all aspects of our story - the good, bad, and ugly. Through this Project, we hope to have a positive impact on individual families and the Black community as a whole.

Oral storytelling has been an important component of Black culture in Africa and the African diaspora. Embrace it with your own stories. For more information, please visit our website at: www.USISAHAU.org
Remember USISAHAU!

The USISAHAU CREATORS

Goulda A. Downer, PhD, CNS, FAND
Howard University
Founder

David O. Fakunle, PhD
Morgan State University
Co-Founder

Crystal M. James, JD, MPH
Tuskegee University
Co-Founder

L. Zakiya Newland, PhD, LCSW
Black Family Summit, Inc.
Co-Founder

Suzanne Randolph Cunningham, PhD
Randolph Associates
Co-Founder

Baba Ayize Sabater EdD
Black Montessori Education Fund
Co-Founder

Barbara A. Simmons, JD/Esq
BA SIMMONS INTERNATIONAL
LLC
Co-Founder

Telling our stories across generations

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>



UPDATE OR 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 _____

E-mail _____ Envelope# _____

We're constantly updating our church records. Please let us know if there is a change to your member information regarding births, deaths or change in your marital status.

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.

