

Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ  
4704 13<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20011

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds  
Interim Minister

Sunday, March 16, 2025

*“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”  
Psalm 118: 24 (NRSV)*

*Love God and Love Neighbor*

ENTER TO WORSHIP....

The Order of the Word  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.  
The Liturgical Color is Violet

**CENTERING THOUGHT**

“Jesus’ love reached people where they were, but his love refused to let them stay as they were. Love wants the best for the beloved. Their lives were transformed, healed, changed.”

—N. T. Wright

**PRELUDE**

Brenda Moore

*Perfect Praise*

**MORNING HYMN**

No. 508 AAHH Fannie Crosby

*Blessed Assurance*

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

Fannie Crosby/Doris Akers

*Draw Me Nearer/There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

Leader: Come away from the rush and worry of the world to worship God.

**People: We come on God’s invitation, longing for peace and quiet for our souls.**

Leader: Come, the banquet of hope and praise is ready.

**People: We come on God’s invitation, seeking to be fed.**

Leader: Come and feast on the love of God in Jesus Christ.

**People: We come on God’s invitation, needing healing.**

Leader: Come, rest your spirits and quiet your hearts for God is with us.

**People: We come to praise God who calls us home.**

**\*\*INVOCATION AND SAVIOR’S PRAYER**

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

Leader: God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above You. We have made idols of possessions and people and used Your name for causes that are not consistent with You and Your purposes. God of Grace,

**People: forgive us.**

Leader: We have permitted our schedules to come first and have not taken the time to worship You. We have not always honored those who guided us in life. We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it. God of Grace,

**People: forgive us.**

Leader: We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships. We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented others’ intentions. God of Grace,

**People: forgive us.**

Leader: Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of Your glory. Speak to us in silence, O Lord, that we may learn to live together for Your will alone . . . (Please hold silence.)

**People: We pray as we have been taught, Our Creator (Father, Mother, or other name as You are comfortable), which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Psalm 63:1-8  
Matthew 22:1-14

Deacon Priscilla Wallace  
Deacon Camille Mosley

**\*\*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**

Margaret Douroux

*If it Had Not Been*

**SERMON**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**“What will we wear?”**

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

**OFFERTORY**

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

Paul Simon

*Bridge Over Troubled Waters*  
Esther Williams Yarborough, Soloist

**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 heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**CLOSING HYMN**

No. 474 AAHH Doris Akers

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**POSTLUDE**

Diedre D. Gray

*May the Grace of God Be with You*

...DEPART TO SERVE

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

**Cover Photo:** JESUS MAFA.” The poor invited to the feast,” from **Art in the Christian Tradition**,  
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

**Worship Note:** The music today is led by Peoples Praise, shared in honor of Women's History  
Month, and highlights women composers.

## 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

**Please join Rev. Bragg-Reynolds for the Lenten Institute 2025 following each Sunday during Lent. The Lenten Institute will replace Sermon-Talk-Back during this season, and is a rich opportunity to connect and be with other congregation members. We hope you will join us!**

**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.

**The Scholarship Committee** is now accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors who plan to attend college or an accredited post-secondary institution of higher learning. The scholarship application with instructions may be completed online (<https://form.jotform.com/250355283920152>) or obtained by emailing a request for application from the Peoples Church Scholarship Committee at [scholarship@peopleschurchucc.org](mailto:scholarship@peopleschurchucc.org). Please note, the due date for applications and all supporting documentation is **Friday, April 18, 2025, at 5:00 pm.**

All high school seniors who are church members are eligible to apply for a Peoples Church Member (PCM) Scholarship.

High school seniors who participate in Peoples programs, such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Peoples Youth Ministry, but who are not church members may apply for a Peoples Church Community (PCC) Scholarship.

High school seniors who attend DC Public Schools and are recommended by their high school counselors, may apply for the Peoples Designated High Schools (DHS) Scholarship.

If you have any questions, please contact the Scholarship Committee at [scholarship@peopleschurchucc.org](mailto:scholarship@peopleschurchucc.org). Thank you.



Maureen Sullivan, PhD  
SC Chairperson

### **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

### 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	

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

### 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 a historical production featuring song, dance, and spoken word, written by the late 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](mailto:PeoplesUCCMusicMinistry@gmail.com). The program will be on **Saturday, June 21, 2025**.



MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
3/23 <b>Women's Day Service</b> 10:00 a.m.	4/12 <b>Easter Jazz Vespers</b> 5:00 p.m.	5/3 <b>Women's Fellowship Tea</b> 2:00 pm	6/8 <b>Confirmation Sunday</b> 10:00 a.m.
	4/13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 a.m.	5/11 <b>Mother's Day Sunday</b> 10:00 a.m.	6/15 <b>Father's Day/Men's Day</b> 10:00 a.m.
	4/17 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00 p.m.		6/22 <b>Student Recognition Sunday</b> 10:00 a.m.
	4/18 <b>Good Friday Service</b> 12:00 Noon		6/29 <b>Caribbean Sunday</b> 10:00 a.m.
	4/20 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 6:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.		



**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

**JUSTICE + WITNESS  
ACTION NETWORK  
WASHINGTON D.C.**

**DATE CHANGE**

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

For more information:  
Lauri Winter  
[lauriwinter@yahoo.com](mailto:lauriwinter@yahoo.com)  
Vivian Jackson  
[drvjackson@gmail.com](mailto:drvjackson@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>



## 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 drop-down will no longer be an option on the church's financial system.

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

## CALLING ALL CONFIRMANDS!

It is time to register for the Confirmation Class of 2025. All confirmands must be at least 14 years of age. Confirmation is the beginning of a lifelong process of maturing in the Christian faith. The eight weekly classes begin **March 23, 2025, and culminate on Confirmation Sunday, June 8, 2025.** Our curriculum encourages youth to take ownership of their faith by attending classes that reflect on a variety of topics including: Church history, Christian ethics, the Bible, God's gifts and responses, and Christian community and sharing our stories. As a result of the sessions, confirmands will affirm their faith, become members of Peoples UCC, and will receive the continued support of their Church family.

Please address questions to [confirmation@peopleschurchucc.org](mailto:confirmation@peopleschurchucc.org). This year's Confirmation Program is being led by Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett and Leslie Bowie.





# Venten Institute

Hosted by  
Board of Christian Education and Diaconate Board

Worship Service(Sanctuary) and Talk-Back (Fellowship Hall)

**Sunday, March 9, 2025 (Talk-Back Only)**

Launch: Information Session  
God's Call and God's Promise

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**

Hearing God's Guidance  
Practicing Spiritual Discernment


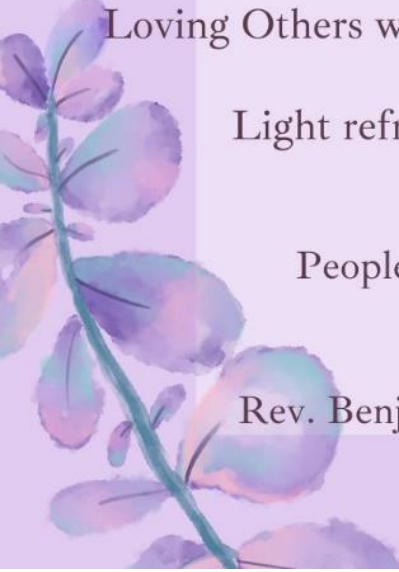
**Sunday, March 30, 2025**

Promoting Spiritual, Mental, and Physical Well-Being: Spiritual Practices

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**


Loving Others with the Love of Jesus: Building Healthy Relationships

Light refreshments will be served during the Talk-Back.



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4704 13th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20011

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

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**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**

## **GREETINGS FOR 2025 FROM THE PEOPLES JAZZ SOCIETY**

Dear Members and Supporters,

The Peoples Jazz Society is thankful for your support in this seventeenth year of Jazz in Liturgy at Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ. We would like to share updates and the 2025 Calendar. Firstly, after 16 years of devoted support to the Jazz Society, Jim Butts has decided to resign from the position as Treasurer. Jim assured us that he will continue to support the Jazz Society in all its endeavors. He remains a dear friend, ardent jazz lover and sustainer.

Carolyn Veiga has graciously agreed to serve as Treasurer; and Nina Faulk-Knight has volunteered to serve as

Secretary/Webmaster. We are pleased to announce that our own Esther Williams Yarborough will serve as the Youth in Jazz Liaison in support of our mission to promote and preserve Jazz Music. These appointments are effective as of January 2025. Secondly, our exciting **2025 Calendar** is as follows:

### **Jazz for the Holy Week Journey**

**Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. - Sanctuary - Reception to Follow**

### **"In Their Own Words"**

**Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary**

**Jazz Brunch and Film Showing**

### **Annual Jazz Worship Service**

**Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary - Reception to Follow**

### **Christmas Eve Jazz Vespers**

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. - Sanctuary - Reception to Follow**

Membership in Peoples Church is not a prerequisite to supporting, and belonging to, the Peoples Jazz Society. We are not funded by the Church, but by the membership of supporters like you. Supporting Membership Dues are \$50.00 per year; and Sustaining Membership Dues are \$100.00 per year, payable to Peoples Jazz Society. Dues may be mailed to the Church office or presented to the Treasurer after Church Service. There is always a Love Offering collection at every event; and this collection is devoted to the General Fund of the Church.

The Jazz Society was pleased to provide more than 50 percent of the funding for the recent upgrade of the sound system for the Sanctuary. This gift was made possible through a bequest by one of our original members.

Your support makes it possible to continue our vibrant and renowned Jazz in Liturgy at Peoples Congregational Church. We love you all and thank you for your continuing support.

Our Scripture Guidance is **Psalm 150**. Our favorite quote is from an unknown author and reads:

***"Jazz is the Sound when God is Laughing"***

God Bless You All in 2025 and Forward,

***Peoples Jazz Society***

***Peoples Jazz Society Executive Committee***

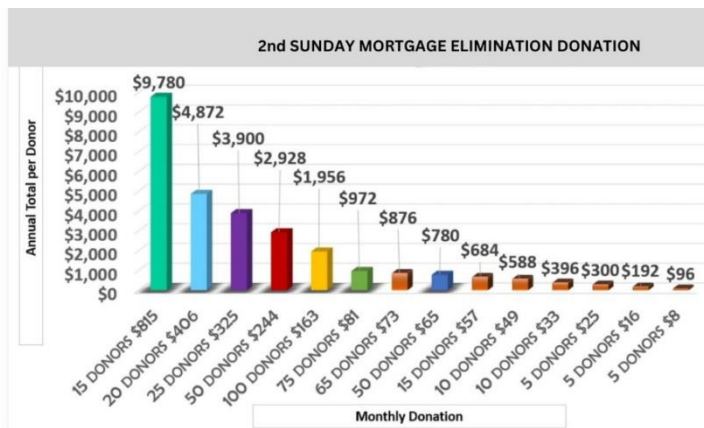
***Patricia J. Ellis, President***

***Carolyn Veiga, Treasurer***

***Davey S. Yarborough, Vice President & Artistic Director***

***Nina Faulk-Knight, Secretary & Website***

***Esther Williams, Youth in Jazz Liaison***



**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 Peopleschurchucc.org](http://DONATEatPeopleschurchucc.org)

[DONATE on REALM](#)

Send questions or comments to [CapitalCampaignPUCC@gmail.com](mailto:CapitalCampaignPUCC@gmail.com)

**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.**