

### PEOPLES PRODDER

June Newsletter

**June 2025** 

Dear Beloved Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ,

As we **enter the vibrant month of June**, I am *excited* and *grateful* for the many meaningful ministry opportunities we have planned. This season is an excellent opportunity to unite in fellowship, worship, and gratitude, and ask others to journey with us.

As I share this epistle with you, I do so with a deep sense of vulnerability. While I am honored to walk alongside many of you in your spiritual journeys, I must confess that I also face my challenges. This journey can often feel heavy, and I need your support and prayers just as I hope to offer you mine. Let us cultivate a space of mutual encouragement and understanding in our faith community. Together, **as Paul reminds us** in **Philippians 4:6-7**, we can bring our anxieties to God in prayer and thanksgiving, trusting that He will grant us the peace we seek. Thank you for being a source of strength and compassion for one another as we navigate our joys and struggles together.

**Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II's Visit** — We welcome Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II on June 1. His preaching will inspire us, urging us toward justice and compassion as we reflect on our calling as a community. As it says in **Micah 6:8**, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." Let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive his message and to be challenged in our walk of faith.

**Pentecost Sunday** – Following that, we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday **on June 8**. This day commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, empowering us to witness Christ's love and grace. As we gather, let us remember **Acts 2:17-18**, which reminds us that *God will pour out God's Spirit and enable us to dream and prophesy*. May we be open to the Spirit's movement in our lives and the church.

**Father's Day and Men's Day** – **On June 15**, we will honor our fathers and celebrate Men's Day. This is an opportune moment to appreciate the father figures in our lives and acknowledge men's vital role in our faith community. Let us reflect on **Ephesians 6:4**, which *encourages fathers to raise their children in the training and instruction of the Lord*. I invite everyone to join us in recognizing and uplifting all the men among us.

Student Recognition – On June 22, we will celebrate our students and their accomplishments. Let us support and encourage the young people in our midst, as **Proverbs 22:6** teaches: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This occasion reminds us that investing in our youth is vital for our church and community's future.

Caribbean and Interfaith Service – We will conclude the month with our Caribbean and Interfaith Service on June 29. This event will celebrate our diverse community and foster unity in Christ. Let us recall Galatians 3:28, which affirms that we are all one in Christ Jesus. This service will be an enriching experience for sharing stories and cultures, and I encourage everyone to come and participate.

Finally, as we gather in fellowship this June, we joyfully recognize **PRIDE Month**, a time to celebrate the diverse identities and experiences within the LGBTQ+ community. In the Spirit of love and inclusion, we honor the dignity of every person, *affirming that each individual is created in the image of God* (Genesis 1:27). Let us reflect on our commitment to justice, equality, and love for all as we continue to foster a welcoming and affirming space in our church for everyone. May we take to heart the words of **1 John 4:7**: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."

This month promises to be busy and fulfilling as we grow in our faith together. I look forward to seeing everyone participate in these meaningful events. Let us be a community that draws strength from one another, lifting each other as we journey in faith.

Loving you into God's next for you! Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds



## **BOT REPORT**

GOAL FOR THE ROOF
REPLACEMENT DRIVE IS \$84,200

APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> \$8,076

MAY  $4^{TH}$  \$16,510

MAY  $11^{TH}$  \$8,350

MAY  $18^{TH}$  \$2,675

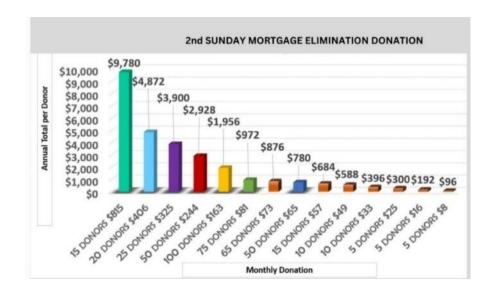
MAY  $25^{TH}$  \$5,767

TOTAL \$41,378

\*STILL TO GO IS \$42,822 WITH 40 MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING



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



#### 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 Peoplechurchucc.org

**DONATE on REALM** 

Send questions or comments to <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaignPUCC@gmail.com">CapitalCampaignPUCC@gmail.com</a>

### "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=RmZoY2xqeTBlRVdTK09XWFY5cG9OQT09

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



#### **SPECIAL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Peoples Church will be closed on June 19, 2025, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

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.

#### **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 <a href="mailto:interimminister@peopleschurchucc.org">interimminister@peopleschurchucc.org</a>. 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



#### **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 Leader. This is an open 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 numerous 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 and 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: <a href="mailto:PeoplesUCCMusicMinistry@gmail.com">PeoplesUCCMusicMinistry@gmail.com</a>. The program will be on **Saturday, June 21, 2025** 

#### PEOPLES CHURCH STUDENT RECOGNITION SUNDAY IS ON JUNE 22, 2025

The Board of Christian Education and the Scholarship Committee will celebrate graduates on Student Recognition Sunday. The service will recognize all Peoples Church graduates from pre-K, elementary, middle, high school, college and graduate/professional schools.

#### **CONGRATULATION TO:**

**Dr. Goulda Downer** who received the *Prestigious Howard University Community Engagement* **Award** conferred on a member of the Howard University faculty who engages in excellent sponsored research, creative works and service, and visionary leadership that continues to elevate the institution. The award was presented on April 29th at the *Excellence in Innovation and Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony*.

**Dr. Arlene King Berry**, the recipient of the *District of Columbia's Provost's Leader Award* at the Annual UDC Faculty Awards Gala on May 14th.

**Deacon Cynthia Prather**, the Honoree from Peoples Church at the **Seabury Celebration of Service Program** on May 20th at the Washington National Cathedral, a joint celebration between Seabury Resources for the Aging, the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the United Church of Christ Potomac Association for outstanding volunteer service in the local church.

"The Board of Christian Social Action (BoCSA) is encouraging the members of Peoples to participate in the *MORAL MONDAYS IN DC* activities and events. The events are spearheaded by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber III, who founded the Repairers of the Breach in 2015.

The Moral Monday Initiative was born out of a need to block the passage of proposed budget cuts to activities and programs that could have potentially devastating impacts on the American people, particularly the poor and marginalized.

The Moral Monday Initiative is on the first Monday of every month from May through September (May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, and September 8th).

You may **sign up to participate** in an event through *Sign Up Genius* by clicking this hyperlink: <u>BoCSA MMI 2025</u>. Additionally, a hard copy sign-up sheet is available in the front office of Peoples, at the window next to the building sign-in sheet. To learn more about Repairers of the Breach, the specific calls for action, and to get involved, visit: <a href="https://breachrepairers.org/get-involved/events/">https://breachrepairers.org/get-involved/events/</a>."

**Music Ministry Announcements** 

If you have been thinking about joining the music ministry team at Peoples, now is the time! There are several opportunities for you to participate in the music ministry at Peoples. We invite you to come and be a part of Peoples Congregational Choir. Rehearsals are on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There are also opportunities to sing with Peoples Praise, our praise & worship team. Rehearsals are on Saturdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Instrumentalists are also welcome.

Did you know that the choir is a reflection of the congregation? Choir membership is based on active attendance of the membership. The choir makes up 3-5% (some say up to 10%) of the active church attendance. You can help grow the choir by bringing or inviting a friend or family member to church.

You don't sing or play a musical instrument? We are also seeking a few individuals with a desire to contribute by providing administrative support. If you are interested, please reach out to: Min. Diedre Gray, Assistant Director of Worship or LeAta Jackson at: music@peopleschurchucc.org. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements regarding the music ministry at Peoples!



Click here to view the update from the Pastoral Search Committee

#### The Wellness Corner

#### **ORAL-SYSTEMIC HEALTH**

Numerous studies and research have revealed a connection between oral health and systemic health, with evidence suggesting that the relationship is reciprocal. Most research studies have examined the direct and indirect effects of periodontal disease on systemic health.

#### What is Periodontal Disease?

Periodontal Disease, also known as gum disease, is an infection and inflammation of the gums (gingivitis) and the bone that supports the teeth (periodontitis). The disease is often caused by plaque buildup resulting from poor oral hygiene, but it can be caused by genetic factors or other health conditions. Dental plaque is a sticky film of bacteria that forms on the surfaces of the mouth, especially on the teeth. According to the CDC, periodontal disease affects 42% of the adult population age 30 and over. Risk factors include a family history of periodontal disease, poor oral hygiene, smoking or chewing tobacco, pregnancy, diabetes, and crooked teeth that are hard to clean.

How Does Periodontal Disease Affect Systemic Health?

According to the National Institutes of Health, over 700 species of bacteria reside in the mouth, consisting of good (beneficial) bacteria and bad (pathogenic) bacteria. Pathogenic bacteria can colonize and cause diseases. Two possible mechanisms have been hypothesized to explain how pathogenic bacteria in the oral cavity can be associated with systemic diseases. First, chronic inflammation in the oral cavity can increase the inflammatory markers in the bloodstream, affecting the body's immune response, i.e., the body's ability to fight diseases. Second, the oral cavity serves as a reservoir for pathogenic bacteria that enter the bloodstream and affect the body at distant sites.

What Systemic Conditions Are Impacted by Oral Health?

The studies connecting periodontal disease with overall health have included atherosclerosis, cardiovascular disease, stroke, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes mellitus, pancreatic cancer, pregnancy and low birth weight, pulmonary disease, kidney disease and Alzheimer's Disease. If you have been diagnosed with any of these conditions or are taking medications, PLEASE ask your medical practitioner or dental provider how these conditions or medications are impacting your oral health. Some medications that might affect oral health include hypertension, diabetes, antidepressants, osteoporosis, blood thinners, cancer, antihistamines, and oral steroids.

How Is Your Oral Health Impacted?

Common symptoms of periodontal disease include bleeding gums when you brush and floss, swollen gums, loose and/or missing teeth, bad breath, red or white lesions that do not go away or heal within seven to ten days, and teeth that are separating.

#### **Prevention Measures**

Practice good oral hygiene and schedule regular dental examinations. Be proactive about your health. Provide your dentist with a comprehensive medical history, including prescribed and overthe-counter medications. Provide your physicians with your dental history, including any oral complications that you have experienced after a medical procedure or after taking prescribed medications.



### A PEOPLES WELLNESS MINISTRY WORKSHOP AND HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATION

### Substance Abuse and Treatment of Acute Overdose

Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Atrium
4704 13th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011

Presenter

MS. NADINE PARKER

Director of the DC Prevention Center, Ward 4
Will offer hands-on tools to:

WHO CAN?

YOU CAN!

HERE'S HOW

Rev. Benjamin L. Bragg-Reynolds Interim Minister

### Coming June 1st – Registration Opens for People's Church VBS 2025! This year's theme: Magnified – Discovering the Bigness of God in the Smallest of Things

Get ready for an unforgettable week-long **day camp** packed with fun, faith, and discovery! At **VBS: Magnified**, kids will take a closer look at God's incredible world and learn to proclaim His greatness through every little detail of creation.

#### **What to Expect:**

- Engaging Bible stories
- ✓ Uplifting music & creative arts
- ✓ Fun fitness & outdoor games
- Exciting field trips
- ✓ Hands-on gardening & service projects
- Friendship, laughter, and spiritual growth
- **Dates:** August 4th to August 8th, 2025

Who: Children ages 4-12

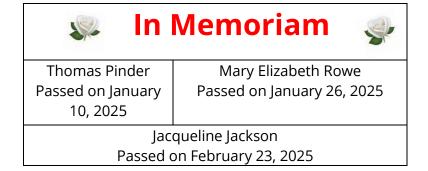
Youth Leadership Opportunities: Teens 13–18 can sign up as Youth Counselors – earn service

hours and make a difference!

- \$ Early Bird Registration: \$125 (through June 20)
- **Regular Registration:** \$150 (after June 20)
- Spots are limited don't miss out!

#### **VBS** Registration

Q Come **magnify** God with us this summer – where small things point to a great big God!





JUNE	AUGUST				
6/8	8/24				
Community Singing	Jazz Worship Service				
2-4 p.m.	10:00 a.m.				
6/15	8/4 to 8/8				
Father's Day/Men's Day	Vacation Bible School				
10:00 a.m.	9-5				
6/21					
Juneteenth Program					
••••					
6/22					
Student Recognition Sunday					
10:00 a.m.					
6/29					
Caribbean American Interfaith					
Worship Program 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 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



#### **Happy Birthday to:**

#### **Happy Anniversary**

Jennie Jackson	06-02	Arthur & Marie Whitaker	06-17
Julian Williams	06-03	Tom & Linda Henderson	06-19
Janet Wells	06-04		
James Butts	06-04		
Jr Green-Young	06-06		
Paula Young Shelton	06-06		
PJ Green-Young	06-07		
Joan Stanley	06-09		
Arlene King-Berry	06-09		
Kenneth Whitted	06-18		

#### **Bible Trivia**



#### 1. What wood was Noah's Ark made of?

- a. Gopher wood
- b. Acacia wood
- c. Cedar of Lebanon
- d. Carob wood

#### 2. How long was the ark?

- a. 500 cubits
- b. 100 cubits
- c. 300 cubits
- d. 250 cubits

#### 3. How long did the flood rain fall?

- a. 80 days and nights
- b. 12 days and nights
- c. 40 days and nights
- 4. How long did Moses's mother hide him to escape the death edict of Pharaoh?
  - a. 13 months
  - b. 10 months
  - c. 3 months
  - d. 7 months

#### 5. Who was Moses's father-in-law?

- a. Laban
- b. Mordechai
- c. Jethro
- d. Cyrus

### 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**



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  $20^{th}$  of the prior month.

Announcements and flyers can be emailed to <a href="mailto:yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org">yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org</a>.

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



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							

### May 3, 2025 Women's Fellowship Tea









### **Communion Sunday 5-4-2025**









May 11, 2025







### Feasibility Study Group

#### **Group Meetings**

June 1 at 11:45 am in Corbin
Dates:

Lounge June 7, 2025 at 10:00 in the Invitees: space in the Church

Anyone who uses

Quiet Room

To discuss current space needs,
Purpose: walk your assigned space if

walk your assigned space, if necessary, and to ask more detailed questions about current

and future space needs.

1. You may attend either meeting. please rsvp to <a href="mailto:lauraminor@verizon.net">lauraminor@verizon.net</a> as to which date you plan to attend.

- 2. YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANY PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING OTHER THAN THINK ABOUT YOUR CURRENT PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING NEEDS AND ANY GROWTH YOU ENVISION FOR THE NEAR FUTURE
- 3. IF YOU ALREADY RESPONDED TO OUR INITIAL EMAIL REGARDING SPACE, WE ARE REQUESTING THAT YOU STILL PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETINGS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

#### Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ

4704 13th Street, NW ~ Washington, DC 20011

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds, Interim Minister
Dr. Robert L. Jefferson, Director of Worship and Peoples Congregational Choir

PRESENTS

## Seven Bright Walkers

Written by Virginia Artist



In Celebration of

## JUNETEENTH

Saturday, June 21, 2025 5:00 P. M.

A free will offering will be collected in support of the Peoples Congregational UCC SANCTUARY ROOF REPLACEMENT

**Realm Registration** 



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

### **Jazz at Peoples**

Peoples Congregational UCC 4704 13<sup>th</sup> Street NW Washington, DC 20011



### **Saturday, July 12, 2025**

**Film Presentation** 

"IN THEIR OWN WORDS"

History of Jazz in D.C.

4:00 Film-Sanctuary 5:00 Panel and Light Refreshments Fellowship Hall

Love Offering received to benefit Peoples Jazz Society

peoplesjazzsociety.org

# Washington National Cathedral Gun Violence Prevention Liturgy Honoring Victims of Gun Violence Wednesday, June 4th at 12pm



To commemorate the beginning of Gun Violence Awareness Weekend the Washington National Cathedral will be holding a Gun Violence Prevention Liturgy on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 12pm (Bourdon Bells will begin ringing at 11:50 followed by a solemn procession into the Bethlehem Chapel)

The service will offer prayers and liturgy and an opportunity for deep reflection for those whose lives have been impacted by gun violence. A special message will be offered by <a href="The Rev. David Bowers">The Rev. David Bowers</a>. Rev. Bowers is an ordained minister and the founder of the all-volunteer NO MURDERS DC movement, launched in 2000. Currently he is VP of the Mid Atlantic market for Enterprise Faith-Based Development Initiative facilitating affordable housing and community development transactions.

Select portraits of gun victims within the DMV will be displayed, courtesy of 'Faces Not Forgotten' and the Rizpah Foundation.

For more information email: congregation@cathedral.org