



PEOPLES PRODDER

July Newsletter

July 2025

Dear Beloved Community of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ,

As we navigate the month of July, we find ourselves in a time of deep reflection amid the complexities of our nation's history and current political climate. The celebration of July 4th is marked with a myriad of emotions for those of us who are part of Black communities in America. While this day traditionally commemorates the nation's independence, we must remember that not everyone has shared that freedom equally.

Rev. Freeman Palmer's recent letter to the Central Atlantic Conference resonates profoundly as we reflect on our position as Black Christians in this society. He reminds us that our voices, rooted in faith and love, must rise above the challenges we face, particularly in light of systemic injustices and ongoing racial discrimination.

As we celebrate Independence Day, let us examine what freedom means for each of us. Do we not recall the words of Galatians 5:1, "***For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery***"? Let this be a reminder to stand firm against oppression and to advocate for true liberty and justice for all.

As we are confronted with the recent military actions against Iran, we must reaffirm our commitment to peace, reconciliation, and justice. This new war greatly opposes our belief system, which is rooted in the call to love our neighbors and to pursue peace over conflict. We cannot stand by silently as the suffering of innocent people is perpetuated by violence. We are called to reflect deeply on Jesus' teaching in ***Matthew 5:9: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."***

In this turbulent political landscape, it is essential that we not only reflect on our past but also envision a future of unity and hope. The words of ***Isaiah 58:6*** guide our actions: "***Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?***" Our celebration of freedom must extend beyond festivities; it must encompass active participation in dismantling systems that perpetuate inequity.

Let us encourage one another to speak out against injustice and celebrate our community's rich legacy of resilience. Share your stories, uplift others, and seek opportunities to engage in dialogue and service, fostering environments of understanding and mutual support. We can create spaces where healing begins, and freedom flourishes for everyone.

As we come together this month, I urge you to remain steadfast in your prayers for our nation. Pray for our leaders, communities, for Peoples Church, and souls yearning for justice and equity. In this pursuit, remember the assurance of ***Philippians 4:6-7***, which calls us to prayer: ***"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."***

In these challenging times, let us embody God's love and peace, encouraging one another to remain hopeful and united in our mission for justice. May this month remind us to lift one another up, engage in community action, and celebrate the vibrant spirit and rich legacy of our people.

Loving you to God's next for you!

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Interim Minister



2025


BOT ROOF REPLACEMENT REPORT

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

APRIL 3 RD	\$8,076
MAY 4 TH	\$16,510
MAY 11 TH	\$8,350
MAY 18 TH	\$2,675
MAY 25 TH	\$5,767
JUNE 1 ST	\$6,031.50
JUNE 8 TH	\$7,517.52
JUNE 15 TH	\$4,610
JUNE 21 ST	\$4,462-JUNETEENTH
JUNE 22 ND	\$5,340
TOTAL	\$69,339.02

*92 MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING

*\$14,860.98 STILL TO GO



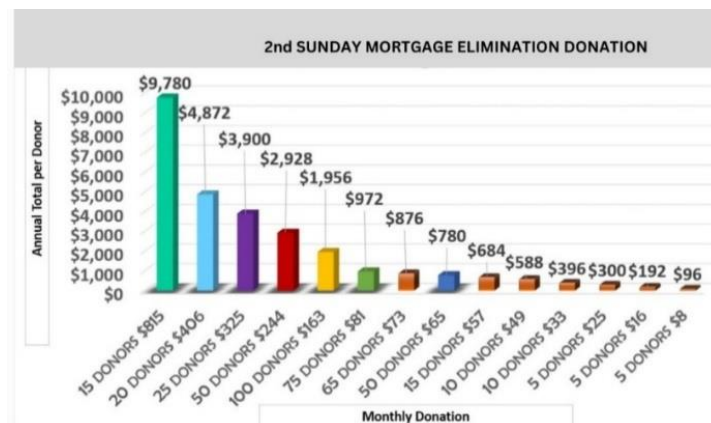
Financial Summary



Preliminary Results May 2025

General Operating Results		Restricted Income		Restricted Fund Results	
Operating Income	\$104,630.57	Deacons	\$667.00	PCUCC Endowment	\$32,612.55
Expenses	-\$162,055.57	Food Pantry	\$453.00	Butler- Music	\$30,580.00
Net Operating Income	\$57,425.00	Scholarship	\$3,671.00	Food Pantry Endowment	\$63,291.65
		Capital Campaign	\$1,89.00	Butler-Scholarship	\$ 83,012.20
		Mortgage Elimination	\$200.00	Dowdell Cannon	\$28,504.48
				Scholarship Fund LT	\$411,516.64
				Pinkett Scholarship	\$329,952.84

**** Accrual adjustments may be pending for the expenses.**
The most recent information available is shown above.



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](https://peoplechurchucc.org)

[DONATE on REALM](#)

Send questions or comments to CapitalCampaignPUCC@gmail.com

“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

Peoples Church will be closed on July 4, 2025, in observance of the 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 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

"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: [BoCSA MMI 2025](#). 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: <https://breachrepairers.org/get-involved/events/>."

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!

Girls Needed For Scouting! Peoples Church has a long legacy of Girl Scouting in our Nation's Capital. The Daisy level (ages 5-6) is the entry level into Girl Scouting, and we need girls to join Troop 1563 (Friday evening meetings). Please contact Maureen Sullivan at [**peopleschurchgirlscouts@gmail.com**](mailto:peopleschurchgirlscouts@gmail.com) if you are interested in learning more. Please enroll your girls today! Please forward this to families you think may be interested in this great experience!

FALLS AND FRACTURES IN OLDER ADULTS

More than one in four people age 65 years or older fall each year. The risk of falling and fall-related problems increases with age. However, many falls can be prevented. Exercising, managing your medication, having your vision checked, and making your home safer are all steps you can take to prevent a fall.

Causes of Falls

As we age, our eyesight, hearing, and reflexes are not as sharp as they were when we were younger.

Diabetes, heart disease, thyroid problems, or problems with nerves can affect balance and lead to falls.

Age-related loss of muscle mass (sarcopenia), problems with balance and gait, and blood pressure that drops too much when you go from lying or sitting to standing (postural hypotension) are also risk factors

Unsafe footwear, such as backless shoes or high heels, can also increase your risk.

Medication side effects, such as dizziness and confusion, also increase your risk.

Steps To Prevent Falls

Stay physically active. Plan an exercise program. Regular exercise improves muscles and helps keep joints, tendons and ligaments flexible. Mild weightbearing exercises such as walking or climbing stairs may slow bone loss.

Balance and strength training exercises such as Pilates, yoga, and tai chi improve balance and muscle strength. Lifting light weights or using resistance bands also builds strength.

Have your eyes and hearing checked yearly.

Fall-proof your home. Use a sturdy step stool to retrieve items above arm's reach. Remove non-skin throw rugs from the floors.

Get enough sleep. Avoid or limit alcohol. Stand slowly. Getting up quickly can cause your blood pressure to drop.

When a health care provider prescribes an assistive device, ensure that the device is appropriately sized and that proper instruction on its use is provided.

Choose the correct footwear. Wear nonskid rubber-soled shoes. Do not walk in socks, or slippers and shoes with smooth soles.

Hold the rails when climbing stairs.

Many older adults are concerned about falling, which can result in them avoiding activities such as walking and exercising. But staying active is important to keeping your body healthy and actually prevents falls. So do not let fear of falling keep you from being active.

Registration is open 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](#)

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

 In Memoriam 	
Thomas Pinder Passed on January 10, 2025	Mary Elizabeth Rowe Passed on January 26, 2025
Jacqueline Jackson Passed on February 23, 2025	



JUNE	AUGUST
6/8 Community Singing 2-4 p.m.	8/24 Jazz Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
6/15 Father's Day/Men's Day 10:00 a.m.	8/4 to 8/8 Vacation Bible School 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



Our Members in Need of Prayer

Bobby Austin
4701 Willard Ave Apt. 214
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Conchita Boddie
8201 16th Street # 109
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Aaron Cox
19401 Buckingham Way #1
Germantown, MD 20874

Thelma Driskell
4206 Decatur Street
Hyattsville, MD 20781

Patricia Faggett
15121 Glade Dr. #2E
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Thomas Flagg
708 Symphony Woods Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Doris Jones
360 Sky Bride Dr. #4020
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Mattie Jones
3870 Carpenter Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020

Stanley Kelly
1619 Juniper Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012

James Pierce
6618 4th Street NW
Washington, DC 20012

Hildred Roach-Stafford
12909 Fox Bow Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 2074

Ellsworth and Donna Robinson
4913 11th Street NE
Washington, DC 20017

Judith Rhodes
1210 Delafield Pl. NW #3
Washington, DC 20011

Jessie Robinson
9021 flower Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Eric Shuler
343 Cedar Street NW #316
Washington, DC 20012

Joan Stanley
11584 Scaggsville Rd.
Fulton, MD 20759

Bettye Topps
1618 Juniper Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012

Viola Walker
6701 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20012

George White
Leisure World
Bedford Court Building
3701 International Dr. #13EB
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Gail Whitley
5101 Sargent Rd. NE #102
Washington, DC 20017

Maria Wilson
1310 Decatur Street NW
Washington, DC 20011

REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

IN YOUR PRAYERS

**"LET THE BELOVED OF THE LORD REST
SECURE IN HIM FOR HE SHIELDS HIM ALL**

**DAY LONG, AND THE ONE THE LORD LOVES
RESTS BETWEEN HIS SHOULDERS"**

DEUTERONOMY 33:12





Happy Birthday to:

Ashley Humphries	07-01
Hilary Kum	07-01
John Hicks	07-02
Tome Henderson	07-04
Jacqueline Lucas	07-04
Jessica Rice	07-11
Merriel Tyus-Brooks	07-11
Bette Wooden	07-12
Keith Jackson	07-13
Kenneth Parker	07-19
Carrie Tyus	07-21
Isadora Wills	07-21
Rev. Benjamin L. Bragg-Reynolds	07-20
Yvonne Hinkson	07-22
Jason Bowie	07-23
Faye Coleman	07-24
Andre Kearns	07-24

Happy Anniversary

Walter & Pat Faggett	07-01
Jack & Cheryl Dunham	07-21
Warren & Amber Romine	07-25

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
 - d. Cyrus

**Peoples Congregational
United Church of Christ**



Prodder Guidelines

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

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



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!

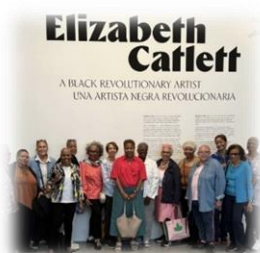
Name(s) _____

Old Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Business _____ Mobile _____

Moral Monday and Catlett Exhibit



Communion Sunday



Men's/Father's Day



Seven Bright Walkers/Juneteenth Sunday



Student Recognition Sunday



PEOPLES
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Realm Registration



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

