



PEOPLES PRODDER

August Newsletter

August 2025

Dear Beloved Community of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ,

In the spirit of creating a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere, we are designating this month as Relaxed, Comfy, and August through the theme: **"Embrace Your Comfort, Elevate Your Spirit."** We encourage everyone to dress casually and comfortably for worship each Sunday. Whether you prefer your favorite jeans, a cozy t-shirt, or simple, laid-back attire, we want you to feel at home as we come together to worship and celebrate. Let this be an opportunity to connect not only with each other but also with the sincerity of our worship in a relaxed setting.

Peoples Church is honored to have a long-standing relationship with the vibrant world of jazz. Our church has been a sanctuary where this remarkable genre thrives, allowing us to experience the powerful union of music and faith. At the heart of our jazz celebrations is the wonderful **Jazz Society**, led by the passionate **Pat Ellis**. Under Pat's dedicated leadership, the Jazz Society has created a nurturing environment for musicians and music lovers alike. Their commitment to promoting jazz has enriched our worship and fostered community engagement, enabling us to appreciate not just the music but the message it carries.

We are also blessed to recognize the esteemed founders of the **Washington Jazz Arts Institute**, the dynamic duo of **Esther Williams** and **Davey Yarborough**. Their relentless passion for jazz education and performance has had a transformative impact on our community. Through their work, they have inspired young musicians, nurtured artistic talent, and facilitated a platform for many to share their gifts. Esther and Davey exemplify the spirit of collaboration and creativity, reminding us all that jazz is about collective effort—a reflection of the church body itself.

Throughout August, a **major note** is the preaching of our **Ministerial Team** each Sunday. These gifted ministers will share **messages** that resonate with the rhythms of jazz, tying their teachings to the themes of joy, struggle, and hope that jazz so beautifully encapsulates. **I encourage you to attend each service, as their insights and reflections promise to uplift and inspire our congregation.**

As we **embrace** the **warmth** of this season, I am thrilled to announce our upcoming **Jazz Sunday Worship Service** on **August 24th**. This month, we will immerse ourselves in the rich tradition of jazz, a musical form that weaves together creativity, culture, and spirituality—a perfect backdrop for our worship. I warmly invite each of you to bring a friend, neighbor, or anyone who would benefit from sharing in this extraordinary experience. Let's fill our sanctuary with joyful voices and open hearts!

Jazz Sundays are not just about the music; they are an opportunity for **community connection** and **spiritual growth**. I urge you to **invite someone new to join us this month**. Whether someone has never attended a service or is looking for a fresh experience in their spiritual journey, Jazz Sunday offers a unique blend of worship and artistry that we can share.

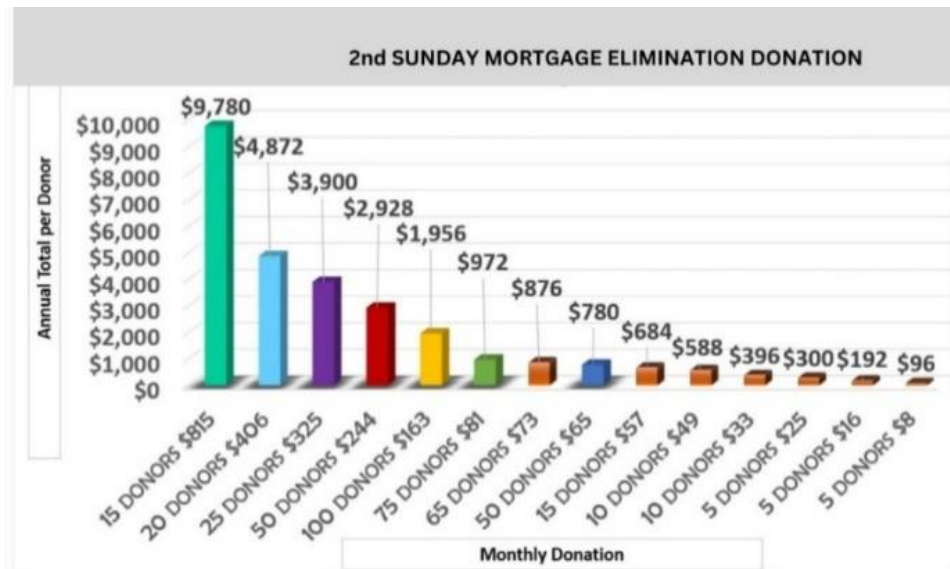
Let us **fill the pews** with **friends, family, and neighbors**, extending the **joyful invitation** to all. As we **celebrate** the **transcendent experience** of **jazz in our worship**, we will also **deepen** our **collective bond** and **witness** the **power** of **music** to **unite us all in faith**.

I look forward to worshipping with each of you throughout August, sharing in **the inspiring messages from our Ministerial Team**, and **lifting our voices in joy** as we celebrate **Jazz Sunday**. Together, let's create an atmosphere where the spirit of jazz can flourish and resonate within our hearts and community.

In harmony and faith,

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Interim Minister



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](http://DONATEatPeoplechurchucc.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 Monday, September 1, 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

Bible Study FYI

As August approaches, please note that there will be no Bible study meetings during this time. We will be taking a break to recharge and prepare for our upcoming sessions. The next Bible Study class will resume on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

Moral Mondays in DC – Schedule Change!

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 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 will have devastating impacts on the American people, particularly the poor and marginalized.

Moral Monday will not take place during August while Congress is in recess but will resume in September (Date to Be Determined). The BoCSA will have signups ready once we have the date. Remember the FIGHT IS NOT OVER!!!



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 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!

 In Memoriam 	
Thomas Pinder Passed on January 10, 2025	Jacqueline Jackson Passed on February 23, 2025
Mary Elizabeth Rowe Passed on January 26, 2025	Joan Stanley Passed on July 13, 2025



Happy Birthday to:

<i>Jean Tate</i>	08/01	Ernest Wyatt & Jenel Wyatt	08/11
<i>Diana Veiga</i>	08/04	Davey & Esther Yarborough	08/19
<i>Esther Yarborough</i>	08/08	Francis & Brenda Banfield Smith	08/20
<i>Krysten Thomas</i>	08/12		
<i>Monique Boddie-Neal</i>	08/13		
<i>Jonathan Jolley</i>	08/13		
<i>Yvette Hunter</i>	08/14		
<i>Diane Miller</i>	08/14		
<i>Leslie Bowie</i>	08/15		
<i>Kimberle Anderson</i>	08/16		
<i>Dawn Kum</i>	08/17		
<i>Patricia Turner</i>	07/17		
<i>Aaron Cox</i>	08/19		
<i>Sabrina Cox</i>	08/19		
<i>Priscilla Qallace</i>	08/24		
<i>Clifton Reynolds</i>	08/24		
<i>Cynthia Robbins</i>	08/24		

Bible Trivia



- 1. What was the height of Goliath?**
 - a. Six cubits and a span
 - b. Seven cubits and two spans
 - c. Nine cubits and a span
 - d. Five cubits and three spans
- 2. When Saul was pursuing David, in which cave did David seek refuge?**
 - a. Cave at Makkedah
 - b. Cave of Machpelah
 - c. Cave of Adullam
 - d. Dambulla Cave
- 3. Who was the chief of the three mighty men of David?**
 - a. Jonathan
 - b. Benaiah
 - c. Josheb-basshebeth
 - d. Abishai

**Peoples Congregational
United Church of Christ**

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Washington, DC 20011
Phone: 202.829.5511
Follow us on Twitter
@PeoplesCongUCC

We are on the Website
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 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 _____

Sunday Morning Service



Sunday, July 27, 2025





PEOPLES
CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ

Realm Registration



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