



PEOPLES PRODDER

September Newsletter

September 2025

Dear Beloved Community of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ,

As September unfolds, we find ourselves on the cusp of a new school year and the vibrant autumn season. This time of year, is not just about the changing leaves and the cooling air; it marks a significant transition for our students, families, and entire congregation. As we prepare for a season of renewal and growth, I invite each of you to join me in prayerful reflection and communal support.

Back to School Blessings

Students from our congregation have already headed back to school, carrying with them not just backpacks but also hopes, dreams, and the sometimes-burdensome weight of expectations. Let us uplift them in our prayers, asking for God's guidance as they navigate their studies, friendships, and personal growth. May they feel empowered, inspired, eased in their worries, and strengthened by our community's love and support.

Navigating Challenges Together

We are also acutely aware of the current national and local political climate. As a historically Black congregation, we have long understood the intersections of faith, justice, and advocacy. Remember to stand together in a time marked by political discord and social and political challenges. Let us support one another as we engage in meaningful dialogue and seek ways to impact our community positively. The presence of ICE and the complexities of being a Federated city have heightened the sense of urgency for solidarity and action. As we navigate these challenging waters, let us lean on God, trusting in God's sovereignty and love, which guide our actions.

A Season of Preparation and Reflection

Autumn is not only a time for the school year to resume; it is also a season to reflect on our own lives and the state of our congregation. Just as the trees shed their leaves, we too are called to shed burdens that no longer serve us. It's an opportunity for divine pruning, allowing us to focus on spiritual growth and renewal. Let us come together for activities that encourage fellowship and spiritual depth. From Bible studies to community service, I encourage you to engage actively as we prepare for a fruitful fall.

Scriptural Encouragement

The words of **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** (NRSVUE): ***"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven"*** . . . These verses remind us that every season has its purpose. As we transition into fall, let us grasp this time for learning, healing, and serving, trusting that God's hand is upon us in every endeavor.

As we welcome the fresh beginnings of this fall season, I want to reflect on the diligent work of our **Pastoral Search Committee** over the summer. This summer has been a pivotal time for our church. I am

grateful to share the significant strides this committee has made in preparing for our future as we look towards welcoming a new senior minister.

The Role of the Pastoral Search Committee

Our Pastoral Search Committee has devoted countless hours to listening, reflecting, and engaging with our congregation. They have been tasked with the critical responsibility of creating a church profile that accurately reflects the heart and soul of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ. Their goal has been to articulate our unique identity, vision, and mission, not just to attract applicants, but to ensure we find a minister who aligns with our values and understands our community's aspirations.

Creating the Church Profile

The process of developing the church profile has been both a labor of love and a profound opportunity for introspection. It involved gathering input from congregants, holding meetings to discuss our hopes and dreams, and synthesizing this information into a thorough document that captures who we are as a people of faith. This profile will serve as a beacon for prospective ministers, guiding them in understanding the richness of our congregation's diversity, tradition, and commitment to justice and service.

We anticipate releasing this profile soon, opening our doors to applications for our new senior minister this fall. This marks an exciting chapter in our church's history! Please pray for the Search Committee as they continue their vital work in reviewing applications and discerning the individuals who might best lead us forward.

An Invitation to Participate

I encourage each of you to remain engaged in this critical process. Attend upcoming Governing Body meetings and participate in discussions. The future of our congregation is not just in the hands of the Search Committee; it is a communal endeavor, reflecting the collective Spirit of Peoples Congregational UCC. Your voices are essential, and your prayers will guide us.

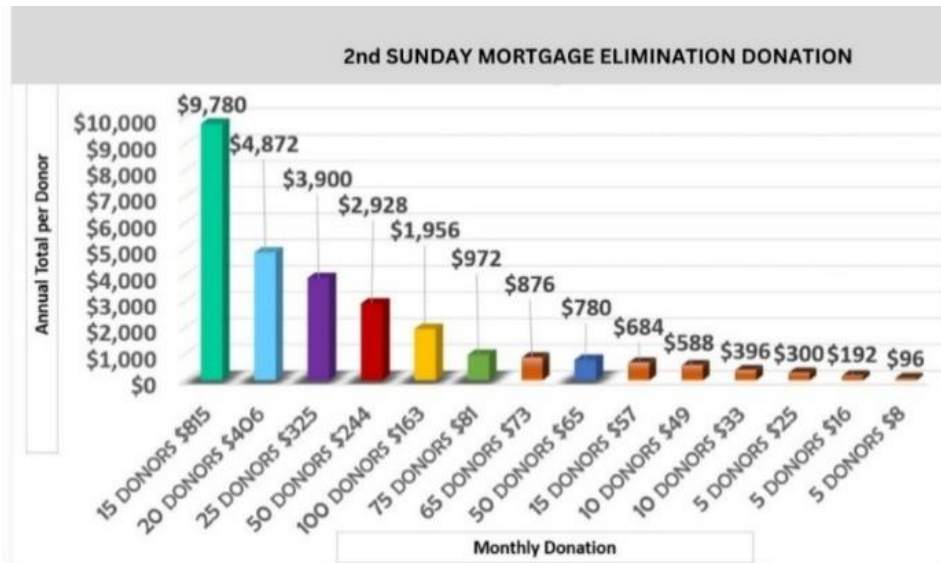
In closing, please join us as we unite in worship and community this fall season. Let's nurture a spirit of hope and resilience, drawing on our faith as we navigate the many changes around us. We are called to be a light and a source of hope for one another and those in our broader community.

As we move forward together, let's greet this season of anticipation and hope. Our journey to find a new senior minister is a chance for renewal and growth, and trust, as always, in God's timing and wisdom.

Thank you all for your continued love, support, and prayers. I am excited about the road ahead and look forward to what the Spirit has in store for our beloved church community.

Loving you into God's next for you!

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds



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

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

Bible Study class will resume on Thursday, September 18, 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!!!

Peoples UCC Music Ministry Announcements

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 11:30 a.m.

There are also opportunities to sing with Peoples Praise, our praise & worship team.

Rehearsals are on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Instrumentalists are also welcome.

You can help grow the music ministry by bringing or inviting a friend or family member to church.

You don't sing or play a musical instrument? We are also looking for a few people with the desire to help by providing administrative support. If you are interested, please reach out to Lise Stevens at: music@peopleschurchucc.org.

Do you remember the Hebrew words for praise found in scripture? Here's a hint; The first letter of each word is:

Y - HANDS TO GOD

T - TO SPEAK THE SAME THING

S - A LOUD ADORATION OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE

T - TO SING PRAISE

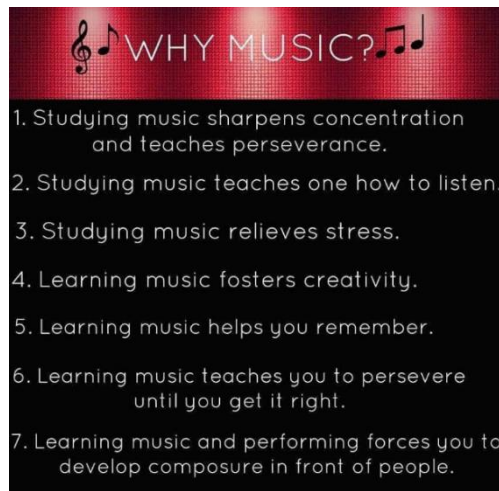
B - ACT OF KNEELING OR BOWING

H - TO BE CLAMOROUSLY FOOLISH BEFORE THE LORD

Z - TO SING SONGS OF PRAISE WITH INSTRUMENTS

How can we put these forms of praise into our Sunday worship experience? How do we put these forms of praise and worship into our daily lives?

Thank you for your continued support of the music ministry at Peoples. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we strive toward musical excellence to the greater glory of God.



A Call to Church Members



The theme for the Diaconate Retreat is "Mission Possible". The Diaconate Board is calling upon you to help extend God's grace and mercy to Peoples Congregational UCC as the new church year begins. We need new deacons to assist us as we serve in various capacities in the church.

Qualifications:

- A heart filled with God's love
- A willingness to serve
- At least one year of membership at Peoples Church with regular attendance
- A person of good character

Serving as a Deacon will help deepen your faith, strengthen relationships within our church family, and allow you to be an active part of God's work. Deacons provide ministerial support by assisting with the worship service, providing visitation for our sick and shut-in members, providing financial assistance to church and community members through the Deacon Fund Offering, welcoming new members, and assisting with the preparation of youth for church membership.

If there are any questions or if you are interested, please contact the Chair, Deacon Kenneth Parker (kenneth6101@comcast.net) or any member of the Diaconate Board soon. Your name might also be left in the church office. We look forward to welcoming you as we move forward together in this new church year, working together and supporting the ministry by showing that this Mission is Possible!

 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
Judith Rhodes Passed on August 17, 2025	



Happy Birthday to:

<i>Marie Wilson</i>	<i>09/03</i>
<i>Constance Harris</i>	<i>09/16</i>
<i>Madeline Romine</i>	<i>09/17</i>
<i>Christine Rowe</i>	<i>09/18</i>
<i>Brandon Spriggs</i>	<i>09/20</i>
<i>Derek Gill</i>	<i>09/20</i>
<i>William Wills</i>	<i>09/26</i>
<i>Mattie Jones</i>	<i>09/30</i>

Bible Trivia



- 1. Who restored Paul's sight after the Lord blinded him?**
 - a. Peter
 - b. Luke
 - c. Ananias
 - d. Matthew
- 2. How did Paul escape Damascus when the Jews were trying to kill him?**
 - a. He was let down from the city walls in a basket
 - b. An angel lifted him out
 - c. An earthquake created the means of escape
 - d. Silas came to his rescue
- 3. Where was Paul stoned?**
 - a. Melita
 - b. Damascus
 - c. Galilee
 - d. Lystra

**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 _____

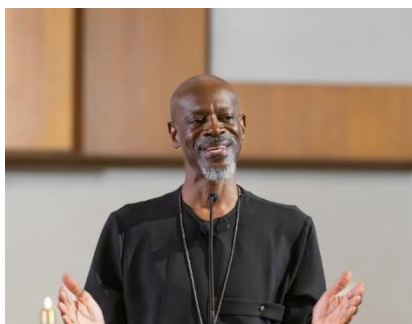
New Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Business _____ Mobile _____

Sunday, August 10, 2025



Sunday, August 17, 2025



Sunday, August 24, 2025



Vigil for Community and Democracy

Monday September 8, 2025

5:30pm-6:30pm

16th Street NW

Washington, DC

**People Congregational UCC will meet between
Buchanan and Crittenden Streets**



PEOPLES
CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ

Realm Registration



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