



# PEOPLES PRODDER

October Newsletter

October 2025

## Celebrating Rev. Dr. A. Knighton Stanley: A Legacy of Faith, Justice, and Community

Dear Members of Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ,

As I reflect on the remarkable journey of our beloved Rev. Dr. A. Knighton Stanley—someone I never had the chance to meet—I'm reminded of whose shoulders I stand. **We** are reminded of the profound impact his life and work continue to have on our community and beyond.

**On October 18th at 1:00 p.m.**, we will gather on the church's plaza to honor his extraordinary legacy through the **Rev. Dr. A. Knighton Stanley Way Designation Act**, an event that celebrates not just the man but the ideals he passionately championed.

Rev. Dr. Stanley was not only Peoples' pastor; he was a guiding light in the fight for civil rights, a voice of compassion, and a champion for justice. His heartfelt sermons inspired hope and resilience, while his action-oriented advocacy brought about meaningful change in our society, uplifting the voiceless and promoting equality for all. His life embodies the essence of **Micah 6:8**, which reminds us, **"He [God] has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."**

As a loving father, he nurtured his children and extended that same care to the entire community. Dr. Stanley's wisdom and guidance have left an indelible mark on the lives he touched, reminding us that love and kindness are potent tools for transformation. His laughter, cherished moments, and unwavering support continue to resonate in our hearts.

The A. Knighton Stanley Way serves not only as a physical reminder of his presence in our lives but also as a call to action. It encourages us to embody the values he instilled within us—compassion, justice, and unity—in our daily lives. As members of the Peoples Congregational family, we are inspired to work collectively towards a more inclusive and equitable community, honoring the legacy of Rev. Dr. Stanley in all that we do.

As we look forward to the future, let us carry forth the light he ignited within our hearts. May we strive every day to reflect his teachings, advocate for those in need, and uphold the ideals of love and justice. Rev. Dr. A. Knighton Stanley's legacy lives on in each of us, a driving force that inspires future generations.

In gratitude and celebration,

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

## Vigil for Community and Democracy

On 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Beyond  
Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 6:30.

On Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, members of Peoples joined with other congregations, residents of DC, and friends of the city who believe in community and democracy for a vigil promoting community and democracy, supporting freedom and home rule, and challenging intimidation and abuse. We were joined by members of The New Synagogue Project and local residents, and we prayed with 19<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church. See below excerpts that captured the spirit of this event in a prayer offered by Rev. B



### *O Eternal Spirit,*

*Whose light shines upon the broken streets,  
We gather here in the heart of this city,  
A city bruised by the shadows of violence,  
Where the cries for justice echo amidst the towering  
buildings, and where the soul of our nation seeks a  
refuge from the weight of unyielding power.*

*Lord, we come not just as individuals but as one body,  
to reclaim the sacred spaces, where each brick holds a  
story, where the blood of the innocent has cried out,  
and where the air longs for peace and justice.*

*We beseech Thee, Almighty, to breathe life into the  
lifeless corridors of governance, to stir the spirits of  
those in power, that they may see the sacredness of  
every life, that they may feel the weight of every  
injustice, and that they may walk humbly amidst their  
people, listening not just to the whispers of the elite,  
but to the shouts of the marginalized.*

*We are not afraid; Your Spirit emboldens us,  
For in our unity lies our strength, in our faith shines the  
promise of a better tomorrow. Help us to remember,  
dear Lord, that even as we stand against the storms of  
oppression,  
Our love must be boundless and our actions peaceful.*

*May our hearts stay fierce,  
May our spirits remain unyielding,  
As we stand together, bound by faith,  
And unshakeable in the pursuit of the beloved  
community. Amen.*

*Rev. Benjamin Lidell Bragg-Reynolds  
9.8.2025*



*Photos by Min. Francis Smith, Helga Baskett-Tippett  
Vivian Jackson, and Tuere Marshall*

# ***"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>

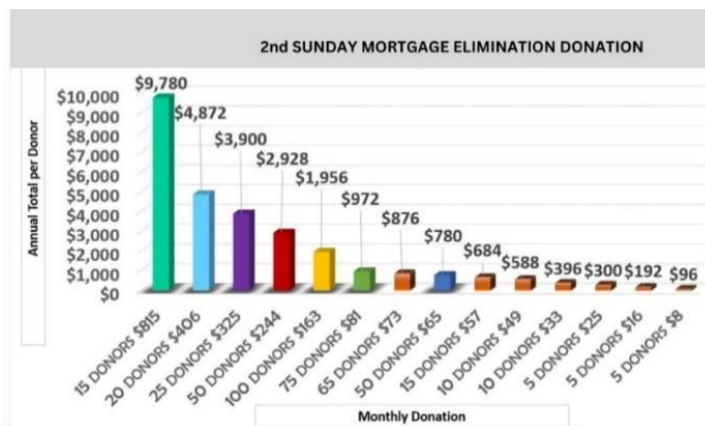
Meeting ID: 837 4429 8433 Passcode:  
853640

**Church School meets every 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**





## 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](mailto:CapitalCampaignPUCC@gmail.com)

## 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](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

### 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](mailto: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!

## 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](mailto: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

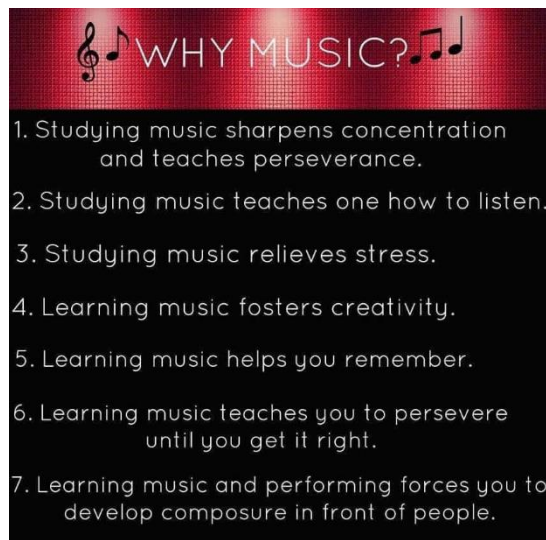
**B** - ACT OF KNEELING OR BOWING

**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.





## In Memoriam



Thomas Pinder  
Passed on January 10, 2025


Judith Rhodes  
Passed on August 17, 2025

Mary Elizabeth Rowe  
Passed on January 26, 2025

Jacqueline Jackson  
Passed on February 23, 2025

Joan Stanley  
Passed on July 13, 2025

Thomas Hammond  
Passed on September 28, 2025



The image shows a green sign for the Fort Lincoln Mausoleum in the foreground, with the mausoleum building in the background. The sign is ornate with a crest at the top and contains descriptive text about the facility. The building is a large, light-colored stone structure with arched windows and a central entrance.

**FORT LINCOLN MAUSOLEUM**

THE FINEST COMMUNITY MAUSOLEUM IN THE WORLD. EMBELLISHED WITH CATHEDRAL-TYPE ART STAINED GLASS WINDOWS OF BREATHTAKING BEAUTY. A GREAT MEMORIAL DEDICATED AND PERPETUALLY ENDOWED FOR ALL THOSE ENTOMBED WITHIN ITS MARBLE HALLS. ITS INTERIOR COMBINES THE MANY COMFORTABLE APPOINTMENTS OF A HOME WITH THE SACRED QUALITIES OF A CHURCH.

THIS MAUSOLEUM WITH ITS ATMOSPHERE OF PEACEFUL REVERENCE IS A LASTING TRIBUTE TO THE VISION, BOLD DETERMINATION AND ABILITY OF THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS EXISTENCE. L.O. MINER, PRESIDENT OF FORT LINCOLN CEMETERY.

**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL U.C.C. HAS A SINGLE CRYPT FOR SALE LOCATED IN THE FT. LINCOLN MAUSOLEUM IN FORT LINCOLN CEMETERY IN BRENTWOOD, MD. THE CRYPT IS PRICED AT \$13,000 AND INTERESTED PARTIES CAN CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT 202-723-5330.**

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINES**

Vaccines are one of the greatest successes of Public Health worldwide. Vaccines have prevented millions of diseases and deaths each year.

Recent proclamations in the media have created confusion and contributed to vaccine hesitancy – a delay in acceptance, or sometimes refusal of vaccination services. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it one of the 10 threats to global health, as this trend has the potential to reverse health gains achieved in vaccine-preventable diseases.

There are several types of vaccines:

Live-attenuated vaccines use a weakened form of the germ while

Inactivated vaccines use a killed version of the germ.

Subunit, recombinant, polysaccharide, and conjugate vaccines utilize only specific components of the germ, such as its proteins, sugars, or cell walls.

Toxoid vaccines use a toxin (harmful product) made by the germ.

mRNA vaccines use messenger RNA, which gives your cells instructions for how to make a protein of the germ.

Viral vector vaccines are a generic material that provides your cells with instructions for producing a protein of the germ. These vaccines also contain a different harmless virus that helps get the genetic material into your cells.

These vaccines may work in different ways, but they all spark an immune response. The immune response is the body's defense against substances seen as foreign or harmful. The immune system helps the body fight germs. The immune system remembers the germ and will quickly attack it should it ever invade again. That is the basis of immunity.

Vaccines also protect the people around you through Community or Herd immunity.

Typically, germs can spread rapidly through a community. If a sufficient number of community members become ill, it can lead to an outbreak. But when enough people are vaccinated against a specific disease, it's more complicated for the disease to spread to others. This type of protection means that the entire community is less likely to get the disease. Community immunity is particularly important for individuals who are unable to receive a specific vaccine due to a weakened immune system.

Every vaccine undergoes extensive testing before the FDA approves it.

As with any medicine, vaccines can cause some minor side effects that may last a few days. Serious side effects are extremely rare.

Encourage your family and friends to receive the recommended vaccine, as the side effects for the majority of the population are not comparable to the actual disease.

If you have any concerns about whether a vaccine is right for you, please consult your healthcare provider.

**Peoples Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

4704 Thirteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
Phone: 202.829.5511  
@PeoplesCongUCC

We are on the Web!  
[www.peopleschurchucc.org](http://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<sup>th</sup> of the prior month.

Announcements and flyers can be emailed to [yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:interimminister@peopleschurchucc.org)

### Church Moderator

Diana Haines Walton  
[moderator@peopleschurchucc.org](mailto:moderator@peopleschurchucc.org)

### Administrative Staff

Operations Specialist  
Yvette Hunter  
[yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org](mailto:yhunter@peopleschurchucc.org)

### Maintenance Staff

Towanda Chew  
Sterling "Stan" Evans



***Sunday, September 28, 2025***





# FALL COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**\* Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm, the naming of the  
Rev. Dr. A. Knighton Stanley Way Designation Act**

**\* Friends and Family Day, Sunday, October 19, 2025**



**\* Community Food Drive and Raffle, Saturday,  
October 25, 2025 12:00-4:00 pm**

**\* Children's Sabbath, Sunday, October 26, 2025 10:00 am**



**\* Denyce Graves Foundation Concert, Saturday, November  
15, 2025 4:00-5:30 pm**



### *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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Realm Registration



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