



PEOPLES PRODDER

December Newsletter



Seasons Greetings



“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.

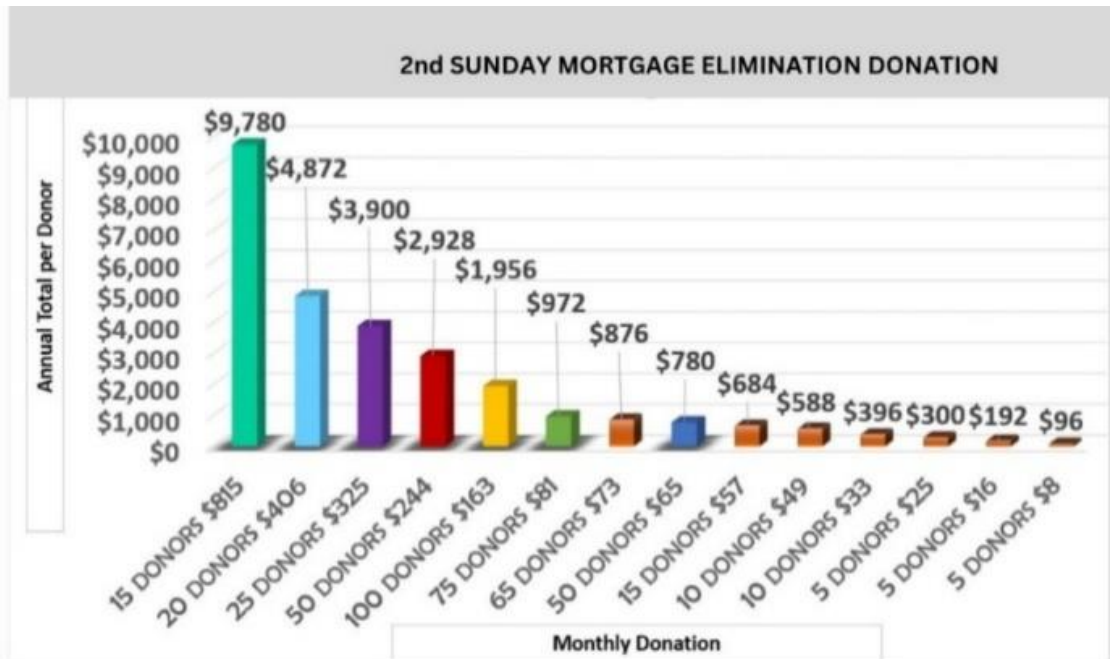
Join Zoom Meeting

<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**





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://www.PeopleChurchUCC.org)

[DONATE on REALM](#)

Send questions or comments to 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. 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 was "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!

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. PCC is a versatile choir singing anthems, spirituals, gospel, and classical music to the glory of God. 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. Formed in September 2024 and debuted in October 2025, this group of 8-committed singers welcome the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through praise and worship songs. This team invites the congregation to express our collective reverence, gratitude, adoration and acknowledgment of God's greatness and experience His presence for all in attendance. Peoples Praise is led by our Assistant Director of Worship, Minister Diedre D. Gray. Rehearsals are on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The choir is a reflection of the overall church. 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?

Yadah - THE OPEN HAND - HANDS TO GOD

Towdah – COURT OF LAW - TO EXTEND THE HANDS - TO SPEAK THE SAME THING

Shabach - A LOUD ADORATION – A TESTIMONY OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Tehillah - TO SING PRAISE

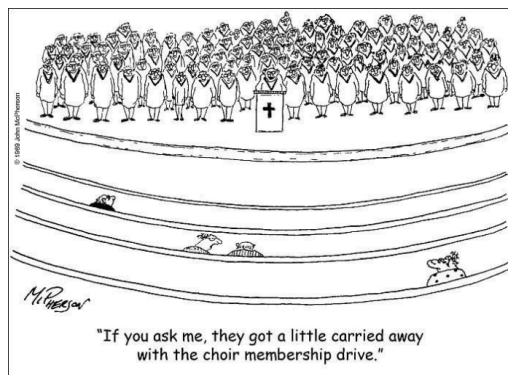
Barauch - ACT OF KNEELING OR BOWING

Halalah - TO BE CLAMOROUSLY FOOLISH BEFORE THE LORD (the word Hallelujah comes from halah)

Zamar - 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.



"**The Scholarship Committee** has begun accepting college book grant applications for church members attending undergraduate school (sophomores, juniors and seniors) and who will be registered for the Spring 2026 semester. Applications may be submitted directly online (<https://form.jotform.com/252994561596171>) . Please note, the due date for applications and any supporting documentation is Friday, December 5, 2025 by 5:00 pm EST. Thank you. "

The Pastoral Search Committee is pleased to announce that our Senior Minister Opportunity Posting is live on the UCC Opportunity Site. Please feel free to share the link with interested candidates or direct them to the site.

https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastdetails.aspx?id=6873&KeepThis=false&TB_iframe=true&height=577&width=960

Thank you!
Amber

Join the Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ's Board of Christian Social Action (BoCSA) on Sunday, January 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. for our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday Worship Service as we come together to honor his extraordinary legacy through this year's powerful theme: ***"Protecting Freedom, Fighting for Justice, and Safeguarding Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence, is a Possible Mission."***

This is more than a service—it's a call to action. Together, we will lift our voices, open our hearts, and reflect deeply on Dr. King's enduring message of courageous compassion, steadfast hope, and transformative, nonviolent action. **Your presence matters**, and your participation helps keep Dr. King's mission alive in our community and beyond.

As we prepare for this inspiring celebration, **we encourage you to stay tuned** for exciting details, special updates, and opportunities to get involved in the coming weeks.

Let us **unite in purpose and spirit**, reaffirm our shared commitment, and continue—every day of the year—to build a world rooted in justice, freedom, and peace. **We can make change—together.**

Robert Hendricks
Chair, Board of Christian Social Action



Wellness Corner

LOWER BACK PAIN

The lower back (lumbar spine) supports most of the body's weight. As a result, 80% of people develop low back pain at some time in their lives.

There are many causes of lower back pain

Obesity: Carrying excessive weight puts strain on the protective discs between vertebrae. One study found that obese people are four times more likely than others to develop disc degeneration.

Lack of exercise: Getting too little physical activity causes muscles in your core to weaken. This promotes back injury.

Herniated Disc: Vertebrae are separated by rubbery pads called discs that act as shock absorbers. If the exterior of a disc cracks or tears, some of its contents can seep out. This may result in pressure on the spinal canal and nerves, which can cause pain, weakness, and numbness

Degenerative Disc Disease: Over time, the protective disc between vertebrae can start to break down due to daily wear and tear as well as the aging process. As a result, the shock-absorbing disc doesn't work well, and vertebrae rub against each other, causing pain.

Spinal Stenosis: The spine is formed by vertebrae stacked atop one another. Vertebrae are shaped to create a canal that runs the length of the spine. The spinal cord runs through this canal. If the canal narrows, it can put pressure on the spinal cord. This can lead to pain, numbness, weakness, or "pins and needles" sensation. About 11% of adults in the US have spinal stenosis. It is the most common reason for spinal surgery in adults over 65.

Car accidents, falls, and injuries: Injuries can result in vertebral fractures and muscle strain. Car accidents are responsible for more than 38% of spinal cord injuries in the US.

Arthritis: This joint disease causes stiffness, swelling, and inflammation.

Sciatica is a specific type of lower back pain. The two sciatic nerves are the longest and thickest nerves in the body. They run from the lower back through the hips and buttocks, and down to the knees. Sciatica results in pain and weakness that extends from the lower back down to the legs.

Lower back pain has multiple causes. Most back pain goes away with stretching and exercise. If the pain persists for more than a week, you should seek medical attention.

Submitted by the Wellness Ministry



Happy Birthday to:

Mary Pitman	12/03	Carrie & Marvin Tyus	12/04
Chanell Dunham	12/04	Helen & Thomas Flagg	12/20
Leora "Toni" Robinson	12/07		
Jean Hicks	12/09		
Judith Howell	12/11		
Anthony Hunter	12/12		
Jerrold Dunham	12/13		
Ernest Wyatt	12/17		
Joe McCormick	12/22		
Ihsan Gittens	12/23		
Sanaa Gittens	12/23		
Warren Romine	12/27		
Marie Whitaker	12/29		
Cynthia Prather	12/29		



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

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Follow us on Twitter
@PeoplesCongUCC

We are on the Web!
www.peopleschurchucc.org

**Peoples Congregational
United Church of Christ**



Love God & Love Neighbor

Prodder Guidelines

Newsletter
DEADLINE

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 _____

Sunday Services 11-02-2025



Sunday Service 11-09-2025



Men Are Cooking



Sunday Service 11-16-2025



Realm Registration



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



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