



Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ

4704 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Interim Minister

"This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Love God and Love Neighbor

ENTER TO WORSHIP...

**The Order of the Word
Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, January 25, 2026
The Liturgical color is Green**

Centering Thought

“Even in the coldest winter, we find the warmth of resilience and faith guiding us toward spring.”

—Author unknown

Prelude

**Opening Hymn

No. 124 AAHH Martin Luther

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Verse 1-All, Verse 2-Women, Verse 3-Men, Verse 4-All

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**Call to Worship

Minister Francis Smith

Leader: As we gather today, we find ourselves amidst winter's chill, reflecting not only on the weather, but on the seasons of our lives.

People: In the cold and dark, we often feel trapped, as though spring may never come.

Leader: Yet, just as the earth rests beneath a blanket of snow, we, too, are reminded that there is hope, even in our struggles.

People: We know in our hearts that the warmth of renewal is on the horizon, though the path may feel bleak.

Leader: Together, let us lift our voices in worship, seeking comfort and strength through our shared stories and the promise of light breaking through the darkness.

People: May this time of worship be a refuge for our weary souls, a reminder that even in the winter, God is with us, guiding us toward transformation and new beginnings.

All: Let us worship with open hearts, embracing the journey ahead. Amen.

**** Invocation and Savior's Prayer**

Minister Francis Smith

Gracious and loving God, as we gather in this sacred space, we acknowledge the winter season that envelops us—both in nature and in our lives. In the chill of the air and the darkness of these days, we may feel weighed down by our burdens and uncertainties. Yet, we come together, trusting in Your presence to warm our hearts and illuminate our paths. Open our minds to Your wisdom, that we might find strength in Scripture and solace in our shared experiences. Help us to recognize that even in our deepest winters, there is the promise of hope and renewal. As we worship, may we cultivate a spirit of community that uplifts one another in times of struggle and celebrates the light that shines through our darkness. Guide our thoughts, our prayers, and our songs, as we encounter You today. May this gathering remind us that we are never alone, for You walk with us in every season. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Shepherd, who taught us to pray and exemplified the beauty of a life grounded in prayer by saying: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 27:1, 5-13

Deacon Gladys Boyd

Matthew 4:12-23

Deacon Natasha DeBose

****Gloria Patria**

Saint Hilary of Poitiers

Glory be to the Father and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen

Song of Preparation

Jenn Johnson/Bethel Music

Goodness of God

Verse 1:

I love You Lord, for Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hand
From the moment that I wake up 'till I lay my head
O, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus:

Cause, all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
O, I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2:

I love Your voice, You have lead me through the fire
In darkest night, You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God.

Chorus:

Cause, all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
O, I will sing of the goodness of God

Bridge:

Your goodness is running after, is running after me
Your goodness is running after, is running after me
With my life laid down, I surrender now, I give you everything
Your goodness is running after, is running after me.

Chorus:

Cause, all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
O, I will sing of the goodness of God

Sermon

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

“Through the Winter”

Invitation to Discipleship

Minister Francis Smith

Prayers of the People	Minister Francis Smith
Offertory	Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Musical Selection	No. 507 AAHH Jessy Dixon <i>He Has Done Great Things for Me</i>
Offertory Prayer	Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
** Doxology	Thomas Ken <i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</i> <i>Praise Him, all creatures here below;</i> <i>Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;</i> <i>Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.</i> <i>Amen</i>
**Closing Song	No. 271 AAHH Traditional <i>Amazing Grace</i> Verses 1,2,4,5
**Benediction	Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Postlude	No. 633 AAHH <i>As You Go, Tell the World About Jesus</i>

...DEPART TO SERVE

Dr. Robert L. Jefferson, Director of Worship and Peoples Congregational Choir
 Minister Diedre D. Gray, Assistant Director of Worship and Peoples Praise

Minister Geneva Hudson, Minister of Congregational Care
 Minister Francis Smith, Minister of Community Engagement
 Dr. Helga Baskett -Tippett, Ministerial Team
 Rev. George Walker, Ministerial Team

*AAHH - African American Heritage Hymnal
 **All who are able, please stand

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Upcoming Events

*Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ
4704 13th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011
www.peopleschurchucc.org*

January	18	MLK Worship Service Join us for MLK Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow.
February	8	Black History Month Join us for the Black History Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
February	18	Ash Wednesday 8:00 a.m. "Ashes-To-Go" in front of the Church. 12 Noon- Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary
February	18	Lenten Institute 2026 "Lent: Loading with Jesus" Sponsored by the Diaconate Board and Board of Christian Education, Wednesday, February 18-Thursday, April 2, 2026.
February	22	Boy Scout Sunday Join us for Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
March	8	Girl Scout Sunday Join us at for Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Peoples Preaching and Worship Leader Schedule
February 2026

Sunday, February 1 (Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany) *
“*Blessings Beyond Expectation*” Psalm 15; Matthew 5:1-12

- **Rev. Bragg-Reynolds, Preaching**
- **Minister Geneva Hudson, Worship Leader**

Sunday, February 8 (Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany)
“*Lifting Every Voice*” Psalm 100; Acts 2:17-18

- **Board of Christian Education Black History Program**
- **Ashley Iman, Guest Speaker**
- **Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds, Worship Leader**

Sunday, February 15 (Transfiguration Sunday)
“*Transfiguration*” Psalm 42:1-5; Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

- **Rev. Bragg-Reynolds, Preaching**
- **Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett, Worship Leader**

Sunday, February 22 (First Sunday in Lent)
“*Scouting Through the Years*” Joshua 1:9; Matthew 5:14-15

- **Boy Scouts Annual Worship**
- **Boy Scouts, Leading Worship**
- **Roy Castleberry, Guest Speaker**

* *Indicates Sermon-Talk-Back following the service in the Corbin Lounge*



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