



PEOPLES PRODDER

March 2026 Newsletter

Embracing Renewal in Faith and Community

Dear Beloved Peoples Congregation,

With the arrival of March, our hearts and minds are called to reflect on themes of renewal and hope, beautifully mirrored by the changing seasons. The arrival of spring beckons us to witness the rebirth of nature, reminding us of the profound transformation that occurs not only in the world around us but also within our own spiritual lives. The psalmist reminds us in **Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."** As we engage with this powerful scripture, let us open ourselves to renewal during this sacred Lenten season.

A Season of Lenten Reflection

As I have stated many times before, Lent is a time of introspection, penance, and preparation as we journey toward the joyous celebration of Easter. This year, as we reflect, let us focus on the themes of forgiveness and redemption. Allow this season to guide us in drawing nearer to God, deepening our prayers, and engaging in acts of charity. The practices we cultivate today will bear fruit in our hearts come Easter morning.

Celebrating Women's History Month

March is also Women's History Month, a time for us to celebrate the indelible contributions of women throughout history and in our own lives. As members of Peoples, we can appreciate the labor of love that the women of our congregation provide daily. We honor these women of faith who have paved the way for us and encourage one another to champion the voices of women within our congregation, community, and world. Let us take this opportunity to appreciate the women who inspire, support, and guide us on our spiritual journeys.

A Day of Gratitude: Employee Day on March 6

In the spirit of gratitude and appreciation, I invite you, as members, to recognize and celebrate our dedicated staff on March 6, Employee Day. Each member of our staff plays an essential role in our church's life, ensuring we are spiritually and logistically equipped to fulfill our mission. Consider doing something special for them—perhaps a note of encouragement, a small gift, or simply expressing your appreciation. Let us shower them with the love and respect they deserve!

World Day of Prayer: Joining in Intercession

On this same day, we will observe the World Day of Prayer, a global call for communities to unite in prayer for peace and justice. As we come together under the banner of Christ, let us lift our voices in solemn intercession for our world—a world in need of healing, hope, and love. Join me at 12 noon for a Special

Prayer Service on [ZOOM](#) as we seek God's guidance and strength to face the challenges we face, both locally and globally.

Welcoming Spring: The Cherry Blossom Festival

As the days grow longer and the air warms, we also look forward to the Cherry Blossom Festival, a breathtaking celebration of nature's beauty and the promise of new beginnings. Seeing the Cherry Blossoms is my favorite thing to do since moving to the DMV. It is a reminder, just as the cherry blossoms bloom in splendid colors, so is the beauty present in our own lives and communities. Each flower that blossoms invites us to reflect on the beauty of renewal and the joys of spring.

Anticipating Palm Sunday: March 29

Finally, as we approach March 29, we will joyfully celebrate Palm Sunday, marking the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. This day invites us not just to remember but to participate in the story of our salvation. Let us come together in worship, waving our palms in joyous praise, and preparing our hearts for the profound journey into Holy Week that lies ahead.

Siblings, as we navigate this beautiful month filled with opportunities to reflect, celebrate, and uplift one another, may the renewing spirit of spring fill your hearts with hope and joy. I encourage each of you to embrace the blessings of this season, both personally and collectively.

Let us continue to grow together in faith and community.

Loving you into God's next for you, I remain,
Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Interim Minister

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you." – Numbers 6:24-25

“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

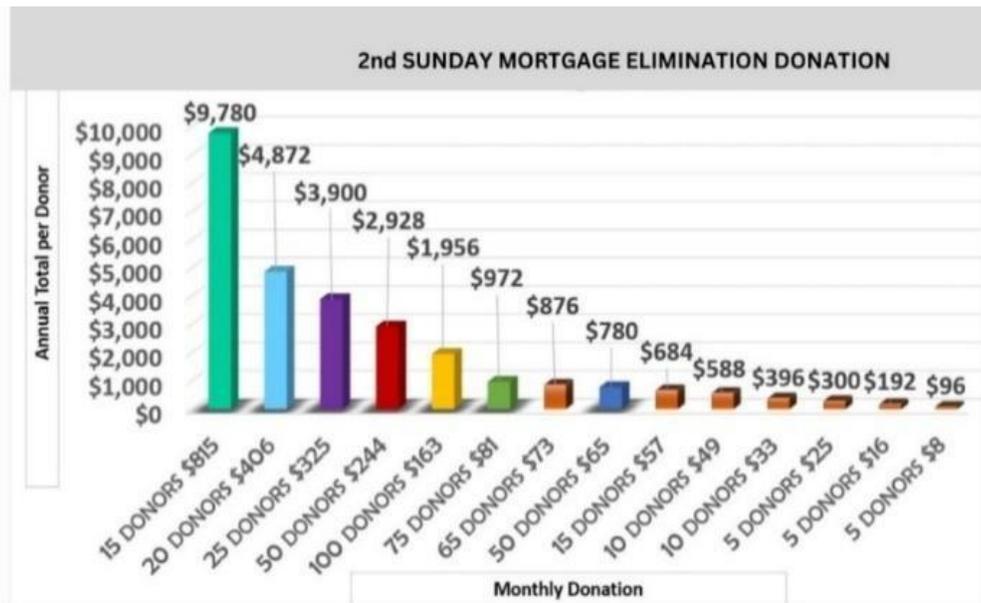
**Adult Church School Every Sunday from 8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Join
Zoom Meeting**

<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](http://DONATEatPeoplechurchucc.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 Friday, 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 Friday or Saturday, please understand that the Pastor is not likely to respond until Monday, 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

“CONFIRMATION”

Are you curious about your faith?

Calling All Teens Ages 13 & UP! Confirmation 2026 is coming - and you are invited

Do you have questions about God, Justice, and what you believe?

Are you ready to explore who you are and discover your purpose in the world?

Confirmation is where you have the opportunity to explore

- Faith in a safe and judgment-free environment
- Ask real questions and have honest conversations.
- Learn about what it means to be christian and about your denomination.
- It's not about having all the answers but, about showing up and being curious, and cultivating your faith, relationship with God, and building friendships and growing together.
- Stay tuned for registration details. If interested, contact Mrs. Leslie Bowie or Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett. We can't wait to walk with you on this journey.

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 the 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 and worship team. Formed in September 2024 and debuted in October 2025, this group of 8- committed singers welcomes 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 acknowledgement of God's greatness and experience His presence for all in attendance. Peoples Praise is led by our Assistant Director of Music, 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 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

Towdaah - 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

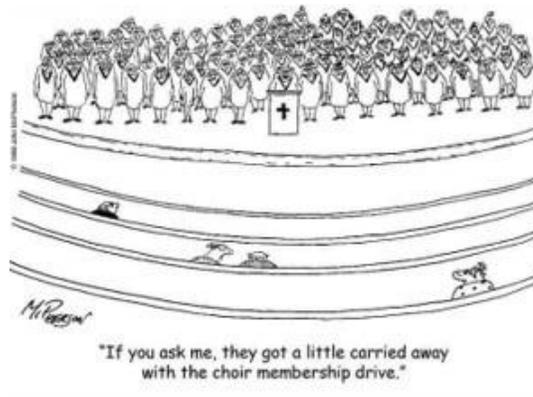
Barauch - ACT OF KNEELING OR BOWING

Halah - 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.



Wellness Corner



Canary Savage Girardeau, RN
Our Very Own 'Lady Bird'

Canary - the visionary who did the work:

In 2009, Ms. Girardeau met with two physicians, Dr. Walter Faggett and Dr. James Davis to discuss a concept paper on developing a Wellness Ministry at Peoples Congregational UCC. With Canary's thorough research and presentation, the idea was advanced to Rev. Murphy, then the Senior Minister and Ms. Barbara Baylor, a Public Health official and the minister for the Justice and Wellness Program of the United Church of Christ.

In 2011, after the United Church of Christ passed a resolution reclaiming a ministry of health at all UCC churches as a Wellness Ministry, our ministry at Peoples Church was formed.

With a steering committee and resource members, Canary championed health fairs, conducted surveys, recruited church members, and tried to secure flooring in the lower auditorium to provide opportunities for individuals, young and old, to walk in a safe environment. She had a vision for the ministry to sponsor programs to provide training to the young and old, from correcting posture to chair exercises, yoga and pilates.

Canary -The trail Blazer

Not surprisingly, Ms. Girardeau has been a trailblazer, both academically and in her professional life. After completing her training as a professional nurse in 1955 at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she was the first Black graduate, she went on to other academic pursuits in public health nursing from Marquette University and advanced degrees in early childhood and child development.

- In 1972 she was called to Washington DC, working with the Child Development Associate Consortium and traveled nationwide to promote the credential.
- In 1989 she became senior Community Health Nurse Supervisor for the Duval II County Health Department.
- In 2001 she was recognized as Florida Public Health Nurse of the Year.
- Back in Washington DC, she served as Senior Program Associate at Summit Health Institute for Research and Education. Here she headed a Childhood Obesity Prevention project funded by the Office of Minority Health.

Canary has worked at Summit well into her 90s and now, finally, enjoys retirement in her lovely space in Bowie. Ms. Girardeau is a life member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Her accomplishments have resulted in the establishment of an award at the School of Nursing, University of Wisconsin, Madison. "The Canary Savage Girardeau Award for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" was named in her honor in 2023. This award recognizes a student, faculty or staff member for their notable work or responsive advocacy that reflects the school's commitment and is awarded to individuals recognized for teaching, scholarship, clinical practice, and research. Alumni participation and community service.

Our church community is forever grateful to Canary for her insight, persistence and devotion to improving the health status of all individuals. She has continued to be a significant resource to the Wellness Ministry and for that, in her **95th year**, we wanted to give her thanks.

Peoples Preaching and Worship Leader Schedule March 2026

Sunday, March 1 (Second Sunday in Lent) *

Peoples Founder's Day – 135th Church Anniversary

"Where From Here?" Psalm 121; Acts 9:1-19

- **Rev. Bragg-Reynolds**, *Preaching*
- **Minister Francis Smith**, *Worship Leader*

Sunday, March 8 (Third Sunday in Lent)

"Golden Thread: Once a Girl Scout, Always a Girl Scout" Proverbs 3:15-18; I Timothy 4:12-14

- **The 114th Girl Scouts Worldwide and 57th Anniversary of Girl Scouts at Peoples Worship**
- **Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett**, *Worship Leader*
- **Tamika Hawkins Adu**, *Guest Speaker*

Sunday, March 15 (Fourth Sunday in Lent) *

"It's Not Complicated" Psalm 23; Romans 1:16-17; Romans 3:21-31

- **Rev. Bragg-Reynolds**, *Preaching*
- **Rev. George Walker**, *Worship Leader*

Sunday, March 22 (Fifth Sunday in Lent) *

"Opportunity in Weakness" Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 12:1-12

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

Sunday, March 29 (Sixth Sunday in Lent and Palm Sunday) *

"You Still Have Time" Joshua 1:9; Colossians 3:12-17

- **Rev. Bragg-Reynolds**, *Preaching*
- **Rev. George Walker**, *Worship Leader*

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



Happy Birthday to:

Eric Boyd	3-1	Robert and Carolyn Veiga	3-24
Sylvia Broome	3-4		
Diana Haines Walton	3-4		
Inga Ervin	3-6		
Beatrix Fields	3-8		
Daniel Veiga	3-8		
Deborah Hamilton-Diggs	3-9		
Shayla Wright	3-10		
Gerard Bragg-Reynolds	3-13		

Bible Quiz

1. What was the total number of the children of Israel that went down to Egypt?
 - a. 1000
 - b. 70
 - c. 53
 - d. 560

2. How long were the children of Israel in Egypt?
 - a. 150 years
 - b. 40 years
 - c. 215 years
 - d. 666 years

Prodder Guidelines

**Peoples Congregational
United Church of Christ**

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Follow us on Twitter
@PeoplesCongUCC

We are on the Web!
www.peopleschurchucc.org



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
DeVonte Robinson



In Memoriam

		
Sylvia Hawkins Passed away 2/17/26		George White Passed away 2/20/26
Minnie Boyd Passed away 2/24/26		

Remembering Jessie Jackson



MLK Sunday



Peace Walk



Realm Registration



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

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 _____



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