

Peacham Congregational Church

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



“Scene from Nashville Civil Rights protests” (1960) (1)

Interim Pastor, Nicole Klosterman

We are an Open and Affirming Church

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

www.peachamchurch.org

Order of Worship **January 25, 2026**

Centering Thought

“In a very real sense not one of us is qualified, but it seems that God continually chooses the most unqualified to do his work, to bear his glory. If we are qualified, we tend to think that we have done the job ourselves. If we are forced to accept our evident lack of qualification, then there’s no danger that we will confuse God’s work with our own, or God’s glory with our own.” — Madeleine L’Engle

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Epiphanias” H. Wolf (1860-1903)

Responsive Call to Worship (2)

Children of God, when fears press in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:

God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?

When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.

Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Opening Hymn #S3: “How Great Though Art” (vs. 1-3)

Unison Invocation (3)

Holy One,
Shine upon the paths we walk—
paths obstructed by fear,
uncertainty,
and the heavy burdens our communities carry.

**As you drew near to Galilee's borderlands,
Draw near to us today.
Let us behold your radiance
in overlooked places
and in one another.**

**Descend upon us, Spirit of the Living God.
Remain with us.
Awaken us.
And guide our worship
into the brightness of your new day.
Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also, with You

One: Now share in a sign of peace with one another.

Joys and Concerns followed by Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Response

***Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer O God.
Incline Your ear to us and grant us Your peace. Amen.***

Anthem: "It is Well With My Soul" – Arr. By Craig Courtney

Offering & Mission

Doxology #46: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all people here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen***

Unison Prayer of Dedication (4)

O Way-Making God,

**You are the source of every mercy and every new beginning,
we give thanks for the gifts gathered here and for the hope you are
stirring among us.**

**We dedicate these gifts to the work of compassion you entrust to
our care.**

Amen.

Hymn #445: "Be Though My Vision"

Scripture: Psalm 27: 1, 4-9 and Matthew 4: 12-23

Scripture Reader: Patty Gardner

Message: Entering the Stronghold of the Divine

Closing Hymn #S3: "How Great Thou Art" (vs. 4)

Benediction (5)

God is our light, our hope, our all in all:

Blessed be God, now and forever!

Christ is our home, our life, our joy:

Blessed be God, now and forever!

Our worship concludes; our service continues.

Blessed be God, now and forever!

Response #345: "God Be with You Til We Meet Again" (vs. 1)

Postlude: "The Fascinator" James Scott (1885-1938)

(1) Scene from Nashville Civil Rights protests, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://digilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54246> [retrieved January 21, 2026]. Original source: Vanderbilt University Special Collections.

(2) Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

(3) Adapted from Rev. Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as the Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.

(4) Adapted from Rev. Michael Anthony Howard.

(5) Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive, <http://www.ucc.org/> Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/02/benediction-god-is-our-light.html>.

Announcements

January 25, 2026

The next quarterly Council meeting will be held after the service on February 22, 2026.

The Annual Meeting will be held after the service on March 8, 2026.

On the third Sunday of each month, coffee hour is an opportunity to share updates and answer questions about what's happening at the Church. Our next conversation will take place on Sunday, February 15, and will include an update on the Children's Center. If you're unable to attend, questions or comments may be shared at peachammeetinghouse.org/contact.

Our 1st quarter mission is Hunger Free Vermont. If you would like to donate, please indicate on your check in the memo line "Hunger Free Vermont."

Danville Open Door Food Bank Weekly Donation:

This week: Eggs

Next week: Bread

Coffee Hour Host(ess):

1/25 – Lynne Lawson

2/1 – Nancy Toney

Volunteers are needed to help with the Winter Carnival Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 7, 9-11 a.m. A sign-up sheet to volunteer, donate ingredients, or contribute funds for supplies is available in the Social Hall, or contact Patty at 802-592-3320 or peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com.

Upcoming Schedule:

Feb. 1 - Ed Nilson

Feb. 8 - John Morris

Feb. 15 - Nicole Klosterman

Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday

Feb. 22 - Nicole Klosterman



Lighting the Steeple

The steeple is being lit this week by Brad & Nancy Toney to celebrate the life of their daughter, Becky Toney McGill, who died on January 25.

If you would like to light the steeple in honor or memory of a family member or friend, please contact Patty Gardner at peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com

Information about Peacham Congregational Church

Weekly Worship – Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

Interim Pastor.....Nicole Klosterman (802) 227-4956

Email: peachamchurchpastor@gmail.com

Please contact Nicole to schedule a visit or call

Mon: availability varies

Tues: 11 am - 2:30 pm

Thurs: availability varies

Fri: 9-11 am

Schedule a pastoral care visit with Nicole by visiting:

calendly.com/peachamchurchpastor/30min

Email: peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com for general inquiries

Church Admin.....Patty Gardner

Treasurer.....Bruce Westcott

Collector.....Ann Goss

AccompanistBruce Westcott

Sexton.....Jeff Lane

Web Ministry.....Jonathan R. Potter

Church Council President

& ModeratorJohn Marshall

Deacons: Susan Chandler, Chris Danielson, Carolyn Deasy,
Patty Gardner, Anita Vann, Rick Witt, Bruce Maclean, Deacon Emeritus

S 3

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won - der
 2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der,
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion

con - sid - er all the worlds thy hands have made,
 and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing thun - der,
 when I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur
 that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing,
 Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion,

thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played.
 and hear the brook, and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 and there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art!

WORDS: Carl Boberg, 1859-1940; trans. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989
 MUSIC: Swedish folk melody arr. Stuart K. Hine

O STORE GUD
 11 10.11 10 w. refrain

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Be Thou My Vision

445

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my Re - deem - er, my love thou hast won;
 thou and thou on - - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Rul - er of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Ancient Irish, tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody, harm. David Evans, *Revised Church Hymnary*, 1927

The original Irish text dates from c. A.D. 700. SLANE is an ancient ballad tune named for the hill where St. Patrick lit Easter fires.

SLANE
10 10.9 10

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