

## **Peacham Congregational Church**

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



“The Mind of Christ (temptation story)” by Frank Wesley (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](http://www.peachamchurch.org)

## Order of Worship February 15, 2026

### Centering Thought

“There are two moments that matter. One is when you know that your one and only life is absolutely valuable and alive. The other is when you know your life, as presently lived, is entirely pointless and empty. You need both of them to keep you going in the right direction. Lent is about both. The first such moment gives you energy and joy by connecting you with your ultimate Source and Ground. The second gives you limits and boundaries, and a proper humility, so you keep seeking the Source and Ground and not just your small self.”

— Richard Rohr

### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "Partita for Lent, on Martyrdom" James Boeringer (1930-2014)

### Responsive Call to Worship (2)

One: Children of God, we gather to prepare for our journey through Lent, a journey of repentance and mercy.

**Many: We gather to be renewed in God's mercy.**

One: We gather to confess, to tell the truth about sin and our dependence on God's grace.

**Many: We gather to call upon God's mercy.**

One: We gather to repent, to receive and cooperate with grace as we turn from sin and toward love of God and neighbor.

**Many: We gather to live in the promise of God's mercy.**

One: People of God, we gather to worship God, whose steadfast mercy and love never fail!

**Many: We gather to worship, trusting in God's mercy as we follow Jesus on the road to new life.**

Opening Hymn #102: "Guide Me, O Though Great Jehovah"

### Responsive Invocation (3)

In the wilderness and the wandering and the weariness, **lead us, Holy Spirit.**

In the hungering and the holding and the humbling, **accompany us, Holy Spirit.**

In the tempting and the testing and the turning, **move us, Holy Spirit.**

In the resisting and the refusing and the recognizing, **guide us, Holy Spirit.**

**Ground in us, as we ground in you.**

Breathe with us, as we breathe with you.

**Turn with us, as we turn toward you.**

As the new way emerges, **we pray. Amen.**

#### Seeking Transformation and New Life - *Call to Turning Around* (4)

Our worship today invites us to dwell with the story of Jesus' 40-day journey in the wilderness struggling with demons, one of the origin stories for the Christian season of Lent. In this story, the tempter or the devil uses scripture to try and provoke Jesus into going against his calling to embody radical love.

Throughout history, many have used Christian sacred texts to justify and provoke unChristian actions, from the genocide of Indigenous peoples and the enslaving of people of African descent, to the oppression of queer and trans folks and the demonizing of immigrants and refugees.

So in this moment, as we seek transformation and new life, as we practice repentance or turning around, let us nurture accountability for the ways we and others have used our scriptures for unloving and unjust ends.

*Time of silent reflection*

*[If you would like, you may turn to a neighbor to share a story of a time when you have used Christian scripture in unChristian ways, or had it used against you.]*

#### Prayer for Transformation and New Life (5)

Leader: For the ways our faith has told  
unChristian stories of Christian nationalism,  
and the ways they shapes us,

**People: God, have mercy.**

Leader: For the ways our scriptures have told  
unjust stories of white supremacy,  
and the ways we perpetuate them,

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: For the ways our traditions have told  
unloving stories of transphobia and stranger-fear,  
and the ways we have embodied them,

**People: God, have mercy.**

Leader: Compel us to learn and tell the truths of our Christian lineages.

**People: Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.**

### **Words of Grace**

Leader: Let your soul receive this rest:

God's story of love surpasses even the most powerful human distortions.

**People: Praise God who forgives us and frees us continually inviting us to take up our role in the unfolding story of redemption and new life.**

### Passing of the Peace

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." And so I say to you, the Peace of Jesus Christ be with all of you.

**People: And also, with you.**

Leader: 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: "Lift Thine Eyes" Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Offering & Mission

Doxology #50: "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***

Responsive Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Jesus resisted the tempter's lies of scarcity by remembering we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. What are some of these nourishing words to which we can dedicate our offerings?

***Congregation responds*** [*The congregation is invited to respond with nourishing words.*]

Leader: To these sacred stories, this holy work, these blessed words, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings. **Amen.**

Hymn #375: "Weave" (repeat 3 times)

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11 (The Message bible translation)

Message: Mercy in the Wilderness

Closing Hymn #385: "Shadow and Substance"

Responsive Benediction

Instead of being caught up in the false stories of scarcity and competition,  
**may this Lent journey show us that Life is abundance, and Love is the matter from which we are made.**

Instead of remaining in our comfort zones and playing it safe,  
**may this Lent journey move us deeper into the gravitational pull of the Divine.**

Instead of grasping for control over our lives and others,  
**may this Lent journey move us steadily toward that final letting go into the Whole. Amen.**

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

Postlude: "Variazione Otto" Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

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(1) Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. The Mind of Christ (temptation story), from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59167> [retrieved February 16, 2026]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, [http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main\\_page.htm](http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm).

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

(3) Written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema who serves as a free-range facilitator, ritualist, activist, teacher, and writer whose work lives at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.

(4) Dr. Sharon R. Fennema

(5) Cole Arthur Riley, from her book, *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems and Meditations for Staying Human*.

## Announcements February 22, 2026

The quarterly Council meeting will be held after the service today.

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

Our 1st quarter mission is Hunger Free Vermont, a statewide organization dedicated to ending hunger and malnutrition for all Vermonters. The organization lobbies policymakers; expands school meals programs; engages local communities in addressing food insecurity among their neighbors; and trains and educates people about food insecurity and how to spot it and help. If you would like to donate, please indicate so on your check in the memo line.

The Danville Open Door Food Shelf is asking for the following weekly rotation of donations:

- 1st Sunday - Bread
- 2nd Sunday - Butter
- 3rd Sunday - Cheese (8oz. blocks)
- 4th Sunday - Eggs
- [5th Sunday - Cheese]

The "Faithful Response during Troubled Times" scripture study and discussion group will run Thursday, Feb. 5 - March 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. There will be no meeting on Feb. 26. Food will not be provided, but anyone who would like to bring a snack to share is invited to do so. Please do not arrive earlier than 5:15 p.m.

The Peacham Congregational Church and Meetinghouse will host a special organ concert on Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 p.m., featuring classically trained organist and pianist Shaun Booher. A suggested donation of \$10 will benefit the Peacham Meetinghouse Third Century Fund, supporting ongoing capital improvements to this treasured landmark. This performance is dedicated to the memory of Barry Lawson (1943–2025), a beloved community leader who championed the preservation of the Meetinghouse, its historic legacy, and its central role in the Peacham community and greater Northeast Kingdom.

Upcoming Schedule:

- March 1 - Jay Sprout (Communion)
- March 8 - Ed Nilson
- March 15 - Nicole Klosterman
- March 22 - David Bullock
- March 29 - Nicole Klosterman (Palm Sunday)
- April 5 - Jay Sprout (Easter with Communion)

## Information about Peacham Congregational Church

Weekly Worship – Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

Join us online at [peachamchurch.org/watch-us-live-on-sunday](http://peachamchurch.org/watch-us-live-on-sunday)

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

Email: [peachamchurchpastor@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://calendly.com/peachamchurchpastor/30min)

For general inquiries, email [peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com](mailto:peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com)

Church Admin.....Patty Gardner

Treasurer.....Bruce Westcott

Collector.....Ann Goss

Accompanist .....Bruce Westcott

Sexton.....Jeff Lane

Web Ministry.....Jonathan R. Potter

Church Council President & Moderator .....John Marshall

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

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy  
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my  
 fears sub - side; lead me on through death's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.  
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; st. 1, tr. Peter Williams, 1771; sts. 2,3, tr. William Williams, 1772, alt.  
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

Williams, an evangelist with the Calvinistic Methodist Church  
 of Wales, wrote more than eight hundred hymns in Welsh.

CWM RHONDDA  
 87.87.877

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.  
 we are here to help each oth-er go the mile and bear the load.  
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
 I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.  
 born of all we've known to-geth-er of Christ's love and ag-o-ny.

*repeat st. 1.*

WORDS: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.  
 MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; harm. FCC, 1997

SERVANT SONG  
 87.87

Text and tune writer Gillard, who lives in New Zealand, here writes of the Christian community in which we serve and are served.

Words, music © 1977 Scripture in Song  
 (a div. of Integrity Music, Inc.)  
 Harm. ©1998 FCC Houston TX

## Weave

375

*Unison*

Weave, weave, weave us to-geth-er. Weave us to-geth-er in  
 u-ni-ty and love. Weave, weave, weave us to-geth-er.  
 Weave us to-geth-er, to-geth-er in love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Rosemary Crow, 1979. © 1979  
 Rosemary Crow's hymn pulses with the rhythm of the weaver at work.

WEAVE  
 7 11.7 10

*Unison*

1. Shad - ow and sub - stance, won - der and mys - ter - y,  
 2. We are your im - age, formed in com - mu - ni - ty;  
 3. Nam - ing the name - less Spir - it of u - ni - ty,

spell - bind - ing spin - ner of at - oms and earth;  
 sis - ters and broth - ers of Ad - am and Eve.  
 scan - ning the heav - ens for signs of your care;

soul of the cos - mos, per - son and en - er - gy,  
 you gave us col - or, cus - tom and his - to - ry;  
 God of the a - ges, give us hu - mil - i - ty;

source of our be - ing: we sing of your worth.  
 teach us to hon - or what oth - ers re - ceive.  
 guide us to mys - ti - cal un - ion in prayer.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon, 1989

TWILIGHT  
56.10D

Writer and composer Dan Damon articulates: (I try to) 'keep things simple and singable while at the same time exploring the edges of our spoken and sung faith.'

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