

Peacham Congregational Church
56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862
802-592-3330

**"GIVE TO CAESAR
WHAT IS CAESAR'S,
AND TO GOD
WHAT IS GOD'S."**

MATTHEW 22:21, NIV



Guest Leader: Ed Nilson

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 October 18, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - "Behold, how Good and Joyful" -- Dr. J. Clarke-Whitfeld (1770-1836)

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Thought: "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority. If the church does not participate actively in the struggle for peace and for economic and racial justice, it will forfeit the loyalty of millions. But if the church will free itself from the shackles of a deadening status quo, and, recovering its great historic mission, will speak and act fearlessly and insistently in terms of justice and peace... (then) people far and near will know the church as a great fellowship of love that provides light and bread for lonely travelers at midnight." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Responsive Call to Worship:

God sets kings up and brings them down — all rulers are subject to God's overruling Providence;

We gather with hearts of hope, and we pray to hear the still, small voice of God, in this place of worship;

Human governments and administrations rise and fall; political powers shift like the wind.
But the truth of God endures forever, and His justice knows no party line.

Our ultimate allegiance belongs to God alone. We place our trust in the Maker of heaven and earth.

He has told us from ancient times what is good; and what does the Lord require of us? Help us Lord to be people of justice and mercy, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

May our words be seasoned with grace, our hearts be open to peace, and our actions reflect God's love to a broken world. Together, let us praise the God who loves us, forgives us, and calls us to a life of kindness and generosity. Thanks be to God!

Unison Invocation:

The church should be a place of safety for all. A place where the human rights and civil rights of all, are affirmed and defended inside and outside the walls of the church. If the call for justice and advocacy for "the least of these" is the action that deems us political and involved in politics, may the church always be that! Silence in the face of tyranny and oppression is antithetical to the prophetic call to seek justice... Jesus spoke out against the empire of his day, and against the religious leaders who were amassing power... Jesus had a lot to say about the religious elite who cozied up to the emperor and the empire while collecting temple taxes and tithes. (UCC Rev. Dr. Karen Thompson)

Opening Hymn # 304 - Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

Passing of the Peace

Leader: As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background, no matter what their social status; as Christ welcomed enemies and friends, outcasts and leaders, foreigners and

neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be Christ to everyone we meet.
Peace be with you.

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

Leader: Now share the Peace of Christ with one another.

Joys and Concerns

Invocation

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (using debts/debtors)

Response # 278

Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer O God.

Incline Your ear to us and grant us Your peace. Amen.

Anthem: Dona Nobis Pacem

Offering & Mission

Doxology #45

Praise God for love we all may share.

Praise God for beauty everywhere.

Praise God for hope of good to be.

Praise God for truth that makes us free. Amen.

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, as we worship you through our giving, we dedicate these gifts to the work of your kingdom come and our hope that your will be done in our community and world.
Amen.**

Hymn #420 - In the Morning When I Rise

Scripture: Isaiah 45:1-3

Matthew 22:15-22

Message: Piety, Power, and Politics

*Closing Hymn #388 – O Church of God, United

Responsive Benediction:

We have come this far in life because of the love, mercy, and grace of God; may God continue to bless us with health, strength, and companionship;

God would have us share our lives with each other, in a community of faith, in friendships of generosity and love;

God reminds us that being peacemakers in a world of numbing violence is a high calling that begins each and every day;

May we know the peace of Christ that passes all understanding, may we light candles of hope, with our heartfelt prayers, for those who have no hope;

And may we give back to God the things that are God's — for any gift of faith, time, or almsgiving becomes a blessing — both here, and forevermore;

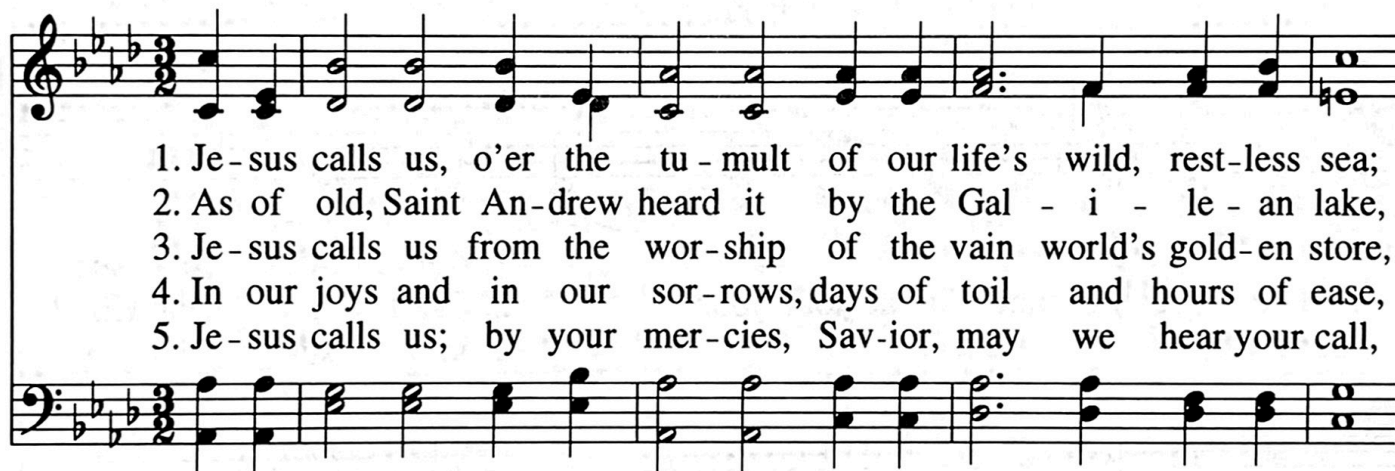
With God's help, may we give our lives in service to bring healing and peace to a broken people, remembering, that mercy and justice are two sides of the same coin.

Response #368 God Be With You Till We Meet Again, vs. 1

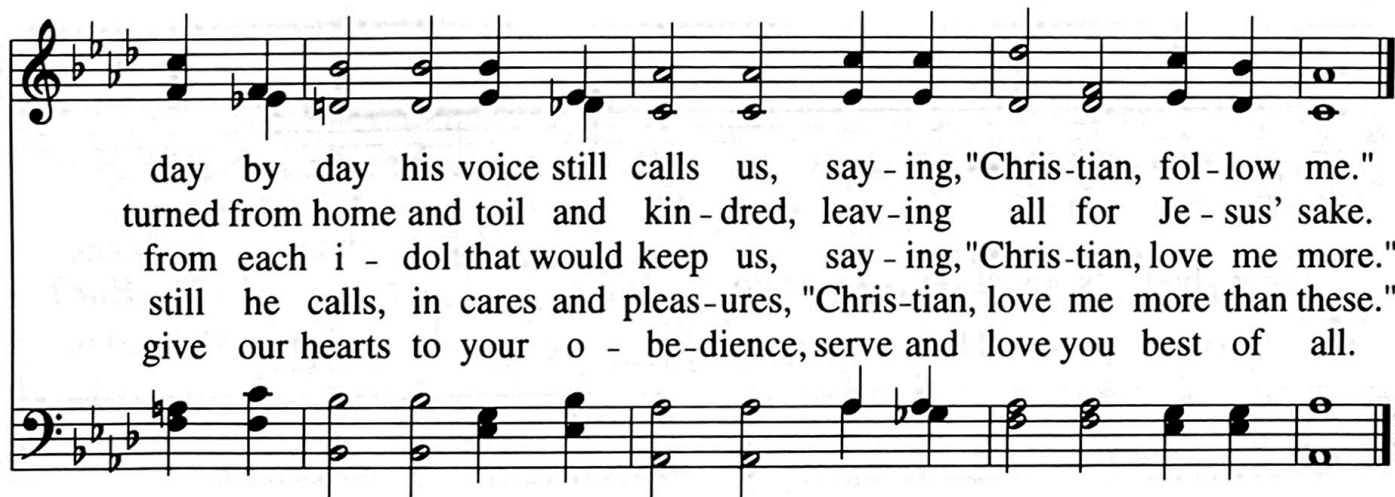
Postlude: "Postlude in C minor" -- J.S. Bach

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

304



1. Je - sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
2. As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
3. Je - sus calls us from the wor-ship of the vain world's gold-en store,
4. In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
5. Je - sus calls us; by your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,



day by day his voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol-low me."
turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav-ing all for Je - sus' sake.
from each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
still he calls, in cares and pleas-ures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

WORDS: Cecil F. Alexander, 1852, alt.
MUSIC: William H. Jude, 1874

GALILEE
87.87

Cecil Humphreys' marriage to William Alexander, later archbishop of Armagh, brought together two people with superb literary talents. This hymn was inspired by the call of the disciples in Matthew 4:18-20.

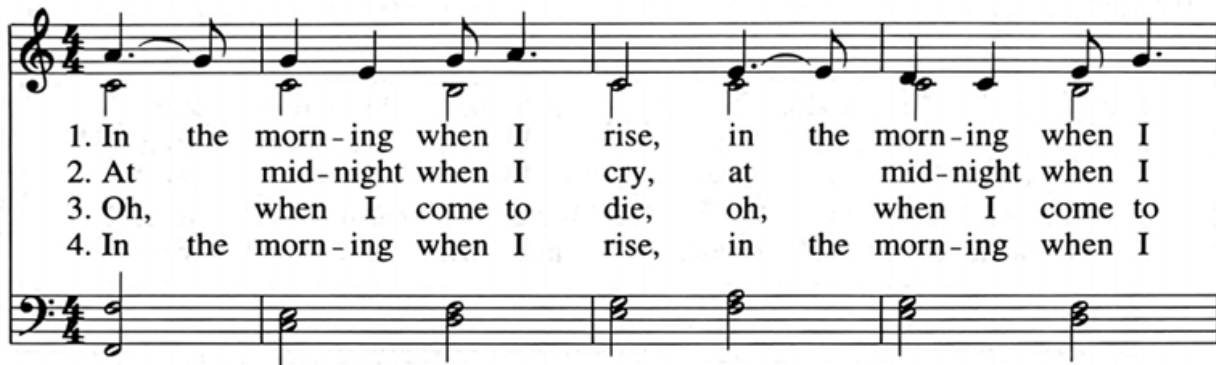
INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

In the Morning When I Rise

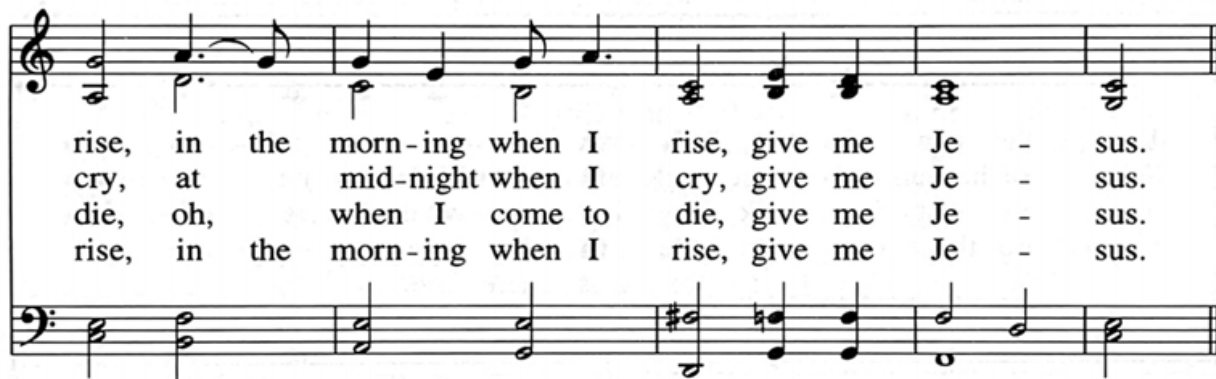
(Give Me Jesus)

420

Unison

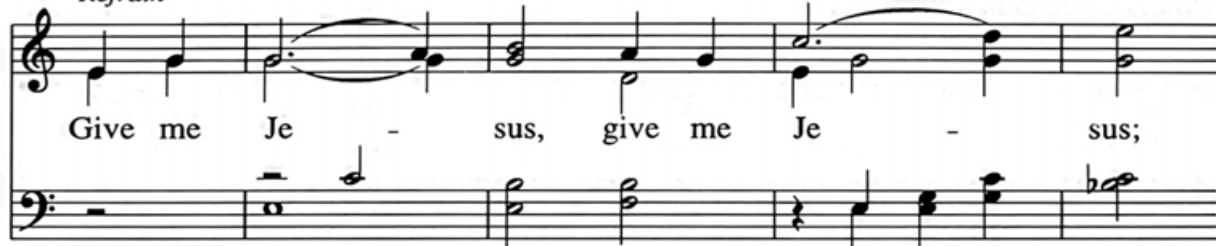


1. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I
 2. At mid- night when I cry, at mid- night when I
 3. Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to
 4. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I

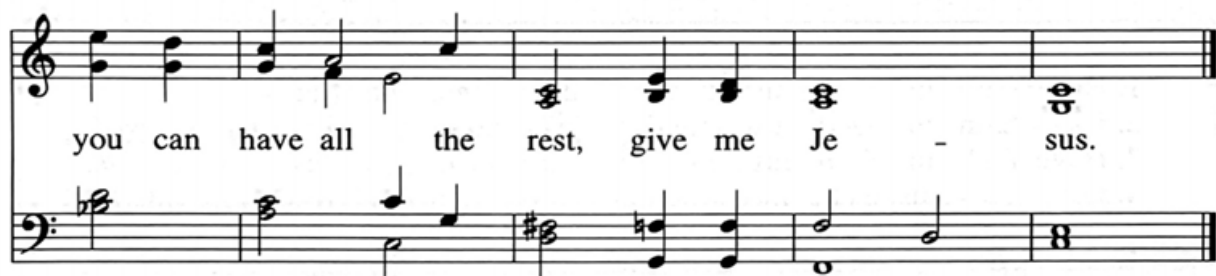


rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 cry, at mid- night when I cry, give me Je - sus.
 die, oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus;



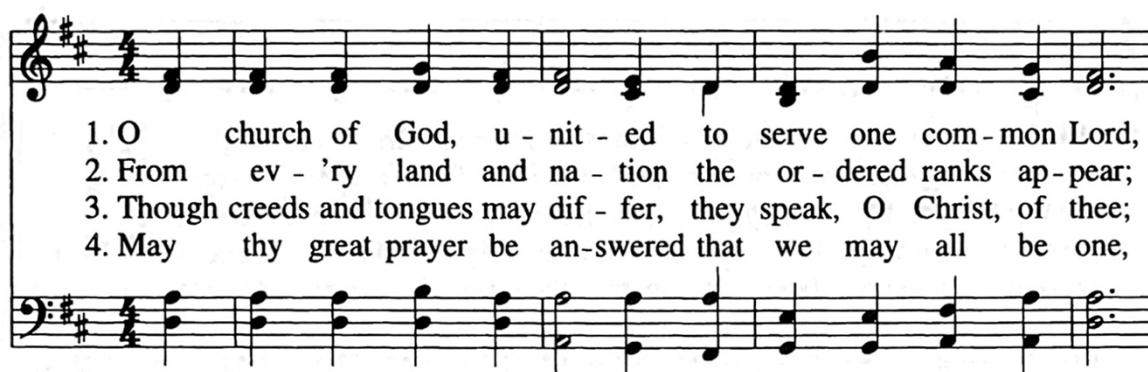
you can have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. L. L. Fleming, 1973
 The last stanza, although the same as the first, takes on the meaning of resurrection when sung after the pain and death in stanzas two and three.

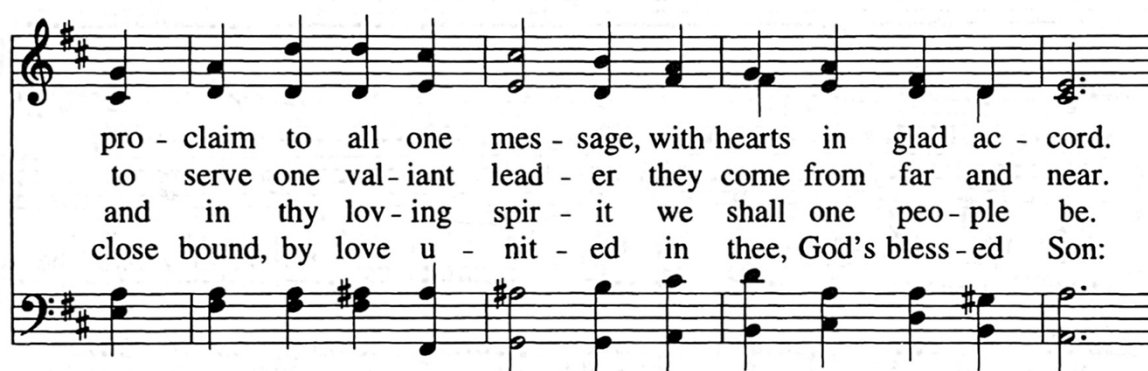
GIVE ME JESUS
 Irr. w. refrain

Arr. © 1973 Augsburg Publishing House,
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FAITH AND HOPE



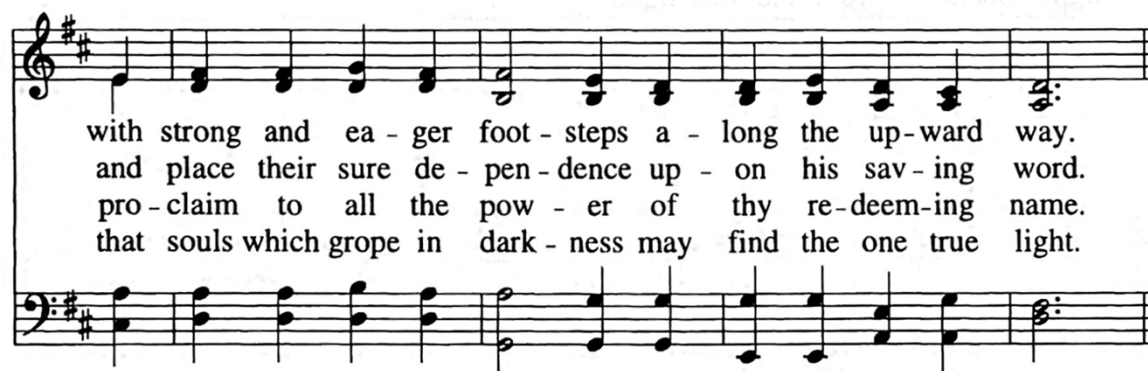
1. O church of God, u - nit - ed to serve one com - mon Lord,
 2. From ev - 'ry land and na - tion the or - dered ranks ap - pear;
 3. Though creeds and tongues may dif - fer, they speak, O Christ, of thee;
 4. May thy great prayer be an - swered that we may all be one,



pro - claim to all one mes - sage, with hearts in glad ac - cord.
 to serve one val - iant lead - er they come from far and near.
 and in thy lov - ing spir - it we shall one peo - ple be.
 close bound, by love u - nit - ed in thee, God's bless - ed Son:



Christ ev - er goes be - fore us; we fol - low day by day
 They chant their one con - fes - sion, they praise one liv - ing Lord,
 Lord, may our faith - ful ser - vice and sin - gle - ness of aim
 to bring a sin - gle wit - ness, to make the path - way bright,



with strong and ea - ger foot - steps a - long the up - ward way.
 and place their sure de - pen - dence up - on his sav - ing word.
 pro - claim to all the pow - er of thy re - deem - ing name.
 that souls which grope in dark - ness may find the one true light.

WORDS: Frederick B. Morley, 1953
 MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

AURELIA
 76.76D

Morley was born in Canada but was educated in the United States. He served Methodist churches in NJ and NY. His text is based on Acts 2:5-11.

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 admin. Hope Publishing Co.



PEACHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH & MEETINGHOUSE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

October 18, 2026

Weekly Worship – Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

Join us online at peachamchurch.org/watch-us-live-on-sunday

For general inquiries, email: information@peachamchurch.org

Church Admin.....	Patty Gardner	Collector.....	Ann Goss
Sexton.....	Nick Greyling	Treasurer.....	Bruce Westcott
Accompanist	Bruce Westcott	Web Ministry.....	Jonathan R. Potter
Church Council President & Moderator			John Marshall
Administrative Staff.....			Meghan Hovey, Emma Kaplan

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

Peacham Congregational Church is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming all who earnestly seek faith and fellowship in Christ to share in the life, leadership, ministry, membership, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church. We invite and welcome into our community persons of every age, race, ability, economic and social status, nationality, faith background, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital standing and family structure.

How God is calling us to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of our community and congregation.

We believe that we must walk with all in our community, helping to bring it together at a time when divisiveness as well as economic, cultural and climate-related challenges are pulling us apart. Peacham is an exceptionally tight community, as the response to the July 2024 flood event showed, but many are lonely or shut-in, suffer from health conditions or feel excluded. We believe our Church has historically been and must continue to be a resource to promote community and reach out to those individuals in need of community support.

TODAY: Sunday, October 18, 2026 – 9:30 a.m. worship time, with Coffee Hour immediately following the service as well as, we will reconvene the Church Council Meeting that was begun and adjourned on September 27th. Please plan to attend as we will once again be discussing the annex and where we go from here.

This morning we welcome Ed Nilson (and Lucy)



A **Memorial Service** for Margaret "Peg" Clemons, who passed away on September 4, is scheduled at **noon on October 24th** in the sanctuary, The Rev. Jay Sprout will officiate. A reception will follow the service.

If you would like to bake for the reception, please call Patty @ 413.883.2842 or email peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com by Wed., Oct. 21st.

MISSIONS

Our 4th quarter mission is **Church World Service**



Following a natural disaster, CWS distributes kits with supplies like versatile blankets, cleaning agents, articles for hygiene, and other items immediately useful after a disaster

CWS helps refugees navigate the often unfriendly and confusing government "system" to help them settle and rebuild their lives in their new and unfamiliar country.

They teach farmers planting techniques that will make their crops less vulnerable to drought and floods.

FOOD COLLECTIONS

The Peacham Congregational Church collects food for the Danville Food Shelf every Sunday morning from 9-11 a.m. Food is collected in a basket at the back of the Sanctuary. During the week, donations of non-perishable food can be placed in the green bins on the covered walkway outside the kitchen door. Please note that the Food Shelf cannot use food that is beyond the expiration date or that has been opened.

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]

Upcoming Worship Schedule of Leaders & Speakers for October:

October 18, 2026 – Ed Nilson

October 25, 2025 – Ken Vos – "Another Look at Jesus"

Please Pray For:

Brady Nally
Jenna Coguen
Robin

Paul Clemons & Family
Ken Vos
Anthony

Attendance at Previous Church Services

September 20, 2026	22
September 27, 2026	18
October 4, 2026	35
October 11, 2026	20



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

10/18 – Lynne Lawson
10/25 – Dart Thalman
11/1 – Nancy & Brad Toney

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
19th – Stan Fickes

ANNIVERSARIES
10/24 – Harry & Anita Vann

10/21/26 – 2-5 pm – Symposium about **Samuel Worcester and the Cherokee Nation**
From Peacham to the Supreme Court and the Cherokee Nation Today

For more information go to: <https://www.peacham250.com/>

10/29/26 - Community Meal in Social Hall from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m.