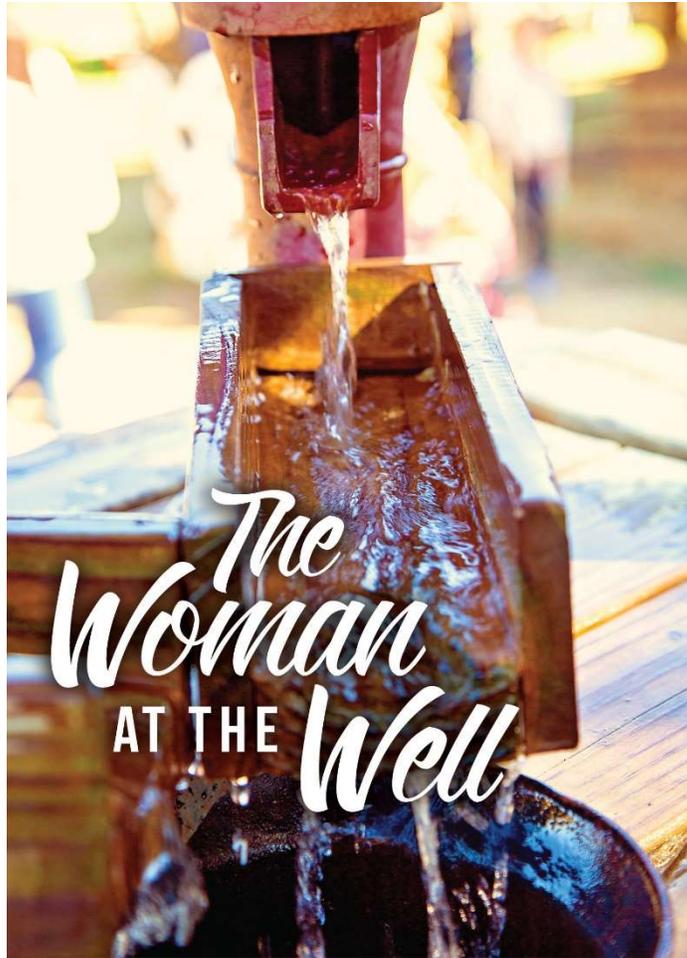


Peacham Congregational Church

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



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
March 8, 2026
Ed Nilson

Centering Thought

God of infinite goodness, your promises remain true when the world is falling apart. When we are desolate, your Holy Spirit comes to comfort us. Amid our tribulations, Jesus remains our only hope, when our hopes for peace are shattered by war. We can find eternity in our mortal lives, when we sense your loving arms around us — when we read the eternal words of sacred scripture — and when we share life with each other. For our eternal souls are sealed in the Courts of Heaven with the love of Christ that is deeper, and higher, and greater than all the shadows of darkness. We shall forever give thanks for the gifts of your grace and mercy that are new every morning. You are the God who never forsakes us.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen” *Traditional*

Responsive Call to Worship

My friends, we have come to worship, and let us give thanks to God,
For God is good all the time, all the time God is good.

Help us O Lord to remember, that your steadfast love endures forever
O God, when we cried to you with our troubles, you saved us from our distress;

We give you thanks, O God, that you will never leave us to face our troubles alone.

Please accept our offerings of praise and thanksgiving, on your altar of mercy and grace;

So we come to worship you this morning, and humbly ask you to come and be with us.

"For our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee." Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn #442: “What A Friend We Have in Jesus”

Unison Invocation (from A Simple Path by Mother Teresa)

**"The only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love.
There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread,
but there are many more dying for a little love.
The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty —
it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality.
There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God."**

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. This can be done with a smile, a wave, or a handshake, and the words, Peace be with you.

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: "Prayer for Peace" Cherwien, D

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***

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**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.**

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-5; John 4: 5-18, 24-26, 39-41

Message: "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"

Closing Hymn #72: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Responsive Benediction

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

When we suffer, with God's help we will bear it!

Christ is our joy, and we will share this joy:

This good news of the Gospel — we will live it!

The love of Christ in our souls — we will give it!

We cherish the light — God will perish the darkness!

Our worship concludes; our service continues.

Blessed be God, now and forevermore!

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

Postlude: "Chat de l'Alouette (Song of the Lark - Month of March)"

P. Tchaikowsky (1840-1893)

Announcements March 8, 2026

The Annual Meeting will be held after the service today, 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 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. Until Easter Sunday, April 5, this will be the only place to bring food donations. Starting April 5, when danger of freezing is past, 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]

Easter flower order forms are available at the back of the sanctuary. To purchase flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please return your form by March 22 to Patty Gardner. Forms are also available at peachamchurch.org/church-documents and may be returned by email to peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com, by mail to P.O. Box 205, or put in the collection plate with a check.

The "Faithful Response during Troubled Times" scripture study and discussion group will run through Thursday, March 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. 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 today, 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 15 - Nicole Klosterman
- March 22 - David Bullock
- March 29 - Nicole Klosterman (Palm Sunday)
- April 5 - Jay Sprout (Easter with Communion)

Coffee Hour is hosted today by Melissa Hough.

Information about Peacham Congregational Church

Weekly Worship – Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

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

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

For general inquiries, email peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com

Church Admin.....Patty Gardner

Treasurer.....Bruce Westcott

Collector.....Ann Goss

AccompanistBruce Westcott

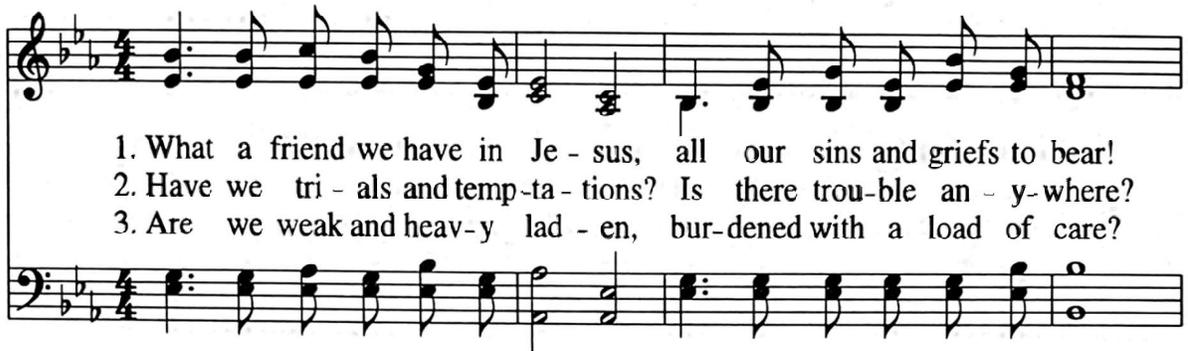
Sexton.....Jeff Lane

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

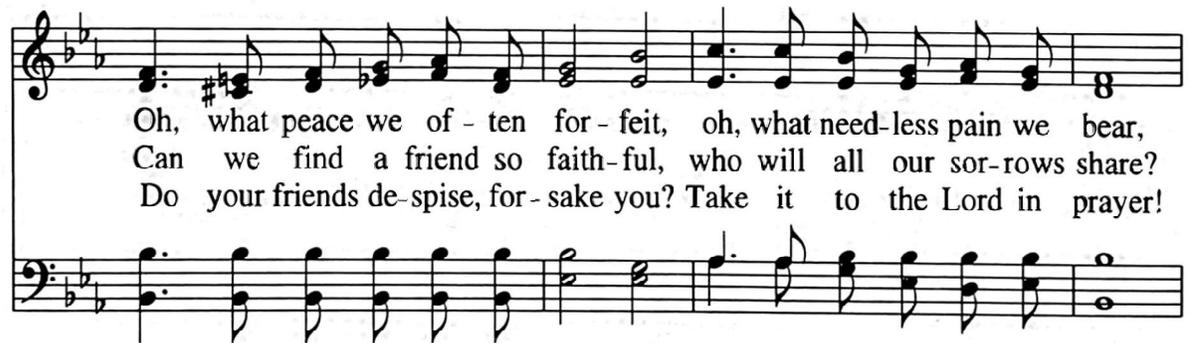
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



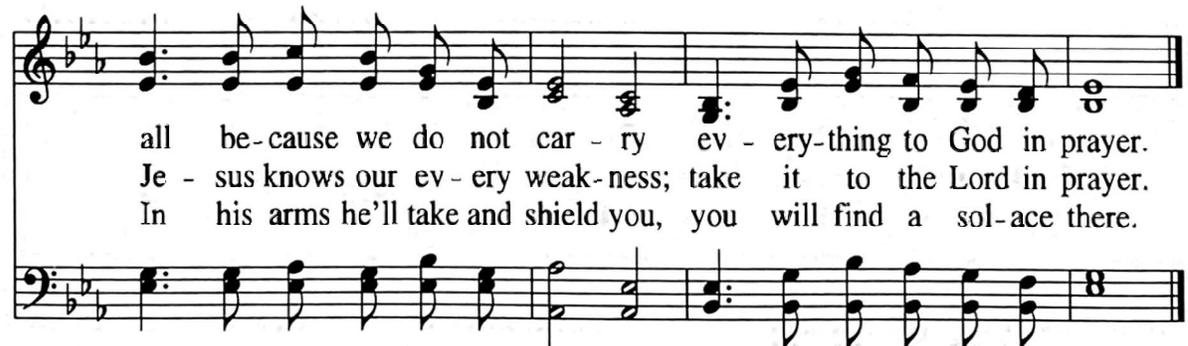
1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3. Are we weak and heav-y lad - en, bur-dened with a load of care?



What a priv-i-lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith-ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you, you will find a sol - ace there.

WORDS: Joseph Scriven, 1855, alt.
 MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

ERIE
 87.87D

Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn for his mother in a time of deep sorrow. In this text he depicts Jesus as a loving parent who comforts a child and as a friend in whom we can safely confide.

then em-braced him, clothed and fed him, gave him back his fam-ily name.
 God in wo-man called her neigh-bors, "Come, and in my glad-ness join."
 and then searched in cold and dark-ness till he found that miss-ing sheep.
 then, as we in turn help oth-ers, God re-joic-es in each deed!

WORDS: Rae E. Whitney, 1993
 MUSIC: Margaret R. Tucker, 1997

WILBUR
 87.87

Jesus' parables of the lost son, lost coin and lost sheep (Luke 15) provide three images of God - father, woman and shepherd. The tune is named for Rita Wilbur, Associate Minister (1996-2000) of FCC, Houston, her parents and sisters.

Words © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.
 Music © 1998 Margaret R. Tucker

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 72

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2. There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
 4. If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854, alt.
 MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1877

WELLESLEY
 87.87

Lizzie Tourjée wrote this tune to accompany words her classmate had written for their high school graduation in Newton MA. Her father included it in a hymnal, where he set it to Faber's text.