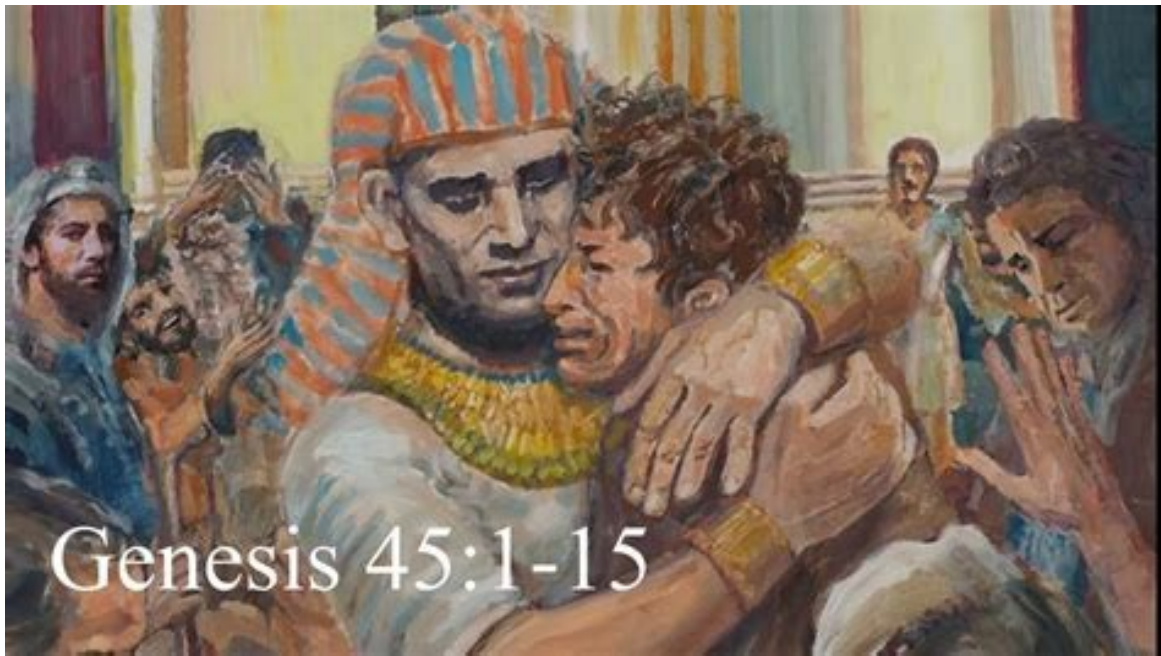


Peacham Congregational Church

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



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

August 16, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Thought

We believe that God forgives us our sins; but also that God will not do so unless we forgive other people their sins against us. There is no doubt about the second part of this statement. It is in the Lord's Prayer, it was emphatically stated by our Lord. If you don't forgive you will not be forgiven. No exceptions to it. Jesus doesn't say that we are to forgive other people's sins, provided they are not too frightful, or provided there are extenuating circumstances, or anything of that sort. We are to forgive them all, however spiteful, however mean, however often they are repeated. If we don't we shall be forgiven none of our own.

- Essay on Forgiveness by C.S. Lewis

Responsive Call to Worship

Come, let us worship the God of mercy, who removes our heavy burdens, and heals our broken hearts.

We come seeking God's peace, ready to lay down our guards and our grudges.

Jesus bids us to love one another, and to let go of the scores we keep. Jesus asks us to extend the same grace we have so freely received.

Lord, it is hard to let go of our memories and release our past hurts. Help us when we want to hold on.

Hear the word of the Lord: "Bear with each other and forgive one another. If any of you has a grievance against someone, forgive as the Lord forgave you."

By your Holy Spirit, open our hearts. Free us from bitterness so we may walk in your healing love. Together, let us praise the God who forgives us, and commit to forgiving one another in Jesus' name. Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn #439: "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

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

Unison Invocation

O Lord, our God, you, whose Spirit is Love, can be trusted to deal with all of our secret pages of mind and heart. Make us more yours than we have ever been before. In being more yours, may we become more truly ourselves. Open our eyes to the wonder that surrounds as we share the words Jesus taught followers to pray...

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (using debts/debtors)

Response

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

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.

Scripture: Genesis 45: 1-15, Matthew 15: 21-28

Hymn #40: "Halle-Halle-Hallelujah"

Message: "Why Forgiveness Matters" – Ed Nilson

Responsive Benediction

In all of our journeys and resting places, we have experienced betrayal and lingering pain;

Help us O God to forgive others as we have been forgiven;

In Joseph's life we see that he lived up to his name, "God will increase,"

Help us O God to always take the high road of forgiveness knowing You can restore what is lost or broken;

We see in Scripture Jesus consistently models a life of forgiveness by extending mercy and grace;

With God's help, we will forgive as we have been forgiven!

Our worship concludes; our service continues.

Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn #220: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Postlude: "Gavotte" in D Minor, JS Bach

Announcements August 16, 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. We will announce today during the worship service what we will be talking about. Please attend! If you're unable to attend, questions or comments may be shared at peachammeetinghouse.org/contact.

Our 3rd quarter mission is the Northeast Kingdom Asylum Seekers Assistance Network (NEKASAN). Asylum seekers have fled persecution and often violence in their own countries due to religion, politics, or sexual orientation. Many have undertaken long, arduous journeys to reach our border. They are referred to NEKASAN while they are being held in detention centers or homeless shelters across the U.S. Once here in the Northeast Kingdom, guests stay with paid host families or in rental apartments and receive monthly stipends to help with food and personal needs. We help them get access to health care and immigration lawyers, and obtain work permits. Our goal is always to provide community and a road to self-sufficiency for these new Vermonters.

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:

August 23 – Ecumenical gathering at St. Johnsbury United Community Church

Information about Peacham Congregational Church

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	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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

1. Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, Out of God's
 2. O Jor - dan riv - er is chil - ly and cold, it chills the
 3. O I have heart - ache and I have woe, and I have

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. FCC, 1997

PENTECOST
 Irr. w. refrain

African-American worship involves the total person - body and soul -
 in devotion to the God whose power and emotion are tangible.

Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me,
 bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly one train
 trou - ble here be - low. But while God leads me,

to Refrain

it looked so fine, I asked my Lord if all were mine.
 up - on this track; it runs to heav-en, then right back. O ev-ery
 I'll nev - er fear, for I am shel-tered by God's care.

WE PRAY FOR

All those whose speech betrays them into misunderstanding
 All those who have wrapped themselves in a cloak of humiliation
 All those who struggle vainly for attention
 All those who shrink with fear at another's touch
 All those whose faces we forget from one meeting to the next
 All those whose outer awkwardness blinds us to an inner grace
 All those who never seem to find a resting place
 All those whose ambition exceeds their skill
 All those whose minds are clouded or weak
 All those who stumble when others seem to fly
 All those who bear the burden of broken bodies
 All those who wait in pain only for death
 All those who wait for news which never comes
 All those who are unloved, unloving, alone
 All those who having been lifted high are fallen to the dust

WE PRAY FOR THEM

— Chaim Stern, adapted

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2. My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3. Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease,
 4. Glo-ry to God, and praise and love be ev-er, ev-er given

the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of God's grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
 by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; adapt. Lowell Mason, *Modern Psalmody*, 1839

AZMON
CM

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn on the first anniversary of his conversion experience. In its original version it had eighteen stanzas. It is the first hymn in most Methodist hymnals.

Halle-Halle-Halleluja

Hal - le - hal - le - hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - hal - le - hal -
 le - lu - ja. Hal - le - hal - le - hal - le -
 lu - ja. Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.

MUSIC: Caribbean

HALLELUJA
LM

PRAISE TO GOD

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1886, alt.

MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1894

TRENTHAM
SM

Anglican Edward Hatch ministered and taught in Canada and England.
 This hymn, first published in his *Between Doubt and Prayer*, shows
 this scholar could also be simple and unaffected.

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

1. Ho - ly Spir - it, Truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine;
 2. Ho - ly Spir - it, Love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Power di - vine, fill and nerve this will of mine;
 4. Ho - ly Spir - it, Right di - vine, rul - er in my con - science reign;

WORDS: Samuel Longfellow, 1846, alt.

MUSIC: Louis Moreau Gottschalk, 1867; arr. Edwin Parker, 1888

MERCY
77.77

This hymn tune is taken from a piano piece by the New Orleans
 Creole composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk. His celebrated career
 in Europe and America was cut short at age forty by yellow fever.