

Peacham Congregational Church

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



Guest Speaker: John Morris, Lay Leader: Patty Gardner

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
September 13, 2026**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "We Thank Thee, Lord" WF Bach (1710-1784)

Lighting of the Candles

Responsive Call to Worship – Abraham Heschel

Prayer invites God to be present in our spirits and in our lives.

Prayer cannot bring water to parched land,

Nor mend a broken bridge,

Nor rebuild a ruined city,

(All) but prayer can water an arid soul, mend a broken heart and rebuild a weakened will." Let us pray and worship God.

Opening Hymn #80: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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

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.

Hymn #206: "I Danced in the Morning" vs. 1-3

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

Generous God, receive these gifts and magnify them to bless our community and world. May these offerings reflect our gratitude for your beloved community and trust in your kingdom. Amen.

Scripture: Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Sermon: "Our Embodied Lives (including the 'Holy Sex') – John Morris

Closing Hymn #207: "'Tis the Gift to be Simple"

Benediction – Janet Morley, 20th Century British Churchwoman

Response #345: "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

Postlude: "Cora" (Chorus) from "Orfeo ed Euridice", CW Gluck (1714-1787)

Announcements September 13, 2026

This week's coffee hour is hosted by Melissa Hough.

The Church council will meet on Sunday, September 27th during coffee hour.

Next Sunday, September 20th during coffee hour, we will have an opportunity to share updates and answer questions about what's happening at the Church. Please bring your ideas! 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:

- September 20 – Rev. Steve Winkler
- September 27 – Ed Nilson
- October 4 – Rev. Steve Winkler (Communion)

Meetings & Events

- September 27 – Quarterly Council Meeting

October 1 – Fall Foliage Meal

Information about Peacham Congregational Church

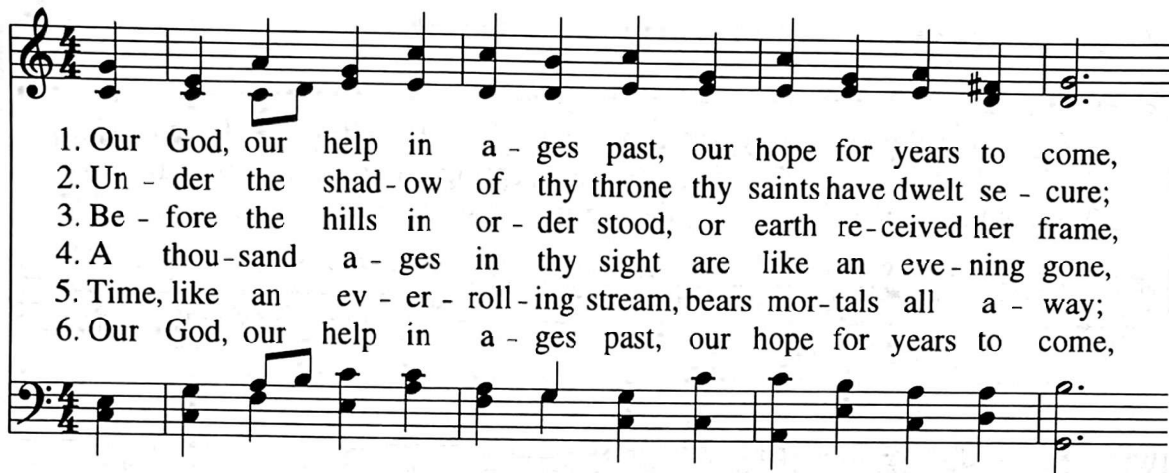
Weekly Worship – Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

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

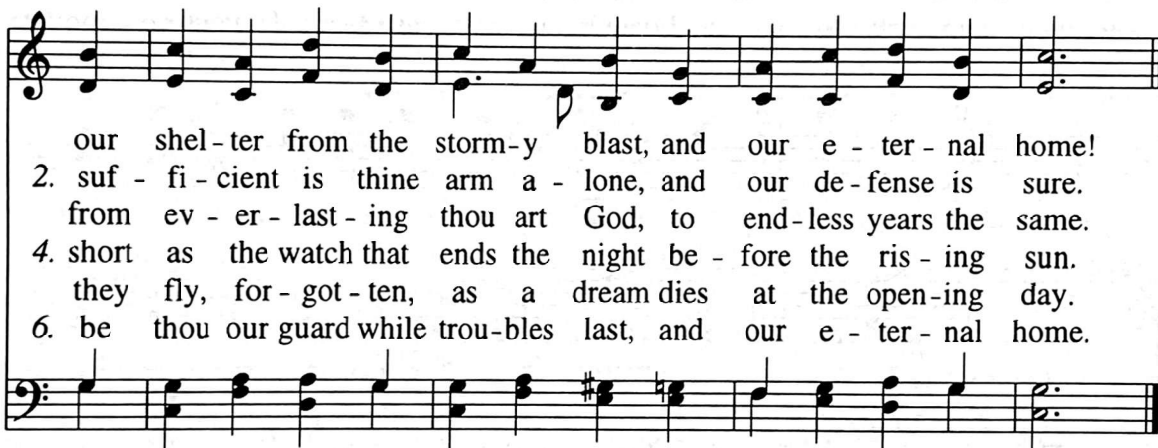
For general inquiries, email information@peachamchurch.org

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



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears mor - tals all a - way;
 6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
 2. suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 4. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.
 6. be thou our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE
 CM

Watts wrote this hymn, based on Psalm 90, while serving as pastor of Mark Lane Independent (Congregational) Church in London.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; God's voice resounds, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

— Psalm 46:1-7, NRSV, adapted

I Danced in the Morning

(Lord of the Dance)

Unison

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2. I danced for the scribe and the phar - i - see, but they
 3. I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame, the
 *4. I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black, it's
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high; —

* Stanza 4, up to bracket (), may be sung in F minor

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 would not dance and they would-n't fol-low me; I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; they
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; they
 I am the life that - 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth; at
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John, they
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high, and
 bur - ied my bo - dy and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me; —

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the Dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the Dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

WORDS: Sydney Carter, 1963

MUSIC: Shaker melody; adapt. and harm. Sydney Carter, 1963

LORD OF THE DANCE
Irr. w. refrain

Sydney Carter brings us back to the medieval, joyous tradition of a dancing
 Savior — dancing being a metaphor for living life in the fullest sense.

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 admin. Hope Publishing Co.

Refrain

Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher-ev-er

you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple (Simple Gifts)

207

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
to turn, turn will be our delight
'til by turning, turning, we come round right.

WORDS: Shaker song
MUSIC: Shaker melody

SIMPLE GIFTS
Irr. w. refrain

The Shaker movement, English, and American from 1774, celebrating the simple life, is lovingly encapsulated in this song.