



MAY 2017

the VOICE

MINISTERS MOMENT

Wonder. Connection. Transformation. These are the shared values of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Transcendence. Community. Compassion. Courage. Transformation. These are the shared values of the First UU Church of Austin.

Inclusion. Compassion. Engagement. Human Responsibility. Celebration. These are the shared values of the First Unitarian Church Salt Lake City.

When an organization or congregation has a clearly stated, widely understood, and fully embodied set of shared core values they tend to thrive. Shared values unite and hold people together around a meaningful core. It is from this core and profound sense of connection that everything else unfolds.

I have included the shared core values of the UUA and two UU Congregations above to demonstrate where we are going this month at Peoples Church. Throughout the month of May we will be working together to clarify our shared values and reach a point where we too will be able to state with confidence, precision, and enthusiasm, our set of 3-5 shared core values. Of course we have values right now. They exist, operate, and play out in our community. So our job this month will not be to pick values that we would like to have or that we aspire to, our job will be to simply shine a light on the values we already embody at Peoples Church so that we can live into them more fully. Once we have a set of mutually understood and enthusiastically embraced shared core values we will move into the next phase of our work at Peoples Church: Renewing Our Mission.

To clarify our shared core values we need you! We need the input and participation of every single person at Peoples Church! Our Mission Team (which includes Arianne Waseen, Scott Gay, and David Miessler-Kubanek) is developing a process to include as many people as possible in as many ways as possible. So please come out for the upcoming Mission Team Forum (April 30th at 10am), watch for an online survey and other gathering dates, come to church and explore values during worship, and engage in your own individual reflection. The Mission Team and I would love to include you and have everyone involved in this shared effort.

What an exciting time at Peoples Church! By the end of this year we should have and be able to vote on a renewed mission. From there progress and movement towards all the rest of our Developmental Ministry Goals will easily follow and we will truly be able to thrive as a congregation.

In faith,

Rev. Rebecca



BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING SUMMARY

April 19, 2017

- Treasurer Gary McGraw reported by email that we had a small deficit in March. Our overall balance remains positive so far and we anticipate our next quarterly endowment distribution soon.

- We discussed the May congregational meeting agenda. The meeting notice will go into the mail no later than May 7.
- We heard updates from the Pledge Campaign Team and the Mission Renewal Team.
- We met with the Rev. Mark Stringer, who has been minister at the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Des Moines since 2001. The Des Moines congregation has changed significantly during his ministry, so we asked questions to gain insights into the change process that worked for them. Rev. Rebecca will report more about our conversation at the May congregational meeting.

The Board of Trustee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Robyn Miessler-Kubanek
(319) 594-3458

Treasurer

Gary McGraw
(319) 373-9449

Board of Trustee Mem- bers

Scott Gay
Geoff Johnson
Kathy Johnson
Scott Mansfield
Kathleen Watson

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Finance Committee met on 4/13/17 to review financial reports and discuss continued income diversification plans for Peoples Church.

Peoples Church cash flow for the Quarter (January – March) was positive due to prepayment of some 2017 pledges:

- Income \$54,476
- Expenses \$42,818



MAY BOARD MEETING

Ely Room
May 17th, 6:15pm

The Board of Trustees meets every month to plan and discuss the business of the church.

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

ROBYN MIESSLER-KUBANEK

May has arrived and with it an end wrapped up in a beginning. Even as we end our first Developmental Ministry year, we look ahead toward continuing the work of change.

We've seen some changes here at the church already. We have a new minister who has begun providing valuable insights and enthusiasm for the work of change. I look forward to continued work together as we move more deeply into our ministry together.

We have a new Operations Coordinator, who has taken on important administration of our communications and church home. I have heard great things both about the change and our new employee, Cathy Fischer.

We will soon vote in a new Board of Trustees. I deeply appreciate the work my fellow board members have done already to lay important groundwork for our Developmental Ministry. We will continue to learn and grow together in the coming year.

And we have new hazelnut bushes. Rich Patterson led the initiative to remove the ash tree located on the east end of our property, and then to plant something new in its place. Rich's guidance and help with bringing this effort full circle has been invaluable, and offers a timely reminder of how new life springs from death and change.

New life in the wake of change will be the theme throughout our Developmental Ministry. We will all be tasked with envisioning what a vital, healthy, and growing faith community will look like. And then we will all be tasked with bringing that vision to life. That so many Peoples people have turned out to participate in discussions and events so far has helped me to keep the hope and confidence cup near to full.

I invite everyone to visit the new hazelnut bushes as they grow, as a way to remind ourselves that though change can bring uncertainty, it can also bring new life. Thank you, everyone, for making this a good year. I look forward to the next one. Together.

CONGREGATIONAL - MEETING -

MAY 21, 12:00PM, ELY ROOM

Mark your calendars for a Congregational Meeting! We'll vote in a new Board of Trustees, hear some updates, and conduct other business of the church. Things will start out with a potluck right after the Sunday service, followed by the meeting to begin at approximately 12:45. The meeting is open to all and friends are encouraged to participate. Plan to bring a dish to share and to participate in this important activity.

STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Hinds

Developmental Minister

(319) 362-9827(w)

(319) 200-7650 (h)

Tuesday – Thursday:

10-3pm

or by appointment

Cathy Fischer

Operations Coordinator

(319) 362-9827

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:30-2:30

Wednesday 9:00-2:00

Thursday 8:30-2:30

Friday 9:00-12:00

Jamie Zaruba

Dir. of Religious Education

(319) 210-4239

Deborah Maynard

Childcare Manager

Childcare Providers

Tristan Maynard,

Deneka Harris

& Rachael Nading

Custodians

Jerry Morris & Bob Osborne



PEOPLES CLIMATE MARCH

**April 29th, 4:30pm
Green Square Park**

The Cedar-Wapsie Sierra Club and Iowa350.org are sponsoring a Peoples Climate March. The march is planned to show leaders that we demand a comprehensive plan to reduce emissions and urgently begin to restore our climate and environment. Please join your fellow UUS wearing your Peoples tee-shirt in this most important endeavor.

PEOPLES CHURCH TALKS ABOUT RACE AND CLASS MAY 6 AND 7: CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS WORKSHOP AND DISMANTLING WHITE-SUPREMACY TEACH-IN

ARTICLE BY MARCIA SWIFT

There is an entangled relationship between race and class in our discourse. Some ask, which one is the real issue? But it's not an either/or issue. Both matter. Peoples Church will explore these issues on May 6 and 7.

UUs have a long history of interest in social justice issues, especially those related to income inequality. But, what is our actual knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the institutional assumptions, laws, policies, and practices that tend to benefit white privileged people and exclude people of certain socio-economic statuses and especially people of color?

On May 6 we will explore how class differences are often invisible in our congregations, but yet they have an impact. Class awareness creates communities in

which people from all walks of life feel understood and valued.

Once equipped with this awareness, we can learn to be more effective in implementing social action strategies both internally and externally.

On May 7, Peoples will join over 500 other UU congregations to participate in a special service on dismantling racism and white supremacy. Black Lives of UU has asked all of us to look critically within our own faith communities at our hiring practices, power differentials, and cultural habits. We may understand how environmental and immigration injustice and voter suppression impacts people of color. The question is, what does this have to do with our congregation? On May 7 we will begin to address this question.

MAKE THEM HEAR YOU: SONGS OF PRIDE AND PROTEST

Join Peoples people for a mini-road trip and an evening of song and inspiration. We will be attending a concert by The Quire: Eastern Iowa's GLBT chorus entitled "Make Them Hear You: Songs of Pride and Protest." The date and time are Saturday, June 10 at 7:30 pm. The place is Zion Lutheran Church, 310 Johnson Street (corner of Johnson and Bloomington, near Mercy Hospital) in Iowa City. There is no admission charge; a freewill collection will be taken during the concert.

June is Pride Month, and this concert's theme reflects both pride in our accomplishments as a people, and encouragement for the struggle that continues. The group is a non-auditioned chorus open to all LGBTQ persons as well as allies who support the community. Several members of our congregation have sung with the Quire over the years, and two of us are current singers.

Meet at Peoples at 6:30 pm if you want to carpool/caravan to the event. A reception (with refreshments) will immediately follow the performance.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RECAP

JAMIE ZARUBA, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Howdy Peoples Church members and our friends. Religious Education Department is excited about how much our fabulous church

as grown in 2017! We brought in over \$3000, helping our kids ship off to Boston. I cannot thank all of you spectacular people who gave our youth their hard earned cash over the last year.

Moving forward, we have been hurting in our nursery to find new employees. We have three wonderful workers in our

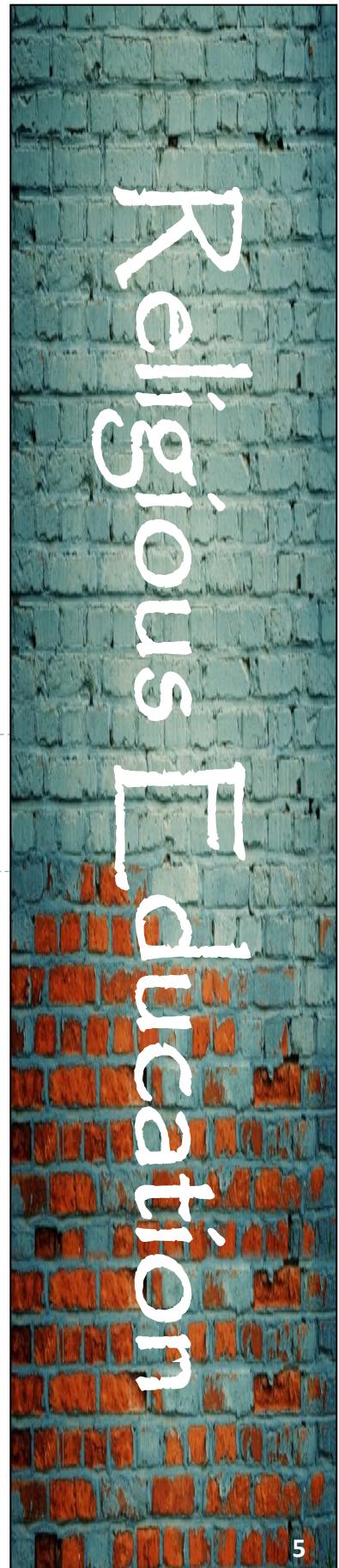
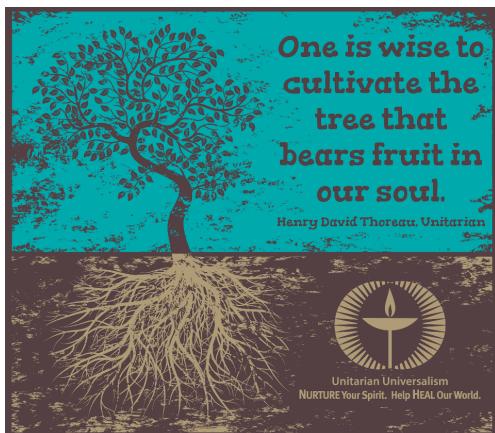
nursery Rachel, Tristan and Deneka, but we need your help.

Spread the word that we are currently looking for new nursery workers from the age of 14 on up. Yes we will look at hiring your teenagers even if you are a member. If they are wanting about a \$100 a month to get those shoes or outfit or just plain spending cash send them our way! Applications are available just see me, or stop in during the week and see Cathy in her office.

"We brought in over \$3000, helping our kids ship off to Boston. I cannot thank all of you spectacular people who gave our youth their hard earned cash over the last year."

RE CALENDAR

- May 4th Youth are flying out of Cedar Rapids to Boston bright and early
- May 7th Youth are back from Boston very late
- May 13th RE Council Meeting 4:30-6pm in the Ely Room
- May 13th Youth Activity Night 6-9 {Nerf Games}
- May 14th is our final RE class of the year
- May 14th is Teacher Appreciation Day
- May 21st Multigenerational Service
- May 27th Nerf Games are on!!! 6-9
- June 4th is the COA Youth led Service
- June 4th RE Party at the pool 3-5 (Cherry Hill)





CATHY'S COLUMN

I don't have a new office policy or procedure to share with you this month, so I'll tell you what I've been busy doing now that I am settled in here!

When I am not responding to messages or emails, I am working on a variety of projects here at the church. Of course, each week I help make the Order of Service and prepare and distribute the eWeekly.; and at the end of each month I compile, prepare and distribute the Voice.

Recently, I worked with Brian Kindl to coordinate and plan the spring cleanup day. I also recently finished researching a record retention policy that I submitted to the Board of Trustees.

I've also been busy helping the Board prepare for the upcoming congregational meeting. As many of you know (because I've emailed you every week) I'm compiling the annual reports for each of our committees and groups for the upcoming meeting.

Everyday I also spend some time getting the office organized whether it be our paper files or electronic files kept on my computer. Of course, I get to meet and help many of you as you come to the office!

SPRING CLEAN UP

On April 19th the Peoples Church held a spring cleanup day in preparation for the planting of the chestnut bushes that followed the Blessing of the Trees service on April 23rd.

While the forecast leading up to the event predicted thunder storms all day, when cleanup day actually came around the sky was only overcast and the weather was perfect and many

Peoples people came out and helped beautify our outdoor spaces.

Flower beds were tidy-up'd by removing the prior year's growth, leaves were raked, shrubs were pruned and sculpted, river

rock was moved in preparation for mulch, old damaged edging was removed to opt for a more natural cut edge, weeds were pulled and fun and fellowship was had by all!

A special thanks to Rich Patterson for preparing the site and planting the chestnut bushes and to Brian Kindl for



coordinating the cleanup event with Cathy Fischer. Last, but certainly not least, a huge and many thanks to our volunteers that donated their time and passion, because without you this would not have been possible!

Please look for future green space projects to volunteer at. Also, take a look at the landscape drawings in the Ely Room as our longterm plan for our outdoor spaces here at Peoples Church.



Photos by Marion Patterson.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW FORUM Andre Room, May 7th, 10am

Let's get together and talk about the stained glass windows. We are currently storing the windows from our previous church building on 3rd Avenue. We'll begin with discussing next steps with these windows, and who would be willing to help the church take those steps. This forum will be led by members of the Board of Trustees.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

MAY 7TH

Fairness & Equality

As Unitarian Universalists we highly value fairness and equality. If we are to truly live out these values at Peoples Church we must ask ourselves, "What does "Institutional White Supremacy" mean and what does it cost us? How can we dismantle racism and white supremacy in order to build a fair and just world here within our faith community and beyond?" Join us for a reflection on some of our most deeply held values. Music by Deb Hunemuller and Pete Kies.

MAY 21ST

Peak Experiences

When do you feel most alive, involved, connected, and engaged? Moments like this of deep connection and full spiritual presence are often described as peak experiences. So what makes these experiences possible and what can we learn from them? Music by Peoples Choir.



Coffee Hour in Ely Room Following Worship

MAY 14TH

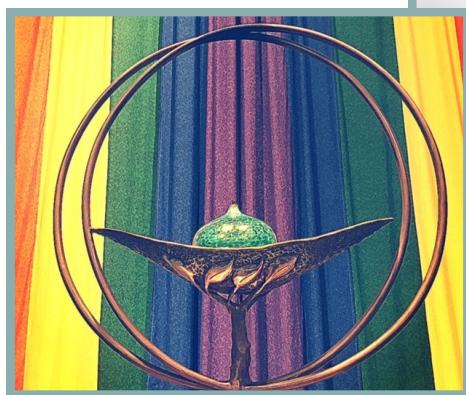
The Core of Religion

What defines a faith community? Is it belief, worship style, or mission? No. Underneath all of that other "stuff" is a set of unique core values. Yes, we have them at Peoples Church! But what are they and how do we identify and access them? Come find out and learn how our core values can guide us into the future! Music by Scott Mansfield.

MAY 28TH

So What's It Worth to You?

The words "value" and "valuable" get tossed around like confetti – so much so that their importance is often diminished. But our values form the basis of our community, our family, our very lives. This Sunday's service may turn your notion of "values" on its head, so be ready for some mental gymnastics. Music by Arianne Wasseen and Abram Doval.



— HERE'S WHATS —

GOING ON

SAVE THE DATES

NEWSLETTERS

The Voice and eWeekly are **YOUR** best tools to share news and events with the wider Peoples Community!

The June Voice submissions are due by Monday, May 29th.

The eWeekly submissions are due each Wednesday by noon for the Thursday edition.

To submit information to the Voice or eWeekly, use the jot form on the Peoples website at www.peoplesuu.org.

Submissions with attachments may be sent to the voice editor at
voiceeditor@peoplesuu.org



| Date | Event | Start | End |
|------|--|----------|----------|
| 5/2 | 1st Weds Book Club Public Library | 6:30 PM | 8:00 PM |
| 5/3 | eWeekly deadline | 1:00 AM | 1:00 AM |
| 5/3 | Peoples Organic Homemade Jam | 6:30 PM | 8:30 PM |
| 5/4 | Coming of Age trip to Boston | | |
| 5/6 | IUWAN Class Conversations | 10:00 AM | 1:00 PM |
| 5/7 | Choir Practice | 10:00 AM | 10:45 AM |
| 5/7 | Forum on Stained Glass Windows | 10:00 AM | 11:00 AM |
| 5/7 | RE classes | 11:00 AM | 12:00 PM |
| 5/7 | Worship Service | 11:00 AM | 12:00 PM |
| 5/7 | RE Council Meeting | 12:30 PM | 2:00 PM |
| 5/8 | Van Vechten Guild | 12:00 PM | 1:30 PM |
| 5/8 | LGBTQ Support Group | 7:00 PM | 8:30 PM |
| 5/10 | eWeekly deadline | 1:00 AM | 1:00 AM |
| 5/13 | Faith Explorers | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM |
| 5/13 | Nerf Wars | 5:30 PM | 9:00 PM |
| 5/14 | RE classes | 11:00 AM | 12:00 PM |
| 5/14 | Worship Service | 11:00 AM | 12:00 PM |
| 5/14 | Member 100th Birthday Party | 12:00 PM | 2:00 PM |
| 5/15 | Archives Committee | 9:30 AM | 10:30 AM |
| 5/17 | eWeekly deadline | 1:00 AM | 1:00 AM |
| 5/18 | Coffee with Rev. Rebecca @ Brewed Awakenings | 3:30 PM | 5:30 PM |
| 5/20 | Congregational Meeting | | |
| 5/21 | Choir Practice | 10:00 AM | 11:00 AM |
| 5/21 | Worship Service | 11:00 AM | 12:00 PM |
| 5/21 | Congregational Meeting | 12:00 PM | 2:30 PM |
| 5/21 | CUUPS | 2:00 PM | 4:00 PM |
| 5/24 | eWeekly deadline | 1:00 AM | 1:00 AM |
| 5/24 | Usher Training | 7:00 PM | 8:00 PM |
| 5/25 | NOW Meeting | 6:00 PM | 9:00 PM |
| 5/27 | Faith Explorers | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM |
| 5/27 | Nerf Wars | 5:30 PM | 9:00 PM |
| 5/28 | Worship Service | 11:00 AM | 12:00 PM |
| 5/31 | eWeekly deadline | 1:00 AM | 1:00 AM |

Groups and Committees

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Archives Committee will meet Monday, May 15th at 9:30am. Contact Clarice Krippner for details at cbkrip@gmail.com.

VAN VECHTEN GUILD

Andre Room, May 8th, 12pm

This months speaker will be Dr. Rosie Rimrod who will be talking about her Transylvania travels. Please bring your own lunch and dessert and drinks will be provided. All are welcome to attend.

TRAINING FOR USHERS

Ely Room, May 24th, 7pm

For anyone who has ever been curious about becoming an usher for our church services or aspired to this very prestigious position, have we got a deal for you! We are offering our first ever "Usher Training" on Wed. evening, May 24 from 7-8 PM. Kathy Juba and Bob Butikofer will share the expectations, how-to's, and where-fors of this position. Ushering is a great opportunity for you to give back to the church with minimal time and effort and still produce a large positive impact on the church community. For questions or to sign up for the training, please email Kathy at kathywilson@imonmail.com or call/text her at 319-361-2890.

CUUPS

Beltane Ritual

Beaver Park Circle, May 1st, 6:30-8:30

Please join Pagan Peoples CUUPS for the Beltane Ritual on Monday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. We will be in the Beaver Park fire circle across from the Old McDonald's Farm bird exhibit. Please bring a flower and an object to bless. All are welcome to either attend or watch and visit afterwards.

Pagan Peoples' CUUPS Annual Meeting

Ely Room, May 22nd, 6:30-8:oopm

If you have been part of the Peoples' Church CUUPS group this past year, please attend our special meeting on Monday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. We will be voting on who will lead the group for the 2017-2018 year, submitting our annual membership to the National CUUPS organization, and accepting local memberships.

The group is in for some great changes in the 2017-2018 year to match up with the Peoples Church UU objectives and the National CUUPS objectives.

Childcare will be available, so please join us as we move into this new endeavor.

Earth-based Spirituality and Wicca 101

Classes

Thank you to everyone who attended the Pagan Peoples' CUUPS classes this last year. We will be taking a break during the month of May while Religious Education and Peoples Church events wind down for the fiscal year. Keep an eye out for upcoming classes.

The nominating committee is excited to present the candidates for the Peoples Church Board of Trustees.



GEOFF JOHNSON

I am from Iowa City originally, but have lived in Cedar Rapids for almost 20 years. My academic background is in history and religion, but now I work in customer service and live in Marion. I first attended Peoples Church over 20 years ago, and have more regularly attended for the past seven or eight.



I am involved in CUUPS and Social Justice, have served on two transition teams and am completing my first term on the board. Additionally, I participated on the selection committee that interviewed and chose our current minister.

Because of my involvement in this variety of activities, I know a wide variety of people in the church and feel that I can represent them well. I have been with the church through some turmoil and want to make sure that we do everything we can to help create a culture that supports working through difficulties in a positive way.

I would love to see us move forward with using the stained-glass windows rescued from the Third Ave. location. Also, I want to make certain that we do all that we can in these crazy times to work to better our community and society as a whole.

KATHLEEN WATSON



I joined Peoples Church in January of 2013, when I relocated from the Twin Cities. I promptly joined the worship associates and the choir, then a couple years later ended up being the choir leader (go figure).

I've served two years on the Board and am running again for a variety of reasons: I find it an exciting time to be deeply involved with the evolution of Peoples Church; meetings have been amazingly effective and on-task; and there's often food involved.

The main strengths I bring are creativity, an ability to identify and capitalize on connections, and slightly obsessive behavior when it comes to completing clearly defined tasks. When I'm not hanging out at Peoples, I'm typically showing entrepreneurial women how to kick business butt, reading, and visiting with my best buds Pat and Barb (AKA my big sisters).

MIKE MESHAK



My involvement with People's Church began with my wife Brenda. We dated and got married by Linda Hansen in the church on Third Avenue, SE. Brenda became a member in 2000. I attended and became a member shortly after 2002. She and I have taught religious education, were greeters and attended some events. At the time, we lived in Monticello, and didn't come to church every week, but I got to know several members and always felt welcome.

I have been involved in Boy Scouts practically since moving to Iowa, and do the program because I believe in the outdoor aspect and enjoy the people. I currently still teach Spanish in Monticello. To gain international cultural experience, I spent a month in Brazil in 2003 under the auspices of the Monticello Rotary Club, and have led student cultural trips to Mexico in 2007 and Belize in 2013. My wife, Brenda co-hosted trips to Costa Rica in 2004 and 2016.

As a member of the Monticello Tree Board, I enjoy getting trees planted around town. Now that we've moved to Marion, we both want to make this our home where we will retire. We enjoy playing Canasta with church members and I have trimmed trees for several UUs who know I do it for the fun of climbing the trees.

I want to learn more about the church and take the trust that our church members and Reverend Rebecca place in the board very earnestly. I am willing to commit the time to People's Church because others have done so in the past and I want to give back. So many great speakers and programs go on in our church that anything I can do to support that would be a win-win situation for me.

I bring to the board patience and a long-term view of our church. I have been in organizations where we have routine meetings. The process may seem slow or "boring" at times, but organizations need to work out procedures and work with by-laws to process their actions. I am willing to work with people to resolve the issues as they occur.

Thank you for this opportunity.

ROBYN MIESSLER-KUBANEK

Robyn joined Peoples in 2007 and has since been involved in Worship, Communications, Finance, the Board of Trustees, and a variety of other groups. She is running for a second year as president to provide continuity as we build the important foundation of our Developmental Ministry. She would like to help our church rediscover our mission and voice in the wider community.





**COFFEE
WITH THE
MINISTER**

Thursday May 18th, 3:30-5:30

BREWED AWAKENINGS
1271 1ST AVE. SE

PEOPLES CHURCH  **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

Peoples Church
Unitarian Universalist
4980 Gordon Ave. NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

Phone: 319-362-9827
E-mail: office@peoplesuu.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

