

Red Lake Currants in the Peoples garden. Photo by Carol Berg



JULY 2016



PEOPLES CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
4980 Gordon Avenue NW  
Cedar Rapids IA 52405  
319-362-9827  
www.peoplesuu.org

Peoples Church • *the Voice*

# Peoples Church • *the Voice*

## SUNDAYS

**JULY 3:** Instead of service at church, join us for a potluck at the upper pavilion at Daniels Park (off Oakland Avenue NE). Lunch at 11:30 am. We have the pavilion between 11 am and 2 pm. Bring food to share, and your own drink and table setting. The pavilion is alcohol-free, so please respect the rule. Hope to see you there!

**JULY 10: Pantheism in the Park - We are Stardust!**  
**11:00** Led by Maria Kell. As Scientific Pantheists, we embrace nature, the cosmos, and scientific study: its beauty, terror, and discovery. Bring lawn chairs and bug spray as we gather in Jacolyn Park, across from church.

**JULY 17: General Assembly Sunday.** Coordinated by Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck. Celebrate Unitarian Universalist gatherings of all sizes by sharing portions of the Sunday worship service held at the UUA General Assembly in Columbus, OH.

**JULY 24:** Worship led by Lance Maynard. There is nothing more spiritual than being around a lot of people: being with a community, a community of music lovers, all enjoying a music festival.

**JULY 31: It's a Jungle Out There!"** Worship led by Kathleen Watson. We'll go wild exploring practical lessons in community-building from some of the best teachers around – our animal friends.

## Annual Peoples Picnic in Amana

All members and special friends are welcome to the **FOURTH** annual **Peoples Outing in the Country** on July 30 at the home of Sue Davis and Jerry Oydgard. Supper will be shish kabobs, rice and anything anyone wishes to share. You may also visit with Jamie for Religious Education plans for that day. RSVP if you can come, and especially if you need a ride or can drive others, to 319-981-4494, or 227-7075. Overnight camping is optional. The address is: 1274 T Avenue, Amana, IA



More photos on page 6



**Spring**  
CLEAN UP

Thanks to all who helped on Saturday, June 25: Marion & Rich Patterson, Jan & Jim Federer, Kathleen Watson, Carol Berg and Scott Mansfield, Kathy Juba and Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck. Jill Jones provided snacks to keep helpers nourished. The efficient crew wowed our lawn care folks!



Would you like to learn more about Rev. Rebecca Hinds, our new Developmental Minister? Go to <http://www.rebeccahinds.com/> to find out more about her personal and professional background, theology, experience in social justice issues as well as experience a few of her sermons.

Mark your calendars for a reception on August 7 to welcome our new Developmental Minister. The reception will begin after the Sunday service in the Andre Room on the lower level. Come say hello, introduce yourself, and enjoy light refreshments.

# Peoples News



## *Change: It is a'coming*

At the May Congregational Meeting, the Search Committee unveiled our new Developmental Minister's name: the Rev. Rebecca Hinds. With that announcement, Peoples Church embarked on a new, exciting, and uncertain journey.

Through this ministry, we intend to recreate our community into one that binds our groups and ideals together into a more cohesive whole – a whole that is vigorous, welcoming, and relevant to the needs of spiritual seekers in the 21st Century.

Yet this journey to recreate our community will require us to change. And by "us," I mean the members and friends who make up Peoples Church will need to change.

The Rev. Rebecca Hinds will begin her Developmental Ministry on August 1. Over the next few years, her primary task will be to help us look critically at our culture, processes, and everything else that makes Peoples Church what it is today. She will also begin to help us identify the things we must change to become the community we envision.

No one yet knows what changes we will have to make or what the long-term result will be, and facing the unknown can be unsettling. Change initiatives can challenge our sense of self, and anyone might feel threatened when something near and dear to our hearts is questioned.

We will need to help each other work through the challenges and process the uncertainty together. This will be just one way for us to learn from each other and grow together as a community. I will have more to say about change and Developmental Ministry in the upcoming months. For now, let me say just this: We have hired a Developmental Minister to help us identify and foster changes to our community. We need to let her do her job.

– Robyn Miessler-Kubanek, Board President



**Interim Minister:**  
Rev Jeff Briere  
minister@peoplesuu.org  
423 667-0855

**Administrator:**  
Pam Edwards  
office@peoplesuu.org  
319 362-9827

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday:  
11 - 4 pm  
Sunday:  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

**Director,**  
Religious Education  
Jamie Ray Zaruba  
dre@peoplesuu.org  
319 210-4239

**Custodians**  
Jerry Morris & Bob  
Osborne

## **Finance Committee Update**

The finance committee met June 16. Treasurer Gary McGraw reported 2016 budgeted disbursements for Unitarian Universalist Association, the Mid-America Region and Ecumenical Center have been made.

The Peoples Church cash flow for May was negative:

Money received \$12,444

Money spent \$18,414

PEOPLES CHURCH

**TURNING POINT**  **2017**

**PLEDGE  
HERE**

**PEOPLES ONLINE:**  
www.peoplesuu.org  
Find us on Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/peoplesuu

Or join our private  
Facebook pages:

**PCUU**  
**PCUU Social Justice**  
**Peoples UU RE**



# Peoples News

## PEOPLES CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President  
Robyn Miessler-Kubanek

Treasurer  
Gary McGraw  
373-9449

Scott Gay  
Geoff Johnson  
Kathy Juba  
Scott Mansfield  
Kathleen Watson

The Board of Trustees meeting minutes are available two ways:

- **ONLINE:** Go to the Peoples Church website at [www.peoplesuu.org](http://www.peoplesuu.org).
- **PRINT:** Copies are also available on the Ely Room table in a folder marked **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**.

## PEOPLES CHURCH TURNING POINT 2017



Dear Peoples Church Community:

Just as we all reach points in our lives when we must change direction, so has Peoples Church reached a Turning Point. We look forward with hope to transforming into a new community through our Developmental Ministry, and call everyone to step forward to help our church launch itself in a new direction.

Turning Points are challenging, and it will be so for Peoples.

In support of Developmental Ministry, we as a congregation decided at our December 2015 meeting to dip deeper into Endowment Funds and Unrestricted Reserve Monies than we ever have in the past to fund our current budget. Though this decision has maintained our operation in the short term, such a financial policy is not sustainable long term.

As we look toward 2017, our goal is to pay now for the church programs we are using now. To meet this goal, our pledge income for 2017 must increase by an average of 25% over the current year pledge commitments. This increase would allow us to:

1. Fully fund our staff and programs without spending our reserves.
2. Promote stronger growth in our Endowment Fund.
3. Envision and build the future of Peoples Church with the help of our new Developmental Minister.

A 25% increase in pledging is a major challenge! We know some members and friends will not be able to increase their pledges by that amount. For that reason, we ask those who can to consider increasing their pledges by more than 25%.

Peoples Church has stood for over a century as a beacon of liberal faith in Cedar Rapids and a home for religious seekers of all kinds. To continue this tradition for many generations to come, we hope Peoples people will embrace this Turning Point as we begin building our church's future together.

Sincerely,

The 2017 Stewardship Planning Group

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Bob Butikofer | Judy Price             |
| Sue Davis     | Bryan Davis            |
| Charles Cizio | Robyn Miessler-Kubanek |



**PLEDGE ONLINE TODAY!**

<https://form.jotform.com/61417994833163> or use the button

# Peoples *Activities*

## FirstWednesday Book Club

For the summer, we will be meeting at 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. In July we are meeting in the Conference room at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, Main Branch. The theme for July is *Children's Literature* (any genre). You don't necessarily have to choose a book from the Children's section – you can pick something that you think a child should read, something you wish you had read as a child, or a book that a child might enjoy etc.

## *Death & Dying Beyond Belief* Symposium

**Saturday, July 16, 2016 1:00 – 5 pm**

**Kirkwood Training and Outreach Center, Armar Drive, Marion**

This half-day symposium will focus on various death and dying topics, including death with dignity, and how death and grieving differs for non-theists who have no belief in any afterlife. Speakers will include representatives from Final Exit Network, Compassion and Choices; Peggy Fulton, hospice nurse and member of Iowa Atheists and Freethinkers; and Dr. Hector Avalos, Dr. Paul Knupp and Alan Diehl. This symposium is presented by the Linn County Humanists. Contact Roxanne Gissler at 319-899-2472 for more information, or to go to *this link*.

## MidAmericaUU Resolution on Muslim Solidarity

To stand against prejudice and violence against Muslims, Michigan UU congregations initiated a Resolution on Muslim Solidarity that was passed at the MidAmerica Regional Assembly in April. It can be found *here*. An article about the meeting between UUs and Muslim leaders in Detroit is *here*.

### **WANTED:** Your Photos!

Let's help Rev. Rebecca get to know us when she arrives by putting our photos on the Church Membership Online database. Both family/household and individual photos can be added to the database so she can associate names with faces. Send a recent digital photo to Kris Davis, [daviskris49@gmail.com](mailto:daviskris49@gmail.com), or you can give Kris a paper photo to scan and return to you. Please try to send photos by the end of June.

**Mark your calendars and remember to share your news and photos. Everyone benefits when we share the great news and activities of Peoples Church!**

The deadline for submissions to be included in the August *Voice* is July 23; the September *Voice* deadline is August 20.

eWeekly submissions are due each Wednesday noon. Send all submissions to [voiceeditor@peoplesuu.org](mailto:voiceeditor@peoplesuu.org)

Peoples Church is a vibrant, welcoming spiritual community that empowers and encourages its members to develop and explore more sacred, positive and healthy lives through reflection, education and community outreach.

# Peoples *Helping*



## Did you know...

that our Paraministers program was one of the first of its kind in the nation? In the summer of 1980, a group of Peoples members attended the Stephens Service workshop in St. Louis that trained them how to provide comfort during times of stress as a ministry of faith. After intensive training, the CR group was commissioned and celebrated in March of 1981 as the Peoples Paraministers. Original members were: Tony (Lily) McGraw, Dottie Storer, Kathy Gorman, Jim and Judy Wheeler. The effort was facilitated by Rev. Judith Urquhart. More details are available in our Archives – or ask Dorothy Hershner!

## PARAMINISTERS ON CALL

July 13 - July 26:  
Jan Federer

July 27 - August 9:  
Scott Mansfield

**Next Paraministry meeting: Saturday, August 22, 1 pm**



## Our Church Support for *Helping Hands*

Summer is the time when some folks find the time to relax a little more, perhaps take a vacation, or treat themselves with more dining out. However that enjoyment isn't available for many other folks.

On an average, approximately 1000 families or individuals in Linn County come to or call the *Helping Hands* (HH) program of the Ecumenical Community Center (ECC) every month. About 80% ask for emergency financial assistance that is usually for rent, utilities, medical prescriptions, or bus tickets for work. If approved, they receive a voucher that indicates what will be paid for them to the landlord, utility company or pharmacy. Many clients are referred to other agencies for help that HH cannot provide. The ECC building and HH program is located at 601 Second Ave SE in Cedar Rapids

Peoples Church can be proud to be one of the churches that donates to the HH program. We currently donate \$2000 per year from the church budget. PCUU has provided a donation since HH began in 1998. I have represented our church on the ECC board since 1996. Some individuals from our church and many others from the Cedar Rapids community also donate. Updates on HH success stories plus description of other ECC affiliated programs such as the CompuPlace computer center for mentally challenged adults, plus Margaret Bock Housing (MBH) for very low income single adults are also described in the ECC quarterly newsletter called *The Echo*. Marcia Swift, as chair of Social Justice in our church, and I will have a recent copy for anyone to review.

A second article in *The Voice* this summer will describe what Margaret Bock Housing does in our community to provide a home for single male or female adults seeking independent living after leaving a shelter or prison or some other uncomfortable environment. MBH is located at 1021 Third Ave SE.

– Jim Federer

## Spring Clean-up!

Photos by Carol Berg and Marion Patterson

