



APRIL 2016



Peoples Church • *the Voice*

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ON SUNDAYS

APRIL 3: *Word Search: Miracles*, with Robyn Meissler Kubanek. The Rev. Fredric Muir suggests that when we bring a liberal and heretical spirit to the language of faith, we can breathe new life into ancient words. So let's talk about miracles. What are they, and more importantly, what are they for? Music by Scott Mansfield.

APRIL 10: *The Meaning of Life*. The Rev. Jeff Briere cannot tell you the meaning of life, but this service is designed to prompt you to think about it. Member Joan Jacobs will play the flute.

APRIL 17: *Three Prophets of Religious Liberalism*. In the first half of the 19th century, William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker wrote much of the play book used by Unitarian Universalists today. Music from Peoples Choir.

APRIL 24: *A Conversation with Margaret Fuller*. Margaret Fuller, an early feminist and a Unitarian, pays Peoples Church a visit. Music brought to us by Peoples Strings.

Worship - 11 am.
RE gathers at 11 am
in the Sanctuary.



Coffee Hour in the Ely Room follows worship.



Bunnies abound for the RE Egg Hunt on March 27

WEDNESDAY Workshop: *Knitting 201*



Wednesday, April 13 7:15-9:00 Andre Room

Learn basic increases and decreases as you knit a utilitarian yet pretty washcloth. Please bring a skein of 100% cotton yarn (Sugar&Cream is a good brand) and a pair of needles (anywhere from size 5 to size 10 should work). Questions? Contact Arianne at awaseen@gmail.com or (319) 325-5196.

Spring Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars to meet on **Saturday, May 21 for a potluck at 5:00 pm**, and business meeting at 6:00 PM. We'll vote in new board members, choose PlateShare recipients and social justice projects, review the ministerial search process, and more. Watch for the full agenda closer to the date!

Upcoming Social Justice Forums

Ely Room, 10 a.m.

April 3 Iowa Compassion & Choices on death with dignity legislative efforts and advocacy efforts for the dying.

April 24 Planned Parenthood on their national and state attempts to continue to provide health care to vulnerable and marginalized women.

NOTE: The Community Free Health Clinic needs personal care items for its patients. Start saving your shampoos conditioners, lotions, soaps from hotels and toothpaste and toothbrushes from dentists. People need these items.

Minister's *Moment*

Liminal Time

by the Rev. Jeff Briere

We are living together through a peculiar, liminal time right now. We all know that a huge change is looming as we prepare to end our ministry together and begin readying ourselves for new and separate pathways. But for the moment, nothing has changed. We're still together on Sundays at worship; I still meet with committees, make pastoral visits and write sermons. It can therefore feel peculiar and in-between: are we coming or going?

That's why this is a liminal time for us. The dictionary defines liminal as *occupying a position at, or on both sides of, a boundary or threshold*. The threshold we've reached is the one that marks the end of our two years as minister and congregation, and the start of a new chapter. But for some weeks still, we're standing on both sides of that boundary, and this can be a bit disconcerting for all of us.

But these threshold weeks are filled with a unique opportunity. We have the chance to help each other learn, or to remember again, how to move through transitions with grace and clarity. One way we do this is by acknowledging the whole spectrum of feelings that can rise up: sadness along with excitement, anxiety side by side with curiosity, gratitude, uncertainty, perhaps even indignation or relief. Transitions have a way of evoking all of these feelings, and more—and it's okay to feel them all at the same time, if that's how they arise.

Another way we manage this change gracefully is to be sure we've said what we need to say to one another. I have received notes, letters and e-mails from you. I have met with some people. I am not too busy to meet with you. Quite the contrary, in fact: if you want to meet with me individually, no matter what the concern or emotion you'd like to express, I am eager to spend the time with you, so please do call or e-mail and we'll make a date.

Like many of you, I'm finding this liminal time a bit confusing, but I also recognize its gifts. I look forward to hearing from you—through whichever mode you choose—as these spring days unfold around us.

The Nominating Committee is recruiting members for the Board of Trustees to begin terms in May.

Peoples is at an important juncture. We're looking for strong and energetic leaders who can lead our congregation as we take our next steps. To learn more about serving in this important and rewarding role, please get in touch with Barb Gay (barbscot@imonmail.com or 319/573-5520) Contact us to let us know about you!



**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 - 12:30 am

**Coordinator of Religious
Education:**

Jamie Zaruba
dre@peoplesuu.org
319-362-9827
319-361-2988 (cell)

**PEOPLES CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

www.peoplesuu.org

Peoples Facebook page

*Members & Friends
Facebook: [PCUU](#)*

Peoples UU RE Facebook



Peoples *Updates*

The Developmental Ministry Committee has not yet received any candidate names. The UUA has said they hope to have a match or more for us within the next month and that we should remain optimistic. Stay tuned!



Developmental Ministry *Report on Tough Tasks #4 & 5: Mission and Vision*

As part of the interim transition process toward Developmental Ministry, the congregation has been asked to complete a series of **Tough Tasks**. In February and March, Rev. Jeff Briere led participants in two talking circles met to consider the final two tasks: considering Peoples' mission, and our broader vision, both foundations of the church. Judy Price and Scott Mansfield were scribes at each gathering and provided this summary. The future mission and vision statements will be completed during the developmental ministry.

To clarify the terms,

#4 - Mission: defines our broader sense of purpose and direction while honoring its evolutionary nature.

#5 - Vision: identifies and commits to a specific direction for a three-to-five-year period.

MISSION.....

Rev. Briere posed these questions:

- ★ *What the church does?*
- ★ *Who do we do it for?*
- ★ *Why we do it?*

Two themes that emerged during discussion: what we are doing now; how to decide on our mission.

People talked about our church work:

- Social justice outreach
- Donations to Linn County Food Bank
- Paraministry program for members needing pastoral care;
- Congregation selects social justice projects (this year it's health care access, last year it was income equality and we adopted Olivet Head Start classroom) and plate-sharing recipients;
- Cooks' Night Out supported families by providing community meal with activities for children and socialization for parents;
- Neighborhood outreach: door-knocking, passing out brochures, talking with neighbors for a butterfly effect; RE Director planning block party for fall.

Choosing a mission:

- Use consumer science methods such as segmentation and targeting as we make assessments (e.g., get map and put pin in it for every member address, inventory member strength, etc.)
- Assess our resources and scale mission to our resources.
- Assess needs of our current church population, understanding the congregation's ebb and flow in church involvement
- Understand how different generations approach social action, church involvement, etc.

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Peoples News

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- Assess how the world is changing/reorganizing
- Assess neighborhood and community needs
- Learn what other groups are doing what we want to do; can we join them? And can we make sure we do not step on anyone's toes?
- Make a communication plan to keep mission on front burner all the time
- Continue to think and document ideas to share in future conversations.

VISION

Rev. Briere posed several questions to focus the circle on our Vision:

- ★ *Where does the church want to be in seven to ten years?*
- ★ *What is the future impact of what we do?*
- ★ *What do we want to be known for?*
- ★ *How would the world be a better place because of Peoples Church?*

Three vision themes emerged: growth, social justice, and church community.

Thoughts on growth

- Increasing membership/having more staff would help our effectiveness;
- Does the community want or appreciate anything that we can actually deliver?
- Ideas shared on what people think will encourage growth;
- Becoming a magnetic church— attracting others to our doors;
- Reaching out to the community to meet identified need(s);
- Partnering with other organizations and/or groups in town;
- Using the church building every day of the week;
- Welcoming children and youth since they may bring their parents;
- Expanding our west-side presence/welcoming our immediate neighborhood.

Thoughts on social justice

- Work to create more equitable relationships in Cedar Rapids; address needs of persons with low-incomes
- External vs. internal focus was discussed: do we address individual spiritual needs or does our spiritual path lead to engagement in the world?
- The need to address spirit: work on self, work in church community, and work outside in larger community nurtures our own spiritual growth;
- Put UU Principles into action in wider community;
- Create/support community leaders within our congregation;
- Join with other community faith groups to address big issues like hunger and environment;
- Growing “church that helps others” reputation;
- Common ground that everyone shares: we need a new glue (thirty years ago Humanism was that glue; that's not the case today);
- Can social justice be our new glue?

Thoughts on church community

- Promoting active listening, knowing, appreciating others' stories/strengths as well as our own;
- Committing to each other;

Got some news to share?

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

The deadline for submissions to be included in the May *Voice* is **Saturday, April 23.**

eWeekly submissions are due each *Wednesday noon* for Thursday publication.

Never miss a deadline again:

TIP for group leaders:
Set the *eWeekly* and *Voice* deadlines on your calendar for automatic reminders!

To submit information

to the *Voice* or *eWeekly*, please click **here!**

Questions can be emailed to the *Voice Editor*.

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.

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Peoples *Events*

RE Classes gather in Sanctuary at 11 am on Sunday mornings unless notified of a change.

REnotes



Seuss-I-con, April 15-17 at Peoples Church for UU Youth grades 6-12

Contact Jamie to join the fun: dre@peoplesuu.org, or 319-361-2988 (cell). Thank you!

RE Rocks!!!!!!



Regional Assembly MidAmerica Region UUA

April 29 - May 1, 2016, St Paul, MN

The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism!

From creating a circle of belonging for new members, to the Black Lives Matter movement, to funding social justice work in our communities – there is much here of interest as we look forward

to our developmental ministry next year. Meeting and mingling with UUs from a wide area is exciting and fun – it improves the optimism quotient significantly!

If you plan on going, please contact Bryan Davis so we can coordinate our delegation for best effect. Your attendance at a workshop will bring valuable knowledge for us all to share. And this year an anonymous donor will provide a scholarship including registration and lodging for any People's member who would otherwise be unable to go. Interested parties please contact [Bryan Davis](#). First come, first served! For more information, [look here](#).

Coming soon: the UUA General Assembly! June 22-26, 2016

The GA 2016 theme is **Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect**. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. Religious labels no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all. June 22-26. Let's go to Columbus, Ohio – it's not that far! Registration and program highlights can be found at: <http://www.uua.org/ga>.

Peoples *Leadership*

Board Meeting at-a-Glance

March 20, 2016

- We agreed to **nominate Susan Frederick-Gray** for Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) presidential candidate. UUA presidential nominees require support from 25 member congregations to be placed on the ballot, but our members are not required to vote for her.
- **Stewardship** work group reported the campaign this year will **start July 1 and end by September 30**. The theme will be **The Turning Point**. We may also host a generosity workshop on May 14. This will be on the May meeting agenda.
- The **MidAmerica Regional Assembly** is coming up April 29 - May 1 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Two people plan to attend, and **a scholarship is available to cover registration and two nights' lodging for a third person**. If interested, contact Bryan Davis. See article on page 3 for more information.
- We have not received any applications for **developmental minister** yet. We discussed alternatives such as hiring a second interim minister, and will follow up at the April meeting.
- We approved Kathleen Watson's **comment board** concept, and discussed bulletin board locations. We will hang two boards outside the Ely Room, and one inside near the door.
- **May congregational meeting** will be Saturday, May 21, featuring a 5 pm potluck followed by the meeting at 6 pm.

The **Peoples Finance Committee** met on 3/24/16 with Rich Patterson to review financial reports from bookkeeper and endowment.

Peoples Church cash flow for February was *negative*:

Money we took in February:	\$7,412
Amount we spent in February:	\$13,925

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- Providing safe place to ask and answer questions of spirituality without judgment;
- Combining internal groups to work together on services, projects, etc. for better results;
- Having a beautiful church;
- Building connections between members/ promoting camaraderie and excitement at church;
- Generate our own excitement without relying on minister.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mansfield and Judy Price
3/13/16

PEOPLES CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Bryan Davis
361-9280

Vice President

Geoff Johnson

Treasurer

Gary McGraw
373-9449

Secretary

Kylene Loughrey

Lance Maynard

Robin Miessler-Kubaneck

Kathleen Watson

The Board of Trustees meeting minutes are now available two ways:

- **ONLINE:** Archived minutes are available at www.peoplesuu.org.
- **PRINT:** Copies are also available on the Ely Room table in a folder marked **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**.

Peoples Activities

Paraministers

April 1-15:

Jan Federer
janetfederer@aol.com
362-6936

April 16 - 30:

Scott Mansfield
362-0436

GOOD NEIGHBORS

We offer a helping hand with things like chores, and errands, contact Laura McGraw at 319 373-9449 or mcgraw4@mchsi.com.

1st Wednesday Book Group

April 6, 2016 at 7 pm. at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in the UnConference Room. Contact Jan Federer at janetfederer@aol.com for more information.

Archive & History Committee

Meeting the third Monday of each month at 9:30 am. They're working on the history timeline and hope to have it posted in April. They are currently looking through photos for inclusion. Call Clarice.

Bridge Group

Third Friday of each month at 7 pm, Village Ridge. Contact Rose Gabe: 396-5202 or Rstitch@aol.com

FAITH EXPLORERS STUDY GROUP

Meets the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 9:30 -11 am.

Current discussion is focusing upon books examining recently discovered ancient documents or books providing insights on spirituality and faith. All are invited. For questions, contact: Carolyn Cleveland, carolynmcleveland@gmail.com or 360-4421.

Van Vechten Guild

Second Monday of each month at 12 noon. For details, please contact Susan Davis sdavisod@southslope.net or (319) 981-4494.

Peoples CUUPS News

CUUPS Monthly Meeting

Sunday, April 17, 2 - 4 pm, Ely Room

This is our regular monthly meeting. We will discuss upcoming events and opportunities for interaction within the Cedar Rapids community and our congregation.

Full Moon Ritual/ Class

Friday, April 22, 6:30 - 8 pm, Bever Park Fire Circle (rain location: Ely Room)

The April Full Moon has many names. One is called the Wind Moon. Living in the Midwest, we can see why. It's also called the Growing Moon and it happens to fall this year on Earth Day. This is fitting as we return to the Bever Park Fire Circle this month to kick off our outdoor ritual season. If it rains the day of the ritual or has rained a lot the day before and the ground is muddy, then we will host the event at the Peoples Church. Let's hope Mother Nature cooperates with us!

UU Women's Connection Annual Spring Conference *Honoring Our Sacred Stories*

June 3-5 at Pilgrim Park, Princeton, IL
Register online at www.uuwomensconnection.org.
Deadline: May 20.