



PEOPLES CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
4980 Gordon Avenue NW | Cedar Rapids IA 52405
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FEBRUARY 2016



Peoples Church • *the Voice*

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ON SUNDAYS

FEBRUARY 7. *Are You the Hundredth Monkey?* Kathleen Watson leads this service. Music by Scott Mansfield.

FEBRUARY 14. *True Love.* The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service with excerpts from Rev. Robert Fulghum's book, *True Love*. Music by Louis Collins.

FEBRUARY 21. JANUARY 24. *Everyone's In! No One's Out!* The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service and his theme is inclusivity. His examples of inclusivity are clips from the movie, *Chocolat*. Music by Peoples Choir.

FEBRUARY 28. *Bridging the God Gap.* Led by the Rev. Kent McMusick, from the UU Fellowship of Ames, returning again this year. How many truths are true? How do we support a peaceful theological relationship between believers and non-believers? And how to seek common ground? Music by Pete Kies and Deb H.



Worship - 11 am.
RE gathers at 11 am
in the Sanctuary
Coffee Hour in the Ely Room follows worship.
CHALICE CHAT:
second Sunday
each month at 12:15 pm
in the Sanctuary.



Developmental Ministry *Mission & Vision* Talking Circles Task #4

Wednesday, February 24, 7 to 8:30 pm in Andre Room
OR

Sunday, February 28, 9:45 to 10:45 am in Andre Room

Judy Price, co-facilitator of Talking Circles and Interim Transition Team member, invites Peoples people to participate in our next Talking Circle, Mission and Vision. She writes:

To all Peoples Church congregants young and old, new and seasoned! This Valentine's Day, consider "valentining" Peoples Church by participating in the Mission/Vision talking circles (in person, in writing, and/or other creative media) to share *your* vision of Peoples Church and mission actions to make it live. Rev. Jeff Briere will lead the circles, and I (Judy Price) will scribe, take all submissions, and assemble report for Board and congregation.

As a young woman, I was profoundly influenced by folksingers, peace marchers, protesters — people who wanted to make a difference in the world. I became a social worker; but it wasn't until I sat in Peoples Church's pews one Sunday that I realized there was a gaping hole in my life.

Trying to help other people fix their broken lives had somehow overwhelmed my moral compass. Soaking up the sacred energy of that service, I realized I was adrift and in need. That day Peoples Church became my personal lodestone; something that I could use to reset my compass to find my way in the sea of human tragedy that flooded my work week. If I had to describe the vibrations or qualities of this lodestone they would be:

Welcoming

Vision of a Larger Picture, a Wider World

Courage to Reason

TODAY, my mission/vision statement would be that Peoples Church pulls us out of our lives and connects us with the wider world by creating a welcoming place open to learning. Something like that. What about you? What's your story? What do you see/hear/feel?

Wednesday Workshop

It's Love, of Course

February 3rd - 7:00- 9:00 Andre Room

Discussion leader RC Eichacker (rceye@southslope.net), retired counselor-therapist, will conduct an introductory, informative and entertaining discussion on the topic of LOVE. He states that practice of the universal and personal phenomenon should be everyone's goal. With Valentine's Day approaching, it is never too late to improve one's skills and state of mind when it comes to "love."

Minister's *Moment*



What, Exactly, Is Worship?

by the Rev. Jeff Briere

A while back, I was asked to explain worship in a Unitarian Universalist setting. Worship, as I use the word, refers to a program of elements promoting a theme or an idea for the consideration of the congregation. This church produces a worship service each Sunday morning and at other times for various purposes.

We can use the word as a verb as well. I once heard a woman—whom I thought was a reasonable person—say that she worships Barry Manilow. When we worship, we place the object of our worship on some sort of pedestal and offer our homage and devotion.

In reference to a religious service, the sense I invoke goes back to the root of the word in Old English. Worship comes to us from *weorthscipe*, meaning “worth-ship,” or the shape of something worthy. When I use the word as a verb, I refer to the process of giving that worthy concept a shape that we can see or hear or feel or smell or taste. In other words, bringing that worth to our senses, to life.

In a worship service, the congregation is actually the shaper, that is, the congregation determines the shape of the worth through participation in a common ritual. The minister provides the raw materials and maybe a road map, but getting to the destination is something the congregation and minister do together.

Gathering those raw materials is what service preparation is all about. Because everyone is not moved by the same thing, I try to bring many elements into the worship service so that at least one element will appeal to someone.

It might be the music that moves you, or poetry or a story or the image on the cover of the program. But at least one thing in the worship service ought to appeal to everyone present and inspire their thoughts about the theme of the service.

For a worship service, I try to use several modes of communication. Speech is important, but so are music and poetry and images. It's a challenge to appeal to the sense of touch and taste, but not impossible. Kinesthesia, or the sense of movement, is another sensation which I would like to tap in worship. So I try to find elements that appeal to all the senses.

In terms of style, the Unitarian culture of worship for many years was characterized by an over-emphasis on the sermon and the spoken word. Nowadays, it seems to me that a straightforward, academic presentation has limited appeal. I think that communication in our culture has shifted away from the carefully laid-out, comprehensive logical presentation. In the days of Channing and Emerson, people customarily sat still and listened to a sermon of 60 to 90 minutes. No minister today has that much to say and no congregation has that much patience.

So my style is a little more Universalist—a little looser—although I still prepare a script and pretty much stick to it. Different aspects of communication are appropriate for a sermon. I make frequent use of humor, irony, sarcasm, hyperbole and imperfect analogies.

You might think that laughter in a worship service is inappropriate. I think it's fine. It allows the congregation to release tension and find a way to common ground. You might be accustomed to a solemn and sober sermon. On occasion, I might present such a sermon, but more likely, it will be more casual and more accessible. You might think applause is inappropriate. Within limits, I think it shows the congregation's approval of the moment. However, I am aware that it can be disruptive, so I caution you against applauding anything and everything that appeals to 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

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Peoples *Learns*

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

Popcorn Theology

January 31:

A Beautiful Mind

February 26:

Titanic

Showtime: 7 pm
Ely Room



REnotes

By **Jamie Zaruba**, Coordinator of Religious Education

We really love the direction this church is going, with such awesome leaders, staff, and members. RE has grown since 2014-2015 by almost *triple* and we see more growth coming for 2016-2017.

Bring out your families and friends to visit our program on Sundays to get their feet wet in the UU world. Our 2016 is off and running, with new fresh ideas and great progress by our talented Youth students; who are rocking the scheduling and details for our **SeussICON** coming this April!

Our Pre-K theme of the month is: Love...

Color: Red

Shape: Heart

Upcoming Events:

Jan 29: **Popcorn Theology: A Beautiful Mind**, 7 pm in Ely Room

Feb 19-21: Our Youth are heading up to Rochester MN to attend their awesome CON

Feb 26: **Popcorn Theology: Titanic** (1997) 7 pm in Ely Room

Our RE Birthdays:

Jan 29: Laura Kell

Feb 6: Olivia Ogle

Feb 25: Jacob Bates

A Special thanks to our Teachers:

Pre-K: Arianne and Megan

Elementary: Kylene and Jennifer

Middle School: Lance and Jayme

High School: Robert and Jack

We have received some good interest from our great People's members in our search for helpers and teachers, but we could use any knowledge or talent you possess – just contact Jaime to join the fun: dre@peoplesuu.org, or 319-361-2988 (cell). Thank you!
RE Rocks!!!!!!!



★ STUDENT OF THE MONTH ★

Brandon Maynard

He is 12, and in 6th grade

He likes the color RED

He likes *Avenue Q*, *Cinderella* and his first play he was in *The Wizard of Oz*
He earned a coveted spot in the McKinley show choir, *Classic Edition!*

We are very happy with his activities in our church and we look forward to seeing how he continues to grow into his own in the years to come...

Peoples News

Peoples CUUPS News

CUUPS Monthly Meeting

Sunday, February 21, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. 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

Monday, February 22, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Ely Room

The Quickening Moon in February celebrates the awakening of the Earth to prepare for Spring. We will use this month's ritual as a teaching experience - bringing in new members to learn the various aspects of full moon rituals. All are welcome to join in.

Imbolc Ritual

Wednesday, February 3, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Ely Room

During this sabbat we honor the Goddess Brigid, the protector of hearth, home, healers, and smiths. This is a sabbat of fire and light. Join us as we celebrate this season and move closer to Spring.

Earth-based Spirituality Class

Monday, February 8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Ely Room

This month is a great time to work on our divination skills. We will be reviewing the various types of divination to find which path speaks to us individually. All are welcome to join us.

For more information contact Deb Maynard at CR_CUUPS@yahoo.com or 775-0619.

Adult Education Plans

Our first Adult Education session this year, provided a nice discussion on our various points of view for Karma. We had an overall positive feedback by the attendees, with several ways to grow and make things even better.

After some consideration, we have decided to postpone our Adult Education until we get our new minister this fall. We hope to be able to provide an education which will help guide adults down their UU path, while teaching them our People's Mission.

Seeing that there is good interest within our church at having an adult Ed program, we now may coordinate a new Committee to help organize and run this program. We will be looking at recruiting new teachers for Adult Ed so if you are interested keep us in mind.



On February 1, Peoples Church will serve as a Democratic caucus site for Linn County Precinct 30 from 5 to 9 pm. Citizens engaging in this democratic process will gather in the Andre Room.



Monthly Chalice Chat

Mark your calendars for this informal update and Q/A session with members of the Board. We've switched these to the SECOND Sunday of the month, but still want to reach out to the congregation with updates about current issues. Even on Valentine's Day. Please join us! We invite all Peoples people to bring your questions and voice your opinions.

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.

Reminder:
Please no food or
drink in the
Sanctuary.



Peoples *Updates*

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**.



Developmental Ministry

Search Committee Update: *Good News!*

Peoples Church's application for a developmental minister to begin our 2016-2017 church year has been accepted by the UUA. The core of the application is the five goals presented in the application that were culled from congregational input over the past year. These five goals will be the focus for the developmental minister to foster change and growth from within our congregation:

1. **Governance:** establish church governance structures and practices that make the best use of church resources.
2. **Financial Stewardship:** develop, implement and maintain a financial stewardship system based on generosity and stewardship as theological foundations understood by all members of the Peoples Church community.
3. **Communication:** communicate positively and consistently among Peoples Church stakeholders.
4. **Membership:** develop and maintain rich and vigorous processes for attracting and integrating members.
5. **Involvement in Broader Communities:** develop and implement a plan for increasing Peoples Church presence and involvement in the geographical and religious communities of Cedar Rapids and beyond.

Although there are no definite dates or timelines, the committee should be receiving the first candidate names around February 1 and hopefully the process of calling a minister will be completed by the beginning of March. Again, this minister would begin at Peoples at the beginning of August 2016.

Questions regarding this process may be directed to committee co-chairs Scott Gay and Kathy Juba, as well as committee members Mary Huneke, Geoff Johnson, Scott Mansfield, and David Miessler-Kubaneck.



Regional Assembly Mid America Region UUA

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

For more information, [look here](#)

MINISTER'S MOMENT: *WHAT IS WORSHIP?* continued from page 3

moment. However, I am aware that it can be disruptive, so I caution you against applauding anything and everything that appeals to you.

We all come to church on Sunday morning from different places—literally and figuratively. I might be worried when I arrive at church. You might be expectant. Another person might be half-asleep. So each of us brings something to the service, something affected by our feelings and what happened the night before and what we read in the paper and so forth. A successful worship service allows the congregation and the minister to take a step into the mystery, to get a glimpse of the profound and holy nature of human life. What's important is that we take the step together.

Peoples *Leadership*

Board of Trustees News

Board Meeting Summary

- We confirmed new member **Paula Hinzman Mitchell**. Please welcome to Peoples both her and her daughter, **Autumn**.
- Treasurer **Gary McGraw** reported we ended 2015 with a **deficit** of ~\$17K, and he projects a deficit for 2016 as well. We can rely on reserves briefly while as we begin turning things around with the Developmental Minister, but changes need to happen soon. Kathleen volunteered to meet with **Bob Butikofer** to look into possible **grants** for jump starting projects.
- Gary also reported the Finance Committee met to discuss **endowment policy** with **Rich Patterson**. The committee will provide a plan for calculating the amount we draw annually to use in the operations budget.
- We discussed the **draft membership policy**, and **Robyn** will submit a revised version for our next meeting.
- We will begin looking for people to investigate and lead the certification process to become a **Green Sanctuary**.
- We discussed creating a **commenting/feedback system** and **Kathleen** will submit a proposal at our next meeting.
- **Kylene** suggested a **fundraiser selling the extra stained glass**. **Lance will gather information** about which pieces we would like to keep and what we may want to do with them.

The Peoples Finance Committee met on January 14 to review financial reports and discuss income diversification for Peoples Church. Church cash flow for December was negative:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Money we took in December | \$8,498 |
| Amount we spent in December | \$15,669 |

Watch this space for monthly financial updates.



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

As we all know, 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 role, please get in touch with Barb Gay (barbscot@imonmail.com or 319/573-5520). Contact us to let us know about you!

GETTING THE WORD OUT!

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 March *Voice* is **Saturday, February 20**.

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

To submit information

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

Questions can be emailed to the *Voice* Editor.



Peoples *Activities*

IUUWAN NEWS

The **IUUWAN Winter Lunch and Learn** will be held on Feb 6 from 11:30 to 2:00 at the First Unitarian Church in Des Moines.

IUUWAN Lobby Day on the Hill to end

mass incarceration is Tuesday, February 9 from 9 am - 3 pm
For more information and registration go to IUUWAN.com

The Linn Community Food Bank thanks PCUU for contributing 71 lbs of food during the fourth quarter of 2015. Together PCUU can do so much for many.



1st Wednesday Book Group

February 3, 2016 at 7 pm. at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in the UnConference Room. The book to read is Just Alice by Lisa Genova. The library has ten copies. The group usually meets in the Unconference Room at the top of the stairs at 7 pm. Contact Jan Federer at janetfederer@aol.com for more information.

Archive & History Committee

Archives committee is meeting regularly and working on the history timeline. We hope to have it posted on large paper (it will take up a good-sized wall) by the Annual Meeting. Progress is being made on organizing the Archive Room. More news may be forthcoming when our chair is back from Texas in March. Please contact Judy Price for information at (319) 395-7499 or ccandjp@imonmail.com until March.

Bridge Group: February 19, 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. In February we are discussing John Philip Newell's *The Rebirthing of God*. All are invited. For questions, contact: Carolyn Cleveland, carolynmcleveland@gmail.com or 360-4421.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

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

Paraministers meet February 6 at 1 pm in the Ely Room.

January 25 - February 7 Dorothy Hershner February 8 - 21 Scott Mansfield

Social Justice Council

Sunday, January 31 at 12:15 pm

The Social Justice Council will meet to talk about involving PCUU in health care access and gun protection/safety issues during 2016. All People's people and ideas are welcome. Questions? contact Marcia Swift at marcia.swift@gmail.com

Van Vechten Guild

For details, please contact Susan Davis sdavisod@southslope.net or (319) 981-4494.

Beginning Jan 19, 2016, Peoples Church will again host VITA, the federal **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance** program. VITA provides free tax preparation services to low- and moderate-income members of our community. **APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED – NO WALK-INS ACCEPTED.** **To make an appointment**, call the United Way at (319) 739-4211 or dial 2-1-1. VITA Appointments are held in the Ely Room Tues/Thurs 5:30-8:30 pm and Saturdays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. *Please respect their needs and leave the furniture as they have re-arranged it until Saturday, April 9.* If you need tables for an upcoming event, contact the office in advance to make arrangements.