



JANUARY 2016

Left: Peoples social justice members and friends stand at the Linn County Courthouse as part of an Interfaith Alliance demonstration of solidarity with Muslims: Jan Watkins, Adam Wright, Bev Philpott, Marcia Swift, Bryan Davis and Mary Huneke.

Peoples Church • *the Voice*

Peoples Church • *the Voice*

ON SUNDAYS

JANUARY 3. Scott Mansfield presents a post-Christmas reflection on Ahmal & the Night Visitors with Marion Patterson & Maria Kell.

JANUARY 10. *Let It Go & Bring It On.* The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service in which you can rid yourself of something unwanted and strengthen your resolve to improve.

JANUARY 17. *King Day.* This worship service pays tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Music: Peoples Choir

JANUARY 24. *SBNR.* Is life a box of chocolates or a cup of instant coffee? This service, led by the Rev. Jeff Briere, addresses those who say they are spiritual, but not religious. Music: Arianne Wasson and Abram Doval.

JANUARY 31. *UU 101.* 6000 years of religious history in 30 minutes. Music: Megan and Tim Jones.



Worship - 11 am.

RE gathers at 11 am
in the Sanctuary

Coffee Hour in the Ely Room
follows worship.

CHALICE CHAT: 2nd Sunday
of each month, beginning
January 10 at 12:15 pm
in the Sanctuary.

A Busy December at Peoples!



Pancake breakfast with Lance Maynard and Jenifer Brade flipping.



Far left: Our favorite Grinch, Tristan Maynard ; above: The Grinch instructs Max, his dog (played by Brandon Maynard), in the play "The Grinch Who Stole the Holidays;" Near left: The littlest Who in Whoville



Above: Peoples RE created a great float, accompanied by the Grinch (Jamie Zaruba), the Cat in the Hat, (Jakob Bates) and many more at the Cedar Rapids Fire & Ice Parade.

Minister's *Moment*



What's It Gonna Take?

by the Rev. Jeff Briere

The "tipping point" is a term from the world of epidemiology. Malcolm Gladwell appropriated it for his book of the same name and he says, "The tipping point is that moment in an epidemic when a virus reaches critical mass. It's the boiling point. It's the moment on the graph when the line starts to shoot straight upwards."

I believe we haven't reached it yet, but I believe we are much closer to a tipping point than a year ago. I believe we will soon seriously engage in the long-running discussion about the right to possess firearms and the right of people to feel relatively safe as they go about their business. I used to think I would not see it in my lifetime, but now I may. I think there may now be enough aggrieved families, enough outraged citizens, enough parents who are too afraid for their children to let them leave their homes, that the issue will tip over into the realm of serious action.

What's it gonna take to properly restrict the ability to purchase a pistol and ammo? What's it gonna take for people to stand up to an industry? What's it gonna take to get to the tipping point?

We reached the tipping point in the civil rights movement when the cops turned firehoses and dogs on the marchers as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma Alabama. In Vietnam, we reached the tipping point when Buddhist monks set themselves on fire to protest the war. It will take just one more botched or irregular election, and we'll reach a tipping point in the discussion about electronic voting computers not generating a paper trail.

In 1966, Charles Whitman shot and killed 12 people from a clock tower on the University of Texas campus and that wasn't enough. In 1999, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris shot and killed 13 people and themselves in Columbine, Colorado and that wasn't enough. In 2006, Charles Roberts shot and killed five Amish girls and himself in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania and that wasn't enough. In 2007, Cho Seung-Hui killed 32 people and himself in Blacksburg, Virginia and that wasn't enough. In 2012, Adam Lanza shot and killed 20 children, 6 adults, and himself in Newtown, Connecticut and that wasn't enough. In 2015, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik shot and killed 14 people and seriously wounded 20 more in San Bernardino, California and that hasn't been enough.

Someday, and I pray that it will be soon, some legislator, somewhere in Washington, will find enough guts to stand up and say, "That's enough!"

That's what it's gonna take.



Thanks to all who participated in, helped plan, and attended the lovely Christmas Eve service on December 24th. We hope that we can come together again with the Iowa City congregation next year for repeat service.



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

Voice editor submissions:
voiceeditor@peoplesuu.org

Peoples *Explores*

REnotes

By Jamie Zaruba, Coordinator of Religious Education

Thank you to all who participated in our first People's Float building experience. We all went out and braved the chill in the air that night! Super job!

Thanks to our children, youth and adult members who all worked so hard to make our rendition of *The Grinch Who Stole the Holidays* a smash hit!!! We had a fantastic audience!

Upcoming Events:

Dec 31: We are having a fantastic **potluck and gathering** from 7:30 pm through the ball dropping of the New Year. Please, no alcohol. Children are welcome for games, activities and movies.

Jan 3: RE Classes Resume.

Jan 6: RE Council Meeting in the Ely Room, come one come all!!!

Jan 20: Introducing our new **Adult Education Classes, 7- 8:30 pm**. This month's theme: **Karma**.

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

Our RE Birthdays:

Jan 15: Laina Kell

Jan 29: Laura Kell

We are still looking for some helpers and teachers for the remainder of the school year, just contact Jaime to join the fun: dre@peoplesuu.org, or 319-361-2988 (cell).

RE Spotlight:
Helper Jack
Primmer-Tamayo's
awesome work!

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

Popcorn Theology

A Beautiful Mind

January 29

7 p.m.



More scenes from *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*

Peoples News

Archive & History Committee

Monday, January 4 at 9:30 am, Andre Room.

We will be working on the history displays for the 70s, 80s and 90s. Some may choose to work on the organization of new shelf space. We are making progress, but more needs to be done! Clarice Krippner for details at cbkrip@gmail.com or 363-6998.

Bridge Group: January 15, 7 pm, Village Ridge. Contact Rose Gabe: 319 396-5202

FAITH EXPLORERS

For more information, contact **Carolyn Cleveland** (319) 360-4421, carolynmcleveland@gmail.com or **Jo Wasta** (319)294-8484 or jwasta4@gmail.com.

1st Wednesday Book Group

January 6, 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 ay janetfederer@aol.com or 362-6936 has more information!

GOOD NEIGHBORS

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

Paraministers meet January 9 at 1 pm in the Ely Room.

December 28 - January 10 Dorothy Hershner

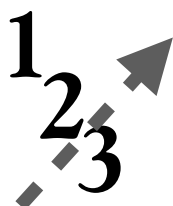
January 11 - 24 Scott Mansfield

Van Vechten Guild

No meeting in January; meetings will resume in February. For details, please contact Susan Davis sdavisod@southslope.net or (319) 981-4494.

CUUPS

Contact Deborah Maynard for more details at (319) 363-4743 or purplelady@yahoo.com.



Making a Plan...

Peoples people are invited to help revise the church emergency plan. Volunteers won't be starting from scratch: the UUA webpage *Planning for Disasters for the Congregation and Building* offers a [Guide for Developing Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship](#)



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**.



Board of Trustees News

Board Meeting Summary

- We approved the completed application to the Developmental Ministry Program prepared by our search committee. We also discussed some contingencies keep in mind as the search process continues into the next phase.
- Treasurer Gary McGraw projects Peoples will end 2015 with a \$15K deficit. He currently projects a \$25K deficit for 2016, though not all pledge forms have been received. The Finance Committee will evaluate the extent to which we can draw from the Endowment without affecting future growth. The Endowment is one tool we will use to provide Developmental Ministry a chance to introduce change and invigoration to the congregation.
- We discussed ways to change our annual pledge drive to allow more time to create an accurate budget based on solid income projections. Options include beginning the drive earlier and implementing a year-round pledge drive. We will form a taskforce to investigate and make some recommendations.
- CRE Jamie Zaruba will be organizing a new series of 90-minute adult education classes on the 3rd Wednesdays of the upcoming months. The first topic is karma, on January 20th.
- We discussed changing our background check service. We may need to do more checks in the future, as required by our insurer and other regulations.

Monthly Chalice Chat

Come join members of the Board of Trustees in the sanctuary for an informal update and Q/A session. **We're switching these to the SECOND Sunday of the month**, but this is still one way we're reaching out to the congregation with updates about current issues. Please join us! We invite all Peoples people to bring your questions and voice your opinions.

Developmental Ministry: Application Submitted!

A major milestone for Peoples Church was reached on December 20 when the Developmental Ministry Search Committee submitted our application to the UUA Transitions Office for the program!

The initial reaction from Keith Kron at the Transitions Office was, "...it looks like awesome work...". Since this is a brand new process, the committee is uncertain as to the exact timeline of our next steps. We do know our application will be viewed by potential candidates and then we will have a chance to interview.

In early January the committee will begin to formulate interview questions and a system for interview scoring. A link to the application is provided **here** so everyone can read it. Please take a look!

\$\$Pledge Reminder\$\$

By now you should have all been contacted about pledging to Peoples Church. If you have not already done so, please **send your pledge in ASAP** or contact Susan Davis at 319- 981-4494 and she can submit it for you and will send you a confirming note of the amount. Your ongoing support is needed and appreciated.

Peoples *Events*

Coming Soon: Adult Religious Education!

On **January 20th, from 7:00 until 8:30 pm**, we are offering a brand new educational experience here at Peoples Church. Our friends from the rocking religious education program will be bringing some awesomely fresh opportunities to be introduced to our adults. Great new experiences, and opportunities for friends to tell their own stories, while providing us some new ways to gain a deeper understanding of Unitarian Universalism principles. We seek to enlighten, engage and explore ethical and moral questions. Calling our faith into action, working within the congregation and in the wider world to build communities of justice and love.

We can hardly wait to offer this month's theme of **Karma**. Come on into the Ely Room, bring a beverage, a pad of paper, and an open mind.....see you there!

Exploring Our Religious Landscape

The **Iowa Interfaith Exchange** will meet January 31, 2016, from 12:30 - 5:30 pm at Drake University, Des Moines. *Exploring Our Religious Landscape* is the theme of this gathering of all faiths and belief systems.

The keynote speaker is Peter Manseau, author of "One Nation, Under Gods."

Breakout sessions include CUUPS in Cedar Rapids, the history of Mother Mosque in CR, Iowa's Soto Zen Buddhism and Ryumonji Zen Monastery, religions of refugee communities in Des Moines, Iowa's Mormon journey and more.

Admission \$25. Contact: Luke Elsinga lezinga@dmarcunited.org.

Wednesday Workshop **Fixing, Finishing & Swap Night**

January 13, 2016, 7:15 pm

- Do you have a mending pile that has sat so long it evolved and became sentient?
- Do you have a bunch of felted sweaters that you are going to make mittens from "any day now?"
- Do you have a sweater that has only needed the buttons sewn on, but has sat buttonless for an amount of time that you don't want to admit in public?

If so, this is the night for you! Join us at People's Church in a social night of fixing and finishing. You can also bring unloved fabric, yarn, and other notions to trade. More info from Arianne Waseen, awaseen@gmail.com.

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 February *Voice* is **Saturday, January 23**.

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

To submit information to the *Voice* or *eWeekly*, **click [here!](#)**

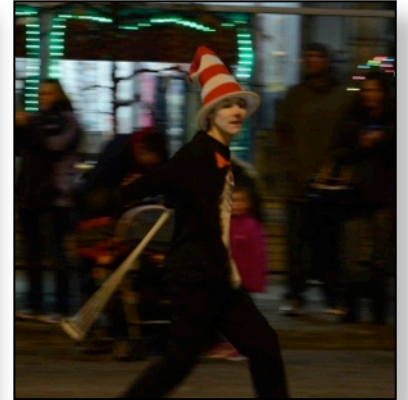


Regional Assembly **Mid America Region UUA**

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

For more information, [look here](#) or ask Rev. Briere, or one of our Board members.

Peoples *Events*



More photos from Fire & Ice parade and the *The Grinch who Stole Christmas*.

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.

