



- Year-end wrap-up
- Welcome, Reverend Hinds!



JUNE 2016

Peoples Church • *the Voice*

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SUNDAYS

JUNE 5: This service will be one of enlightenment from a simple, but wise source: Dr. Seuss. Presented by Sam Wilson.

JUNE 12: If you thought the Pixar animated movie *Up* was strictly a children's film, think again. In reality, it's a cleverly disguised primer for satisfaction in everyday living. Kathleen Watson will explore five of its key lessons that anyone can learn and apply. *Music by Scott Mansfield.*

JUNE 19: Marion and Rich Patterson will consider connections between the 1981 movie *On Golden Pond* and relations in people's personal and corporate lives, including church. They will tie in the Peoples Church Covenant of Right Relations. *Special music by Tracy McPartland and Scott Mansfield.*

JUNE 26: In following with the theme of "life lessons from unexpected sources," Lance Maynard will talk about a fellow UU who took social problems to pop culture. At the sign post ahead, the next stop....

Sunday Worship - 11 am



Coffee Hour in the Ely Room follows worship



Welcome, Rev. Hinds!

THE DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTRY SEARCH COMMITTEE is happy to announce that **Rebecca Hinds** will be joining us late this summer as our minister. We are confident that she is an excellent match for PCUU's strengths and our developmental needs.

The committee believes Rebecca is the right person for Peoples at this time for several reasons. In her current and previous positions she has demonstrated that she is a strategic thinker and bridge builder.

She is no stranger to the interpersonal conflicts faced by every faith community and has worked successfully to resolve such conflict. Rebecca currently is the Director of Congregational and Volunteer Engagement with the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in Boston, coordinating volunteers in dozens of congregations. The search committee has concluded this experience in particular aligns with PCUU's top objectives.

Rebecca's current ministry is serving a community she describes as, "multi-cultural, anti-racist, and social justice oriented...". She began full-time ministry in this position in August of 2014. Before beginning full-time ministry she served as Youth Programs Coordinator at the First Unitarian Society in Newton, MA, and completed a yearlong full-time ministerial internship.

A life-long Unitarian Universalist born and raised in Duluth, MN, Rebecca told the members of the search committee that she is interested in serving a congregation that shares a respect for UU tradition but at the same time is open to innovation and growth.

During our interview, the committee found Rebecca to be a big-picture visionary, as well as personable, intelligent and thoughtful. She is able to bring calm and clarity to working with lay leaders. Rebecca has several key strengths that match our stated Developmental Ministry goals: membership growth, leadership development, worship, music and liturgical arts, and community-building beyond the walls of our own church.

– Continued on page 3

TURNING POINT! A NEW KIND OF CAMPAIGN

THE 2017 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN CAMPAIGN will start and finish earlier: July 1 is the kick-off date and the campaign will finish at the end of September. Instead of beginning at the start of the church year when things start getting busy, the campaign will be finishing then.

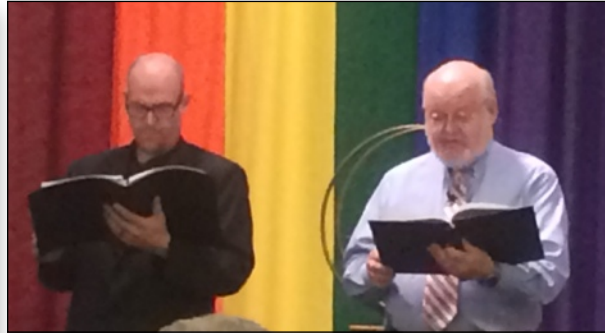
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President's Year-end Report

WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH A LOT these last two years and now Peoples Church has reached the turning point. Rev. **Jeff Briere** joined us at a time of unexpected difficulty. At that time, his honesty and steady determination to see it through and get it right was a great help to me, the Board, and us all. Now, we are long past that and thanks to Rev. Jeff, Judy Price, and the whole transitions team, this has been a successful interim ministry and we can now turn our attention expectantly to the future.

– Continued on page 4

Minister's *Moment*



**Thanks,
Rev. Jeff
& Kate!**



**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

**PEOPLES CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
4980 Gordon Avenue NW
Cedar Rapids IA 52405
319 362-9827**

www.peoplesuu.org
[www.facebook.com/
peoplesuu](https://www.facebook.com/peoplesuu)

“You are now thinking about your future, not looking to the past...
I think you are in a good place to do some great ministry and rebuild Peoples
Church. I am pleased to have played some small part in that. Good luck, work
hard, but with joy – and don’t make me come back here.”

– Rev. Jeff Briere

(excerpt from Peoples Church Annual Meeting Minister’s Report, 5/21/16)

Welcome, Rev. Hinds! continued from page 1

In Rebecca’s words, “To a new ministry I will offer deep experience with and
commitment to Unitarian Universalism, intellectual and theological depth, as well as a
robust skill set honed in extensive congregational and non-profit work.”

Rebecca Hinds is an avid camper, hiker and kayaker. She is also a musician and loves
to cook. In September Rebecca will marry her partner, Casey. Casey is graduating in
May with a Master of Divinity and is pursuing ordination in the United Church of Christ.



Peoples News

PEOPLES CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

[Robin Miessler-KubaneK](#)
pcuupresident@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gary McGraw
373-9449

Scott Gay*

Kathy Juba*

Scott Mansfield*

Kathleen Watson

**Incoming members*

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

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

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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From the Board of Trustees

May 15, 2016

- We finalized the **contract for our new Developmental Minister**. The search committee chairs sent it to the new minister for her signature by May 20.
- We confirmed **new member Barbara Werning-Dee**. Please help her feel welcome at Peoples.
- Treasurer Gary McGraw reported April ended well. He gave a full update to the congregation at the meeting on May 21 (see Treasurer's Report, below).
- We approved the pledge campaign committee's plan to change the 2017 campaign timeline, ask for a significant increase in pledges, and do a separate fundraiser for the endowment. The committee presented these changes at the congregational meeting on May 21, and information will also be sent out via postal mail in June.
- The **next Board meeting** was rescheduled due to the Father's Day holiday and will be held **June 26 at 12:30 pm** in Minister's Office.

A SINCERE THANK YOU to outgoing Board members **Geoff Johnson, Lance Maynard, and Kylene Loughery** for their outstanding service to the church, and to **Bryan Davis**, for his leadership and vision as president.

Welcome our new Board president **Robin Miessler-KubaneK**, and new board members **Kathy Juba, Scott Gay and Scott Mansfield!**

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

The Finance Committee met 5/12/16. Peoples Church cash flow for April was positive:

- Income for April \$17,456
- Expenses for April \$12,868

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, continued from page 1

Standing in a class by itself is the **Developmental Minister Search Committee**. They have managed to organize diverse and contradictory input from all of us into a clear statement of our goals for the years ahead. They have skillfully navigated the uncertain application process of a new kind of ministry. They have endured an anxious wait for applicants. And they have succeeded in their task! In August our next minister will arrive and we will begin discovering Peoples Church for the 21st century.

But that's not all. ...Much has been accomplished since our last Annual Meeting. The **Interim Transitions Team** has completed the five tough tasks of interim ministry. We have a new Director of Religious Education and a revitalized RE program. Our **Social Justice Council** has been active in so many areas that it is hard to list them all. The **worship associates** and **choir** have continued providing able assistance to Rev. Jeff plus high quality lay services. We now have **Wednesday night craft classes**. We have brought our stained glass home and have a task force seeking estimates to fill in the cross window. We adopted a revised **Covenant of Right Relations**. We have developed important **policies** for membership and disruptive behavior. The **Van Vechten Guild** is active and the **Archives Committee** is moving ahead on the timeline project.

Peoples News

RE notes

RECOGNITION & BRIDGING SUNDAY 2016

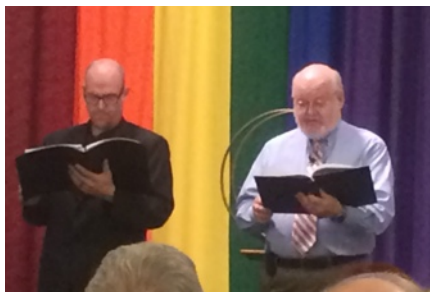
Jamie says, "Thank you to all our awesome volunteers and fantastic students for another great year!"



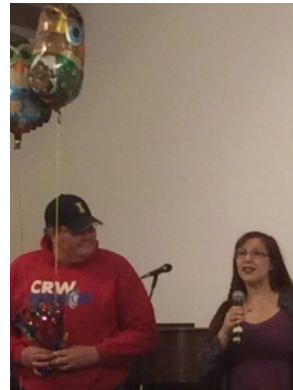
Bridging Ceremony: Tristan Maynard



RE Teacher Recognition



Jamie & Rev. Jeff leading worship during Recognition Sunday



OWL Recognition with Deb Maynard & Rob Loughrey

We accomplished a lot this year in Religious Education:

- Registered 28 students, with an average of 17 students for the year per week.
- Went on three field trips: Indian Creek, Cedar Rapids Fire Station and Downtown Cedar Rapids to march in the Fire & Ice Parade.
- Conducted two plays: a small skit in November and our Winter Play in December.
- The Fire & Ice Parade and our Winter Play brought new attendees to our services, promoting of our church.

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NOTES

Are you a Peoples Church volunteer? If you were unable to attend our May 15th Volunteer Appreciation Sunday, a Volunteer Certificate is waiting for you in the Church Office in appreciation for your work supporting Peoples Church!

MANY THANKS to the **Ogle family** for donating a glider rocker to enhance the comfort of our Ely Room.



Peoples *Activities*

Questions for the well-informed Peoples member:

Where is Peoples' sister church located?

In what decade did Peoples become a Welcoming Congregation?

What was the name of the Peoples' initiative to help its member get fit and trim?

FIND THE ANSWERS to these questions and others on the **Timeline** located in the Andre Room.

Be the member in the know!

Do you receive the UUA *World magazine*? All church members are entitled to a subscription. If not, contact the church office and we will add you to their database.

Archives Committee Year-end Summary

Timeline Project: Peoples Church 1869-2010



IN ORDER FOR US TO KNOW WHO WE ARE TODAY, we need to have an understanding of who we have been. Our history can show us how we have evolved in belief and practice and how we have attempted to assert a positive influence on the world around us.

The Archive committee of Peoples Church has taken on the mission of preserving and sharing that history with our members.

Accomplishments this year:

- Updating and placement of the Ministerial Plaque in the upper hall
- Near completion of the content of a history timeline of our church from primary sources, including
- *The Voice*, annual reports, personal interviews, and newspaper articles
- Continued sorting and organization of our collected history and our space
- Retrieval of information for leadership of the church
- Securing sensitive artifacts in appropriate archival materials
- Preparation for an oral history project, especially targeting our oldest members and those most knowledgeable about the past.

Continuing needs:

- Funding to turn our history timeline content into a more permanent display
- Tech expertise and equipment for the safe electronic storage of documents, oral history, photos etc.
- Continued collection and donation of our historical documents and artifacts
- Sources of support: aside from repurposed filing cabinets, metal shelving, funds for the ministerial plaque, and some office supplies, we are self-funded by our committee members.

Current Active Members: Judy Price, Bill Hart, Dorothy Hershner, Joye Winey, Bev Philpott, Marcy Mattison, Jan Federer, Jan Watkins, Mary Ballantyne, Ron and Toni McGraw, Shirley Alexander, Sarah Sutton and Clarice Krippner, advised and inspired by Pam Edwards, and David Miessler-Kubanek.

LET US STEP INTO THE FUTURE armed by the wisdom of what we have learned from the past. We must not forget the mistakes that have been made, the heroes who have lived among us and the work that has been accomplished.

Peoples *Activities*

1st Wednesday Book Group

June 1, 2016 at 7 pm. at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in the UnConference Room. Contact *Jan Federer* at for more information.

Archive & History Committee

Meeting the third Monday of each month at 9:30 am. We're working on the history timeline and have a draft version hanging in the Andre Room! We are currently looking through photos for inclusion. Call *Clarice* for more information at 363-6998.

Bridge Group

Third Friday of each month at 7 pm, Village Ridge. Contact *Rose Gabe*: 396-5202.

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*, carolynmcleland@gmail.com or 360-4421.

Join the Good Neighbors!

We help church members for a short-term need such as supplying a meal, transport to church or the doctor, yard work, pet sitting, light house cleaning or repairs, etc. For information, contact *Kris Davis* at 294-5010 or *Kathy Juba* at 378-3116. Thank you!

Paraministers this summer

June 1 -14: *Dorothy Hershner*
June 15 - 28: *Suzanne Buck*
June 29 - July 12: *Rose Gabe*
July 13 - July 26: *Jan Federer*
July 27 - August 9: *Scott Mansfield*
August 10 - August 23: *Dorothy Hershner*
August 24 -September 6: *Jan Federer*

Paraministers will meet on Saturday, June 11 at 1:00 pm in the Ely Room. Please plan to attend. Contact *Rose Gabe*, 396-5202 with questions or requests.

Social Justice Council News

The box for the Linn County Food Bank continues to overflow with donations. We delivered 79 pounds of food! Thank you for your support. We have placed a plastic container next to the Food Bank box for toiletry items for the Community Free Health Care Clinic. Items such as toothpaste and brushes, lotion, shampoo, deodorant, and razors are needed.

Van Vechten Guild

We will meet at noon on June 9 for our farewell lunch, and we will not meet in July or August. This month lunch will be a potluck. Bring a favorite food to share. Even if you are unable to bring an item, you are very welcome as there is always plenty to share. We will also be voting on our Guild officers for the next year.

Notes

from the

Congregational Meeting and the Annual Report are available at the church Welcome Table and will be available online soon at the Peoples Church website. – wonderful reading that will make you feel *GREAT* about Peoples Church!

Social Justice Forums

have concluded for the season, and will resume in the new church year. Stay tuned, and send suggestions to marcia.swift@gmail.com Thank you for your interest and support as we build our forums programming!

Peoples *Transitions*

Voice Deadlines for Summer Planning

Be sure everyone knows about your event in advance by submitting articles to voiceeditor@peoplesuu.org by the following dates:

July Voice:
submit by June 21

August Voice: submit by July 26

September Voice: submit by August 23

eWeekly deadline:
Wednesday of each week.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT, continued from page 4

On the flip side, we ended the 2015 fiscal year in the red and the fall pledge drive for 2016 was disappointing. Currently we are filling the gap by increasing use of endowment proceeds and expending reserve funds for church operations. In effect, we are using funds reserved for projects like building renovation and enhancement to fund the operating budget. This can only be a stop gap and is not sustainable beyond a year or two.

In response, a stewardship planning group has formed to revamp our fundraising campaign. In another move, we are separating our ask for endowment contributions from the pledge drive so we can all focus our giving on the immediate problem. Still, building up the endowment is an important goal, so we will make spring 2017 a time to focus on planned giving. Ultimately, the most important take away on our financial condition is to reinforce the need for long term growth.

So be proud of your church. We are Unitarian Universalists and that means something important! Carry your pride wherever you go and never doubt it. Be optimistic about our future. This will be an exciting time of challenge, hope and accomplishment. Everyone has a role to play and a new phase in the life of Peoples Church is about to unfold. Rejoice!

This year in Religious Education, continued from page 5.

- RE pancake breakfast and our potluck in the fall, builds a relationship with the congregation.
- The Chili Cook-Off earned \$100 dollars for our church.
- Our Church hosted The Seuss-I-Con this spring! Great exposure and networking for Peoples and other DREs.
- RE Chair **Robert Loughrey** stepped down due to his family moving. He will be missed. We appointed Co-chairs **Deb Maynard** and **Amber Todd**.
- Upcoming summer activities and our block party in the fall.

TURNING POINT pledge campaign, continued from page 3.

The Pledge campaign will be more relaxed than before. Look for:

- **No-Hassle Campaign** in July and August for those who want to get in ahead of the formal campaign. Look for details soon!
- **Miracle Sundays:** September 4 and 11. We'll call for outstanding pledge forms at the service will be emphasized. The September 4 Labor Day Picnic will offer with activities for kids while encouraging pledging. Those who have not pledged will be contacted phone. Stewards may visit one-on-one if preferred.

We want to make it easier for you, easier for stewardship volunteers, and easier for the Finance Committee to construct a budget with complete pledge information. It's a win, win, win!

Pledge Campaign Planning Group: Bob Butikofer, Judy Price, Charles Cizio, Robyn Miessler-Kubanek, Sue Davis, Bryan Davis