



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

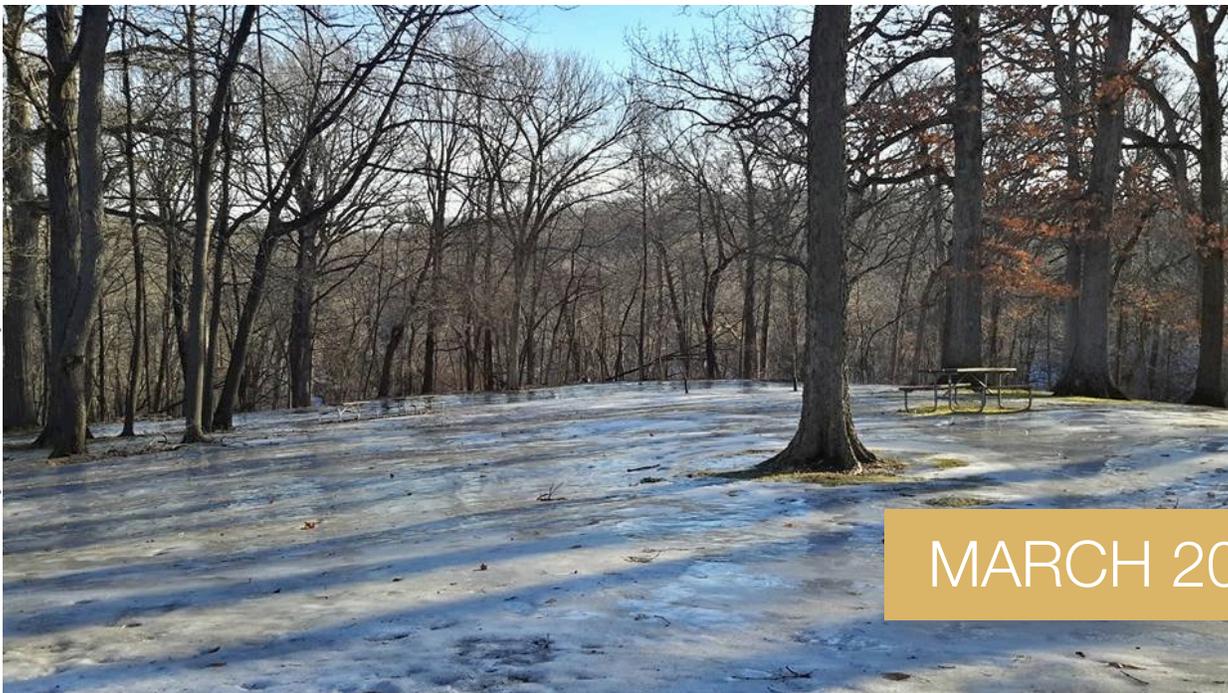


Photo of Ellis Park by Susan Elliott-Bryan



MARCH 2016

Peoples Church • *the Voice*

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ON SUNDAYS

March 6: *SOS!* Plan to attend church on March 6 to share *Songs of Significance (SOS)* during a special music-filled service. Peoples people will lead the whole congregation in singing. Come for the singing and stay for the midwinter potluck afterwards. Invite a friend, bring your voice, and join in the fellowship.

March 13: *The Seven Last Words about Evolution and the Bible.* The Rev. Jeff Briere finds a way to harmonize Charles Darwin and the Bible.

March 20: *Some Assembly Required.* Unitarian Universalism is a curious religion, says the Rev. Jeff Briere. Like an IKEA chair, you must build it yourself.

March 27: *Out of the Darkness, into the Light.* The Rev. Jeff Briere finds an alternative interpretation for Easter.



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.

Social Justice Forums

Several aspects of **equitable health care access** are the issues to be addressed in these upcoming Forums. Please come! Invite friends and neighbors.

March 6 at 12:30 pm (after Service and after potluck). **State Senator Liz Mathis** will be our guest on March 6 at 12:30 pm to discuss giving the management of Iowa's Medicaid program to out of state for profit insurance companies. Understand why the Democratic legislators are opposed and why the federal government has been apprehensive about this move.

March 13 at 10 am: Linn County Board of Supervisors member **Linda Langston** will be our guest on March 13 to talk about how changes at the state and county level have impacted the mental health needs of our family members, friends, and neighbors.

March 20 at 10 am: A representative from the **Community Free Health Clinic** will be our guest to discuss the continuing health care needs of our community post-Affordable Care Act.

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS

The art of

Feedback

March 10, 7:15 Andre Room

Giving feedback can be tough. What do you say? How do you say it? We all give feedback at some point, whether to a colleague on a joint project or a family member who can't figure out how to fold laundry. We're not usually given much training in this important skill, though. So come learn what "constructive" feedback is and practice your skills. Led by Robin Miessler-Kubanek.

UU 101 | A short course for new members - and others

The Rev. Jeff Briere will offer three sessions concerning Unitarian Universalist history, the history of Peoples Church, your personal spiritual journey and the path to membership. The dates are March 16, 23 & 30, each night at 6:30 pm. This short course is recommended for new members and those considering membership in Peoples Church. Please register with Pam Edwards in the office; call her at 319-362-9827. Light refreshments will be provided at each session.

Minister's *Moment*

The Still, Small Voice Within

by the Rev. Jeff Briere

Have you ever felt apprehensive because you were the recipient of too much good luck? Ever had the feeling that it's too much, too fast, that you don't deserve your good fortune? I remember a scene in *Funny Girl*, starring Barbra Streisand as Fanny Brice. She has difficulty accepting her initial success. "No, it can't be," she wails. "I should have suffered more."

I remembered that scene because a newlywed friend was thinking about buying a house. So she went window shopping, never expecting to find the perfect house in the first hour of her search. The house was the right size, the right price, in the right place and even the right color. Yet she hesitated. And she questioned the wisdom of buying it.

Another friend once had three jobs come to him. He was looking for work, but hadn't started in earnest, and three jobs fell right into his lap. For two of them, he was hired over the telephone. He was the right person for the jobs at the right time. Naturally, he questioned the wisdom of accepting something that was given to him.

I told my newlywed friend to put up some earnest money right away and make the house a home of love. I told my other friend to accept the offers and do a good job and be proud of his work.

We only have a few chances to listen to that "still, small voice within," the voice that tells us what to do. The voice doesn't holler, but it's clear enough if you listen. It doesn't really speak, either. But it communicates all the same. It takes a little practice to learn to hear the voice. On the other hand, I suppose if you work at it, you can learn to ignore it.

I suggest you listen.

Take advantage of your good fortune. Not with pride, but with humility. Things are presented to you because you can do something with them; opportunities come your way because you are the right person at the right time in the right place.

Take pride in what you can accomplish with your skills and your good fortune. Consider your opportunities as a chance to make the world a better place.



**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
319-210-4239 (cell)

**PEOPLES CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

www.peoplesuu.org

Peoples Facebook page

Members & Friends

Facebook: [PCUU](#)

Peoples UU RE Facebook



Regional Assembly Mid America Region UUA

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

Registration is open for Regional Assembly!
Join us to explore **The Who in the New Era.**

Our three keynote presenters will share their thoughts on how Unitarian Universalism could be exactly what current religious explorers want from faith communities. There will be many great workshops and outstanding worship services led by ministers from across the region. For complete information and a link to register, please [look here](#) or visit the UUA website.

Peoples *Activities*



The Willis Dady Shelter sent a grateful "thank you" letter for our Peoples donations in December. Executive Phoebe Trepp said, "We are truly blessed to have people like you thinking of our clients!" Many hands can do great good in our community.

1st Wednesday Book Group

March 2, 2016 at 7 pm. at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in the UnConference Room. 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

Monday, March 21 at 9:30 am, Andre Room. (3rd Monday of the month)

The Archives Committee is 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 mid-March; then contact Clarice Krippner, cbkrip or 319 363-6998.

Bridge Group: March 18, 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.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

Need a little help? We offer a helping hand with things like chores, and errands. Call or email Kathy Juba, 378-3116, kathywilson@imonmail.com.

Paraministers

Rose Gabe: Feb 22 - March 6
Dorothy Hershner: March 7 - 20

Social Justice Council

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

First Monday of the month at noon in the Andre Room

At our meeting on March 14, a representative of the Young Parents' Network will speak. For details, please contact Susan Davis, sdavisod@southslope.net or (319) 981-4494.

MoralMonday

March 14 at the State Capitol

Moral Mondays involves a coalition of progressive Iowa organizations, including IUJWAN, proactively supporting progressive policies that work for the advancement of equality, fairness, and justice. The Social Justice Council invites all interested to attend.

Peoples News



FLOWER MINISTRY

Sammie Willson is establishing a flower ministry to bring flowers back to the sanctuary. Arrangements can be dedicated to people or events, and a listing will appear in the order of service *if* information is submitted to the [minister](#) no later than the Wednesday before the arrangement is displayed. Donors are responsible for getting the arrangement to the church and into the sanctuary before the worship service, and for finding a new home for the flowers after the service. A sign-up sheet is outside the sanctuary at the Welcome Table. Contact [Rev. Briere](#) or Sammie if you'd like to help coordinate this unfolding effort. Details will expand as the project matures; as a new undertaking, it is a learning process.



We are an all-women organization that was formed out of Unitarian Universalist traditions with an emphasis on exploring and celebrating the Feminine Divine in her many forms. As a non-profit, volunteer-run organization, we have hosted all-women retreats since 1987. Our next retreat will be held on **May 11-15, 2016** at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC. Our theme for this event is *We Walk With HER as One* and will emphasize our connection to Mother Earth. For more information about UU-Womenspirit, please visit our website, www.uuwomenspirit.org.

Peoples Church hosts VITA through April 9, 2016

Vita is the federal **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance** program that 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 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-8:30 pm and Saturdays 9 am to 3 pm.

How does this affect Peoples activities in the Ely Room? 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 church office in advance to make arrangements.

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

VOICE SUBMISSIONS for the April *Voice* are due **Saturday, March 26.**

E-WEEKLY SUBMISSIONS are due *each Wednesday noon* for the Thursday edition.

TO SUBMIT INFORMATION to the *Voice* or *eWeekly*, please go to <http://form.jotform.us/42224924377154> or click [here!](#)



Peoples *Leadership*

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-Kubanek
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 will begin investigating options for the ash tree on our property: whether to attempt to prevent ash borer infestation, or to remove the tree.
- Treasurer Gary McGraw reported January's month-end balance was negative, in part due to the annual insurance payment processed during that month.
- Board President Bryan Davis reported on plans to restructure the stewardship campaign to extend over a longer time period. The goals are:
 1. To give congregation members more time to discuss and decide on their pledges,
 2. To begin/end the campaign earlier in the year. Ending the campaign earlier will allow the finance committee and board more time to create the budget for congregational approval at the December meeting.
- We discussed revisions to the draft membership and disruptive person policies. We approved the draft membership policy, and will review additional revisions to the disruptive person policy at the March meeting. Both policies will be presented to the congregation for approval in May.
- Board member Geoff Johnson will move forward with the Hy-Vee coupon book fundraiser again this year.

The Peoples Finance Committee met February 18 to review the 2016 pledge campaign results and financial reports. The finance committee approved plans for a modified campaign for 2017 in coordination with the Board and Canvass staff.

Peoples Church cash flow for January was negative:

Money we took in January:	\$12,100
Amount spent in January:	\$15,229

The Nominating Committee is 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!

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 *Updates*

CUUPS Activities

Full Moon Ritual - Storm Moon

Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Ely Room

The March full moon is between Ostara and the Christian holiday of Easter this year. It ushers in the Spring, which brings storms - hence the name "Storm Moon" in some cultures. Join us as we explore the Goddess in at this time in the wheel of the year.

Ostara Ritual/ Potluck

Sunday, March 20, 4:00 - 6:30 pm, Andre Room

We will be holding an Ostara ritual followed by a community potluck in place of the March CUUPS meeting. Please arrive as close to 4:00 p.m. as possible to get your crock pots plugged in and arranged before the ritual begins. Childcare will be provided during the ritual for families that would like to attend.

For more information contact Deb Maynard at CR_CUUPS@yahoo.com, or (319) 775-0619.



Making plans for summer?

**Unitarian Universalist Alliance
of Camp and Conference Centers**

Looking for year-round retreats, conferences, and camp experiences that reflect our UU values? From California, to North Carolina, to Texas, the Unitarian Universalist Alliance of Camp and Conference Centers offer opportunities for fellowship, self-discovery, and learning in natural settings of unparalleled beauty. Go to their [website](#) and click the red sextagonal menu button.

CLOSER TO HOME, consider [Camp Unistar](#), on Cass Lake near Bemidji, Minnesota. The camp's waterfront offers a wide range of activities. The island's forest trails attract hikers. Sunrises and sunsets encourage meditation. Each year UniStar campers return for the serenity and community, with no roads or commercial enterprise, and enjoy a week filled with thought-provoking programs, wonderful meals, and memorable experiences. During the season, camp offers 12 weeks with various programs - some for youth only, some for adults only, most for a combination of individuals to family groups. The five cabins and the upper floor of the Lodge each have three to four simple bedrooms, a bathroom with a tub, and a basic kitchen with sink, refrigerator, and microwave.

The season opens with a work week fixing up the camp, and two youth weeks for people entering 7th through 12th grades. In addition to staff, camp capacity each week is up to 70 campers, who are housed in sleeping rooms in the cabins and the upstairs of the main lodge, or in a tenting area beside the lake.

The camp is owned by the Camp UniStar Foundation, affiliated with the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The camp is a member of CU2C2, the Council of Unitarian Universalist Camps and Conferences. This uniquely Minnesotan, uniquely Unitarian Universalist camp is a place that is special to so many hearts.

On the last Friday of
each month, plan on

Popcorn Theology

This month's
feature:

~Titanic~

Feb. 26 7 p.m.
Ely Room

Popcorn provided!



Peoples *Activities*



Photo by Bill Hart

The installation of the ministers plaque is a symbolic moment for Peoples Church. The plaque lists all the settled ministers who served this church from its beginning in 1869 through the ministry of Tom Capo. It asserts our ties to the past and our connection to this new home.

It can be found in the north hall outside the sanctuary.

– Submitted by Clarice Krippner and Bill Hart , Archives Committee

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.



bring a friend

Believers. Skeptics. Seekers. Humanists.
Non-Comformists. Poets. Scientists. Devout.
Environmentalists. Crusaders.

Friends.

bring a friend to Peoples!

Any week is a good week to