

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



MAY 2016

Peoples Church • *the Voice*

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ON SUNDAYS

MAY 1: *MayDay: A Cry for Help or a Cause for Celebration?* **Kathleen Watson** explores living life from the perspective of May Day rather than *Mayday!* Music by Scott Mansfield.

MAY 8: *Pagans in US: Coming out of the Broom Closet.* **Deborah Maynard** presents a brief history of Paganism in the US. Music by Tristan Maynard.

MAY 15: *Movin' On.* Led by **Jeff Briere**. Several children will graduate from their religious education classes and move on to the next level. Music by the Peoples Church.

MAY 22: *Life Is Short.* Led by **Jeff Briere**. Indeed it is, so we should all pay attention and live intentionally. Music by Megan and Tim Jones.

MAY 29: *Memorial Day & Farewell.* The last service with the **Rev. Jeff Briere** and a remembrance of those who died in the last year. Music: Johnny Lipford.

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



Coffee Hour in the Ely Room follows worship.

Scenes from Seussicon 2016!!



More Seussicon on p.6 | Photos by Lance Maynard

Spring Congregational Meeting

Have you marked your calendars for the Congregational Meeting?

Reserve Saturday, May 21 for a 5:00 PM potluck and a 6:00 PM business meeting. We'll vote in a new board, choose social justice projects, get an update on the ministerial search process, and more. Watch for the agenda in you mail!



MidWest Leadership School for Youth & Adults

July 10-16, 2016

This school blends the practical (leadership tools) with spiritual (exploration & worship) and experiential (hands-on small-groups). Help our church with growth challenges, new programs, expanding outreach & social justice. Part of the *Unitarian Universalist Association's* nationwide network of leadership schools, MidWest Leadership School is a week-long intensive program in leadership and group dynamics. Led by lay and ordained staff with a deep understanding of UU congregations. Held at Beloit College Campus, Beloit, WI. Info at www.mwls.org.

Elevate your UU experience. Take the leadership leap.

Minister's *Moment*

Close Encounters of the Giraffe Kind

by the Rev. Jeff Briere

I read a report the other day that Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey is phasing out elephants from their acts. They are on board with treating these gentle giants more humanely. I was reminded of the time I fed the giraffes.

I like zoos. I have visited several all over the world. The San Diego Zoo stands out in my estimation. Also, the Berlin Zoo. But these two are very large and you need to set aside a couple days to see all the exhibits. The Chattanooga Aquarium is outstanding. One of my favorite zoos is at the New York State Fair, where every year, they fill a few aquariums with fresh-water fish native to the state.

Smaller zoos are fun in a different way. Zoo Miami is a medium-sized zoo, and with a medium-size operation, it can do some very nice things. Like feeding giraffes. For two bucks, Zoo Miami will sell you a handful of Romaine lettuce which you can use to feed the giraffes.

What great fun for everyone! Kids are tickled and adults can't stop grinning. Even the lettuce vendors have fun.

Giraffes are graceful giants, with long prehensile tongues which they use to gently pluck the lettuce from your hand. Zoo Miami has built a feeding station that puts people at the same height as the giraffes, so you have a face-to-face meeting with these beautiful animals.

My daughter and her daughter had a wonderful time as they slowly extended a few leaves to the giraffe, which slowly extended his long tongue and took the lettuce. Giraffes have long eyelashes, making them look very appealing and they are very quiet, they are not at all scary, even for very young children.

I was very impressed. I know that some purists will decry the exhibit, saying that zoo animals should be seen in their natural habitat, or as near to it as possible. But I think exceptions can be made. I'm not crazy about circuses with acrobatic bears and dancing elephants, but I do like opportunities to interact with other species.

I like to interact with my own species, too. And I think we can take a lesson from the giraffes. When interacting with our own species, do we move slowly? Do we look each other in the face? Do we extend our hand gently? Do we smile? Do we say, "Please" and "Thank you?"

If we act more like giraffes, our close encounters of the human kind will be more beneficial and pleasurable.



**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



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.

Peoples *Updates*

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!

Social Justice Council News

Lunch and Justice!

Saturday, May 7, 11:30-2 PM – for Iowa UUs & friends

Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists

3912 Cedar Heights Drive, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

\$10 – Please pay at the door.

Salad and sandwich bar, beverage and dessert

We offer scholarships for the asking.

To register, please email TerryLeeLowman@gmail.com

Carpools from Cedar Rapids are being planned – contact Marcia Swift marcia.swift@gmail.com

Keynote speaker: Harvey Harrison

Harvey is a retired lawyer now engaged in school mediation projects and racial justice advocacy. His work was inspired by reading Michelle Alexander's seminal book: *The New Jim Crow – Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness*. Harvey is a 1969 graduate of the University of Iowa Law School. He had a general civil law practice on the East side of Des Moines until his retirement in 2011.

Over the last four years, he has led classes examining Alexander's book, given a number of public presentations on the issues raised by her book, participated in public meetings and forums related to these issues, served as a member on the Polk County Racial Profiling working group that was initiated by a collaboration between the NAACP, the Drake Legal Clinic and AMOS and worked with the AMOS Criminal Justice Research group. In doing this work, Harvey has developed a particular interest in "The Iowa Connection" on racial justice issues and what steps are necessary to transform the current practices that identify Iowa as one of the worst states on issues of racial justice and disproportionate incarceration.

Harvey has also been involved in the creation and implementation of alternative dispute resolution programs in the Des Moines Public Schools and worked in collaboration with the Des Moines Police Department to establish a diversion program for juveniles. This work has been the result of work by AMOS and assisted by the efforts of the Iowa Mediation Service. The focus of this work is to teach young people new methods to resolve disputes and to help young people stay out of the Juvenile Justice system.

As a result of his membership on the NAACP Legal Redress Committee Harvey is currently involved in the drafting of legislation to be submitted to the Iowa Legislature that will prohibit racial profiling. This work includes the creation of a broadly based coalition to support this initiative.

Social Justice . . . in small ways as well as large

The SJC is asking people to collect personal care items for donation to the Community Free Health Clinic. These items can include travel-size shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, lotion and the like. Items can be deposited in the large red bucket which will be located next to the box for the Community Food Bank.

Peoples News

We're pleased to welcome our newest member, **Barbara Werning-Dee**. Barb is a licensed social worker and is the Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern IA & Western IL. She moved to Cedar Rapids from Waterloo in October 2015 and has three grown children. She is a new Unitarian Universalist.

Childcare Provider Needed

for Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
Schedule: Sundays 9:45 am to 12:30 pm and as needed for various church events.
The pay is \$9.00/hour. Childcare experience ages 5 and under required. Please submit an application to: <http://form.jotform.us/form/50527620403142>

UU ISU Student seeks housing

for Cedar Rapids summer internship.
Sally Boeckholt, member of the Des Moines UU church, seeks May-August housing for her son, Kevin Boeckholt, an ISU Economics major. Kevin has a summer internship with the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. Like to assist? Please contact Kevin at kboeckholt@rocjetmail.com, or his mother at Salgal23@yahoo.com.

VITA a success once again

Tom Miller, VITA Site Coordinator says, "I'm happy that Peoples Church played such an important role in creating these results for the tax payers." Thanks to the Peoples VITA program, 337 federal returns were prepared during 700 volunteer hours. Taxpayers received \$530,745.00 federal refunds and \$75,765.00 state refunds.

New Film about Unitarians Premieres September 2016

On Sept 20, 2016, a documentary by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky tells how Unitarians Waitstill and Martha Sharp helped people escape Nazi-occupied Europe at great personal sacrifice. **UUs can sign up to host local events for Fall 2016.** Visit the UUA website <http://www.uua.org> for resources and updates.

What's On Your Mind?

Wouldn't it be great to have one place to share your questions, comments, compliments, and even complaints about Peoples?

Well, that place has arrived. Our new suggestion box is actually a bulletin board in the Ely Room (just to the left of the door as you enter).

It's easy to use:

- Print your name; anonymous CCKQs will be removed.
- If you have a complaint, suggest a way to address it.
- Be specific. At the same time...
- Don't go too deep into the back-story; bottom-line it!
- Allow a couple of weeks for the appropriate person to post their response here (even if it's just an update that "I'm working on it"!).

Voila!

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 June *Voice* is **Saturday, May 21.**

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 *Events*

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

Classes will conclude with the Bridging Ceremony May 15.

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.

REnotes



Seuss-i-con Summary

We are very excited about our event, Seuss-Icon. We really love the turnout of youth from around the area. We hosted youth from Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri. Our church is heading in a positive direction with so many awesome leaders, staff, and members here at People's. Moreover, RE has grown since 2014-2015 by almost triple and we see more growth coming for 2016-17. Bring out your families and friends to visit our program on Sundays to get their feet wet in the UU world.



Student Spotlight for May:

Zander Zaruba

He is turning 14 on the 7th and is in 8th grade.

He likes the colors Blue and Red

He likes "Video gaming, You Tubers and his favorite activity is Eating Cheeseburgers.

We are very happy with his willingness to take on his role as the lone 8th grader, which led him into his mentoring role in class and our church. We look forward to seeing how he grows into his own in High School next year and years to come.

Our *Pre-K* theme of the month is: Spring Flowers

Color: Pastel colors

Shape: Various Flowers

Upcoming Events

May 1 - RE Council Meeting 12:30 in the High School Room.

May 15 -

- ★ RE Bridging Ceremony for Tristan Maynard who has completed the RE journey. Best wishes, Tristan!
- ★ RE year completion for all of our great kids.
- ★ OWL Completion
- ★ Teacher Recognition

Peoples *Leadership*

Board Meeting at-a-Glance

April 17, 2016

- Kathy Juba and Geoff Johnson updated us on the Developmental Minister search. We have not yet received any candidate names from the UUA, but we expect to soon. We agreed to submit application for a second interim minister as a contingency plan, since the application due date for the interim process is April 30.
- Treasurer Gary McGraw reported *1st quarter finance ended well*, in part due to some early pledge fulfillments. 1st quarter pledge statements will be sent out soon.
- President Bryan Davis reported that we are gathering information on a project to replace the cross window in the east end of the sanctuary due to damage to the wall.
- Kathleen Watson created a comments/suggestions/kudos bulletin board for the Ely Room. Everyone can post and read comments and suggestions pinned to the board, though anonymous posts will be removed.
- The Peoples website is in process of an update, which should go live by the end of June.

The **Peoples Finance Committee** met 4/16/16 to review financial reports from bookkeeper and endowment. Peoples Church cash flow for the first quarter (Jan-Feb-Mar) was positive reflecting a number of 2016 pledges paid in 2015 :

- Money taken in for first quarter \$47,533
- Amount we spent for first quarter \$41,420

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**.

more *RE*notes

Our *RE* Birthdays:

May 1: Milo Jones

May 7: Zander Zaruba

A special thanks to our teachers:

Pre-K: Arianne Waseen and Megan Jones

Elementary: Kylene Loughrey, Jennifer Remington Brade, Julie Bradley and Maria Kell

Middle School: Lance Maynard and Jayme Capaccioli Bates

High School: Robert Loughrey and Jack Primmer-Tamayo

More Thanks: We are very happy to have seen such a helpful response from our great Peoples members for *Seuss-i-con*. Thank you! On behalf of myself and the RE council, have a nice Summer, People's Youth and Children.

RE Rocks!!

ADULT EDUCATION RETURNS!

Stay tuned: due to the nice response, we will be presenting a **class for Adult Education** in the fall during the Religious Education '16-'17 school year!

Peoples Activities

Paraministers

Contact Rose Gabe at rstitch@aol.com or 396-5202 for assistance.

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

May 4, 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. 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 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, carolynmcleland@gmail.com or 360-4421.

Van Vechten Guild

May 9. Noon Andre room

The program for May will be an update from the Archives Committee on the church history Timeline Project. Susan Davis sdavisod@southslope.net or (319) 981-4494.

Peoples CUUPS News

Beltane Ritual

Sunday, May 1, 2016 4 pm. Bever Park Fire Circle (rain location: Andre Room)

CUUPS will be meeting for our Beltane Ritual at the Bever Park Fire Circle at 4:00 p.m. Beltane represents when God and Goddess are united and all of nature is filled with fertility and promise. Come ready to dance!

Spirituality

Monday, May 2, 2016, 6:30 - 8 pm. Ely Room

Amber Todd will be teaching the group about African sculptures and alters based on her studies in African culture and religion. All are welcome to attend. Daycare will be provided in the nursery. CR_CUUPS@yahoo.com

Monthly Meeting

Sunday, May 15 at 2 pm. Ely Room

This month we will be discussing the events that are happening in the community over the summer, the fate of our annual soup and craft bazaar, and our new official classes blessed by the National CUUPS group and the UUA. All are welcome to attend. Daycare will be provided. CR_CUUPS@yahoo.com

Full Moon Ritual

May 22, 4:00 pm. Bever Park fire circle.

Due to the Congregational Annual Meeting, the Full Moon Celebration has been moved to Sunday. Come to the Bever Fire Circle to celebrate the Flower Moon for the month of May. RAIN NOTE: If it rains on the day of the ritual or the ground is very muddy, we will be meeting at Peoples Church in the Andre Room.