



SEPTEMBER 2016



Peoples Church • *the Voice*

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ON SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 4. Labor Day Potluck, Daniels Park. Lunch at 11:30 am. Please bring place settings and drinks for yourself and food to share (see article >)

SEPTEMBER 11. Water Communion. Share in our annual Water Communion ritual (see related article). *Music: Peoples Choir and Patty Ankrum.*

SEPTEMBER 18. Homecoming Sunday. All of us are sometimes pilgrims and sometimes refugees on a long journey home. Bring a friend with you to this service – perhaps someone you haven't seen at church in awhile – as we explore the concept of finding spiritual home. *Music: Kathleen and Joseph Watson.*

SEPTEMBER 25. A Theology of Abundance. As we reach the end of our annual pledge drive, we will celebrate generosity and discover together what it means to have “enough.” *Music: Scott Mansfield.*



Worship (all ages) - 11:00

Children & Youth RE to classes - 11:15

Coffee Hour in the Ely Room follows worship.



Labor Day Potluck Picnic & Pledge Sunday

As has become the tradition at Peoples, there will be no formal service on Sunday Sept. 4. Instead, we will have our Labor Day Potluck Picnic again in the pavilion at Daniels Park. Please bring place settings and drinks for yourself and food to share. (The park is an alcohol-free zone.) Lunch will start at 11:30 a.m. Also, if you still wish to return your 2017 pledge form during the summer No Hassle Pledge Campaign, members of the Pledge Planning Group will be there to receive it or assist you in completing yours if you wish (Bob Butikofer, Charles Cizio, Judy Price, Bryan Davis, Robyn Miessler-Kubanek). The RE Council will meet briefly preceding the picnic, at 10:45.



Block Party & Fair September 10th

We will offer a variety of games and activities for young and old! Volunteers will be working on fun and interesting events – please consider helping all day or as long as possible. All money raised will benefit the entire church and everyone is welcome! Contact Jamie: dre@peoplesuu.org or 319 210-4239.

Water Communion



11 AM SEPTEMBER 11

Our shared faith comes from many different sources. Bring a small amount of water with you to the service (symbolic of a place, time, or source meaningful to you) to offer and share in our annual Water Communion ritual. The service will also include story, song, poetry, reflections, and a brief homily from Rev. Rebecca.

Cover photo: RAIN OR SHINE, Peoples people were ready to march in the Hiawatha Fun Fest Parade August 27!

Minister's *Moment*

" I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."
– Maya Angelou

At Peoples Church, we may not all believe the same, but our shared values burn at the core of our community: justice, equity and compassion, worth and dignity, generosity and interdependence, to name a few. It has only been a few weeks, but I can already see and feel these shared values at work! From our first days in Cedar Rapids my wife Casey and I were welcomed warmly with food, phone calls, cards, and more. Through Peoples Church we found we belonged and had more than enough to get through a stressful move and life transition. I learned first hand that generosity is a way of life at Peoples!

Perhaps you can relate? At Peoples Church we all receive so much. We are seen and appreciated. We are encouraged to grow. We are comforted in beloved community. It feels good to receive so much. But Peoples Church cannot continue to give all of this from a deficit. As you may know, the 2016 budget, which was passed as a deficit budget, was subsidized by a withdrawal from our endowment, a practice that is not sustainable. Therefore, the Stewardship Committee has been dreaming big and working extra hard this year! They are asking everyone to increase their annual pledge by 25%. With almost half of the pledges in and more than half of the goal reached, we are well on our way to securing the future of Peoples Church!

So, if you haven't already, please turn in your pledge card today! We need 100% of responses in by September 30th in order to move forward toward 2017 with the integrity of knowing our full financial picture. Those of you who turn in your pledge cards before September 10th will not be hassled at all with any further emails or phone calls in connection with the campaign. How cool is that?

In today's economy, no other decision beside how we choose to spend our resources has a greater influence on the world. Our financial decisions, each and every one, impact our ability to live meaningful and purpose-driven lives. As Maya Angelou once said, "giving liberates the soul of the giver." So this year, let's commit to the spiritual practice of generosity. Let giving to Peoples Church connect your most deeply held values with your resources. We can do this!

In faith,

Rev. Rebecca



Rev.Rebecca Hinds
minister@peoplesuu.org

Administrator:
Pam Edwards
office@peoplesuu.org
319 362-9827

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday:
11 - 4 pm
Sunday:
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Director,
Religious Education
Jamie Ray Zaruba
dre@peoplesuu.org
319 210-4239

Custodians
Jerry Morris & Bob Osborne

PEOPLES CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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www.peoplesuu.org

[Peoples Facebook](#)

[PCUU Facebook](#)

[Peoples UU RE Facebook](#)

Maria, Laina, and Laura Kell offer Bryan and Kris Davis food for meditation during the August 28 service on Mindfulness, led by Scott Mansfield.



Peoples *Learns*



Expect the unexpected at a Peoples Church worship service!

Photo of Scott Mansfield by Marion Patterson.

Adult Religious Education (RE) RETURNS!

It begins on September 14 at 7 pm in the Ely Room. Classes will be held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights of each month through May 2017.



A
SPECIAL
OPPORTUNITY:

The Power of Ancient Texts: A Workshop on Meaning and Practice for the 21st Century

In conjunction with the *Jesus Seminar on the Road*, the Faith Explorers Book Group is again cosponsoring, with Prairiewoods Franciscan Retreat Center, a workshop on Biblical scholarship.

With sessions on Friday evening, Oct. 7 and all day Saturday Oct. 8, experts **Dr. Hal Taussig** and **Dr. Celene Lillie** will lead participants through new practices based on extrabiblical texts and explore untapped connections between them and other traditions such as Buddhism. The workshop will take place in the **PCI Medical Pavilion Community Room**. Details of costs and options can be found at westarinstitute.org, or by contacting *Bryan Davis* (319 361-9280).

FAITH EXPLORERS STUDY GROUP

You are invited to join in the discussion of the current amazing book, **THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION The Beginning of Religious Traditions**, by Karen Armstrong. We meet the **second and fourth Saturdays of the month** at 9:30 a.m. in the Ely Room. Contacts: Jo Wasta: 319 294-8484. or Carolyn Cleveland: carolynmcleland@gmail.com.

Social Justice *UPDATE*

The Social Justice Council will meet on Sunday, September 11 following the service. We gather on the sectional sofa outside of the Sanctuary. We will be discussing our current social justice effort in the area of health care access and discussing areas for action in 2017. All members and ideas are welcome.

Many thanks to all Peoples members who contributed to our collection of personal care items for the **Community Free Health Clinic**. We have 70 packets of personal care items, a bag of feminine hygiene products, and a package of diapers to take to the Clinic. In addition, we will be dropping off a check for the Clinic in the amount of \$475.62, which is what we collected from our **1st quarter 2016 Sunday Plate Share**.

Health care access was the social justice issue chosen by the congregation to be addressed in 2016. We surely have demonstrated our commitment to increasing health care access to the most vulnerable and underserved in our community. Thank You from the Social Justice Council.

Peoples News

Why Does Peoples Church Matter to Me? Or: My Testimonial.

By Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck

I grew up in a conservative Christian household, and I absorbed and accepted the implicit message relentlessly reinforced within our culture: There is only one way to be religious, and that way is conservative Christianity. It took me many years to learn that there were more possibilities.

I feel I cannot be the only person who yearns to have a place to be religious without being constrained by a particular understanding of faith. To enjoy a setting where ethics and meaning matter without being shoe-horned into a particular way of exploring those ideas. And I want to make sure people like me have a place where they can experience the same affirming community.

For me, Peoples Church is a way not just to participate in fellowship, but also a way to help fill a great need. I feel it's vital in this time of increasing religious tension to work to enlarge our cultural religious imagination. I want Peoples to proactively and enthusiastically engage with the wider community, both to invite seekers in, as well as to affirm with our presence that we do exist. That we can make a difference.

To do these things, though, every one of us must support our mission. Our presence in the life of the church, our participation in the work and leadership of the church, and our pledging to the budget of the church – these are what create a vibrant and impactful faith community.

We're in the midst of the annual pledge drive, a time when we should all be asking ourselves: why does Peoples matter?

What's your testimonial?

Summary of the August 15 Board of Trustees Meeting

Treasurer Gary McGraw reported that we received our second endowment disbursement. Currently we are running at a slight overall surplus, though not yet enough to balance our budgeted shortfall.

Director of Religious Education Jamie Zaruba answered questions about the activities planned for the upcoming **Block Party on September 10**. He is looking for publicity and volunteers to help make the fundraising event a success.

Rev. Rebecca reported she has felt very welcomed by our community and is looking forward to getting to know more Peoples people this fall. She reminded us she will leave for her week-long Developmental Minister training in Minnesota on the 20th.

Geoff Johnson reported that piping audio and/or video of the Sunday services from the sanctuary to the nursery is feasible. The only cost would be for the equipment such as wires and speakers.

Kathy Juba has scheduled **energy audits** for the building to see if we can improve our efficiency.

We reviewed the **Developmental Ministry goals** and discussed what improvements and changes we should begin to pursue.

– Submitted by Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck

PEOPLES CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck
(319) 594-3458

Treasurer

Gary McGraw
373-9449

Scott Gay

Geoff Johnson

Kathy Juba

Scott Mansfield

Kathleen Watson

The Board of Trustees will meet on September 18th after the service (12:30 pm) in the Minister's Office. Peoples people are always welcome to attend and observe board meetings to learn about the topics under discussion.



Peoples News

PEOPLES CHURCH TURNING POINT 2017

Things
are
jumpin'
around
here!

The Mechanics of, and a Call for, Pledging!

We're now over half way through our Turning Point Pledge Campaign and are making great progress, but change is coming. Listed below are now the four options for completing your pledge, if you have not yet done so:

1. **Fill out the pledge form** you received at home in late June and return it to the church office.
2. **Stop at the pledge table** in the hall immediately outside the sanctuary on Sunday and complete your pledge form there. (We will also staff a pledge table at the Labor Day Picnic on 9/4 and the Block Party on 9/10)
3. **Use the electronic link** published the last several weeks in both the Voice and the eWeekly to complete your pledge form, and hit the "Submit" button when done.
4. **NEWEST OPTION: Starting September 11, if you have not yet turned in your pledge form, a Turning Point 2017 steward will contact you to schedule a visit.** Completing your pledge form while the steward is visiting and returning it with the steward would be extremely helpful in allowing us together to complete the work of People's Church.

Our shared goals are to increase pledges by 25% for 2017 and to have 100% participation by September 30. But please, also remember that EVERY pledge is helpful and greatly appreciated, and we ask that you return a pledge form, even if your circumstances do not allow you to contribute in 2017.

Thank you for your help and support in completing the pledge drive by September 30!

– The 2017 Turning Point Campaign Committee

UPDATE: As of 8/28/16, fifty-three (53) of our 100 households have returned their 2017 pledge forms. They have committed a total of \$104,685 to the Turning Point Stewardship campaign against our target of \$165,000. We have reached 63% of our goal! Dollars pledged show 21% increase in dollar amount from 2016. Thank you! Please keep those pledge forms coming in or use the PLEDGE link!

**PLEDGE
HERE!**

PLEDGE ONLINE TODAY!

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.



Peoples *Learns*

r.e. news

Religious Education is back for another awesome year!

RE Registration has been going very well in its early stages, and we are excited to have tripled our growth since 2014! Throughout 2016-2017 we hope to bring out families and friends to visit our program on Sundays and get their feet wet in the UU world.

Classes begin September 18, at 11:15 am. Gather in the sanctuary at 11 for the first part of the worship service, and move to the classrooms at 11:15.

Teacher Training: Part 1, September 4, 12:30 - 2:30 (Andre Room); Part 2: September 11, 12:30 - 2 pm (Andre Room)

RE Council Meeting 10:45 before the picnic at Daniels Park.

Our RE theme of the month is: *Back to School!!!*

Color: GREEN

Shape: the square

Special thanks to our teachers:

Pre-K: Arianne and Megan, Tina
Elementary: Jennifer, Sherri
Middle School: Deb and Jayme
High School: Lance and Jack

Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Returns

Peoples Church Families!

Middle School **Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) program** is a positive, accurate educational program that promotes sexual health and follows the guidelines of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). Young people need sexuality education programs that model and teach caring, compassion, respect, and justice. The Middle School **O.W.L.** program moves beyond the intellect to address the attitudes, values, and feelings that youth have about themselves and the world.

If you have a child entering seventh, eighth, or ninth grade this year, s/he is eligible to participate in the Middle School **Our Whole Lives program**. This program is one component of the Our Whole Lives lifespan series on sexuality education. Unlike many other curricula available, this program is comprehensive and progressive. In an inclusive and developmentally appropriate manner, it addresses sensitive topics that are typically excluded.

If you would like to have your child participate in this program, at least one parent/guardian must attend the two O.W.L. Parent Orientation Meetings. These

...continued on page 8



PARAMINISTERS

provide support and solace when most needed.

Next Paraministry meeting: Saturday, September 19 at 1 pm

GOOD NEIGHBORS

offer a helping hand with things like chores, and errands

In September, contact Kathy Juba: 319 378-3116 or kathywilsom@imonmail.com

Peoples *Learns*



The Voice and the eWeekly are YOUR way of sharing news and events with our Peoples Community!

The deadline for submissions to be included in the October Voice is Saturday, September 24.

eWeekly submissions are due each Wednesday noon for Thursday publication.

Send all submissions [here!](#)



Standing on the Side of Love

announces "Fortification," a podcast series on the spiritual lives and spiritual sustenance of UUA social justice leaders & participants. Episode #1 airs Tuesday, August 30.

Episodes are released on iTunes, SoundCloud and www.standingonthesideoflove.org/ every other Tuesday, from August through December 2016.



OWL returns, continued from page 7.

are to be held Sunday, September 11 and Sunday, September 18 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the O.W.L. room at Peoples Church UU. These meetings are required and are for parents only - childcare will be provided. The first parent orientation meeting explains the program and its values, introduces you to O.W.L. materials, and gives you a chance to meet our trained teachers. The second parent orientation meeting allows you to view the slides that the children will view throughout the course of the curriculum and ask any additional questions.

If you have attended a Middle School O.W.L. parent orientation in the past, you do not need to attend; however, you are welcome to come if you wish.

If you are unable to attend parent orientation and wish to have your child participate in the Middle School Our Whole Lives program, you will need to contact Jamie Zaruba, Deborah Maynard, or Lance Maynard prior to September 18 to arrange an alternative time to meet. This alternative meeting will not include a complete parent orientation.

The **Our Whole Lives** program offers 27 sessions to youth entering grades seven, eight, or nine and will meet each Sunday from 9:15 - 10:45 a.m. beginning September 25, 2016 through April 30, 2017 (excluding Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and Easter). Contact us to request the required Parent Permission Form, complete and return it at the Parent Orientation Meeting, or place the form in the DRE mailbox at church.

Cost for this program is free. If your child has a friend that would like to attend this course, or if you know of a parent that has a child ages 12 - 14 who does not attend Peoples Church UU, please feel free to share this letter with them.

Most parents care deeply about their children and want to do the best they can to influence them in positive ways. **Our Whole Lives** helps young people to develop healthy relationships, self-worth, and a positive attitude towards their body as changes during this stage of their life.

Please let others in your community know we are offering this program so we can help our young people with the information and the skills they need for life.

Sincerely,

Jamie Zaruba, Director of Religious Education
Deborah Maynard, O.W.L. Lead Teacher
Lance Maynard, O.W.L. Assistant Teacher