

DECEMBER 2016



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Peoples Church • *the Voice*

# Peoples Church • *the Voice*

## ON SUNDAYS

**DECEMBER 4 - *Hope in the Darkness***, with Rev. Rebecca Hinds

As we settle into the darkest weeks of the year, we find ourselves anxiously waiting for the return of the light. What happens when we slow down and embrace the dark? What can we learn from it and where can we find hope? *Music by Scott Mansfield.*

**DECEMBER 11 - *Winter Pageant***, presented by the Religious Education Program

**DECEMBER 18 - *Yule: A Midwinter Service***, with Rev. Rebecca Hinds. The days have been getting shorter and shorter, but this week the seasons turn and the sun is reborn. Join us in a celebration of light and life's return! *Music by Megan & Tim Jones.*

**DECEMBER 25, 1:30 pm**  
**Christmas Day Social in Iowa City!** This year we are invited to join the UU Society of Iowa City (Grantview Dr. Ste 200, Coralville, IA 52241) for a shared Christmas Day social hour at 1:30 pm. Look no further for Christmas cheer, friends, and holiday fun! See you there!



**WORSHIP - 11 am.**

**RE gathers at 11 am  
in the Sanctuary**

**Coffee Hour** in the Ely Room follows worship.



## Congregational Meetings: Your voice is our future!

We will convene for our annual congregational meeting after the December 4 Sunday service. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch beginning at 12:15 PM, followed by the meeting. Both events will take place in the Andre Room on the lower level. The agenda is as follows:

### AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- Updates on church business
- Budget review and vote
- Nomination and selection of PlateShare recipients
- Selection of the area of social justice action for the church in the next year;
- Religious Education updates
- Leadership updates
- Other business for the good of the church
- If you can't attend, please remember to find another member to bring your signed proxy – your vote is important!



## *1st Annual Cookie Swap & Decorating Party*

**Saturday, December 3rd at 1pm**

Join in the fun as Peoples Church gets ready for the Holidays! Sip on hot chocolate, enjoy cookies, sing carols, and spread some holiday cheer as we decorate the church and the 2nd Annual Peoples Float for that evening's Fire & Ice Parade.

Bring cookies to share and swap!



## Christmas Eve Service

**Saturday, December 24, 4:30 pm**

The UU Society of Iowa City will be joining us at Peoples Church for a shared service at 4:30 pm. Our minister, Rev. Rebecca, and the Iowa City minister, Rev. Steven Protzman, will lead this service together and our wonderful choirs will combine to offer holiday music. Join us!



# Minister's *Moment*



Dear Ones,

IN THE WEEKS AHEAD we will be plunging into darkness, the days getting shorter and shorter. The bleak dreariness of December seems particularly fitting to me this year. On top of the usual spectrum of blue Christmas feelings I know many of us experience (difficult anniversaries, emotional stress of the Holiday season, etc.), people are experiencing unprecedented political sadness and stress.

Psychologists, therapists, and clergy across the country are reporting election-induced stress, as well as post-election depression, anxiety and sleeplessness. Racial tension in America is at a fever pitch, the Standing Rock Sioux are fighting for their lives, their land, and clean water, and many of us are wondering what will happen in January under a new presidential administration. All of this has Americans wound up, tense, anxious, and waiting to see what happens.

These are indeed dark times. And this is the season of Advent, the time of year when Pagans are preparing and waiting for the return of the light (the sun) and when Christians are preparing and waiting for the birth of Jesus (the son).

In December it is easy to focus on this fact: the coming light and the holiday joy. But can we not rush through December this year? Can we not rush through our pain, grief, and sadness (if we have it)? What if we all slowed down and truly allowed ourselves to be in the quiet darkness and to be still in the depths of midwinter?

Yes, on December 21st the Winter Solstice will arrive, the earth will tilt, and the sun will return again. Yes, on December 25th Christians will celebrate the birth of Jesus all over the world. Yes, the light will return. Yes, love wins. But we are not there quite yet: we are still in the season of Advent.

Our Unitarian Universalist faith, born out of the Pagan and Judeo-Christian traditions, allows us to live in this tension. Our tradition embraces darkness and light. It exists in the present and calls us to beauty, hope, and justice. As Unitarian Universalist Mary Katherine Morn says, "We are not here to protect our hearts from breaking. We are here together to borrow courage for the task of coming alive. We are here so that together we might heed the admonitions of beauty. Answer the call to create, protect, and preserve."



Rev. Rebecca invites you to join her at  
Brewhemia for coffee and conversation  
on Thursdays between 3:30 - 5:30.

## CHURCH STAFF

### Rebecca Hinds

#### Developmental Minister

(319) 362-9827(w)

(319) 200-7650 (h)

Tuesday - Thursday:  
10-3 or by appointment

### Church Office

(319) 362-9827

Office hours:  
10-3, Tuesday-Friday

### Jamie Zaruba

#### Director of Religious Education

(319) 362-9827(w)

(319) 210-4239 (h)

### Deborah Maynard Childcare Manager

### Childcare Providers

Deneka Harris  
& Rachel Nading

### Custodians

Jerry Morris & Bob Osborne

## PEOPLES CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

4980 Gordon Avenue NW

Cedar Rapids IA 52405

(319) 362-9827

[www.peoplesuu.org](http://www.peoplesuu.org)

Peoples Facebook

Members & Friends

Facebook

Peoples UU RE Facebook



# Peoples News

## 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  
meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday.

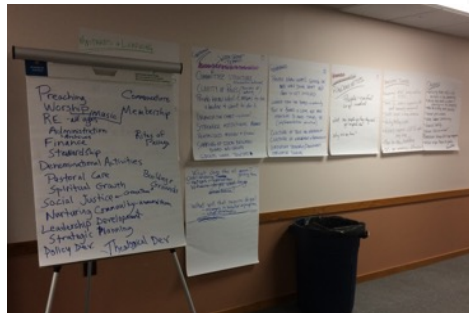
Board meeting minutes  
are now available  
in two ways:

#### ONLINE

Archived minutes are  
available at  
[www.peoplesuu.org](http://www.peoplesuu.org).

#### PRINT

Copies are available on  
an Ely Room table in a  
folder marked **Board of  
Trustees Meeting  
Minutes**.



“Our church needs to renew  
our mission. We need to  
identify our faith  
community’s job in the  
world.”

– *Developmental Ministry  
Startup Event*



## *A Work in Progress...*

### CURRENT MISSION STATEMENT:

*Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist stands as an open, democratic and vital community for all. We encourage the questioning mind, nurture spiritual growth, and promote justice and caring among our members and in the wider world.*

### NEW MISSION STATEMENT: *(under construction, with your help)*

Our November 18 **Developmental Ministry Startup Event** was a great success by my measures. Lots of Peoples people came to share their ideas both about what our church has meant in the past, and what kind of future we’re looking forward to. Everyone can see notes from those sessions on the wall of the Andre Room. We’ll be using those notes to begin the challenging work ahead of us.

At the Startup Event, we learned one thing immediately: our church needs to renew our mission. We need to identify our faith community’s job in the world. That work will take some time and sharing on everyone’s part – but not too much time! Our mission will guide everything we do during our Developmental Ministry. That means we’re going to begin working on it, together, beginning in January 2017. We all need to share our ideas about the mission of Peoples Church. Watch for updates in the weeks ahead about how you can help shape the future of our community.

Together.

Submitted by Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck



# Peoples News

## Peoples Church Endowment Fund – what's up?

YOU MAY RECALL or may have noticed that, contrary to past practice, our 2017 pledge form this year did not include a section on pledging to Endowments. This was an intentional decision made by the Stewardship Committee, as we felt we really needed to focus this year on fundraising for the 2017 operational budget. Thanks to you, The Turning Point pledge drive was a success!

WE ALSO AGREED that, as we approached year end of 2016, we would encourage congregational giving to the Endowment Fund. The calendar says we are there now, and we want to take the opportunity to encourage the congregation to contribute to Endowments. Endowment contributions build for our future and the future of those who will follow us at People's Church, and they are tax deductible for the contributor.

If you haven't already, you'll very soon receive a mailing encouraging gifting to the People's Church Endowment Fund. As you think about participating, please consider how the church is even today directly benefitting from contributions made both in the near and in the distant past, and please contribute if you can.

Thank you!

Bob Butikofer and the The Turning Point Committee



## Financial News

The Peoples Church Finance Committee met November 10 to review bookkeeper reports and prepare the proposed 2017 Budget. October cash flow was positive. Income, including the fourth endowment disbursement, was \$16,274. Expenses were \$15,490.

– Submitted by Judy Price, Finance Committee.

## November 16 Board Meeting Summary

Treasurer Gary McGraw reported by email that October finished well due to the final quarterly endowment disbursement. We still have a small year-to-date surplus as we head into the end of the year.

We reviewed and approved the 2017 draft budget submitted by the finance committee. The budget will now go before the congregation for approval at the December 4 meeting. We again anticipate drawing from our savings next year to make up a budget deficit.

Rev. Rebecca informed us that Pam Edwards, our office administrator, has resigned from Peoples Church, effective immediately. Rev. Rebecca plans to review the position to ensure it best serves the needs of the church before beginning to recruit a replacement.

We discussed logistics for the congregational meeting on December 4, 2016. The potluck will begin immediately after the service in the Andre Room, and the meeting will begin no earlier than 12:30 PM. Childcare will be provided.

Rev. Rebecca updated us on what to expect at the Developmental Ministry startup activities on November 18 & 19. We expect to have a plan to begin work on our Developmental Ministry goals by the end of the weekend.

– Submitted by Robyn Miessler-Kubanek, Board president.

## Online Church Directory & Calendar

For online access:

Click [this link](#), then enter your email address (where you receive your church email) at the bottom section.

At the link above, request a password. It will be sent to your email, which you can then use to log in. Save your password for easy access to church information!

On this site you can:

- View the directory
- Download a printable copy
- View the church calendar, Update your personal information (please update the office, as well!).

## TO PLAN AN EVENT

First, contact the Peoples Office (or look at the online calendar) to check room availability, Next, reserve and confirm your time and space request with the Office. Then share your information!

# Peoples *Grows*

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

Once again, our RE students have entered a float in the Cedar Rapids Fire & Ice Festival Holiday DeLight Parade

December 3  
6 p.m.

Come to the annual Cedar Rapids Fire and Ice Parade to support the Peoples' Church RE!

If you would like to walk with the kids, please contact Jaime Zaruba for details.

Come help decorate the float at church in the afternoon!



## REnotes

Dec. 3 RE Council Meeting at church during Parade float assembly, 1:30-2:30  
Dec. 3 Cedar Rapids Holiday Parade of Lights steps off at 6 pm  
Dec. 7 Adult Religious Education, 7-8:30 pm  
Dec. 11 Holiday Play, 11 am -12 noon  
Dec. 14 Youth game Night, 6-9 pm  
Dec. 17 Holiday Shopping Daycare to benefit RE Boston trip, 11am-4 pm  
Dec. 18 Multi-generational Service / Yule, 11 am  
Dec. 21 Adult Religious Education, 7-8:30 pm  
Dec 23-27 Winter Break No RE Classes  
Jan 1 New Year's Day No RE Classes

**thank you! to our awesome RE Council members:**

Co-Chairs: Deb Maynard & Amber Todd

Arianne Waseen  
Jennifer Brade  
Tristan Maynard  
Sherri Martin  
Danny Booth  
Lance Maynard

***Boston! R.E. is Going to Boston May 4 - 7, 2017!***



This traditional Youth R.E. trip includes a visit to the Unitarian Universalist Association headquarters and other famous UU historical sites. It begins on Thursday afternoon (after school) and ends on Sunday evening. Youth are transported by 15 passenger vans and sleep in a UU church. Note that participation in the Boston Trip is not required to complete the Coming of Age Program. The additional cost is estimated at \$250 (the actual cost will depend on the number of participants and funds raised). A virtual tour of the UUA is also available on the UUA website. Please support our youth by contributing to their fundraisers!

**What is COMING of AGE?** The Coming of Age (COA) Program is about learning, sharing, growing and bonding with other Unitarian Universalist youth from Peoples congregation. The purpose of the program is to acquaint the participants with an understanding of Unitarian Universalism, explore their developing personal religious philosophies, examine and discuss adolescent issues and to foster the development of open communication among the youth and between the youth and their families.

Thank You,

Jamie Ray Zaruba, M.A./B.A./B.S.

Director of Religious Education

Mid-American Youth Advisors Network (MAYAN) Board of Directors

National LREDA Member

# Peoples *Activities*



**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Spirit of Life is a UUA curriculum for adults offered every second and fourth Wednesday through May, in the Ely Room. The workshops, facilitated by Amber Todd and Danny Booth, will offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Click [here](#) for more information.

**ARCHIVE & HISTORY COMMITTEE:** Monday, January 9 at 9:30 am, Andre Room. Join us or contact [Clarice Krippner](#) for details.

**BRIDGE:** Friday, December 16, 7 pm at Village Ridge in Marion. New players welcome! Contact Rose Gabe or 396-5202, for details.

**CUUPs ACTIVITIES** (Childcare available) Contact

[Deborah Maynard](#) for details.

**FAITH EXPLORERS** December 3, 9:30 am in the Ely Room

We are meeting on the first and third Saturdays in December due to Thanksgiving and Christmas plans. We will read and digest Jesus and Buddha, *The Parallel Saying* through the chapter on the *Inner Life*. I say digest, because we considered how complex apparently simple sayings are as we considered the sayings in "Compassion." Contact [Carolyn M. Cleveland](#) with questions.

**GOOD NEIGHBORS:** We offer a helping hand with things like chores, and errands. In December, contact [Laura McGraw](#), 373-9449.

**PARAMINISTERS:** Tuesday, December 6 at 1 pm in the Ely Room. Please mark your calendars and let Rose Gabe (396-5202) know if you won't be able to attend. We offer comfort, a kind ear, a strong shoulder. Contact Scott Mansfield, 362-0436, through December 11, and [Kathy Juba](#), or 378-3116.

**PEOPLES ORGANIC HOMEMADE JAM:** December 7, 6:30-8:30 pm. Ely Room.

Mark your calendars for the first Wednesday night of every month. An informal night for musicians and singers who like to make music – together. A few rhythm instruments will be on hand for volunteer percussionists. Children are welcome. Please bring a song and a snack to share. Questions? Contact [Kris Davis](#).

**SPIRITUALITY SERIES:** December 26: The Ba'hai Faith

Each month on the last Sunday, we have a different spiritual leader come to visit our congregation. This month, a representative from the Ba'hai faith will be coming to speak on their faith and community. Childcare is available. Please come to welcome our guest. For details please contact [Amber Todd](#) (775-0619).

**VAN VECHTEN GUILD:** December 12 at noon in the Andre Room. Annual cookie walk! Please bring approximately 2 dozen cookies to exchange and your brown bag lunch. Contact [Sue Davis](#), (319) 981-4494 with questions.

Sam Wilson, a PCUU member, invites you to contribute to **Iowa Humane Alliance**, a non-profit organization whose mission is to reduce pet overpopulation in Eastern Iowa. Talk to Sam for more details.



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

To submit information to the *Voice* or *eWeekly*:

use the e-FORM [here](#)

Please call the *office* at 362-3279 if you have questions.

The deadline for submissions to be included in the January *Voice* is Saturday, December 24.

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



# Peoples *Activities*

## ATTENTION:

Payment processing has changed. If you or your group need a check issued, please contact the office with your request and an invoice.



## ASH(ES) TO ASHES

ONE OF THE ASH TREES on the Peoples Church property will be cut down early this December. The Board approved removing this tree for two reasons: 1) it is located too close to power lines that run across the east end of our property, and 2) it is likely to succumb to emerald ash borer sometime in the next few years. Rich Patterson, Peoples Church resident arborist, contacted ITC Holdings for us, which is the company that manages the power lines. ITC is willing to remove the tree for us at no cost in order to save on trimming in the future. ITC personnel will cut the tree into 16-inch chunks, which Peoples people can take for firewood or mementos. We plan to plant a new tree on a different location in spring 2017.

## Social Justice Council News



*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.*

**HOLIDAY FOOD DONATIONS:** We received a thank you note from the Linn County Food Bank expressing their gratitude for our \$300 contribution and 50 pounds of food during the third quarter of 2016. The SJC will be spearheading a holiday food drive. Please increase your giving to the Linn County Food Bank and consider donating holiday-type food items. The box for your donations is in the larger hallway outside the Sanctuary. During this holiday season, we hope we can increase our giving to the Food Bank!

**2017 PEOPLES CHURCH INITIATIVES:** four social justice initiatives for consideration and vote for action in 2017. The four issues are gun violence, mental health, Native American/ environmental justice, and racism. The ballot for the vote, along with nominees for Sunday PlateShare recipients is on the PCUU website. The SJC urges everyone to review the ballot and research the issues. Nominations from the floor at the meeting on 12/4 are welcome.

## Have You Seen the Sock Tree?

It's back, it's in the sanctuary, and it needs "decorations!"

Please donate to the sock tree! The sock tree, which David Ripper built last year for us last year, will gladly hold donations of **socks, scarves, mittens, blankets, towels, hats and gloves**. The cold-weather protection items we provide will be donated shortly after the new year to homeless shelters like the Willis Dady Shelter and others. Please remember children's items as well as adult. Thanks so much.

