

PCUU *thoughts...*

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 CHURCH

Unitarian Universalist



April 2017

NEWSLETTERS

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

May Voice submissions are due **Saturday, May 27th.**

eWeekly submissions are due each **Wednesday by noon** for the Thursday edition.

To submit information to the Voice or eWeekly, click [here!](#)

Submissions with attachments may be sent to the voice editor at: voiceeditor@peoplesuu.org.

Contact us at **319-362-9827**

www.peoplesuu.org

Our Caring Community >>>

Good Neighbors

April: Kathy Juba 378-3116
kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers:

March 20 – April 2: Jan Federer
April 3 – April 16: Scott Mansfield
April 17 – April 30: R.C. Eichacker

the VOICE



4980 Gordon Avenue NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405



Peoples Church
Unitarian Universalist

Developmental Ministry Events

April 9th, 6:00pm

Members of the Board and wider leadership will meet to talk specifically about Developmental Ministry. In April, we'll begin talking about values to prepare for the first church mission renewal activities. All Peoples people are welcome to attend. RSVP is requested. Contact president@peoplesuu.org for more information about the agenda and location.

Coffee with the Minister



Thursday, April 20th
3:30-5:30pm

BREWED AWAKENINGS
1271 1st Ave. SE

Minister's Moment The Earth

I first realized I was called to ministry at a pretty young age. Twelve to be exact. I spent a good fifteen years resisting this call and fighting it. In my young adulthood I tried a few different "other" careers, I wandered down a few wrong paths, but I could never escape my call. The day I realized I couldn't run from it anymore I was on a walk in the woods in Maine. It was March, still wintry and cold. The snow was still piled high. As I walked I couldn't imagine what answering a call to ministry would

mean for my life. It would disrupt everything. I didn't want to do it. I was confused and a little frantic. I tried to walk it off and return to normal, but this was too big. After awhile I simply fell on my knees, right there in the middle of trail. As I let go, the soft snow-covered earth was there to receive me and hold me up. I always go to the woods when I need support, when I need to return

to myself, or when I have some discernment to do. And The Earth is always there to greet me. "Good to see you," she says, "I've been waiting for you." Where do you go to be with the Earth? Is there a special place in the wild that

Where do you go to be with the Earth?

reminds you of who you are or that holds you up when you can't seem to do it yourself anymore? Where do you find life and renewal? How do you celebrate spring and rebirth? And what does the Earth whisper to you when you are still enough to hear her?

This month at Peoples Church we will explore all of these questions. We will witness and celebrate as the Earth rumbles to life and the splendor of springtime bursts forth around us; we will contemplate the cycle of life and death; we will celebrate resurrection and rebirth; and we will honor Easter. For "Lo, the Earth awakes again." Alleluia! In faith, Rev. Rebecca

Love Reaches Out:

Outreach Opportunities as Entry Points to Your Congregation

Saturday, April 8th, 10:00am – 4:00pm
Coralville Public Library

Love Reaches Out is a UUA-sponsored workshop for congregational leaders and those committed to growth through outreach action. It focuses on America's changing religious landscape and how UU congregations might attract new members through outreach activities that match members' interests with their community's needs. Phil Lund, MidAmerica Region Congregational Life Consultant, will lead the discussion.

Peoples Church will be attending and registering as one group. If you would like to attend let Rev. Rebecca know and she can add you to the group!

Organized by the UU Society of Iowa City



April Calendar

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 Volunteer Income Tax Program
9:00AM-12:30PM | 10 Van Vechten Guild 12:00PM-1:30PM |
| 01 Adventures in Dining 6:00PM-10:00PM | 11 LGBTQ Support Group
7:00PM-8:30PM |
| 02 OWL Middle School 9:15AM-10:45AM | 12 eWeekly deadline 12:00PM |
| 02 Choir Practice 10:00AM-10:45AM | 14 Soup Supper Fundraiser 6:00PM |
| 02 RE classes 11:00AM | 15 RE FundRaiser Dinner Night 6:00PM |
| 02 Worship Service 11:00AM | 16 Choir Practice 10:00AM-10:45AM |
| 02 RE Council Meeting 12:30PM-2:00PM | 16 Multigenerational Worship Service
11:00AM |
| 04 Volunteer Tax Assistance Program
5:30PM-9:00PM | 16 CUUPS 2:00PM-4:00PM |
| 05 1st Weds Book Club Public Library
6:30PM-8:00PM | 19 eWeekly deadline 12:00PM |
| 05 eWeekly deadline 12:00PM | 20 Coffee with Rev. Rebecca
3:30PM-5:30PM |
| 05 Peoples Organic Homemade Jam
6:30PM-8:30PM | 22 Faith Explorers 9:30AM-11:00PM |
| 06 Volunteer Tax Assistance Program
5:30PM-9:00PM | 22 Nerf Wars 6:00PM-9:00PM |
| 08 Faith Explorers 9:30AM-11:00AM | 23 OWL Middle School 9:15AM-10:45AM |
| 08 Final Volunteer Tax Program
9:00AM-12:30PM | 23 Social Justice Forum
10:00AM-11:00AM |
| 08 Coming of Age Overnight 6:00PM | 23 RE classes 11:00AM |
| 09 Pancake Breakfast 9:00AM-10:45AM | 23 Worship Service 11:00AM |
| 09 OWL Middle School 9:15AM-10:45AM | 26 eWeekly deadline 12:00PM |
| 09 RE classes 11:00AM | 28 MidAmerica Regional Assembly |
| 09 Worship Service 11:00AM | 29 MidAmerica Regional Assembly |
| | 30 MidAmerica Regional Assembly |
| | 30 RE classes 11:00AM |
| | 30 Worship Service 11:00AM |



Committees & Group Meetings

Archives Committee

The Archives Committee will meet Monday, April 17th at 9:30am. Contact Clarice Krippner for details at cbkrip@gmail.com.

Bridge Group

Will meet Friday, April 21st at 7:00pm at Tom Smith's house in Marion. Contact Rose Gabe at 396-5202 for more information.

CUUPS

We are in the final months of our study of Wicca 101. Classes are the first and third Mondays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Ely room. Childcare is provided.

Faith Explorers

Meets the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at Kenwood Park United Methodist Church through April. Contact Nancy Kotalik for more information at nkotalik@gmail.com.

Peoples Organic Homemade Jam

POHM meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the Ely room. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a song to share! Contact Kris Davis for additional details at davis-kris49@gmail.com.

Van Vechten Guild

The VanVechten Guild will meet April 10 at noon for a gathering and lunch. The program for April is the Iowa Caregivers Agency. Please bring your own lunch, dessert will be provided. All are encouraged to attend.

New Members

On February 26, 2017 Peoples Church welcomed 13 new members! Be sure to look for them and help them feel welcome in our community. Check out the "NEW MEMBER BULLETIN BOARD" in the hallway to see photos and bios of some of our new members.



Shannon Wirth

Kate Martinek

Jo Wasta

Jim Wasta

Ally Jimenez

Sonja Prochaska

Amy Bostwick

Jude Johnson

Betty Zebell

Tyler Bleau

Ann Gruber

Sara Rattliffe

Nick Rattliffe

Social Justice

UUs for Social Justice Conference:

Reversing Inequality: Healthcare Justice is a UU Value

Marcia Swift of our Social Justice Council will be attending this conference which will focus on access to health care, including mental health and addiction treatment. This is an opportunity to advocate for health care justice directly to decision makers on Capitol Hill. The current alternative is a contradiction to our core UU values which we must defend.

Please write a letter to Senators Ernst and Grassley with your stories and concerns. A letter on how the future of health care directly affects you and your family can have an impact. Please give your letters to Marcia or place in the Social Justice mailbox and they will be personally hand delivered to our Senators as part of this conference.

A Fine Tradition Returns: Letter Writing Table



In the return of a fine Peoples Church tradition, look for the Social Justice Table in the Ely Room. It has everything you need to write a letter or postcard (or several) to our legislators in Des Moines and Washington D.C. Bev Philpott or another social justice team member will be there after worship on Sundays to provide details.

For many years at Peoples, Dr. Mary Alice Ericson staffed a letter-writing table on Sundays, urging people to write postcards on emerging issues with lively conversation. Marcia Swift will hand-deliver all the letters to federal legislators on her trip to the nation's capital in May!



We have the opportunity to raise money for the Coming of Age trip to Boston and enjoy a play at the same time! Theatre Cedar Rapids will donate a percent of all ticket sales for everyone that purchases tickets for "The Crucible" performance for Friday, **March 31** and uses code: **SALEM2017**

Please encourage all you know to use this code. The more people that use this code and attend the March 31 performance, the higher that percentage TCR will give to Peoples Church UU.

11 am WORSHIP

April 2nd

Inventing the Web – Led by Brian Davis and Maria Kell, this service will kick off Earth month with a look at how the concept of life as an interdependent web was first formulated long ago and how those theories inspire scientists and thinkers today. Music by Megan and Tim Jones.

April 9th

Earthheartearth – Is it a coincidence that “earth” is an anagram of “heart”? I don’t think so! Join Kathleen Watson as she explores the deep and nourishing connection between earth and our hearts. Music by Joan Jacobs.

April 16th

The Poetry of Easter - The Easter story of resurrection and new life mirrors the natural world this time of year. Come explore death, resurrection, rebirth and renewal through the story of Jesus, the season of springtime, and poetry about the Earth. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will follow this multi-generational, family-friendly service! Music by Peoples Choir.

April 23rd

The Blessing of the Trees – If we could understand the language of trees, what would they tell us? What do the trees know and what can they teach us about interdependence? On this Sunday between Earth Day and Arbor Day we will honor trees and all of their blessings. As a church we will also be planting hazelnut bushes out on the lawn. Music by Deep Dish Divas.

Coffee Hour in
Ely Room
Following
Worship

April 30th

Religious Environmentalism, Spiritual, and Deep Ecology - Led by Maria Kell and Marion Patterson. We will explore what these movements are about and how our environmental crisis is calling us to *unite*, in order to preserve and sustain our planet. We invite you to come together and examine how we might live more consciously in a web-of-life/earth-conscious way. Music by Scott Mansfield.



Planning

Board of Trustees

President

[Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck](#)
(319) 594-3458

Treasurer

[Gary McGraw](#)
(319) 373-9449

Board of Trustee Members

Scott Gay, Geoff Johnson, Kathy Juba,
Scott Mansfield & Kathleen Watson

The Board of Trustee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Minutes are available online at www.peoplesuu.org or printed in the Ely Room.

Scott Gay suggested an analogy. He told us to think about building a house. At the very beginning, it’s just an idea, not a house. Before it can become a house, it needs people to begin planning. There are blueprints to draw and building materials to find, land to buy and workers to hire.

Even then it’s still not a house yet. Next the builders have to prepare the site, lay the foundation, and construct the frame.

That’s the process we started during the first year of our Developmental Ministry. We welcomed our new minister and helped her get to know our congregation. We hosted our Startup Event in November and learned we need to renew our mission. We formed a Church Mission Team that has begun planning the process and activities for that effort.

In a way, Peoples Church is building a new house. We’re working to build a new faith community that will be stronger, more stable, and healthier. One that is better able to support and nurture its members as we work to grow our spirits and create a better world.

That takes time and planning and effort. So let’s take a moment to reflect on the plans and how they will help shape the house we’re building. Together.



President’s Message

Spring is here again! It’s a time of new beginnings, but also a time to reflect as our May Congregational Meeting approaches. We’re gearing up to compile the Peoples Church Annual Report, an opportunity for us all to think about what we’ve been doing as a church.

The Board of Trustees began reflecting at our Developmental Ministry Strategy Meeting on March 12. We asked ourselves, what progress have we made on our Developmental Ministry? What have we accomplished this year?

The answer: lots of things, but many that could be hard to recognize because they’re ground work.

Finance Committee Update

Finance Committee met on 3/23/17 to review financial reports and discuss continued income diversification plans for Peoples Church. Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck is retiring from committee, and we welcomed two new members: Vickie Kindl and Doug Ogle.

Peoples Church cash flow for February was negative:

- Income \$10,843
- Expenses \$12,809

Due to prepayment of some 2017 pledges, cash flow for year to date is positive.



Staff

[Rev. Rebecca Hinds](#)

Developmental minister

(319) 362-9827(w)

(319) 200-7650 (h)

Tuesday – Thursday: 10-3pm

or by appointment

[Cathy Fischer](#)

Operations Coordinator

(319) 362-9827

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:30-2:30

Wednesday 9:00-2:00

Thursday 8:30-2:30

Friday 9:00-12:00

[Jamie Zaruba](#)

Dir. of Religious Education

(319) 210-4239

[Deborah Maynard](#)

Childcare Manager

Childcare Providers

Tristan Maynard, Deneka Harris

& Rachael Nading

Custodians

Jerry Morris & Bob Osborne

Religious Education Recap

Jamie Zaruba Dir. of Religious Education

First, a big thank you to everyone for helping our youth get to Boston! As you know this is a momentous occasion for our coming of age youth and your participation in our fund raisers is very much appreciated! We are in need of financial sponsors for our adults that will be chaperoning our youth on this trip, any support will also be greatly appreciated!

There are a few more opportunities to support our youth including another pancake breakfast on April 9th. We had an excellent turnout for our last breakfast and we are looking forward to hosting another one where we will be offering pancakes, eggs to order and muffins!

Our Nerf wars have been a lot of fun! In March our winners were Jamie Zaruba with a commanding victory and Danny Booth with a difficult victory. All Peoples people are welcome to attend this fun and active event with our youth!

RE ROCKS! - Jamie

RE Calendar

April 1 – RE Council Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm

April 5 – Youth Activity Night, 6-9:00pm

Let’s get together for board games, cards, table tennis and fellowship with our youth at Peoples. Drinks and Snacks provided.

April 8 – Coming of Age Sleepover, 6:00pm

April 9 – COA Pancake Breakfast, 9-11:00am

April 15 – Nerf Wars, 6-9:00pm

Fun, active and friendly competition for youth and adults, \$10 per entry please bring your own Nerf arsenal.

April 19 – Youth Activity Night, 6-9:00pm

Let’s get together for board games, cards, table tennis and fellowship with our youth at Peoples. Drinks and Snacks provided.

May 13 – Nerf Wars, 6-9:00pm

Fun, active and friendly competition for youth and adults, \$10 per entry please bring your own Nerf arsenal.

May 14 – RE Council Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm

April Board Meeting

Ely Room, April 19th, 6:15pm

The Board of Trustees meets every month to plan and discuss the business of the church. In April, we’ll be talking about repairs needed to the cross window in the sanctuary, the May Congregational Meeting agenda, and some other items. Peoples people are always welcome to observe and learn about the topics under discussion.

Board of Trustee News

March 15, 2017 Meeting Summary

- Treasurer Gary McGraw reported by email that February had a small deficit. Our overall balance remains positive so far because of early pledge payments and a quarterly endowment distribution.
- We reviewed a draft of Rev. Rebecca’s Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) evaluation. This is required for all new ministers during their first three years after finishing seminary. Robyn M-K will summarize the comments and ratings received so far, and the Board will discuss it again in May. The review is due in June.
- The Board will host a forum on May 7 before church to begin discussing the stained glass windows.
- Cathy Fischer, our Operations Coordinator, will put together this year’s Annual Report, to be ready for distribution at the Congregational Meeting on May 21.
- UUA General Assembly will be June 21-25 in New Orleans, and will include a presidential election. The UUA president is elected every 6 years by delegates from member congregations who attend on-site or vote electronically. One delegate slot has been filled for Peoples and two more are available. Contact Rev. Rebecca to learn more.
- The Iowa City UU Congregation will host a membership workshop called “Love Reaches Out” on April 8 in Coralville. The Board authorized paying registration for up to 10 individuals from Peoples Church to attend. Contact Rev. Rebecca to learn more.

Buildings and Grounds

Cross Window in Sanctuary

Ely Room, April 19th, 6:15pm

At the Board of Trustees meeting in April, we'll be talking about repairs needed to the cross window in the sanctuary. Peoples people are always welcome to observe and learn about the topics under discussion.

Ground Clean Up

April 19th, 1-6:00pm

Volunteers are needed to help with Spring Clean Up at Peoples Church. Please bring your own gardening tools and gloves. Rain date will be April 21st. Contact Brian Kindl at bk76fairfax@gmail.com and the office at office@peoplesuu.org to let us know if you will be there!

Stained Glass Window Forum

Andre Room, May 7th, 10am

Let's get together and talk about the stained glass windows. We are currently storing the windows from our previous church building on 3rd Avenue. Let's begin discussing next steps with these windows, and who would be willing to help the church take those steps. This forum will be led by members of the Board of Trustees.



THANK YOU!

Let's take a moment to recognize some of our Peoples' volunteers that have been busy working on the church facility recently.

Brian Kindl
Rich Patterson
Charlie Cizio
Bob Butikofer
Bill Hart

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 21st, 12:00pm, Ely Room

Mark your calendars for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 21st. We'll vote in a new Board of Trustees, hear some updates, and conduct other business of the church. Things will start out with a potluck right after the Sunday service, followed by the meeting to begin at approximately 12:45. Plan to bring a dish to share and to participate in this important activity.

Regional & General Assembly Delegates

Are you going to our Mid America Regional Assembly in Chicago later this month? Are you interested in going to our national General Assembly in New Orleans this June? Peoples Church is entitled to three official delegates at each of these gatherings. Delegates represent Peoples Church and have a vote in plenary sessions on the business of our association. You have to be physically present to vote at the Regional Assembly. You DO NOT have to be physically present to vote in General Assembly: online voting is an option. And this is a big year - the position of President of the UUA is up for election in June! Please let me know if you are attending either one of these gatherings and/or if you would like to be a Peoples Church delegate to either one.

Annual report



Committee Submissions

Every year Peoples' groups and committees complete an annual recap for the annual report. An email was sent to these groups on March, 22nd from the office requesting that their recaps be completed by Friday, April 28th. Please use the template provided in that email, let Cathy know if you have any questions at office@peoplesuu.org.

Cathy's Column

Cathy's Column is a place to inform our members of changes to office policies, how-tos and general office information. Each month a new topic will be covered – but if you ever have any questions related to the office administration or church operations, please reach out to Cathy directly at office@peoplesuu.org.

Maintenance, Janitorial or Supply Requests

Now that I have been here almost two months and have learned the routines and processes to “keep the boat afloat”, I am ready to take this boat downstream, so-to-speak. I've been busy learning about our building and facilities and am getting the office organized by creating maintenance and inventory logs so we can better track the projects and supplies we use here at the church. Eventually, as I continue to learn and utilize these logs I will be able to better plan projects as well as better manage the building and maintenance budgets.

Forms: where to get them & where to submit requests

While I'll keep a pulse on the buildings supplies and maintenance projects, if you have a suggestion or notice a need, there are now request forms where you can submit a request for maintenance, supplies or even janitorial needs. The form can also be used if you have completed a maintenance project and would like to have it logged. Blank forms can be obtained in the mailbox area and completed forms can be placed in my Operations Coordinator mailbox to review and address.

Mission Team Forum

Sunday April 30th, 10am, Ely Room

The Mission Team is hosting this forum to begin gathering input from the congregation. The topic for the day will be “Our Shared Values.”

Please come prepared to discuss and share with the Mission Team what values you see and appreciate at work in the Peoples Church Community.

Mission Team Report

Peoples Church is renewing our Mission! We all learned back in November at our Developmental Ministry Start Up meeting that a big part of our Developmental Ministry work starts with this process. And we need everyone involved!

Our Mission Team met on Friday, March 17th to begin planning a roadmap of how to include everyone's thoughts and voices in the process of creating a renewed, meaningful mission for Peoples Church together. Here's what the Mission Team has accomplished so far:

- Created a schedule with milestone markers from April through December, 2017

- Gathering internal and external resources to review for use in the process
- Designing and planning activities to engage and enlighten us for our next decision

In the months to come look for information about community gatherings, activities, moments of introspection and reflection, creativity and analysis. Together, these activities will help us as a congregation to create the mission that best fits who we are as a community here and now, while understanding our shared values and looking to the vision for what we can be. The first event will be a forum on April 30th. Stay tuned for more details as we go along!



Souper Supper #3: Australia

Friday, April 14th, 6:00pm

Our third, and final soup supper, is Friday, April 14th at 6:00pm in the Andre Room. Enjoy delicious dinner and amazing fellowship while helping raise money for the general fund here at the church! For \$10 you'll enjoy a special themed soup, salad, bread and a yummy dessert, please BYOB.



Contact Cheryl Ochs for details at:

sochs1224@gmail.com