

SEPTEMBER 2017

the VOICE

Minister's Moment

From a young age, most of us are taught that there is not enough to go around. We learn to see scarcity and live with fear. We learn to compete with others and fight over limited jobs and resources. Out of this lesson of fear and anxiety, we are taught to keep the good things we have to ourselves.

It is time to reject this lie robbing us of our humanity. It is not scarcity, but abundance and generosity that are the true nature of the universe. There really is enough to go around. There really is abundance on Earth. We can see it in the natural world through the extraordinary cooperation and beautiful co-existence of all plants and creatures on Earth. We can see it in families and communities that love and care for one another. And we can see it right here at Peoples Church.

As a community we choose abundance, buck cultural norms and live into generosity as a spiritual practice. I know it is not easy. It is counter-cultural and radical. But it is essential to our well-being:

"Every time I take a step in the direction of generosity I know I am moving from fear to love."

-Henri J.M. Nouwen

choosing abundance over scarcity moves us from fear to love.

We will be practicing this move all month long at Peoples Church through the theme of Generosity. Of course it is no accident that this theme coincides with our annual stewardship campaign; generosity

and stewardship go hand in hand (see pg. 6 for a Stewardship Campaign update). Being generous with our time, love, and financial resources is a key element of spirituality and practice of being a member of Peoples Church. Plus this is the year we are renewing our mission! As we launch a new mission for our church we will need the resources

to support it and the commitment from everyone to live it out.

So don't let fear or anxiety rule your life this year- let love in and let yourself experience abundance and radical generosity. You will receive from it nothing less than the liberation of your own soul.

In Peace,

Rev. Rebecca Hinds

HERE'S WHATS
GOING ON
 SAVE THE DATES

SAVE THE DATES

**Saturday, October 7th
 Ely Room**

Come join us for a day of knitting, spinning, needlework, crochet, lace-making, macrame, sewing, quilting, Halloween Costume Construction, above water underwater basket weaving, or whatever sort of craft you enjoy. Please bring food and beverages to share.

**Friday, October 20th
 Andre Room**

Another tasty Soup Supper is coming this fall! Look for details in the October Voice!

**Sunday, December 3rd
 Andre Room**

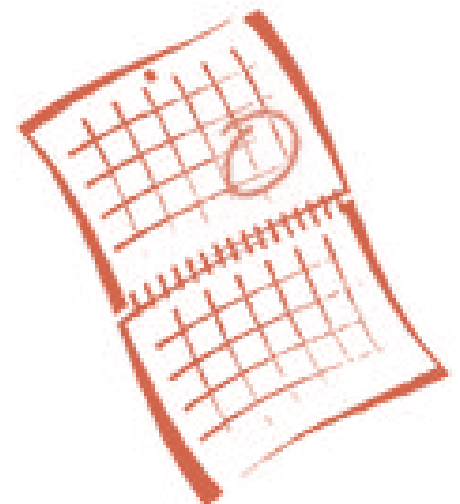
Mark your calendars for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 3. We'll discuss and approve the budget, present updates on current activities, and conduct other business of the church such as voting on our new Mission! Things will start out with a potluck right after the Sunday service, followed by the meeting to begin no earlier than 12:30 PM. Keep an eye out for more info.

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Fri Sep 1 | 6:30pm – 8:00pm | CUUPS Full Moon | Ely Room |
| Sun Sep 3 | 11:00am – 12:00pm | Worship | Sanctuary |
| Mon Sep 4 | | Labor Day | |
| Tue Sep 5 | 1:00pm–2:00pm | Paraminister Meeting | Ely Room |
| Wed Sep 6 | 7:00pm – 8:00pm | Choir Practice | Sanctuary |
| Sun Sep 10 | 10:00am–11:00am | ECCF Forum | Ely Room |
| | 11:00am – 12:00pm | Worship | Sanctuary |
| | 11:00am – 12:00pm | Religious Education | RE Classrooms |
| Mon Sep 11 | 12:00pm – 2:00pm | Van Vechten Guild | Andre Room |
| Tue Sep 12 | 7:00pm – 8:30pm | LGBTQ Support Group | Ely Room |
| Wed Sep 13 | 7:00pm – 8:00pm | Choir Practice | Sanctuary |
| Sun Sep 17 | 10:00am – 11:00am | Choir Practice | Sanctuary |
| | 10:00am – 11:00am | Mission Team Forum | Ely Room |
| | 11:00am – 12:00pm | Worship - Water Ceremony - Multigenerational | Sanctuary |
| | 12:30pm–2:00pm | Worship Associate Training | Sanctuary |
| Mon Sep 18 | 9:30am–10:30am | Archives Committee | Andre Room |
| | 6:30pm – 8:00pm | CUUPS Spirituality Class | Ely Room |
| Wed Sep 20 | 6:30pm – 8:00pm | CUUPS Mabon Ritual | Ely Room |
| | 7:00pm – 8:00pm | Choir Practice | Sanctuary |
| Sun Sep 24 | 10:00am–11:00pm | Social Justice Forum | Ely Room |
| | 11:00am – 12:00pm | Worship | Sanctuary |
| | 11:00am – 12:00pm | Religious Education | RE Classrooms |
| Wed Sep 27 | 6:15pm – 7:15pm | Board Meeting | Ely Room |
| Sat Sep 30 | 8:00am – 5:00pm | Congregational Retreat | Andre Room |

Van Vechten Guild

September 11, 12pm, Andre Room

Welcome all interested Peoples people. The Van Vechten Guild will begin meeting again this year on September 11 at noon in the Andre Room. Remember to bring your own lunch and drinks and wonderful desserts will be provided. This month we will be having Rosie Rimrod give a talk on her trip to Transylvania and discover more about our churches roots. Hope to see you there!



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 3

Potluck Picnic

There will be a picnic and potluck here at the church at 11am. Please bring a dish to share and your own drinks. Plates and silverware will be provided. Come and enjoy food, fun and fellowship with Peoples people!

SEPTEMBER 17

Water Ceremony Sunday

This multi-generational service will feature our annual water ceremony, a children's story by David Wise, our Director of Religious Education (RE), and a commissioning of our RE teachers for the 2017-18 church year. Come to church with a small offering of water to contribute if you can! Service by Rev. Rebecca



SEPTEMBER 10

The Community Chest: A Reformation Theology of Generosity

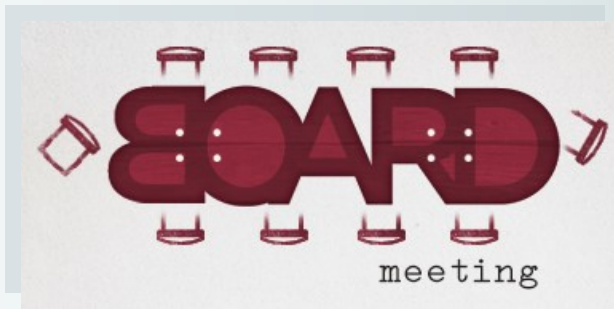
Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation transformed our theology on giving and caring for the poor. What can we learn about generosity and community life from the 16th century German practice of a shared "Community Chest?" Service by Rev. Rebecca Hinds.

SEPTEMBER 24

General Assembly Sunday

Coordinated by Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck. Come celebrate gatherings of Unitarian Universalists both large and small, near and far by participating in portions of the GA Sunday worship.

*Coffee Hour
in Ely Room
Following
Worship*



AUGUST 23, 2017

- Treasurer Gary McGraw reported that July ended well. We received consistent pledge payments plus a quarterly endowment disbursement. Our current overall balance for the year is +\$5,101.
- We voted to approve restoring one stained glass window through Artistic Glass owned by Robert Fassler in Fairfax, Iowa. Mr. Fassler estimates the work will cost \$800-\$1,000. The Stained Glass Window Project Team will submit a full proposal for displaying this window in the Sanctuary at a future meeting. We also met the new members of the Aesthetics Team and encouraged the Aesthetics and Window Teams to collaborate.
- We voted to approve creating a new endowment fund with the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation, one that is restricted to use for music and worship. The endowment's name and full use guidelines will be created by the Finance Council and submitted for review at a future meeting.
- We approved a new Building and Grounds Project Policy to guide proposals for repairs and renovations. Any congregation member may submit a proposal for consideration within the established guidelines. The policy will be published on the website and made available in the church.
- Acting Director of Religious Education David Wise introduced himself and we discussed next steps for the Religious Education Program. We plan to create a taskforce to begin gathering ideas and envisioning what faith formation at Peoples Church will look like in the future.
- We scheduled the December Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 3 after the church service with a potluck. The meeting will start no earlier than 12:30 PM.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Robyn Miessler-Kubanek
(319) 594-3458

Treasurer

Gary McGraw
(319) 373-9449

Board of Trustee Members

Geoff Johnson
Kathy Juba
Scott Mansfield
Mike Meshak
Kathleen Mavity

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Finance Report for July 2017

The Finance Committee met on August 15, 2017 to review financial reports and discuss continued income diversification plans for Peoples Church.

Peoples Church cash flow for July 2017 was positive:

- Income \$14,784, plus an Endowment distribution of \$4,595
- Expenses \$14,563



BOARD MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.PEOPLESUU.ORG OR PRINTED AND KEPT IN THE ELY ROOM.

PRESIDENT MESSAGE



What One Thing Will YOU Do?

We're gearing up for another fantastic church year, with new ideas, new staff, and new commitment to change our community for a better future.

But it's easy to say we're going to change things and then get a little lost. Change is big. It takes time. It's hard to get a good handle on unless we find somewhere to start.

So this month I challenge everyone to ask yourself: what ONE THING can I commit to doing differently this year at Peoples?

- Will you read the church's email update every single week and stay informed about news and upcoming events?
- Will you volunteer for one additional event and lend your hands to making our church happen?
- Will you sign up to be a Sunday greeter once a month and play a role in making our church more welcoming?
- Will you talk every week to one person who you didn't come to church with and help deepen our community relationships?

Every single one of us can do this. We can all step outside of our comfort zones and normal roles to make one small change we can stick with. Because the small commitments that stick are what will ultimately change how we do church together.

Me? I attended the Religious Education Orientation on August 27 and signed up to be a backup teacher. We always need more RE teachers.

Now what are YOU going to do?



SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

Ely Room, Wednesday, September 27 @ 6:15 PM

The Board of Trustees meets every month to work on the business of the church. A preliminary agenda will be available early in the month. Peoples people are always welcome to observe our meetings and learn about the topics under discussion.

STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Hinds

Developmental
Minister

(319) 362-9827(w)

(319) 200-7650 (h)

Tuesday – Thursday:

by appointment

David Wise

Acting Director of
Religious Education

(319) 362-9827

Office Hours:

Thursday: 10-6

Friday: 10-6

Or by appointment

Cathy Fischer

Operations

Coordinator

(319) 362-9827

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:30-3:30

Wednesday 8:30-2:30

Thursday 8:30-3:30

Deborah Maynard

Childcare Manager

Childcare Providers

Tristan Maynard,

Deneka Harris

& Rachael Nading

Custodians

Jerry Morris
& Bob Osborne

CHILDCARE NEWS

Safety is a priority in Religious Education here at Peoples Church. Due to some moderate and easily fixable safety concerns, the childcare area (nursery) will be closed for the month of September. This will allow us to correct the issues that exist in the room. Children are welcome in the RE classes if they are 4 and above and children are ALWAYS welcome in worship!!! We realize this may cause a bit of inconvenience but again the children of the congregation and their safety is very important to us. We appreciate your patience and invite you to check out the new and revitalized room on October 1!



RE SUMMER CHALLENGE!

At the beginning of the summer our RE kids were given a summer challenge to continue practicing our common UU principles. They were each given a checklist and we challenged them to do at least one item from each category over the summer. The categories included: Open Mind, Helping Hands, Loving Heart, Caring for our Earth, Friendship and Peace.

Some of the things they could do in those categories were to attend a service in a new church, temple or mosque; donate to food banks, local shelters or the human society; do random acts of kindness; pick up garbage when you visit parks; write a letter or draw a picture for a friend; and challenge yourself not to hit, yell, call names.

Our youth are so special and caring and we want to continue to nurture these common UU principles.



MEET DAVID WISE!

Who are you? My name is David Wise. I am the new part-time Acting Director of Religious Education.

Do you have a family? I have been married to Karen for 28 years and we have raised five children. Three live in the Iowa City Cedar Rapids area, one in southern Georgia, and one in North Dakota. We also have five grandchildren. I have no siblings. Karen has a brother and two sisters. Karen is also the primary caregiver for her mother who still lives in the same house in Lisbon where Karen grew up.

How did you get here? I hold a Master of Divinity degree from St Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. I served United Methodist churches as a pastor for 12 years. I left that Ministry about 11 years ago. Recently, I saw the ad for a part-time DRE and did a lot of research into Peoples and the UUA. I really appreciate the openness and the liberal stances that are taken by Unitarian Universalism. I decided to apply, felt very comfortable in my interviews and conversations with Rebecca and others, and gladly accepted the offer.

What are your hopes for the religious education program? To provide the highest quality education that we possibly can. I bring a strong background in Ministry and I believe deeply that education is an important component of a congregation. Everything that is done, whether it be a lesson, craft, activity, or music, needs to be done the very best that we possibly can do.

What do you enjoy when you are not working? I enjoy reading, watching a little TV, and playing board and word games like Quiddler, Five Second Rule, trivia and such. I also love college sports. I grew up in Florida and still love and strongly support the University of Florida Gators. I occasionally get the opportunity to travel and watch the Gators. I've been very fortunate to watch Gator teams win three of our most recent national championships.

What is your favorite food? Steak! I also like pizza, good burgers, fresh cut fries, strawberries, good banana pudding, breakfast and Italian! I don't like onions, peppers, or spicy things.

Do you have pets? We have one cat, Velvet, that we adopted in January. He is inquisitive and loves chasing flying things!

Do you prefer David or Dave? I prefer David.

What is your favorite drink? Diet Coke, Evian water, Florida's natural orange juice and true sweet tea!

Are you usually early or late? Early

Where is the most interesting place you've been? The ocean. I grew up near the Atlantic and it is fascinating and relaxing to sit and watch the waves as they crash into the shore.

Where is the place you least like to go? Las Vegas. I go there on business but do not care for the place.

What are you addicted to? Gator sports! Each year the Gators are usually the best overall public school athletic program in the country. I love watching and following all of our teams.

What else should Peoples people know about you? Religious education is very important to me. I want the program here at Peoples to be the very best that it can be while I am here and I want to help prepare it for long term success!



Religious Education

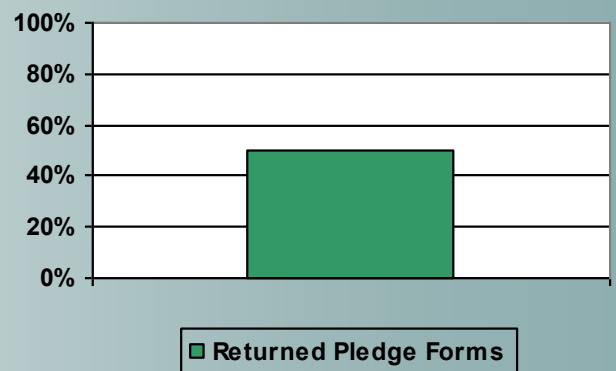
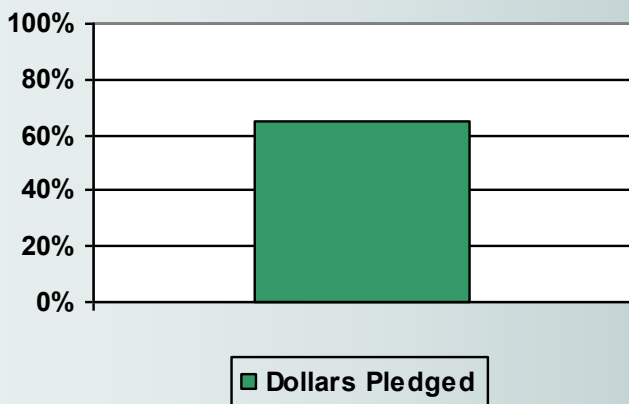


We are rich only through what we give, and poor only through what we refuse.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

As of August 28, 2017, we have had fifty-six (56) responses from the one hundred twelve (112) households we contacted for our campaign. We are 65% of the way towards our goal of \$166,074. If you have already completed and sent in your pledge, thank you.

The volunteer stewards have been trained and will be contacting the remaining households by visiting with those who have not yet returned their completed pledge form. Thanks for your help making this a successful stewardship campaign for Peoples Church UU! Whether you are actively working on the campaign, have already pledged or are awaiting a call/e-mail from a campaign steward, we couldn't do this without you! Thank you all for your generosity!



The *RENEW OUR MISSION 2018* Campaign Team

Bob Butikofer Charles Cizio Bryan Davis Sue Davis Rev. Rebecca Hinds Judy Price

Cathy's Column



2017/2018 CHURCH CALENDAR

We have recently changed our church database provider from Church Management Online to Realm, this is a very exciting change for us in the office and it will allow us to better connect, communicate and document our interactions! Because of this change, the church calendar we were using is no longer available and I am creating a new one!

If you have not done so already, and you belong to a group or committee within the church, I would like to add your meetings and events to the church calendar. The calendar is then posted to our church website and the events and meetings are typically then included in the monthly Voice or eWeekly blasts. Please email me at office@peoplesuu.org, thank you!

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

One of my roles at the office is to centralize communication and documentation. In the office there will be a binder with all committee meeting minutes so that all church members and friends can view them. This aligns with our newly implemented record retention policy as well as centralizing the ongoings with the various committee and groups here at the church!

I would like to compile all of the committee meeting minutes for all of 2017. If you are the keeper of the minutes for your respective groups or committees, can you please email me the minutes for the year? My email address is office@peoplesuu.org. If you are unsure if I have your minutes or not, please email me as well.

For those of you interested in reviewing these minutes, there is a binder on my bookshelf labeled as Committee Minutes 2017 that you may view in my office, but please do not take the binder with you.

Please help me in consolidating this information for Peoples Church!

Cathy Fischer



ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY CENTER FOUNDATION (ECCF)

The ECCF is a collaborative community ministry that leverages the support of faith communities across Cedar Rapids to serve neighbors in need. The ECCF offers financial assistance and referrals for basic needs through their Helping Hands Ministry program as well as abilities-based computer learning services to people with disabilities through their CompuPlace Program. They also offer low-cost office and rental space for local non-profits and are affiliated with Margaret Bock Housing.

Every year, as a part of our outreach efforts and ministry to the wider community, Peoples Church donates \$2000.00 to the ECCF. Our dollars go directly to people who need help with rent, utilities, bus tickets, automobile expenses, computer services, and more. In 2016, our donation helped the ECCF provide 325 families of 700 people with \$36,000 in financial assistance through Helping Hands Ministry (HHM), and 143 people with disabilities receive computer learning services through CompuPlace. Here is one of their stories.

“A woman in the process of divorcing an abusive spouse came to HHM needing help with her electric bill. She has her daughter and the house, but so much has been taken from them. Cars are gone, bank accounts have been emptied, and she struggles to keep up while waiting for recently ordered child support. Tearfully, she said, “I didn’t know how I was going to make it. Thank you so very much.”

On September 10 at 10am Robin Switzer-Brunner will be at People Church to lead an Adult Forum on the ECCF. Come learn more about this important community ministry, how our donations are put to good use every year, and how else we can support the ECCF! See you there!





We met three times in August to review the data we gathered from the values and vision activities. Next, we'll host forums before church throughout the fall to gather input from the congregation as we begin crafting the Mission.

Please join us at each step of the journey at 10:00 AM on September 17, October 8, and November 5. Watch for updates in the eWeekly and October Voice, where you'll learn more about our progress and other ways you can get involved.

And feel free to share additional thoughts and ideas with us directly about our church's values, vision, and mission. You can email missionteam@peoplesuu.org or call us:

Arianne Waseen, 319/325-5196

Scott Gay, 319/363-7034

David Miessler-Kubanek, 319/538-3700

Mission Team Forums

- September 17
- October 8
- November 5



Save the Dates

On **September 19** from 7 to 9 pm there will be a panel discussion on the challenges facing people returning to the community from prison and the resources that address those needs. This event will be held at the Marion Library and is free.

On **September 24** at 10 am in the Ely Room the SJC is hosting representatives of NAMI for a Forum. We will continue our discussion, started with the Abbe Center on meeting the mental health needs of persons in our church community. The Linn County Chapter of NAMI is the recipient of our third quarter Sunday Plate collection.

On **October 22** a forum on mental health and youth with representatives from Tanager Place will be held.

OUR CARING COMMUNITY

Good Neighbors

AmyBostwick 775-2805 sassafrass2011@gmail.com

Paraministers

August 31—September 17 ~ Rose Gabe ~ 396-5202



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HERE