

NOVEMBER
2017

the VOICE

Minister's Moment

How can it be first week of November already? I barely caught up with October! I never did figure out my Halloween costume, I still can't find my fall sweaters (let alone my winter boots!), and yet there is no escape: the Holiday Season has arrived. At least that is how it feels. Christmas decorations fill the stores, toy catalogues stuff my mailbox, and the Starbucks holiday cup rolled right out on November 1st. Everywhere I turn there is a hustle and bustle that just keeps building up towards the December holidays.

It's too much. It's too soon. My soul balks at all of this rush and busyness.

I feel this way every November. As the darkness increases and the days get colder, all I want to do is settle down and be still. My spirit longs for quiet. But the world keeps throwing things at me every minute! So every November, as a matter of self-preservation, I intentionally set a technology Sabbath and unplug from all technology and social media for 24 hours every week. Instead of engaging in my usual media diet and technology habits, I unplug and nourish my spirit instead. I settle into the stillness. I relish the quiet and calm. Like the Earth going dormant and still, I focus inward on rest, healing and renewal.

I know it is difficult to slow down in today's world, especially at this time of year, but just try it. Embrace the quiet. Unplug from technology and social media. Read a book. Talk to someone you love. Bake. Go for a walk in the woods. Drink a cup of tea. Plant tulip bulbs. Or just simply sit and enjoy the quiet.

As Unitarian Universalist minister Jacob Trapp wrote, "Let this house be quiet. Let our minds be quiet. Let the quietness of the hills, the quietness of deep waters, be also in us: So quiet that the noise of passing events and present anxieties, of random recollections and wandering thoughts, is stilled; So quiet that the...



stillness is like music; So quiet that we feel the very being which is the life of us all; So quiet that we are renewed, we feel at one with all others, at home in a tabernacle of stillness; So quiet that we let the ripples of this pool of quietness and healing pass through us and out into the world."

Let the quiet moments of November and deep stillness of late fall be a blessing that renews your spirit this year.

In Peace,

Rev. Rebecca Hinds

Sunday Morning Worship

NOVEMBER 5

Renewing Our Mission

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday!

After more than six months of thoughtful, engaged reflection as a community, we are getting close to Renewing Our Mission. What have we discovered? What is our new mission and how will it guide us into a fuller future? Invite a friend to join us for this service of renewal and welcome. Service led by Rev. Rebecca Hinds and music by Bryan and Kris Davis.

NOVEMBER 19

Welcoming the Stranger

New Member Sunday!

As we welcome new members into our midst, celebrate their decision to join the church and renew our own commitment to fellowship, we will reflect on hospitality. In what ways is hospitality a force for change and renewal? And could practicing it renew not only our community but also each of our own spirits? Service led by Rev. Rebecca Hinds and music by Peoples Choir.

NOVEMBER 12

Renewal? Sabbath? Rest?

Why are they important and how can you find things, places and people to help you get away and get refreshed. This is a busy time of the year! Come and hear some ideas that may make life easier! Service led by Acting Dir. Of Religious Education, David Wise, and music by Pete Kies and Deb Hunemuller.

NOVEMBER 26

Getting Through the Holidays

Not everyone loves the holidays. Seeing family, food, tales of the good old days, and other ways to survive such torture. Service led by Jude Johnson and music by Scott Mansfield.



Coffee Hour in Ely Room
Following Worship



WISE WORDS

Thanksgiving is coming soon! Parades, football, and food! Those are all great things but family is what really makes Thanksgiving special for me. It has always been that way. Yes, the food is always great. Yes, I love parades. Yes, football is great too! Family and friends though is what ties everything together. A chance to re-connect with those that you see only occasionally. A chance to sit and talk with those you see all the time in a rush. A chance to relax, renew, and re-engage.

So often in the haste to leave Halloween and get to Christmas we tend to forget the time of Thanksgiving. Let's not do that though. Let's make sure we take time for our friends and family. With all that is going on in the world these days we need those that we love and care for to be by our side every step of the way.

Take time this month to see friends and family, say thanks for what we have, to evaluate how we can help others, and to look forward to the things that are yet to come. Happy Thanksgiving!

In faith,

David Wise

RE EVENTS

Coming in January!

Beginning in January we will start Movies and Game nights for the whole congregation! More details to come!

Fire & Ice Parade Entry

Religious Education is sponsoring an entry for the church in the Fire and Ice Parade on the evening of Dec 2 in downtown Cedar Rapids. The entry will be an outreach for Peoples Church. The entry will include a truck that children can sit in and sing holiday songs. We will be handing out brochures that describe Peoples and invite parade goers to come and visit. Ideally we will also have people (youth and adults) carrying banners and signs that contain the symbols and principles of UU. We can use some help making those posters! We will gather at the following times:

Nov 12 2:30-4:30 pm in the Andre Room

Nov 19 2:00-4:00 pm in the Andre Room

Nov 29 6:00-8:00 pm in the Andre Room

If you would like to help and those times will not work—other times can be arranged for individuals and small groups.

RE Council Meeting November 12, following worship

Childcare

The childcare area is open. We have some great staff helping out. Stop by and see the remodeled room!

Cathy's Column

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS POLICY & PROCEDURE

Peoples Church has recently established a formal process and procedure for submitting proposals for building and grounds improvement projects. The purpose of establishing a formal process is to define roles, responsibilities, and priorities for these projects. If you have an idea or suggestion to make an improvement to our facility that will improve safety, structure, cost savings, convenience, or aesthetics, this process will need to be followed before work can begin.

The proposal form needs several pieces of information before it can be submitted for approval.

- Your contact information
- A project description
- Who will be doing the work
- Bids and/or cost estimates
- Where the funds for the project will come from
- Mission alignment

Proposals that fall under \$500 are approved by me, the office coordinator, all other proposals will be reviewed and approved by the Peoples Church Board. Some projects might need several proposals completed depending on budget, timing, scope, etc. However, when submitting these proposals keep in mind the cost of the total project to ensure that the appropriate approval is received. All proposals are initially submitted to the office coordinator for initial review, and routing to the Board, if applicable.

Monthly the buildings and grounds proposals will be summarized in the Voice. The owner and current status will be listed. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the projects, please reach out to the owner.

CURRENT PROPOSALS

- Nursery Updates
Owner: David Wise
Approved: Board Approval
Status: Mostly complete

The detailed process and procedure form are saved on the website, but hard copies are also available at the church. We look forward to partnering with you to continue to improve our facility together.



OUR MISSION



The Mission Renewal process is coming down to the wire, and the team is well prepared to craft a new Mission for Peoples Church! We met with church leadership in October to gather feedback about the data we have collected. Next, our plan is to have a new Mission ready to share by November 5th in the forum and service. Once the Mission is ready it will be shared via the pulpit, online, and on our bulletin board outside the sanctuary so that everyone can read it before the December congregational meeting. Watch for more information in the eWeekly, on the church website, and on Facebook.



Save the date

ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 3, 2017 ~ 12:30PM

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

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

Childcare Providers

Rachael Nading
Jana Anderson

Custodians

Jerry Morris
& Bob Osborne

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

President's Message



Getting Our Mission: Next Steps

From the President, November 2017

The December 3rd congregational meeting vote to adopt our new church Mission is coming right up. This will be a great achievement and I want to thank everyone for participating in this important work. Go us!

And then what?

Creating a Mission is like getting a new tool for a home project. First, you spend time evaluating the options and deciding which tool you need. That's the Mission Renewal process.

Then you have to learn how to use your new tool and apply it to your project. That's where our congregation will be after we vote it in.

So what does that look like?

This spring, we'll gather as a congregation to discern how to apply the Mission to the work of our church. This is like the training phase and means doing two things:

1. Make sure we all understand the Mission we just voted on.
2. Apply the Mission to our church's activities and plans.

Our Mission is a tool we'll use to help our church define itself. Like all tools, its usefulness will depend on how much effort we put into understanding and using it. Staying true to our Mission will require ongoing work.

Robyn Miessler-Kubanek



NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Ely Room, Wednesday, November 15 @ 6:15 PM

The Board of Trustees meets every month to conduct the business of the church. Peoples people are always welcome to observe and learn about the topics at hand.



OCTOBER 22, 2017

- We discussed our common read, *Leading Change in the Congregation*, and shared the points of Chapter 1 that resonated most for each of us. We will read Chapter 2 for our next meeting.
- Treasurer Gary McGraw reported a small deficit in September but still an overall positive balance for the year. Also, the new endowment funds through the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation have been established. Information about the funds will be shared at the upcoming congregational meeting.
- We decided the budget priorities for 2018 so the Finance Council can put together a draft budget. Increases will primarily focus

on staff raises, Developmental Ministry, and our denominational contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Association and MidAmerica Region. Board members will receive the draft prior to our November meeting to allow time for questions and suggestions. The budget proposal and other documents for the December congregational meeting must be postal mailed by November 18.

- As a follow up on the church's recent energy assessment, we will have electrical contractors give bids on work to finish the building's conversion to all LED lighting. It is our hope that we will then qualify for an Alliant Energy program that will pay 75% of the replacement costs for this upgrade.
- Rev. Rebecca reminded everyone about the upcoming Mission Renewal leadership event on October 26 @ 7:30 PM. Members of congregational leadership will look at the information gathered so far and help with the next steps.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Finance Report for September 2017

Finance Committee met on 10/17/17 to review financial reports, discuss income diversification, and begin work on 2018 budget.

Peoples Church cash flow was positive for first three quarters of the year (January 1 through September 30):

- Income \$135,529
- Expenses \$131,163



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



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

The 2018 Renew Our Mission pledge campaign has officially ended, yielding these final results:

Almost \$150,000 was raised against our goal of \$166,074. While falling short of our goal, this represents an increase of \$4,000 or 3% over last year's pledge campaign results and an increase of nearly 15% in the past two years!

Responses were received from nearly 98 pledge units contacted as part of the campaign, allowing us to update our membership rolls.

Once again, with your help, the campaign was completed by the middle of October, facilitating budget development by the Finance Committee, and voting on the proposed budget by the Board and the congregation to proceed on schedule with full knowledge of what our funding will be for 2018.

We did not meet the goal of a \$300 average increase per pledge unit, and must again look at ways to make ends meet. However, we have continued our progress toward having fully balanced budgets.

The successes of the pledge campaign were due to the work of many. We could not have done this without your support. Special thanks go to Rev. Rebecca, our operations coordinator Cathy Fischer, the pledge stewards and those individuals who gave wonderful testimonials, and, of course, all of you who have taken the time and energy to respond!

Based on the positive response to splitting last year's pledge drive from a year-end call for endowment contributions, when your generous contributions added \$12,700 to the fund, the two appeals have been maintained as separate entities again this year. As such, Peoples Church will again encourage endowment contributions this December.

As last year we are seeking suggestions or criticisms regarding the pledge drive that you might be willing to share with us. This is how we will make next year's campaign even better. If you have suggestions, please email them to Bob Butikofer at bobcf321@yahoo.com or you can mail them to my attention through the church office.

Thank you and congratulations from The 2018 Renew Our Mission stewardship committee!

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

November

Here's What's
GOING ON
AT PEOPLES CHURCH

Date	Time	Event
Wed Nov 1	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Membership Committee Meeting - Ely Room
	6:30pm – 7:30pm	OWL 2-3
	6:30pm – 8:00pm	CUUPS Samhain Ritual - Andre Room
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Choir Practice
Thu Nov 2	6:00pm – 8:00pm	New Member Class - Ely Room
Fri Nov 3— Sun Nov 5	All day	High School Youth Conference - First Unitarian Church
Sat Nov 4	6:30pm – 8:00pm	CUUPS Full Moon - Ely Room
Sun Nov 5	9:30am – 10:30am	OWL K-1
	10:00am – 11:00am	Mission Forum
	11:00am – 12:00pm	Worship - Bring a Friend to Church!
	11:00am – 12:00pm	Religious Education
Tue Nov 7	2:30pm – 3:30pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting
Wed Nov 8	6:30pm – 7:30pm	OWL 2-3
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Choir Practice
Thu Nov 9	6:00pm – 8:00pm	New Member Class - Ely Room
Sun Nov 12	9:30am – 10:30am	OWL K-1
	11:00am – 12:00pm	Worship
	11:00am – 12:00pm	Religious Education
	12:15pm – 2:15pm	RE Council - Andre Room
	2:30pm – 4:30pm	Sign Making for Parade Float - Andre Room

Date	Time	Event
Mon Nov 13	12:00pm – 2:00pm	Van Vechten Guild - Andre Room
Tue Nov 14	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Finance Committee
	7:00pm – 8:30pm	LGBTQ Support Group - Ely Room
Wed Nov 15	6:15pm – 7:15pm	Board Meeting - Ely Room
	6:30pm – 7:30pm	OWL 2-3
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Choir Practice
Thu Nov 16	3:00pm – 4:00pm	Aesthetics & Window Team Meeting
	6:00pm – 8:00pm	New Member Class - Ely Room
Sun Nov 19	9:30am – 10:30am	OWL K-1
	10:00am – 11:00am	Choir Practice
	11:00am – 12:00pm	Worship - Multigenerational
	12:30pm – 1:30pm	Worship Associate Meeting
	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Sign Making for Parade Float - Andre Room
Mon Nov 20	All day	Transgender Day of Remembrance
	6:30pm – 8:00pm	CUUPS Spirituality Class - Ely Room
Sun Nov 26	11:00am – 12:00pm	Worship
	11:00am – 12:00pm	Religious Education
Wed Nov 29	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Sign Making for Parade Float
	6:30pm – 7:30pm	OWL 2-3

Van Vechten Guild

Monday, November 13, 12pm, Andre Room

This month the Van Vechten Guild will host Cedar Rapids Parks director Daniel Owens who will give us an update on the city parks. BYO lunch. All are welcome to come and join us. Dessert and drinks are provided.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

First Three Thursdays in November

6pm, Ely Room

OUR CARING COMMUNITY

Good Neighbors

Kathy Juba ~ 378-3116~ kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

October 30 —November 12 ~ Susie Hauter ~ 448-4490

November 13 — November 26 ~ Rose Gabe ~ 396-5202

November 27—December 10 ~ Scott Mansfield ~ 362-0436

THERE IS
Always
SOMETHING
TO BE
Thankful
FOR.



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Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE