

DECEMBER
2018

THE VOICE

Peoples Church
Unitarian Universalist

OUR STAFF.

Rev. Rebecca Hinds

Developmental
Minister

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Tuesday – Thursday:
by appointment

David Wise

Director of
Faith Formation

(319) 362-9827

by appointment

Cathy Fischer

Operations
Coordinator

(319) 362-9827

Office Hours

Tuesday 9-3:30

Wednesday 9-3:30

Thursday 9-3:30

Childcare Providers

Valerie Angerer Zieser
Adriel Ridenour

Custodians

Jerry Morris
& Bob Osborne

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

President

Kathleen Mavity
(319) 270-1214

Treasurer

Gary McGraw
(319) 373-9449

Board of Trustee Members

Geoff Johnson

Jude Johnson

Kathy Juba

Mike Meshack

the VOICE.

PEOPLES CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.



Good Neighbors

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

Paraministers

November 26 - December 9 | Audrey Hauter

December 10 - 23 | Jan Federer

December 24 - January 6 | Scott Mansfield

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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On most days I feel like I have a pretty good understanding of where babies come from. I know the science: the anatomy and the biology. I also know how other animals, insects, plants, and flowers reproduce. But if I sit and think about it long enough, I eventually reach the edge of all I know. And there I am, time after time, face to face with the mystery.

I wonder, how does the tulip bulb know what to do deep in the frozen earth? Who or what tells the tiny goldfish zygote to divide? Why does the heart of a human embryo start to beat? And what happened so long ago in the moments *before* the Big Bang?

I don't know. I don't know how or why life was created. I don't know where the spirit of life comes from or why it initiates new life. The nature of creation, the fact that anything even exists at all, is simply a mystery to me. The only thing I can control in this vast universe is my own response to it.

So, this year, as we enter into the season of Advent, one of my favorite times of the year, but also

one of the most challenging for me, I am choosing to put my thirst for knowledge and need for answers on hold and simply rest in the mystery of life and all that I *don't know*.

As you are all aware, my wife and I are expecting our first child. We are excited, nervous, delighted, and anxious to be bringing a new baby into the world. I want to hurry up and meet this child! But of course, the only thing I can do right now is wait and let the process unfold in its own time.

Advent is calling me this year to slow down, embrace the mystery, steep myself in hope, experience peace, and prepare the way for love.

If you care to join me, I invite you

too to enter into stillness this holiday season. Let go of your need for control and concrete answers. Let go of the future. Don't rush ahead to Christmas or the next big thing. Be present now. Be patient. Prepare the way. Allow yourself to be astonished. Relax into wonder and awe. And above all, don't be afraid to embrace the mystery.

In faith,
Rev. Rebecca

IT IS NOW, AT ADVENT, THAT I AM GIVEN THE CHANCE TO SUSPEND ALL EXPECTATION... AND INSTEAD TO REVEL IN THE MYSTERY.

Jerusalem Jackson Greer

MOMENT

Mirinda's



Rev. Rebecca Hinds

Sunday Worship

December 2 | 11am Service: Swimming in Mystery

What is the opposite of knowledge? We often assume it is ignorance, but what if it is actually mystery? What do we know, what don't we know, and how can we learn to swim in waters beyond our understanding? Service lead by Rev. Rebecca.

Music: Jonny Lipford

Greeters: RC Eichacker

Cookies, Coffee, and Conversation following Service.

December 9 | 11am Service: The Mystery and Magic of the Season

Dark nights, twinkling lights, Christmas Trees, Santa Claus, the rebirth of the sun, and the birth of Jesus. What do all of these things have in common? Mystery. Come rest in the magic and wonder of the season as we contemplate the great mystery. Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

Music: Megan and Tim Jones

Greeters: Sheryl Ochs

December 16 | 11am Service: The Holidays of December

The children and families of Faith Formation will be presenting a short play on "The Holidays of December". There will be a short play and some great singing! Come learn about Advent, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Music: Peoples Choir

Greeters: RC Eichacker

December 23 | 11am Service: Winter Solstice Service

Merry Yule! On this Winter Solstice weekend, after the darkest, longest night of the year, when the earth turns, and the days start to get longer again, we will celebrate Yule and the rebirth of the sun in a special Earth-Centered worship service. Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

Music: TBD

Greeters:

December 24 | 6pm Service: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

There is something about Christmas Eve. It is hard to describe that "something" that many of us feel and it is different for everyone. But something mystical occurs as we light our candles and sing the hope of "all is calm, all is bright" –peace and light for the world. This year, the 200th anniversary of the debut of "Silent Night, Holy Night," we will celebrate the carol's message and its call for our lives that can guide us all year long. Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

Music: Bryan and Kris Davis

Greeters:

December 30 | 11am Service: TBD

Service led by Cate Sheller and Paulette Montague.

Music: TBD

Greeters:



David Wise, Director of Faith Formation

WISE WORDS

It's the most wonderful time of the year
With the kids jingle belling,
And everyone telling you be of good cheer,
It's the most wonderful time of the year!

It's the hap-happiest season of all
With those holiday greetings
And gay happy meetings
When friends come to call
It's the hap-happiest season of all!

There'll be parties for hosting,
Marshmallows for toasting ,
And caroling out in the snow.
There'll be scary ghost stories,
And tales of the glories of Christmases
long, long ago!

It's the most wonderful time of the year,
There'll be much mistltoeing,
And hearts will be glowing
When loved ones are near,
It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Those words from the early 1960's and made famous by Andy Williams talk about the happy side of Christmas! And there are many things for which we can be happy and thankful. Often though those who are struggling for one reason or another seem to be, at times, forgotten.

The Holiday season is a great time but for

many it is a struggle. Perhaps a loved one died around the holidays. Perhaps this is the first holiday without someone who was special and close. Perhaps the future is uncertain for a person or a family. The issues at the border certainly cause us concerns. The issue of hunger and poverty is not going away soon.

This holiday season I encourage you to pay close attention to those who are around you who may not think this is the most wonderful time of the year. Check on them. Let them know you care. Let them be assured you are there for them!

Consider what you can do for those who are less fortunate! We are, in so many ways, privileged. What about those who aren't? What can you do?

What about those who are hurting and struggling? What can you do?

On a personal note—Karen, my wife, was recently diagnosed with Endometrial cancer. We believe it was caught very early. She is scheduled for surgery in mid December. Your prayers are appreciated.



FAITH FORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 16th Worship

The children and families of Faith Formation will be presenting a short play on “The Holidays of December”. There will be a short play and some great singing! Come learn about Advent, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Peoples Choir will be singing.

Sunday, December 23rd and Sunday, December 30th

There will be no Faith Formation classes. Childcare will be available for worship.

Christmas Eve Service, December 24th

There will be no childcare for Christmas Eve as that is designed as a family service.

Peoples Partners with St. Marks United Methodist to Aid African Refugees

Beat the Winter Blahs!

Bryan Bowers will be back at Peoples Church on Saturday, January 19 at 7:00 pm with his down home blend of music, storytelling, and humor. Those who were at last year’s concert know doesn’t just play music, he transforms material that moves him deeply into a show combining humor, virtuoso musicianship, and down home story telling into an authentic, intimate experience for the whole family.



In keeping with our mission and end statements, we are partnering with St. Marks United Methodist in a fundraiser for the St. Marks African Ministry Program. Through this ministry St. Marks provides a wide range of services help African Refugees with ESL, citizenship classes, job skills and basic necessities of life on an ongoing basis. Obviously the best way to show our UU concern and support for refugees seeking a new life is to partner with St. Marks which has already been committed and effective in such assistance for many years.

Tickets will be \$20 each and will be on sale very soon.

Mark your calendar now!

If you've got all the answers... than you're probably asking the wrong questions!

Kathleen Mavity, Board President

When you stop to think about it, the world is full of mysteries.

- How do they make Cheez-Whiz?
- What is it about fingernails on a blackboard that's so crazy-making?
- Why does the windshield wiper on the passenger side almost always work better than the one on the driver's side?
- Why does your clunking car run flawlessly when you take it to the mechanic?

And then there are the somewhat weightier mysteries:

- How do you figure out your purpose in the world?
- How do you aspire to be, do, and have more without being unhappy in your current state?
- How do you find the courage to do the tough stuff, whatever that may be in your life?
- How does a group of individuals grow into a beloved church community?

I don't have the answer to that last one, and I'm okay with that. I don't necessarily need an explanation when I can see the reality all around me at church.

- People are learning our Mission and exploring ways they can live it as a congregation and as individuals.
- Tough, honest conversations – where one person expresses hurt, anger, concern – are happening more and more...and strengthening the relationships of those having the conversations.
- Congregants are stepping up when asked for help – and are stepping back when they need time to take care of themselves.
- Individuals are challenging assumptions about “the way we've always done things” and are finding the courage and flexibility to experiment with new ways.

And Peoples people seem to keep finding more ways to engage, grow, and become the kind of people our dogs think we are. Whatever the reasons for our community's growth and energy, I say "Woohoo!"



In a way – PEOPLES IS MOVING IN

By moving some of our beautiful traditional PEOPLES stained glass windows into this sanctuary, we are making it truly our own. At the same time, we are taking a fresh look at how all of our church spaces can better support PEOPLES purposes - more effectively, comfortably, and attractively. We will have some new looks in the following areas.

ELY ROOM - To better accommodate holding forums, classes and group meetings, a white board is being added. Our furnishings will be configured to seat groups of thirty to forty comfortably.

ANDRE ROOM - To facilitate presentations in larger groups, such as our membership meetings, a large dry erase board, is being added. We are experimenting with seating arrangements for large meetings, as well as those suitable for conversation during Sunday after-service coffee hour.

THE MUSIC ROOM – The many items being stored here will be well accommodated in six rows of new shelving - for instruments, altar equipment, electricals, and cleaning equipment. A new file will hold the music, misc. equipment, and supplies. This is also where the remaining 3rd Ave church windows will be stored.

THE STUDIO – With our stained-glass windows removed, this generous room will be convenient for meetings of up to 12. It is also being furnished for families for pre-wedding, funeral or memorial services. In addition to our own table and chairs, there will be an added white board, a compact file for committee files and supplies, and a wall mirror for wedding preparations.

NORTH ENTRY - One of our 3rd Avenue pews will be added to this entry – to ease taking off winter gear, and waiting for family members or rides.

NORTH HALLWAY - A church pew and several chairs will provide seating in this area. Four matching bulletin boards will be installed here for: Peoples Activities, Social Justice, Community Events, and Gratitude Notes. To make room for these, the member name-tag boards will find a new home on the back wall of the narthex.

STORAGE CLOSETS DOWNSTAIRS - Generous shelving units will capitalize on vertical storage in these small areas: the kitchen closet, two maintenance storage closets, and the supply closet for Faith Foundations.

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR OFFICE - Generous new files will contain Peoples records and operating documents, as well as accommodate supplies and valued equipment.

NEW DESK CHAIRS - These chair replacements are sorely needed for the Operations Coordinator's office and the Minister's office.

All of these new furnishings have been made possible through the generosity of caring members.

WHEN is this happening? THIS next week!

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - The Music Room, Studio and downstairs storage areas will have all contents removed and carefully thinned for items no longer needed. This will make room for the new shelving and furnishings.

Thursday - if not yet done, rooms will get an early “spring” cleaning, to ready them for the new items delivered and installed on Friday, December 7TH .

Saturday, December 8TH - Volunteers Needed Dec. 8th between 9am-4pm to help move furniture and set up our interior space for our NEW LOOK! Lunch provided by the fabulous Jill Jones. Please let Rev. Rebecca know if you can be there so we can be sure to have enough food.

Sunday, December 9TH - OUR NEW LOOK Beyond the nearly completed sanctuary work, PEOPLES will have new looks with added bulletin and white board installations and furnishing arrangements designed to support Peoples' mission and events.

Our Events

December

Date	Day	Time	Event
2-Dec	Sunday	9:45-10:45	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		11am – 12pm	Worship
		12-2pm	Congregational Meeting
5-Dec	Wednesday	6-7pm	Membership Committee Meeting
8-Dec	Saturday	9-4pm	Furniture Moving Day
9-Dec	Sunday	9:45-10:45	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		11am – 12pm	Worship
		12:15pm	Social Justice Council Meeting
		6:15-8:15pm	Peoples Church Board Meeting
10-Dec	Monday	12-1pm	Van Vechten Guild Meeting
11-Dec	Tuesday	7-8:30pm	LGBTQ Support Group
16-Dec	Sunday	9:45-10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		11am – 12pm	Worship
		12:15-1:15pm	Worship Associates Meeting
17-Dec	Monday	6:30-8pm	CUUPS Monthly Meeting
18-Dec	Thursday	6:30-7:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting
21-Dec	Friday	6:30pm-1am	CUUPS Full Moon and Yule Ritual
22-Dec	Saturday	10-2pm	Christmas Caroling at Peoples Church
		2-4pm	VM Rehearsal
23-Dec	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship
24-Dec	Monday	6-7pm	Christmas Eve Service
30-Dec	Sunday	11am-12pm	Worship



Christmas Caroling | Saturday | December 22 | 10–2pm

If you want to sing Christmas carols, or just listen to Christmas music, Scott Mansfield will be playing Christmas music on the grand piano Saturday December 22 from 10 am to 2 pm. Please enter thru the back parking lot.

Congregational Meeting | Sunday | December 2 | 12-2pm | Andre Room

The Peoples Church Board of Trustees has called a meeting for **Sunday, December 2, 2018** in the Andre Room fellowship hall on the lower level. This meeting is open to all members and friends; however, only members may vote on agenda items. We will begin with a POTLUCK after worship service, with the congregational meeting following. The meeting will begin no earlier than **12:30 PM**.

Furniture Moving Day | Saturday | December 8 | 9-4pm

The new furnishings will be in place and volunteer teams will work to replace files, equipment and miscellaneous pieces in these rooms....all newly organized and handy! This day, Jill Jones will serve one of her special lunches for volunteers!

Board Meeting | Sunday | December 9 | 6:15 PM | Ely Room

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

Van Vechten Guild Meeting | Monday | December 10 | 12pm

It's time for the annual cookie walk! Everyone is asked to bring approximately 2-3 dozen cookies to exchange. Bring your own lunch and a holiday memory to share if we have time. Visiting and repackaging the cookies will be the main activity of our meeting.

CUUPS Monthly Meeting | Monday | December 17 | 6:30 | Ely Room

We will be gathering to discuss news and exciting upcoming events.

CUUPS Full Moon Yule Ritual | Saturday | December 21 | 6:30pm-1am

On the evening of Friday, December 21st we of the earth-based path will gather to celebrate the longest night and the returning of the sun in comradeship, in feast, and in ritual. Festivities will include a shared potluck meal, a magical white-elephant gift exchange (maximum \$15 value), an opening full moon ritual and a main Yule ritual. Please review the following itinerary so you know what to expect from the night.

6:30pm: Begin to gather - Merry meet!

7:30pm: Opening ritual - Longest Night's Full Moon

8:15pm: Feasting

Magical White Elephant Gift Exchange

Card games and general merriment

Midnight: Formal Yule Ritual

After the circle is opened, it will be time to clean up and wish each other to merry meet again!

Finance Committee Update

Finance Committee met on 11/15/18 to review financial reports and proposed budget for CY 2019.

Cash flow for October was positive thanks to people catching up their 2018 pledges and endowment disbursements:

- Income \$28,532
- Expenses \$14,832



the Voice



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PEOPLES
CHURCH
4980 GORDON AVE. NW
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52405