

What are we doing the weekend of September 14-15, 2019, you ask? Why, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Peoples Church of course!

Our sesquicentennial celebration is shaping up to be a meaningful, jam-packed, and fun-filled weekend. We have an open house, guest speakers, a community-wide celebration dinner out at a historic restaurant (I told you we would have a party!), a special Sunday

worship service, a High Tea/Coffee sponsored by the Van Vechten Guild, and more already planned!

And the WHOLE congregation is invited. We mean it, *everyone* is invited!

It is a heartwarming thought to imagine everyone that has ever been a part of Peoples Church getting together again. I

sincerely hope this is what we will experience in September and I think we have a fairly good chance at it! With your help, we are inviting absolutely everyone we can think of (please don't forget to email us the names and addresses of anyone you know who should be on the invite list!).

But if, for whatever reason, some people *can't* make it to this weekend of events, will we still be a whole congregation? What does it mean to be a whole congregation?

It's easy to think about wholeness like a puzzle that is only complete when it is perfectly put back together. But if our community were a puzzle, we would be reduced to a snapshot of one moment in time, one static, rigid picture that would be very difficult, if not impossible, to ever restore, and that just feels too limited.

So, as we explore our theme of wholeness this month, let's see if we can use it as an

opportunity to expand our theology of wholeness beyond the puzzle analogy and towards a theology that is more fluid, evolving, and imperfect.

It may be true that the pieces don't fit together the *same way* anymore, but we can still honor them, reclaim them, and be

whole. We can release old images and expectations and allow things to come together in new, more creative ways which leave room for growth.

So, as we plan for our reunion and then gather in September, remember that a whole community embraces all of the pieces *and* all of the gaps and cracks. After all, that's how we let the light in.

May it be so. In faith,

Rev. Rebecca





RING THE BELLS
THAT STILL CAN
RING. FORGET
YOUR PERFECT
OFFERING. THERE
IS A CRACK IN
EVERYTHING.
THAT'S HOW THE

-Leonard Cohen

LIGHT GETS IN.

APRIL 7 | 11AM SERVICE: THE WHOLE BODY

Our bodies are an amazing tool that carry us through life, but they are also known to get sick and sometimes injured. When this happens, how can we heal and become physically whole, even when there is no cure? Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

Music: Megan and Tim Jones. Greeters: Joye Winey and RC Eichacker

APRIL 14 | 11AM SERVICE: THE WHOLE WORLD

The whole human race, including YOU, is responsible for making the world whole. But how? Through the Jewish story of *Tikkun Olam* (which means *repairing the world*), we will explore this concept and our own role in the story. Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

Music: Mike Maas and Tim Faurot Greeters: RC Eichacker and Bob Butikofer

APRIL 21 | EASTER | 11AM OUTDOOR SERVICE at Indian Creek Nature Center followed by an Easter Egg Hunt (IN THE EVENT OF RAIN THE SERVICE WILL BE IN THE NATURE CENTER)

SERVICE: THE WHOLE EARTH

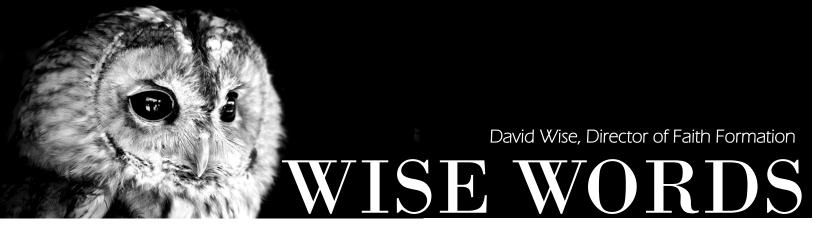
On this Easter Sunday we are taking a field trip to the Indian Creek Nature Center. We will worship outside, celebrate spring, and rejoice in the resurrection of the earth and all things. Join us as we "Consider the Lilies" and celebrate the interconnected nature and cycle of all creation. Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

Music: Peoples Choir **Greeters:** Bob Butikofer

APRIL 28 | 11AM SERVICE: TBD

Service led by Bryan Davis.

Music: Scott Mansfield Greeters:



Richard Gilbert writes:

In the midst of the whirling day, In the hectic rush to be doing, In the frantic pace of life, Pause here for a moment.

Catch your breath; Relax your body; Loosen your grip on life.

Consider that our lives are always unfinished business;

Imagine that the picture of our being is never complete;

Allow your life to be a work in progress.

Do not hurry to mold the masterpiece; Do not rush to finish the picture; Do not be impatient to complete the drawing. From beckoning birth to dawning death we are in process,

And always there is more to be done.

Do not let the incompleteness weigh on your spirit;

Do not despair that imperfection marks your every day;

Do not fear that we are still in the making.

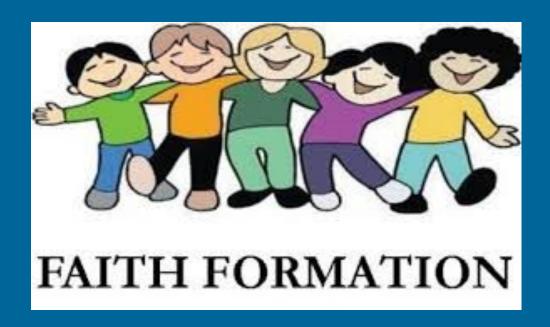
Let us instead be grateful that the world is still to be created;

Let us give thanks that we can be more than we are:

Let us celebrate the power of the incomplete; For life is always unfinished business. Indeed for each of us life is unfinished business. We have opportunities to grow and change. To seek and learn. Faith Formation this year has been doing just that. We have discussed the Principles, the history of Peoples, the structure and outreach of Peoples, and a host of other subjects this year. The children have been engaged in class and in worship. They have participated in worship both in the pews and from the stage and podium. They have been seeking ways to be more involved. For them life is most definitely unfinished business! For them Peoples is a place for them to learn and grow. They, like all of us, still have lots of living to do! I am thrilled with the acceptance of children in worship both as worshippers as well as leaders. We hear so often about children being the church or the leaders of tomorrow. I would encourage us to ask how can the children help mold the masterpiece of today?

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in Trivia Night! It was a great success! Peoples people as well as many friends participated. There were many laughs, a few bewildered looks, and many good moments of fun and enjoyment! \$470 was raised! THANK YOU!!!!

David



Faith Formation will be hitting the road on April 14th. We will meet at Cedar Lake for a walking tour led by Rich Patterson.

Easter Egg Hunt following worship at Indian Creek on April 21st!

Empty eggs are on the table outside of the sanctuary. If you would like to take some home and fill them with candy, treats, coins, etc., please do. **Please return them to the church by Thursday April 18**th so we can get them to Indian Creek for the hunt!



What we've got here is failure to communicate. Not!

Kathleen Mavity, Board President

From the film *Cool Hand Luke* came one of moviedom's most iconic lines:

"What we've got here is failure to communicate."

For some organizations and people, "failure to communicate" is their default setting – but not for Peoples Church. Here, we're in the process of developing a culture where clear, *effective* communication is the norm. In fact, we consider communication to be so important that it's one of our five Developmental Ministry goals.

Over the last several years, your elected Board members have been going all out to provide transparency in their communications with you. And by addressing another of our DM goals, Governance, the Board is taking yet more steps to create an environment where communication channels are easy to understand, effective, and work *for* us rather than against us.

So how is the Policy Governance (PG) model being implemented by the Board going to help us connect and communicate better? Just a bit of background info will make it clear.

In the Policy Governance model, the policies created by the Board:

- describe what work is done by the Board does, how that work is done, and what our relationship with the executive team (AKA the minister) looks like
- specify that the Board delegates achievement of our Ends to the minister
- clearly list limitations on what the minister can do as s/he pursues those Ends

And that's totally cool, because it frees up all members to become more easily involved with aspects of the church they're passionate about.

- No more getting bogged down trying to communicate a project proposal to the Board for Board approval. The Board's job is to focus on strategies for future health; it *doesn't* get involved in approving service projects or dealing with the nuts-and-bolts operations of the church.
- No more trying to figure out who's doing what and why: You know what areas are hands-off for the Board and for the minister.
- No more worrying about any "closed door" deals. You know what's expected of and allowed to your Board and your minister

 and you have the right to ask questions if you're ever concerned that they're not acting according to policy.
- No more waiting around, hoping something you're passionate about can be addressed. Instead, you ask yourself, "Does this activity *directly address one or more of our Ends?*" If so, you know to take your idea to the minister. S/he'll then invite you to be one of the people who will collaborate to make it happen.

Policy Governance is like the lane markers on a highway: While you're limited by those markers, you're also liberated by them. You don't have to ask permission to steer around a pothole; you just go ahead and do it, all the while knowing you're safe in your own lane. (We'll save the discussion of idiot drivers for another time.)

And on top of all that, Policy Governance is a structure that actually creates a greater sense of wholeness within the church. Everyone knows the direction we're heading (because it's stated in our Ends). Everyone knows what everyone else can and can't do, because it's clearly stated in our church policies. And because of our Covenant of Right Relations, everyone also knows what they can expect from other members – and how to address it if anyone falls *out* of covenant.

The theme for April's church services is Wholeness. As you listen to the reflections every Sunday, think about how beautifully this new era of clear governance at Peoples will help create that wholeness – and just think about what we can do with it.



Peoples Church Sesquicentennial Celebration Nurturing the Flame



Celebration Dinner
The Flamingo
Saturday, September 14, 2019
Cocktails 5pm
Dinner 6pm



Watch this page each month for more information.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN HELP...

Y/Our Story!

1. Provide names & addresses

Have you thought of a Peoples friend or former member who would like to join in our celebration weekend?

Please share their name and address with us. We don't want anyone left out!

Please submit information to the office at office@peoplesuu.org or place in the Operations Coordinator mailbox.

2. Help Build Our Story!

you share YOUR Peoples stories?
We're looking for a paragraph or
two describing your favorite
wow experience in Peoples
Church. Help tell our history
through your eyes as we assemble

To help tell our 150-year story, will

The results will be shared in *the eWeekly* and *The Voice* in the runup to the big event. All these special remembrances will also become a book available to congregants and friends.

Please submit your stories to the office at office@peoplesuu.org or place in the Operations Coordinator mailbox.

3. Do you have a photograph of a PCUU event or Peoples People at a non-church/community event?

The Sesquicentennial Committee and Archive Committee will be grateful to have them and include them in our Celebration book and in the Archives.

PLEASE submit the following information WITH the photograph:

WHAT was the event, WHEN was the photo taken, WHO is in the photograph, any additional EXPLANATION if needed.

Please place your photo <u>and information</u> in the Operations Coordinator mailbox.



2-part Spring New Member Class Saturday, April 27 & Saturday, May 4 10am-12pm

Are you interested in learning more about Peoples? Have you been thinking about joining the church? Come to the New Member Classes! Contact Rev. Rebecca to sign up at minister@peoplesuu.org. Child Care available by request.

Our west door will have a new entry code effective Tuesday, April 9th

Information will be given from the pulpit on Sunday, April 7th. If you are not in attendance you can call the office or speak to staff after Sunday services to obtain the code. In keeping with a custom that has served Peoples Church well, we will not be sharing the new code electronically. Thank you for understanding.

Events and Opportunities

In April Faith Explorers will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Saturday, April 6th and April 2oth, at the Kenwood Park Methodist Church at 10AM. We will be continuing our study of Charles Eisenstein's <u>The more Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible</u>. At our April 6th meeting will we discuss the section on Naivete through Attention (pages 70 through 139). We hope you can join us for our discussion on how we can create a more beautiful world.

UU Partner Church Council Summer 2019 Budget Transylvania Pilgrimage July 31, 2019 - August 13, 2019

For the first time, we are offering a summertime pilgrimage for cost-conscious North Americans who wish to travel in the summer to visit the homeland of our Unitarian faith and spend time with partners in their villages. Although airfare isn't quite as cheap as is the case with our fall Thanksgiving Pilgrimage, the trip will have more modest accommodations to help keep costs down.

The pilgrimage begins in Bucharest on Wednesday, July 31, and ends back in Bucharest Tuesday, August 13, 2019, and includes a stay in your partner village to share the warm and loving hospitality of Transylvanian Unitarian families. You may <u>LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE</u>.

Spring Clean Up and Planting Day: Growing Food to Benefit our Neighbors! Earth Day, Monday April 22nd at 1 pm

Did you know that our Peoples Church landscape is mostly edible? We have established plantings of rhubarb, strawberries, herbs, bunching onions, some fruit and nut bushes, and a tradition of annually planting kale. In the past all of this food has been brought to Feed Iowa First. This year we have an opportunity to continue to do the same AND support the African Refugee population in our neighborhood by partnering with St. Mark's African Ministry.

Feed Iowa First is donating sunflowers and other low maintenance flowers and herbs (started at the Feed Iowa First greenhouse) and they are willing to bring the plants to our yard and help us plant them on the east side of our church which was recently repaired and has no shrubs around the foundation. The flowers will help keep unwanted plants from volunteering to take up that space.

We also have an opportunity to support St. Mark's African Ministry and the African refugees by donating some of our land for them to grow their traditional plants.

To make all of this happen, we need your help! Please mark your calendars for our annual Peoples Church Spring Clean-up and plan on helping out!

In addition to the usual spring yard work, we will plant flowers, herbs, kale, and anything the African refugee community has to plant.

This should not take more than 2-3 hours. We've done a good job in the last couple of years, so the task gets easier each year. Please bring pruning tools, shovels, rakes, etc. as you are able.

Questions??? Contact the church or Susan Davis 319-981-4494. Hope to see you there!

Bayy.

May 4, 2019 | 7 p.m.



Bob & Kristie Black, with Joy Ward



eventbrite.com or at the door







"Bob's banjo music is a dipperful of cold well water at the end of a long, hot, dusty day." — Greg Brown



"I believe Bob Black is the best playing the old-time fiddle numbers of any banjo player."

— Bill Monroe



Recipient, 2002 Traditional Arts Award by the lowa Arts Council for outstanding contribution to the Arts in Iowa | Iowa Bluegrass Hall of Fame member.







Welcome Aprili

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
3	Wednesday	7 – 8pm	Peoples Choir Practice
7	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		10 – 10:45am	Open Topic Forum Led by RC Eichacker
		11am – 12pm	Worship
		12:15pm	Social Justice Council Meeting
		6:15 – 8:15pm	Board Meeting
8	Monday	12 – 1pm	Van Vechten Guild Moms Demand Action
9	Tuesday	7 – 8:30pm	LGBTQ Support Group
10	Wednesday	5 – 6pm	Membership Meeting
		6 – 7pm	Stewardship Team Meeting
		7 – 8pm	Peoples Choir Practice
11	Thursday	12 – 1pm	Sesquicentennial meeting
14	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		10 – 10:45am	Open Topic Forum Led by RC Eichacker
		11am – 12pm	Worship
		12:15 – 1:15pm	Worship Associates Meeting
15	Monday		Tax Day
		9:30 – 10:30am	Archives Committee
		6:30 – 8pm	CUUPS Monthly Meeting
17	Wednesday	7 – 8pm	Peoples Choir Practice
18	Thursday	6:30 – 7:30pm	Finance Committee
19	Friday	5 – 9pm	Passover Seder Meal
		6:30 – 8:30pm	CUUPS Wind/Friendship Moon Ritual
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT VOICE MATERIAL			BMIT VOICE MATERIAL
21	Sunday	11am – 12pm	EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE OUTSIDE AT INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER (If it rains - inside the Nature Center)
24	TATe describe	12pm	Easter Egg Hunt following Easter Service
24	Wednesday	7 – 8pm	Peoples Choir Practice
27 28	Saturday	10am-Noon	First of Two New Member Classes
20	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		11am – 12pm	Worship

Open Topic Form | Sunday April 7 | 10am | Ely Room

Come together for conversations, to make connections, and share .

Board Meeting | Sunday | April 7 | 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 | April 8 | 12pm | Andre Room

Program will be Moms Demand Action. All are welcome to attend.

Open Topic Form | Sunday April 7 | 10am | Ely Room

Come together for conversations, to make connections, and share .

CUUPS Monthly Meeting | Monday | April 15 | 6:30 | Ely Room

We will be gathering to discuss Planning for rituals and Beltane gathering.

Passover Seder Meal | Friday | April 19 | 5pm

Join us for a traditional Passover Seder Dinner hosted by Laura McGraw on Friday, April 19th starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Andre Room.

The dinner is a ritual ceremonial dinner that commemorates the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. It will be an educational, as well as a fun evening, for all family members.

Tickets will be available to purchase the first two Sundays in April and also at the door the night of the dinner. Adult tickets are \$15 each and children eat free.

Will you be the child to find the hidden matzah? Attend the dinner and find out!

For more information, talk to Sheryl Ochs.

CUUPS Wind/Friendship Moon Ritual Friday | April 19| 6:30

The wind moon helps us celebrate the spreading of seeds, and the spreading of life as our mother earth continues to enliven. We will gather in love and trust to celebrate the wind/friendship full moon for April at one of our member's homes. Amber will be hosting and leading the friendship/wind moon ritual in her back yard. For the event address, please reach out to Sam Wilson on Facebook or sammie.ball2012@gmail.com. The rain location will be the Ely room at People's Church.

EASTER SERVICE April 21 | 11am

We invite you to join us for a special outdoor service this week. We are taking a field trip to the Indian Creek Nature Center. We will worship outside, celebrate spring, and rejoice in the resurrection of the earth and all things. Join us as we "Consider the Lilies" and celebrate the interconnected nature and cycle of all creation. An Easter Egg Hunt will follow.

First of a 2-part Spring New Member Class Saturday | April 27 | 10am-noon

Are you interested in learning more about Peoples? Have you been thinking about joining the church? Come to the New Member Classes! Contact Rev. Rebecca to sign up at minister@peoplesuu.org. Child Care available by



Social Justice



The SJC has been exploring how we can collaborate with the St Marks African Ministries program discussed in our March 3 Forum. We have many neighbors in the vicinity of our church from Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi. The elementary school in our neighborhood is Hoover and 40% of the students are English as a Second Language students. Many great ideas came out of the Forum discussion.

The need for transportation is great. Lu Wilcox volunteered to organize a Sign-Up Genius so that members of Peoples and St Marks can use it to sign-up to meet transportation needs. Jude Johnston may assist with the sewing program. The African women in the neighborhood sew beautiful items for sale. People who can instruct on sewing are needed. The shop at St Marks is open from 9 am to 1 pm on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Marcia Swift volunteered to help facilitate their trauma support groups. Other needs are for volunteers to help instruct English and to help people complete applications for green cards, citizenship, health insurance, and the like.

Our African neighbors are seeking land where they can plant and grow their native crops which they use for food. Offering our land for this project is being explored. If you wish to offer a volunteer service for this ministry contact marcia.swift@gmail.com.

The SJC will meet on Sunday, April 7 at 1215

Upcoming events:

Reality Bites-Black History is American History will be discussed at the Cedar Rapids Library on **April 3** from 6 to 7:30 pm. This event will look at black culture through art, music, and literature. Live performances will showcase pivotal monuments and themes throughout history. Register for this event on the CRPL website.

April 5. Humanities Iowa. At Cornell College at 11:30 am Stella Burch Elias of the University of Iowa Law School will present on modern immigration, refugees, and asylums with a focus on African immigrant populations that have settled in Iowa.

This presentation will be helpful to us in understanding the culture and needs of our African neighbors we will be working with through the St Marks program.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Hinds

Developmental Minister

(319) 362-9827(w)

(319) 200-7650 (h)

<u>David Wise</u> Director of Faith Formation

(319) 362-9827 by appointment

<u>Christine Kullander</u> Operations Coordinator

(319) 362-9827

Office Hours Tuesday 8:30-2:30 Wednesday 8:30-2:30 Thursday 8:30-2:30 Friday 8:30-10:30

<u>Childcare Providers</u> Valerie Angerer Zieser Adriel Ridenour Eva Devi

<u>Custodians</u> Jerry Morris

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 David Miessler-Kubanek

THE VOICE.

PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.



CARING OMMUNITY

Good Neighbors

Kris Davis | 294-5010 | daviskris49@gmail.com

Paraministers

April 1—14 | Dorothy Hershner | 393-6617

April 15—28 | Dorothy Hershner | 393-6617

April 29 — May 12 | Rose Gabe | 396-5202

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

OFFICE@PEOPLESUU.ORG | (319) 362-9827





