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July 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Peoples Church,

One hundred and fifty years ago a small group of religious liberals gathered at the Brown’s Hotel in Cedar Rapids to organize the First Universalist Society. What began with a simple dream for an open-minded, justice-oriented faith community in Cedar Rapids has evolved over the years into the Peoples Church that we know today: a strong, compassionate community and mighty presence for liberal religion and social action in Cedar Rapids.

In 2019, we are still going strong! We are a warm, welcoming community, a religious home for all who seek, a voice of reason in an ever increasingly complicated world, and a force for social justice in an age plagued once again by fear and hatred.

We have a strong Sunday worship tradition that inspires hearts, minds, and compassionate action, a robust Faith Formation program that is serving our young people in new and powerful ways, a bold Social Justice vision and practice of learning and partnering with others in the community to promote equality and fairness, a sanctuary freshly blessed with the installation of our historic stained glass windows, and a sense of joy in all we do. Plus, we have the best coffee hour in town!

All of this, yet we do not charge anything for any of these important ministries. Instead, we rely on the spiritual and financial gifts of members and friends. These gifts, born out of love and freely given, have kept our doors open for 150 years.

As we honor our 150th anniversary this year and move into the next 150 years, I believe we can meet our 2020 pledge goal of $163,000 and pass a balanced 2020 budget. But we need your support!

I understand how difficult it can be to make a pledge and how hard it can be to fulfill that commitment. Would you consider pledging even a small amount to support the church you love? Even just $2 a week could make a huge difference! Adding up to $104 a year, $2 a week would allow us to hire a guest musician for one Sunday, purchase much needed childrens books for our faith Formation program, or purchase the materials needed for one of our upcoming Adult Faith Formation classes.

Every contribution counts! Please find your place on the enclosed “Fair Sharing Giving” chart and pledge joyfully to PCUU in 2020.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and all the gifts you bring to Peoples Church! Thank you for **Nurturing the Flame** and keeping PCUU alive and thriving.

May we do so for another 150 years!

Sincerely,

Rev. Rebecca Hinds