



THE VOICE

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
January 2020

For the last few years here at Peoples Church we have been focusing our social justice efforts on understanding and dismantling racism and white supremacy culture. Our Social Justice Team has led the way, inviting us to read, reflect, and learn more about whiteness and racism, wrestle with our own role(s) in a racist society, and prepare to be more thoughtful, skilled anti-racists and accomplices for justice in the wider world.

And now we have an opportunity to act.

A few months ago, Rev. Leoma Leigh-Williams of Bethel AME Church, the oldest African American church in Cedar Rapids, approached me and asked if Peoples Church would be willing to partner with them to revive an historic, cross-

cultural event: The Allen Lincoln Douglass Banquet.

Begun as a partnership between Bethel AME Church and the First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids in 1927, the banquet was celebrated for decades but then fell into a period of dormancy. Pastor Leoma resurrected the event in February 2019 with a renewed focus on bringing people together across barriers of race, class, and faith.

The 2020 banquet is scheduled for Saturday,

February 8, at the IBEW Hall, 1211 Wiley Boulevard SW, beginning at 4 PM. The theme will be "Unity in the Community.... Reaching Across Barriers!" The keynote speaker will be Iowa State Representative Ako Abdul-Samad with music provided by local artist DaMu Diaz Doolin.

Peoples Church, along with Christ Episcopal Church, is officially partnering with Bethel AME to host this event. We will be a sponsor, and with

your help, we will show up in large numbers to support cross-cultural unity! Our goal is to have 75 Peoples people attend this event. What do you think? Will you be a part of this historic moment? Will you attend the 2020 Allen Lincoln Douglas Banquet?

Individual tickets are \$60, tables for 8 are \$480, and both are available on the Bethel AME website here if you click on "Register Now." I also have a

stack of paper tickets in my office which I would be happy to sell you in person anytime.

Proceeds from the event will support local social service agencies.

As always, money should not be a barrier for anyone who wants to attend. Simply let me know if you would request a reduced-priced or comp ticket.

I hope to see you there! Let's start 2020 on a high note in the greater CR community!

In Faith,

“INTEGRITY
GOES BEYOND
SPEAKING THE
TRUTH TO
INCLUDE
TAKING
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR HOW ONE
THINKS AND
FEELS AND
WHAT ONE
DOES.
- Ben Dean”

Ministry's MOMENT



Rev. Rebecca
Hinds

January 2020

Integrity

January 5: Letting Go of the False Self

The typical New Year's Resolution involves adding something to your life: working out more, reading more, doing more, being better. But sometimes our spiritual task is actually one of subtraction. In this service we will let go of what we don't need and who we are not in order to get down to our truest core and reveal who we already are. Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Jonny Lipford.

January 12: Dedication of a Daughter

The Baptism of the Lord, one of the days in the Christian Liturgical year, is plainly described as both ordinary and mystical. To dedicate a child into the care of a spiritual community is practical, but if only practical, without much meaning. What does it mean to face the world with a community of people who say from the beginning "you belong?" Service led by Rev. Rebecca with Casey Guet, guest preacher. Music by Rachael Kilgour.

January 19: Staying True When Nothing Stays the Same

If integrity involves having strong moral principles and sticking by them, what happens when things change? When the world changes? When our North Star shifts? When we, ourselves, change our minds? What does integrity mean in a shifting landscape? Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by the Peoples Choir.

January 26: TBD

Service led by Kathleen Mavity and Lu Wilcox. Music by Jason Wright.

It seems like only yesterday we were awaiting the turn of century (yes, I know there are disputes about when it actually started 😊) and whether computers would continue to function once the year 2000 began! They did and life has gone on amazingly well in the intervening years!

As we begin 2020 there is the not the trepidation with technology that 2000 brought. There are worries and concerns about other things in the world. One of my concerns for the new decade is raising up kids that understand we are not alone in the world. That we all must work together to ensure that the world is a safe and good place. I really like the children's version of the Principles:

- We believe that each and every person is important.
- We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.
- We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.
- We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.
- We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
- We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.

Part of my responsibility here at Peoples is to help the children of the congregation

Wise Words



David Wise, Director of Faith Formation

develop and form their faith. It is not just my responsibility. It is the responsibility of the parents as well. The responsibility also extends to members of the congregation. There was recently a discussion on a LREDA group about the phrase "You can't build UU children without UU adults." That is so very true. It does take a whole congregation!!

As we begin this new decade (arguments on whether it is the beginning or not understood 😊) what role can you play in helping the children of Peoples develop their faith to help them make the world a better place? At Peoples we hold the Principles as being vitally important to what we do. How can you help instill those Principles in the children of the congregation? Reach out to me with ways you as a UU adult can help build UU children!

Soup Lunch is happening Feb 9th!!!
The Faith Formation families will be making a variety of soup that will be served following worship on the 9th!
Mark your calendar now!!!!!!! Free will offering!!

David



UNITARIANISM 101: UNDERSTANDING UNITARIAN- UNIVERSALISM TODAY

WITH
THE REV. REBECCA HINDS

JANUARY 5, 12, 19, 2020
12:45PM

Peoples Church is joining up with Christ Episcopal Church to offer a three-part series of classes exploring the history and theology of UUism.

For both students of and members of the Unitarian-Universalist movement, these classes will help us understand their history and theology. Please come so that you can meet and know our religious neighbors!

January 5, 12:45 pm, at Christ Episcopal Church (220 40th St. NE, Cedar Rapids) Lower level, with potluck. Please bring a dish to share. Dessert will be provided.

January 12, 12:45 pm, Peoples Unitarian Universalist Church, with potluck.

January 19, 1:30 pm, an afternoon trip to the Coralville Unitarian Universalist Society (2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville), the "Greenest church in Iowa."
Carpools depart from Christ Episcopal Church parking lot at 1:00pm.

Mike Meshak, Board President



With a new year comes the possibility for change. Just the changing of the calendar can make me evaluate where I would like to be next year. But saying so is not enough, action is required.

People's Church has had a bunch of milestones reached in 2019. Many of them were directly because of our Sesquicentennial, but not all. I know we are better financially than we have been for several years. Our facilities are slowly improving, and many programs are strong within the church.

But one area of focus for me personally is our membership. I would love to see us grow by 10-20 new members this year. We have a lot to offer the Cedar Rapids area in terms of a liberal religious community. Our values are

broad based and we are an accepting congregation.

What am I missing? What else can we boast about? Let's converse about all that we offer or could offer to others, and to ourselves. It may require some change, and that is the point. The issues we see in the news will require us to evolve and rise to the challenges of this decade. Let's make PCUU better known in our world.

Mike Meshak
PCUU Board President

SCAM ALERT

PCUU has recently been targeted by scammers pretending to be Rev. Rebecca in order to extract money in the form of gift cards from church members and friends.

REMEMBER: REV. REBECCA WOULD NEVER EMAIL YOU ASKING FOR GIFT CARDS. If you get a suspicious email please reach out to her at minister@peoplesuu.org.

DO NOT RESPOND to suspicious emails from unknown addresses. DO NOT SEND GIFT CARDS THROUGH EMAIL.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of bad weather, everyone is encouraged to prioritize their own safety and the safety of their family. Only come to church if you are comfortably able.

An official decision on canceling Sunday morning activities (including worship, Faith Formation, and anything else on the calendar) will be made by 7:30 AM. Cancellation information will be posted as follows:

- a notice will be posted on our PCUU website
- a notice will be posted on our Facebook page
- scrolling on KCRG TV and published on the KCRG website
- scrolling on KGAN TV and published on the KGAN website

150 years and counting!

PEOPLES CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



As of December 23, 2019, Peoples people have pledged \$165,474—surpassing our goal of \$163,000 for 2020!!!

Thank you everyone! This is an exciting moment in our history!

SESQUICENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE DEDICATION DECEMBER 8, 2019



TIME CAPSULE LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

December 8th, 2019

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist Cedar Rapids, Iowa

This has been a momentous year for Peoples Church. We lost some beloved members and welcomed precious babies. We installed our Rose and Star Windows from our former church on 3rd Avenue, and we celebrated 150 years of liberal religion in Cedar Rapids.

Our Mission Statement:

Leading Compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action.

Enclosed you will find mementos from our Sesquicentennial celebration, along with our membership list, annual meeting report, Hymnal and other items from our church world -- 2019.

We were motivated to share with you our joy of learning of the members who kept our Chalice light shining for 150 years. We hope for you the same as you enjoy whatever celebration has implored you to open this Time Capsule.

Our Wish is that Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist is a continuing, strong beacon for those seeking a liberal, religious home.

Items Placed in Our Time Capsule

December 8, 2019

Letter of Introduction

Order of Materials:

Pictures of Gordon Avenue Church

Pictures of 3rd Avenue Church

Pictures of Reverend Rebecca Hinds

Pictures of pew used to make the table and
the table holding the Time Capsule

Meeting Notes from one of the Sesquicentennial Team Meetings

Save the Date card and Invitation for the Sesquicentennial Celebrations

Sample of Letter sent to Organizations who began at Peoples Church

List of the above organizations

The Voice

Ticket to the Celebration Dinner

Picture of Scott Mansfield and flyer to his Cabaret Concert

Picture and Bio for Ann Cejka, one of the Celebration Speakers

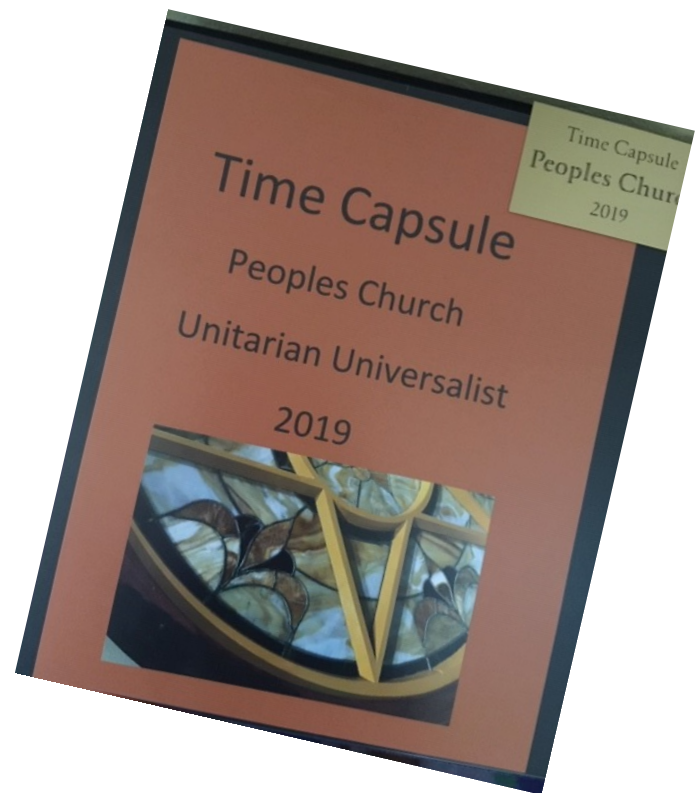
Flyers for the Pancake Breakfast and Ice Cream Social

Order of Events for the Celebration Dinner

Birthday Cards used for celebrants to write their memories of Peoples Church

Flyer for Jewelry sold as memorabilia of the celebration

Pictures of the jewelry



Pictures of memorabilia

Order of Service and CD from the Sunday Morning Service to honor our 150th Celebration

Peoples Church Annual Report 2018-2019

Currency

Membership List 2019

History of The Peoples Church by Gertrude James

The Peoples Church 125th Anniversary Booklet 1860-1994

A Hundred Years of Challenge 1869-1969 with Index

Cedar Rapids Gazette Sunday September 15, 2019

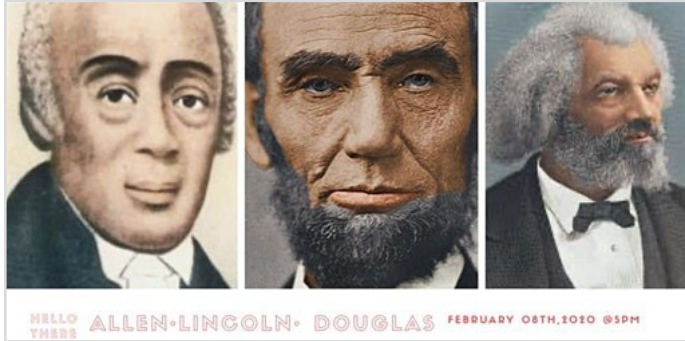
The Gazette article , Celebrating our 150th

The Gazette article regarding the installation of the Rose and Star Windows

Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal

Social Justice

The next SJC Meeting is Wednesday, January 8 at 2 pm. We will welcome all participants.



The Historic Allen Lincoln Douglass Banquet

One Day.... Unity in the Community....

Reaching Across Barriers

Saturday, February 8 beginning at 4 pm

IBEW Hall, 1211 Wiley Blvd SW

The event is being sponsored by Bethel AME Church, Peoples UU Church, and Christ Episcopal Church.

Proceeds from the event will go to:

- homeless support
- domestic violence programs
- temporary housing
- food pantries
- substance abuse programs

Tickets are \$60 and may be purchased at www.bethelministriescr.org. State Representative Ako Abdul-Samad is the guest speaker.

Lets UU the VOTE in 2020!

The stakes couldn't be higher in the 2020 elections. All our values, our work for justice, and the communities we love are under attack. Our UU values of interdependence, democracy, and the inherent worth and dignity of all people are direct antidotes to the fear, bigotry, and inequity that currently defines our world.

Social Justice

Lets UU the VOTE in 2020! (continued)

On January 12 at 3 pm (Central Time) the UUA will hold an online launch. In this online session, hear about the organizing plan for UU Vote across the country, some of the strategies being deployed, and examples of on-the-ground work from congregations already engaging, and how you and our congregation can be involved. This can be done on your own or as part of a Congregational Watch Party. Go to UU the Vote 2020 online to register.

USHER HELP WANTED!

Are you looking for an occasional and enjoyable way to contribute to our Peoples Church community?

We are looking for a few more folks to help usher at our 11am Sunday services at Peoples. The “job” requires you arrive 30 minutes early

and stay long enough after service to tidy up the pews. Benefits include short chats with people as they enter the sanctuary, the opportunity to learn (or relearn) folks’ names, and just as importantly, the opportunity to meet and welcome visitors as they check out our congregation.

If this sounds like something you’d enjoy doing once a month or so, please contact Christine in the church office: office@peoplesuu.org or 362-9827.





SOUP LUNCH SUNDAY

**Sunday, February 9th
Following Worship**

**Sponsored by the Faith Formation Families
who will be providing a variety of soups.**

Free will donation

Gathering after Scott Mansfield's Celebration of Life service

December 16, 2019



Many thanks to everyone who helped ensure the service and gathering afterward honored Scott so beautifully.

January 2020

Date	Day	Time	Event
1	Wednesday	all day	Office Closed in observance of New Year's Day
5	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		9:45 – 10:45am	Parenting Group
		11am	Worship
		12:45pm	UU 101 and potluck with/at Christ Episcopal
8	Wednesday	2 - 3pm	Social Justice Meeting
		6 - 7pm	Choir Practice
10	Friday	6:30pm	CUUPS Full Moon Ritual
12	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		11am	Worship
			UU 101 and potluck with Christ Episcopal in Andre Room
		12:45pm	
14	Tuesday	7 – 8:30pm	LGBTQ Support Group
15	Wednesday	6 - 7pm	Choir Practice
19	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		9:45 – 10:45am	Parenting Group
		11am	Worship
		12:45pm	UU 101 with Christ Episcopal at UU Coralville - <i>car pools depart Christ Episcopal 1pm</i>
		4:30pm	Board Meeting
20	Monday	all day	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
		9:30am	Archives Committee
		6:30pm	CUUPS Monthly Meeting
22	Wednesday	6 - 7pm	Choir Practice
26	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		11am	Worship
29	Wednesday	6 - 7pm	Choir Practice

OUR STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Hinds

Developmental
Minister

(319) 362-9827(w)
(319) 200-7650 (h)

David Wise

Director of
Faith Formation

(319) 362-9827
by appointment

Christine Kullander

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

Childcare Providers

Valerie Angerer Zieser,
Alexis Wauford
& Jenna Straatmann

Custodians

Brian Reeves

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Mike Meshak
(319) 480-8202

Treasurer

Gary McGraw
(319) 373-9449

Board of Trustee Members

Charlie Cizio
Jude Johnson
Kathy Juba
David Miessler-Kubaneck
Samantha Wilson

THE VOICE.

PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.



Good Neighbors

January

Amy Bostwick | 775-2805 | sassafrass2011@gmail.com

Paraministers

December 23—January 5 | Dorothy Hershner

January 6—January 19 | Rose Gabe

January 20—February 2—Deb Maynard

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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

the Voice

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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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