

THE VOICE



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

February 2020

Just like any other type of organization, churches can come and go. People form them all the time and many open up with enthusiasm only to close their doors after a few years. Even the more well-established, historic churches are struggling to stay open these days. If current trends continue, more and more churches will be closing their doors in the years to come.

But not us. We are resilient. We have survived for 150 years now in Cedar Rapids and we have every intention of sticking around for at least another 150 years.

So how will we stay vibrant and strong? How will we stay resilient?

Most people assume the process of organizational resilience is simple numerical growth.

I frequently hear people asking, "How big is the church? Are we growing? How are our numbers?"

But these are the wrong questions! Numerical growth is not the secret to resilience.

Numerical growth is not even a sign of overall health.

According to my colleague, Rev. Tandi Rogers, "Here's what I've learned from the [Breakthrough Congregations](#)...None of those thriving religious communities lead with numerical growth as a goal. They lead with doing church well."

Rogers suggests that there are [4 things](#) churches can focus on if they want to survive and thrive: Organizational Maturity, Spiritual Vitality, Faith in Action, and Associational Connections.

Organizational Maturity

involves getting really clear on what our purposes is, how our governance and organizational structures can help us fulfill our purpose, and how we can regularly invite new people into leadership and service.

Spiritual Vitality involves living into our identity as a *religious* community and developing spiritual maturity within individuals and the congregation.

Faith in Action involves living our faith out in the world and creating love, justice, and beauty in our community.

Associational Connection is all about relationships with other organizations. It involves showing up for other UU congregations and communities of faith, as well as generally being in relationship with the wider community. Rogers concludes that congregations which focus on these four things tend to grow in health and wellness and, incidentally, usually experience numerical growth as an outcome of these efforts.

Beloveds, we are already doing so much of this work! Every day we are growing in

Organizational Maturity and Spiritual Vitality and every day we are doing more and more Faith in Action out in the world, partnering with other organizations for good.

All of this indicates resilience and health. All of this is fortifying our congregation for the long haul. All of this suggests that numerical growth will follow.

So, will we survive? Absolutely. For we are doing church well.

In Faith,

Rev. Rebecca

“RESILIENCE IS THE CAPACITY OF A SYSTEM, ENTERPRISE, OR PERSON TO MAINTAIN ITS CORE PURPOSE AND INTEGRITY IN THE FACE OF DRAMATICALLY CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES.”

-Andrew Zoll

MOMENT

Minister's



Rev. Rebecca
Hinds

February 2020

Resilience

February 2: Antidotes and Alternatives to Despair

We live in a world full of pain and despair. How can we remain resilient? What are the antidotes and alternatives to despair? Service lead by Rev. Rebecca Hinds and Rev. Jorge Montes Clausen. Music by Lilywren.

February 9: A Lifetime of Love

What makes love last a lifetime? Come to this Valentine's Day themed service to hear what the experts (elders who have been married for 50+ years) have to say about building a lifetime of love and happiness! Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by The Quire.

February 16: The Power of Storytelling

How do you know when you truly belong? Is there a difference between superficial community and real community? If so, can storytelling help us build the real community we desire? Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by the Peoples Choir and Jason Wright.

February 23: What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger

Service led by Deb Maynard. Music by Angie Peirce-Jennings.

The calendar turns to February and my mind often turns to baseball. College baseball and softball start very soon! Spring training for the major league teams is just days away. It is both a time of familiarity and a time of newness.

The uniforms and some of the faces are familiar and bring comfort or excitement. New players or coaches bring the sense of something new and of great possibilities for the future.

Spring truly is a time of new beginnings! As a Faith Formation program we are seeing new beginnings as well as spring comes our way!! We have started sharing family field trips! In January we went to the National Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, in March The Putnam Museum in Davenport is the destination and we conclude the year at Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines in May! These trips give families an opportunity to do something together but to also join other families of the church and share the fun! This allows the families to get to know each other better and have shared experiences among the children.

Our summer program this year will follow the same theme and be held on Saturdays in July. The program will consist of family field trips to local venues. It is important to have shared experiences it is also to know the community where you worship, live, and play!

I would invite any members of the congregation to join us at these events! The information will be posted in advance and we would love to have other families join

Wise Words



David Wise, Director of Faith Formation

the Faith Formation families in exploring our state and neighborhood!!

Come explore and share in the fun while learning a bit more about how we interact with the Principles!

Soup Lunch Sunday is happening February 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!!

TRIVIA RETURNS!!

Mark your calendars for April 4th!!! Get your teams together! TEAM MEMBERS DO NOT NEED TO BE FROM PEOPLES! 8 people maximum per team. The categories are: SPORTS, IOWA HISTORY, RELIGION, GEOGRAPHY, SCIENCE, MUSIC, HARRY POTTER and TELEVISION. Cost is the same as last year—\$ 80 per team. We will have snacks available with a basket for donations. To register call the office at 319-362-9827. We accept credit cards, checks, or cash. For more info talk to David or email dre@peoplesuu.org.

David



◀ A visit to **Putnam Museum** in Davenport on **Saturday, March 28, 2020**

◀ Our **3rd Annual Trivia Night** will be **Saturday, April 4th, 2020**. Plan to come join in the fun!

◀ A trip to the **Blank Park Zoo** in Des Moines on **Saturday, May 16, 2020**

◀ Join in our **All Church Camp Out** at Pinicon Ridge **June 12-14th, 2020**

◀ **Summer Camp for Kids!** is **July 11, 18, and 25, 2020**

Spring will be here before you know it— be ready with a new T-Shirt!

We are able to continue selling t-shirts with our two designs. They make great gifts. Please share the link with friends and family! They are wonderful for UU friends and non UU friends!

Both the Question Everything and Only Kindness Matters are great for this continuing political season!!!

[Click here!](#)



Mike Meshak, Board President

Wow, is winter always this long? It seems like all I do is get up, go to school, come home and before I know it, it is time to go to sleep. So when the weekend arrives I am ready to relax, or do what I want to get done.

Going to church is actually relaxing, and I get to meet people who inspire me. I appreciate the work of those who run the services, take care of our finances and a host of other things. I guess we are all like that.

We all have a niche that we fill, maybe unbeknownst to many others. But someone has to do it. Oh yeah, I'm on the Board of Trustees also. That work is fulfilling and has expanded my knowledge of the bigger operation in our church. And

I get to work with amazing people!

Seriously, if you have the desire, find a niche in the church. Make it your own. Grow the position and grow yourself. It beats watching TV most nights (especially of late).

Stay warm,

Mike Meshak

PCUU Board President



Transgender Inclusion in Congregations Continues!

Sunday, February 2, 9:45am in the Ely Room

After 6 rich and meaningful sessions on Transgender Inclusion in Congregations we realized we need to keep the conversation going! There is much more we can and should do to welcome transgender people. Join the conversation as we get specific on things we can do at PCUU to be more inclusive.

Welcome Brian Reeves!

Brian has filled our Maintenance staff position. As you have the opportunity to see Brian working in the building please introduce yourself and welcome him to Peoples Church.



I am married and living in Shellsburg. We have 3 teenagers - 2 boys and a girl - a junior, sophomore, and an 8th grader.

Since 2016 I have been the Pastor of The Church of Grace in Shellsburg. I also serve as the Chaplain for the Benton County Sheriff's Department. Additionally, I have 30 years maintenance and custodial experience.

In my spare time I volunteer at the Shellsburg Food Pantry. Fun fact: I was just elected to the Shellsburg City Council.

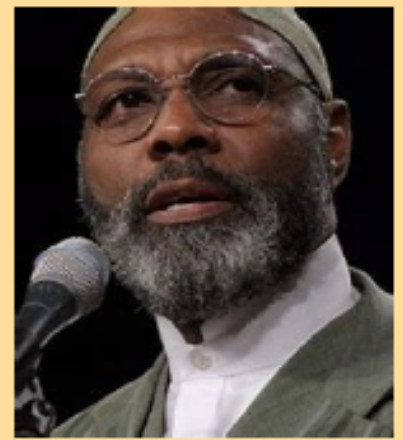


SOUP LUNCH SUNDAY

**Sunday, February 9th
Following Worship**

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

Free will donation



Featured Speaker:
Ako Abdul-Samad
*(D) Iowa State Representative
House District 35 - Des Moines*

JOIN US FOR THIS HISTORIC ECUMENICAL EVENT!

Allen Lincoln Douglass Banquet

**ONE DAY:
UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY...
REACHING ACROSS BARRIERS**



Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020
4 PM at the IBEW Hall
1211 Wiley Boulevard SW
Cedar Rapids

Music by
DaMu Diaz-Doolin



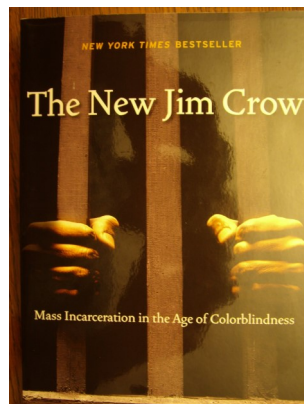
Sponsored by:
Bethel AME Church
Christ Episcopal Church
Church of the Latter-Day Saints
Peoples Unitarian Universalist Church

Dinner tickets available online at:
<https://tinyurl.com/ALDBanquetTix>
or by calling any sponsoring church
Individual tickets: \$60
Table of 8: \$480

Social Justice

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

A book review by Bob Butikofer



Incarceration: the state of being confined in prison

If you're looking for a light, "feel good" book to read to settle your mind in preparation for a good night's sleep, this book, The New Jim Crow, published in 2010, is NOT your book. The author, Michelle Alexander, a highly acclaimed lawyer, professor, and legal scholar, through the book's 6 chapters, presents a troubling, but well-researched perspective that discriminatory racial bias, which transitioned from slavery (the ownership of minorities) to Jim Crow laws (separate, but "UNEQUAL" treatment of minorities) has now manifested itself in a new form of racism, the US mass incarceration system (use of the penal system to discriminate against minorities).

Alexander makes the following provocative points to back her claim:

1. Studies have shown that people of all races use and sell illegal drugs at very similar rates. Yet, in some states of the US black men are incarcerated at rates of 20 – 50 times that of white men, and, in cities where the drug war has been waged at the highest levels, as many as 80% of young black men have criminal records.
2. Between 1960 and 1990, published crime

rates were nearly identical for Finland, Germany, and the US. However, through that same timeframe, while the incarceration rate in Germany was level and the rate in Finland fell by 60%, the rate in the US quadrupled and much of this growth was achieved at the expense of America's minority population.

3. By 2005 "Mass incarceration in the United States had, in fact emerged as a stunningly comprehensive and well-disguised system of racialized social control that functions in a manner strikingly similar to Jim Crow."
4. While widely heralded as an indication of how far race relations have come in the US, the election of Barack Obama almost undoubtedly contributed to a set-back in action against mass incarceration, as it distracted people from the fact that "a human rights nightmare is taking place," and African Americans are the primary victims.

Through these and many other statistics and insightful opinions Anderson makes the case that affirmative action does little to address racism and that mass incarceration hurts us all, not just those imprisoned. If we want to make real progress, we must change the private prison system, the mode of operation of law enforcement, and our shared public consciousness. We must each also be both rational and compassionate in how we interact with one another.

So, as I said at the beginning, this is not a "getting ready for bed" book. But if you're prepared to have your eyes opened this is the book for you, and the Peoples Church library has a copy you can borrow and the Cedar Rapids Public Library has several.

Social Justice (cont.)

On the morning of **Sunday, February 9 at 10am** the SJC will be holding a **forum on the life of Bayard Rustin and the intersectionality of race and sexual orientation**. In preparation for this forum please read this article which can be found on www.theroot.com/who-designed-the-march-on-washington-1790897781

In **celebration of Black History month** there will be a **soul food dinner from 5:30 to 8pm on Wednesday, February 19 at the Lion Bridge Brewery**. Tickets cost \$30 for the soul food prepared by Vivian's Soul Food Restaurant. If you have not yet tasted Vivian's

food you are in for a treat. At 6pm Dr Kelly Sharp from Luther College will speak on the history of soul food and the African American Museum's current exhibit, Untangling The Roots. Tickets can be obtained on the African American Museum of Iowa website.

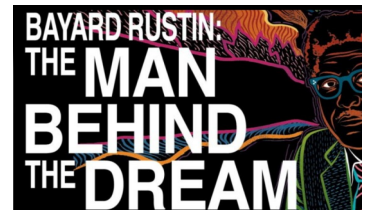
The Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness & Advocacy Network is a partner in the Restore Votes Iowa Coalition. We urge all UUs to contact their state representatives in support of HJR14. This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Iowa Constitution to automatically restore voting rights to felons. Iowa is the only state in the country that disenfranchises citizens re-entering after an incarceration for a felony. Everyone deserves a second chance.

The Quire of Eastern Iowa will present a special fundraising concert and dinner at Peoples Church on Saturday, February 29th. We welcome you to explore the intersectionality of racism and homophobia through the choral work *Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind the Dream*, by Cincinnati composer Steve Milloy.

The Quire, along with special guest Iowa City Mayor Bruce Teague, will celebrate Black History Month by honoring the life of civil rights leader Bayard Rustin through story and song. Rustin, an openly gay black man and member of the Quaker faith, is best remembered as a principal organizer of the 1963 March on Washington.

He was a friend and mentor to Dr. Martin Lu-

ther King Jr., introduced nonviolent protest techniques to the American civil rights movement, and persevered through harassment, arrest, imprisonment and physical aggression, largely in response to his refusal to be closeted and his drive to speak out wherever he saw injustice.



Doors will open at 6 PM, with dinner served in the Andre Room at 6:15PM. The concert will begin at 7:30PM in the sanctuary.

Tickets are \$35 for both the dinner and concert, or \$20 for the concert only, and may be purchased through [this link](#).

The Finance Team met on 1/16/20 to review financial reports and discuss financial planning for future.

Cash flow for both December and the 2019 year was positive:

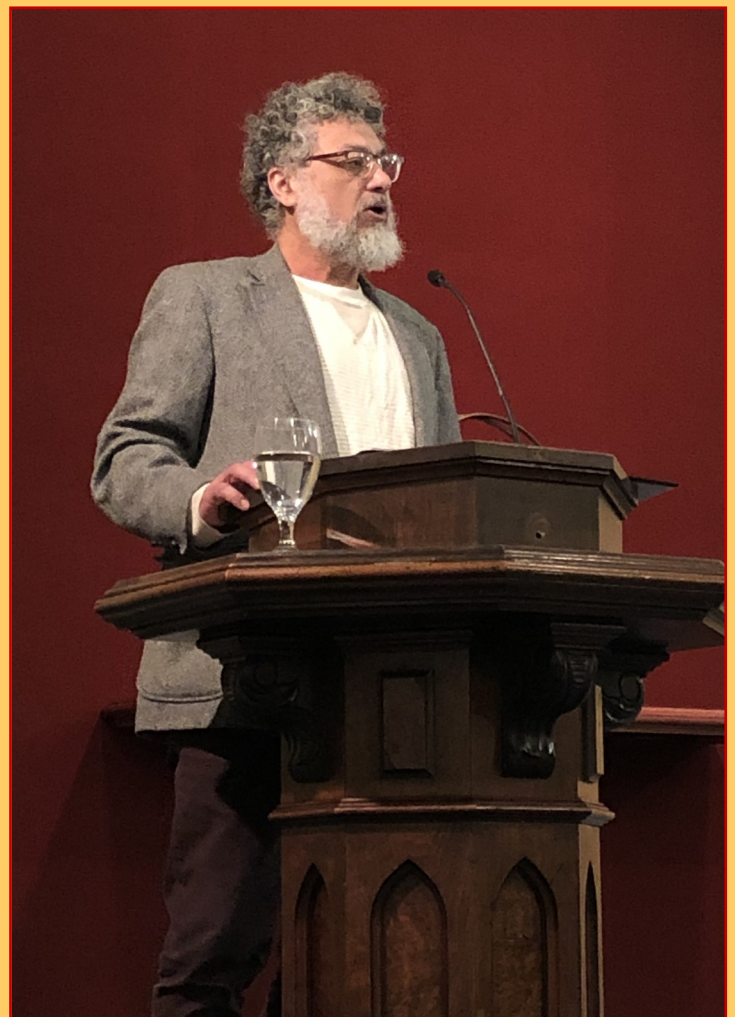
- December income \$21,106
- December expenses \$15,249
- 2019 income \$208,375
- 2019 expenses \$194,712

Thank you everyone for your timely pledge payments and donations!



Our UU 101 classes concluded with a visit to the Coralville Unitarian Universalist Society, the “Greenest church in Iowa.”

February 2nd guest minister, Rev. Jorge Montes Clausen.





Dedication of a Daughter
Madeleine Malaret Hinds
January 12, 2020





February



Date	Day	Time	Event
1	Saturday	6 – 7:30pm	CUUPS Imbolc Ritual and Potluck
2	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Transgender Inclusion in Congregations
		9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		9:45 – 10:45am	Parenting Group
		11am – 12pm	Worship
		12:30 – 1:30pm	Worship Associate Meeting
5	Wednesday	4:30 – 5:30pm	Membership Committee Meeting
		6 – 7pm	Choir Practice
8	Saturday	4 – 7pm	Allen, Lincoln, Douglas Banquet
9	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		9:45 – 10:45am	SJC Forum: Having Difficult Conversations
		11am – 12pm	Worship
		12 – 1:30pm	Soup Lunch Sunday sponsored by Faith Formation
10	Monday	12 – 1pm	Van Vechten Guild brown bag lunch& speaker. All are welcome. Topic: Dinosaur Dig in Alberta, Canada.
		6:30pm	CUPPS Full Moon Ritual
11	Tuesday	7 – 8:30pm	LGBTQ Support Group
12	Wednesday	6 – 7pm	Choir Practice
14	Friday	all day	Valentines Day
16	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Transgender Inclusion in Congregations
		9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		9:45 – 10:45am	Parenting Group
		11am – 12pm	Worship
		4:30 – 5:30pm	Board Meeting
17	Monday	9:30 – 10:30am	Archives Committee
		6:30pm	CUUPS Monthly Meeting
		all day	Presidents' Day
19	Wednesday	6 – 7pm	Choir Practice
23	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Faith Formation Class for children and youth
		11am – 12pm	Worship
26	Wednesday	6 – 7pm	Choir Practice
29	Saturday	5 – 9pm	The Quire Fundraiser Concert

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

Custodian

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.



CARING COMMUNITY

Good Neighbors

February

Kris Davis | 294-5010 or 361-0280 | davis-kris49@gmail.com

Paraministers

February 3—February 16 | Jan Federer

February 17—March 1—Susie Hauter

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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



**PEOPLES
CHURCH**
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CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52405