

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus photograph of several white lilies. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The petals are a clean, bright white, and the centers show yellow stamens and pistils. The lighting is natural and soft, creating a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. NW ● Cedar Rapids ● Iowa ● 52405

Expanded e Weekly

April 9, 2020

PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.

Our Ends Statements!

1. We partner with others to build a fair and just world.
2. We create a spiritual home that welcomes everyone of goodwill.
3. We articulate our UU faith, teach it to our children, and live it in the world.
4. We support our mission with compassionate presence, talented participation, and financial resources.
5. We create transformative spiritual experiences together that awaken our compassionate action.

Dear Peoples People,

An online Passover Seder. A virtual Holy Week. A few months ago, these things were inconceivable, yet this week people all over the world are experiencing them both.

Here at Peoples Church, the Covid-19 Pandemic has caused us to cancel our Passover Seder all together and will require us to meet for Easter Sunday worship over Zoom.

I still haven't quite wrapped my mind around it all.

And yet, I know it will be a powerful time I will recall for the rest of my life and a story I will tell for years to come. For despite the fact that we cannot be physically together this year, we will experience and journey through our religious holidays. We will carry on. It will look and feel different than any other Spring we can ever remember, or may ever see again, but it will be.

I know the circumstances we find ourselves in are strange and unsettling. I know the impact of this pandemic is starting to hit closer and closer to home. I know in person gatherings have been canceled or

moved online. But let us remember that Passover is not cancelled. Holy Week is not cancelled. Easter is not cancelled.

It may not feel like it, as this is such a wild, unprecedented time in history, and we can't change it, but this season will be.

So, let us take a collective deep breath, slow down, and simply be present to it.

Personally, I am trying to use this week as an opportunity to simplify my spiritual life and recall the true essence of our Spring religious holidays, and I invite you to do the same. Let go of that which does not serve you or the Holy. Let go of the usual holiday stress and see if you can simply soak in the promise of liberation, freedom, renewal, and resurrection.

We'll see you Sunday at 11am for our Easter service!

In faith,
Rev. Rebecca

MOMENT

Ministry's



Rev. Rebecca
Hinds

THIS Sunday

April 12

11:00am Worship: The Empty Church

When the women of the four gospels went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus, they found it empty. The grave could not contain Jesus. This Easter is going to be different than any other Easter we have ever known. We will not be together in person and the church pews will be empty. But the building cannot contain the church. We will worship online, rejoice, and continue to spread hope. Music by Angie Pierce-Jennings. *This will be an online service led by Rev. Rebecca (link below).*

NEXT Sunday

April 19

11:00am Worship: Happy Earth Day!

April 22, 2020 will mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Join us on the Sunday before for a worshipful celebration of the natural world as we recommit ourselves to protecting the planet for the future. Music by Jonny Lipford. *This will be an online service led by Rev. Rebecca (link below).*

FAITH FORMATION



It doesn't seem like Easter! For one thing we haven't been filling Easter Eggs for the traditional hunt after worship on Sunday.

Instead, this week Karen and I spent part of a day filling eggs and packing boxes with some goodies and eggs for the families of Faith Formation. On Tuesday and Wednesday Rebecca and I split the boxes and delivered them so that the families can celebrate a special Easter time!! In the time I have been here the kids have really looked forward to the egg hunt!

As you may recall last year was a gorgeous day as we celebrated Easter and Earth Day at Indian Creek followed by the egg hunt in a large beautiful space. Obviously we can't even think about duplicating that this year. So, thanks to a great suggestion, every family will be able to celebrate Easter with eggs from the church. It will be a reminder to the kids and the families that even though we are separate we are a great big family that loves and cares for each other all the time.

No Faith Formation this Sunday.

April 19th we will meet at 10:00. This was supposed to be the week we were meeting at the lake and taking a walk led by Rich. In lieu of that I would like each family to do something outside and be prepared to share it with the other families during class that day.

Tonight (Thursday) we will be holding two separate parent chats. One will be at 7pm and the other at 9pm. This will allow more chances

Wise Words



David Wise, Director of Faith Formation

for folks to join in the discussion based on the needs of their family. Links will be sent out about 20 minutes prior to the start.

Virtual Easter Egg Hunt!

In this season of COVID and pandemic life actual Easter Egg hunts are not possible! That has not stopped a Director of Lifespan Faith Development from setting up an Easter Egg hunt VIRTUALLY!! And Peoples is participating! Thanks to Robyn for putting an egg on our website (it is already on the site. I am not going to tell you where in case you want an early start in the search! During the actual hunt the link will take you directly to the page that hides the egg). About 90 UU congregations are participating. The hunt goes live Sunday morning.

To participate go to <https://tinyurl.com/vpyuijy>

When you are there you will find a special message and some links. You can do the hunt all in one setting or break it up. You can do the easy hunt or the more difficult or you can do both.

I would encourage everyone in the congregation to give it a try. This will allow you to see other church websites and perhaps look through them and learn of some great things that are happening across UU'ism! Besides everyone seems to have some free time these days LOL.

David

SCAM Alert!

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Please remember that Rev. Rebecca would never, under any circumstances, email you and ask you for money or gift cards. If you get an email from “her” asking for a favor please do not engage. This is a scam.

Join us on Friday evening for an After Dinner Social!

Grab a drink, hang out with friends, and catch up! All from the comfort of your own home. Here is the Zoom link for this gathering. See you there!

Topic: PCUU After Dinner Social

Time: Apr 10, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/434424511?pwd=OHhITkdtN3ZUb216U3Vsd0ZhTTZqdz09>

(312) 626 6799

Meeting ID: 434 424 511

Church Building

Peoples Church (the building) is closed for the month of April. All meetings and events have moved online or been cancelled.

If you plan to enter the building, to access the food pantry, or for any other reason, please contact the office in advance as a simple courtesy. *Thank you.*



COVID-19 Iowa Hotline: 2-1-1 or 1-800-244-7431

CDC Website: [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Linn County Food Bank is distributing food in the parking lot of First Presbyterian Church from 1 to 3:15 pm Monday through Friday.

Olivet Mission at 230 10th St NW is distributing food Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 am. and Saturdays from 9 to 11:30.am.

Mental Health Resources

This is a difficult time for all of us. While it is perfectly normal to feel anxious and sad, if you start to enter a mental health crisis, where the stress, pressure, fear, or anxiety are too much for you to cope with on your own, please reach out for professional help. There are a number of resources available 24-hours a day. Here are two of them:

Foundation Two Crisis Hotline - 319-362-2147

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

COVID19 AND FOOD INSECURITY

COVID 19 is compounding the problem of food access for people with limited income and others vulnerable to food insecurity. Nutritious food is a basic need and essential to health and wellness. As routine food access is disrupted by the spread of the virus, the most economically vulnerable are the first to suffer and the last to recover. Please help us restock our food pantry.



Food Assistance

Are you in need of assistance but can't make the trip to the church? We will deliver to you!

Please call or email Rev. Rebecca and we will make arrangements for a food delivery.

362-9872 or minister@peoplesuu.org.

OUR FOOD PANTRY

Donations

We are fortunate to have a lot of beans and tomato sauce as well as a nice supply of pasta and rice on hand. We have a real need for the following items:

- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned meat
- Soup
- SpaghettiOs
- Vegetables (*no beans, please*) 😊
- Fruit
- Box potatoes
- Hamburger Helper
- Crackers or muffin mix
- Macaroni and cheese
- Cereal

Self Isolating??

We hope you are keeping up with PCUU on our [Facebook Page](#) and in our [Facebook Group](#).

If you haven't already, please join the group—especially if you are feeling disconnected from community, it is a good place to check-in and discuss all manner of topics!



Social Justice

Volunteers are being sought to sew masks at home. To sign up for this and other virtual volunteer opportunities go to www.uweci.org/volunteernow. To make an appointment to donate blood go to www.bloodcenter.org.

A consortium of community agencies (Linn Area Partners Active In Disaster) is meeting electronically to determine the needs in the community. Agencies that work with older adults are identifying food needs and assisting with delivery as the grocery stores are swamped with these requests. One hundred inmates were released by the Linn County Jail but the shelters are at full occupancy. Homelessness will undoubtedly increase. Catherine McAuley Center is putting out information on the virus in languages spoken by our community members.

The Social Justice Council will be working to identify the needs and how Peoples Church can assist. In the meantime, please donate to the Peoples food pantry and Ministers Discretionary Fund to help our own church members who may be in need.

To learn about immediate emergency volunteer needs in the community go to <https://uweci.org/volunteer> now.

Iowa Legal Aid and the Iowa State Bar Association have a phone number people can call if they have legal issues during the pandemic. Either Legal Aide staff or a volunteer attorney will try to respond to questions. The phone number is

1-800-332-0419. The website is www.iowalegalaid.org/resource/2020-coronavirus-outbreak-what-you-need-to-know. Evictions and mortgage foreclosures for people who have lost employment due to the virus have been suspended by state order. This resource is there to help people understand their legal rights during this epidemic.

UPDATE from St. Marks: The ladies have some seeds started and look forward to using the same garden areas at Peoples UU Church. Thank you so much for providing that space again!!

The Africans in our neighborhood seem to be doing well. We had to shut the shop down and cancelled our Spring shows. However, Enactus, a business club at Mount Mercy Univ. contacted us about **making face masks**. Several of our ladies have sewing machines and they have started on this project. ***If anyone from Peoples has any extra cotton fabric they don't want, we could really use it for the masks. We also need elastic or bias tape or flat shoestring to use as ties.*** I'm not asking anyone to purchase anything just to check and see if they have extra. Thanks so much!! ***There is a box outside of Christine's office for donations.***



Join Sunday Morning Worship from Home!

Every Sunday at 11am

Peoples Church will be live streaming worship on Zoom and on YouTube.

You can join our **Zoom** Service on your computer *or* on your telephone.

Instructions will be emailed on Saturdays and will include:

- A link to the livestream video
- The phone number if you prefer to call in and listen to the service.
- The meeting password

You will be placed in a “waiting room” and we will manually welcome you in!

Worship will go live at about 10:30am so attendees will have time to make sure they can access the service. You will see the pulpit but you may not hear any sounds. If you are having difficulty and need some assistance call David at 515-599-0393 and he can try to help.

You can watch our service on **YouTube** by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrjLUXc-QpRCmLq1SepNDPg/videos?view=57&flow=grid>

Thank you to our many guest musicians!



CARING COMMUNITY

GOOD NEIGHBORS - April

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

PARAMINISTERS

March 30—April 12 | Jan Federer

April 13—April 26 | Dorothy Hershner

Voice & eWeekly SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Submit announcements and notice of events for publication in The Voice and the eWeekly by filling out the [Voice form](#).

eWeekly: **EVERY Wednesday at noon***

** unless noted otherwise in the Announcements and Notices section*

The Voice is temporarily replaced by our Expanded eWeekly

OUR STAFF

Developmental Minister

[Rev. Rebecca Hinds](#) (319) 362-9827

Director of Faith Formation

[David Wise](#) (319) 362-9827

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Pledge Treasurer

[Charlie Cizio](#)

Custodian

Brian Reeves

Nursery Attendants

Valerie Angerer Zieser

Alexis Wauford

Jenna Straatmann

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS:

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