

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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

Expanded e Weekly

April 16, 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,

This past Sunday we had 75 people or households join us live for worship on either Zoom or YouTube. Most were local to Cedar Rapids, but not all. We had people with us from all the way down in Texas, all the way up to Alaska, and clear across to New York and Maine! Plus, we've had an additional 54 more people or households (and counting!) watch the service on YouTube later in the week, and who knows where they all hailed from!

At this difficult time in history, when people need spiritual community more than ever, we are expanding our reach and finding creative ways to be together even across all the physical distance. We are learning once again that political borders and cultural differences do not divide us and cannot keep us apart. We are learning once again that we are one human family living on one planet. What affects one of us, affects us all.

This week at Peoples Church we will be honoring the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and the great truth that we are one people

who all share one home: planet Earth.

In preparation for the Sunday service I want to invite you all to spend some time outside in nature. Even if it is just on your porch or in your back yard, go outside and connect with our Mother Earth. If you want to snap a picture and send it to me, I will be sure to include it in the special slide show we are preparing for Sunday.

Peoples Church will remain closed until further notice. All meetings and gatherings are taking place online or over the phone and worship services will continue online in May. We just don't know how this pandemic will play out or when it will be safe to gather physically in the church again. We are taking things one day at a time.

I suspect I am not the only one tired of being inside at home. Remember that nature is always just outside your door. Get outside if you can, breathe in the fresh air, and experience even a moment of peace as often as you can.

Happy Earth Day!

Rev. Rebecca

MOMENT

Ministry's



Rev. Rebecca
Hinds

THIS 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).*

NEXT Sunday **April 26**

11:00am Feeling Free in Lock-Down

Whether official or self-imposed, many of us are on lock-down, huddling in isolation to stay physically safe. But what's that doing to our emotions and mental well-being? Is there any silver lining to this very dark Corona cloud? Maybe not. But just maybe we can bring a little light to our gloom. *Come Zoom (link below)* with Kathleen Mavity to explore ideas about how to stay sane and feel less like a prisoner of circumstances.

Wise Words



David Wise, Director of Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION

What a wacky week of weather!! Of course these are wacky times!

In this week leading up to the 50th anniversary of Earth Day it is more important than ever that we take care of the planet. For so long it was an afterthought. It can't be that way anymore!

This week the Faith Formation program was going to be outside for a walk around the lake at the Prairie Park Fishery. Since we can't do that I have encouraged the families to go outside this week, as possible, and do something in nature. When we gather on Sunday at 10 am we will share with each other what we did and hopefully generate some ideas for others to try in the coming weeks. I would encourage everyone to do the same! While the weather is indeed wacky there is some sun and there is hope for nice days to be here soon!

Faith Formation at 10 am on Sunday.

Kids Discussion at 1 pm on Tuesday.

Parents Discussion at 7pm and 9pm on Thursday.

David

Mike Meshak, Board President

This will make week number 5 without school. But classes and students have been on my mind of late. So has Peoples Church.

Zoom-anything does not meet my quota of face time. I could really use a spatial fixture with people. What I mean is, when we are all together I feel more a part of the group. It is impersonal to chat or even just watch the screen. TV is also impersonal. But for now, there will be more TV and more virtual meetings so I will have to make the best of things. I am catching up on projects and trying to get outdoors when it warms above freezing.

I wish you all peace, some purpose for now and hope that this will end soon. There are people within our church that you can reach out to. We will go on.

Be safe,

Mike Meshak



This week the Coronavirus Stimulus Money is starting to arrive in people's bank accounts. For some of us, this is a much needed lifeline that will make surviving this crisis possible. For others of us, the money will be nice but not entirely necessary. If you feel you don't need the money, why not pass it on to someone who does? Write a check to the Minister's Discretionary Fund and I will be happy to redistribute it to church members who need it most.

– Rev. Rebecca

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 17, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98003046591?pwd=NFNKeUhKSkZEaGhaZWxxRitHNUMwdzO9>

(312) 626 6799

Meeting ID: 980 0304 6591



Calendar

Thursday	April 16	7pm	Finance Meeting
Friday	April 17	7pm	Virtual After Dinner Social
Sunday	April 19	10am	Live Streaming Faith Formation—later posted to YouTube
Sunday	April 19	11am	Live Streaming Worship—later posted to YouTube
Sunday	April 19	4:30pm	Board Meeting

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 curtesy. *Thank you.*

COVID-19 Iowa Hotline:

2-1-1 or 1-800-244-7431

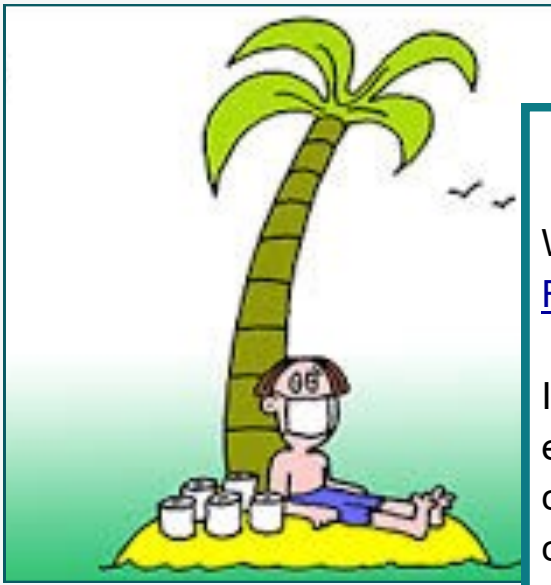
CDC Website: [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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.



Liberation



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!

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

Thank you for your generous donations over the last week! We truly appreciate your kindness.

Here is a revised list of items we could use in our pantry:

- Canned meat
- SpaghettiOs
- Fruit
- Box potatoes
- Hamburger or Tuna Helper
- Macaroni and cheese
- Cereal
- Personal products (i.e. soap, tooth-paste, hand sanitizer)

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.

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 web-

site 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 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.***



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

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>

CARING COMMUNITY

GOOD NEIGHBORS - April

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

PARAMINISTERS

April 13—April 26 | Dorothy Hershner

April 27—May 10 | Suzie Hauter

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

Operations Coordinator

[Christine Kullander](#) (319) 362-9827

Pledge Treasurer

[Charlie Cizio](#)

Custodian

Brian Reeves

Nursery Attendants

Valerie Angerer Zieser

Alexis Wauford

Jenna Straatmann

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS:

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