

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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

Expanded e Weekly

April 30, 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 Ones,

I was surprised to hear Governor Reynolds announce this week that spiritual and religious gatherings are now allowed, despite the fact that the cases of COVID-19 in Iowa keep mounting.

Based on her statement, some religious communities may decide to gather in the coming weeks, but here at Peoples Church we will be more cautious. And we are not alone.

Faith communities all across the state are resisting Gov Reynold's advice and encouraging one another to refrain from gathering in person at this time.

Perhaps the reason for this is that across all faith traditions, including ours, people are called to love. And during this ongoing global pandemic, love is continuing physical distancing measures as long as is necessary.

Love is keeping one another safe.

Love is staying home.

Love is wearing a face mask in public.

Love is learning new technology and new ways of being together online.

Love is being patient and waiting until the time is right to gather in person.

Love is protecting one another from unnecessary risk or harm.

Therefore, Peoples Church will continue to be closed until science and public health officials indicate it is safe to reopen.

For at least the month of May, we will keep our building closed and our hearts and spirits open. We will continue to host all meetings and gatherings, including Sunday morning worship and our May 17th Congregational Meeting, online.

The Board, staff, and I are working on a reopening plan which will likely occur in phases. As much as I would love to set an official reopen date and have a big party with you all, I just don't think that will be possible. To keep everyone safe we will have to start small and slowly make changes and adjustments, adding things back into our life together, and gradually working our way back up to full capacity.

Stay tuned for more details.
And stay safe!

In Faith,
Rev. Rebecca

MOMENT

Minister's



Rev. Rebecca
Hinds

THIS Sunday

May 3

11:00am New Thresholds

Our whole world has changed in a matter of months. High school and college seniors are missing out on important milestones, birthdays and anniversaries look different, and summer plans remain unclear. How do we cross thresholds in this new world? And what's on the other side? Online service led by Rev. Rebecca Hinds, music by Deborah Dakin.

NEXT Sunday

May 10

11:00am Poetry for Life In Between

We are living in a liminal time. What was can no longer be; what will be is yet unclear. At times such as these it is best to listen to the poets and sages. Join us in this service full of poetry and let it give you life and energy to face the unknown! Online service led by Rev. Rebecca

Wise Words



David Wise, Director of Faith Formation

In a normal spring I would be watching college baseball and softball on a regular basis. My Gators, who are good in almost every sport, would be making their way through the last games of the regular season and getting ready for tournament play. I would be looking forward to time in Omaha to watch the College World Series and hope the Gators would win it all!

Alas, these are not normal times. Now as I sit at home most of the time the thrill comes from hearing the sirens on Wednesday evening as the Lisbon Fire Department delivers food from the local restaurant of the week! Birds are chirping and they are close to the only regular sounds we hear. The streets are mostly empty of cars, the parks are quiet, no ball games at the school fields a block away, and no kids running home from school.

Times have changed. Perhaps this time of solitude that will continue for the next

few months will help us slow down as a society. It seems before this crisis we were always on the go! Never staying put very long, never “smelling the roses”, and sometimes not taking care of ourselves and others. Maybe this will help us be more mindful of where we live, our neighbors, our friends, and loved ones.

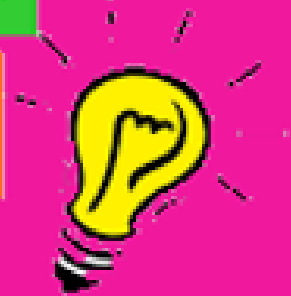
Zoom Faith Formation at 10 am on Sunday!! This week we talk about Thresholds!

On May 10 Rich and Marion Patterson will join us for a lesson on nature and creative ways to spend our time!

On May 17 we will have an end of the year party! More details to come!!

David

TRIVIA NIGHT



TRIVIA RETURNS!!!!

**MAY 8 the Friday night social hour
becomes...TRIVIA NIGHT!!!**

Get your team together! Max of 8 screens per team. *This is a fundraiser for Peoples.* You will be given opportunities to donate during the evening.

PRE-REGISTRATION is required!!!! Normally we would love to have anyone and everyone join us for this event. With the issues that face us with Zoom bombing we want to be careful—so please pre-register by reaching out to me at DRE@PEOPLESUU.ORG You are allowed and encouraged to have folks not from Peoples on your team!!!

We currently have one team registered.

They need some competition!

**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: May 1, 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



Congregational Meeting

SAVE

May
17
2020

THE

DATE

12:30pm
on Zoom

Calendar

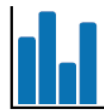
Friday	May 1	7pm	Virtual After Dinner Social
Sunday	May 3	10am	Live Streaming Faith Formation—later posted to YouTube
Sunday	May3	11am	Live Streaming Worship—later posted to YouTube
Wednesday	May 6	4:30pm	Membership Meeting—Zoom

**Zoom
Event**
Tuesday
May 19
7pm CT



Integrity First for America is taking on the leadership of the violent white nationalist movement in court — sending a clear message that violent hate has no place in our country.

We live in fraught times. Anti-Semitism, racism, and other forms of hate are on the rise. From Charlottesville to Pittsburgh to Poway to El Paso, the crisis of violent white nationalism has gone unchecked.



The ADL found a 99% increase in anti-Semitic incidents from 2015 to 2018; anti-Semitic assaults more than doubled in 2018.



Right-wing extremists killed more people in 2018 than any year since 1995—the year of the Oklahoma City bombing.

IFA, in partnership with a world-class legal team, is leveraging one of the best tools at our disposal to take on the leadership of this violent movement: our justice system.

IFA's groundbreaking lawsuit seeks to hold accountable the neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other far-right extremists who conspired to orchestrate a weekend of violence in Charlottesville in August 2017, which resulted in Heather Hoyer's death and extensive injuries. This suit — scheduled to go to trial this October 2020 — has the potential to bankrupt and dismantle the leaders and hate groups as the center of this movement.

Join IFA Executive Director Amy Spitalnick for an overview of this landmark case — which is moving full-speed ahead — and the fight against white supremacy, anti-Semitism, racism, and other forms of hate.

ABOUT SINES V. KESSLER

In August 2017, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other far-right extremists descended on Charlottesville, Virginia, for what they called "Unite the Right." This rally was not a peaceful protest but, rather, a meticulously planned conspiracy to bring violence to Charlottesville—the result of months of online organizing, fueled by bigotry and hatred. They chanted "Jews will not replace us" and "Blood and Soil." They carried swastikas and other Nazi symbols. And they murdered Heather Heyer and injured countless others.

As the attack unfolded, litigators Roberta Kaplan and Karen Dunn — in partnership with IFA — sprang into action, using the best tool at our disposal to fight back: our justice system.

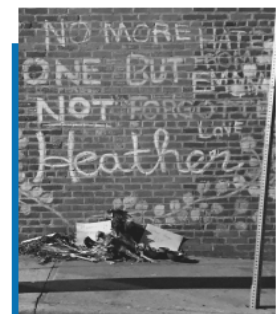
This landmark federal suit against the two dozen neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and hate groups responsible for the Charlottesville attack seeks to hold them accountable for their conspiracy to commit racially-motivated violence.

HOW WILL THIS CASE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The court has rejected the defendants' efforts to block this suit and trial is scheduled for October 2020.

This suit is the only current effort to use our justice system to take on the vast leadership of the violent white nationalist movement. It has the potential to uncover who's funding this infrastructure—and bankrupt it. And it sends a clear message: violent hate has no place here.

Once in a generation, there is a trial that fundamentally changes our nation. This will be that trial — laying down a clear marker against organized hate and violence here in America.



Finance Meeting Update

The Finance Team met on 4/16/20 to review bookkeeper reports and discuss long term planning.

Cash flow for the first quarter (January, February, and March) was positive due largely to a number of people pre-paying pledges:

- Jan – March income \$68,841
- Jan – March expenses \$50,005

COVID-19 Iowa Hotline:

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

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

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.

Foundation 2

www.foundation2.org

24 Hour Crisis Line—319-362-2174

Trained compassionate telephone counselors are available 24/7/365

Crisis Chat/Text—

www.foundation2crisischat.org

www.iowacrisischat.org

www.yourlifeiowa.org

J-Fast—319-247-0030

Juvenile & Family Assistance & Stabilization Track provides immediate crisis intervention & case management for youth who are struggling with self-harm, substance use, depression and thoughts of suicide.

First Sunday Plate Collection

Every quarter of the church year, Peoples supports a different charity. This quarter our first Sunday of the month plate collection is for the Equal Justice Initiative or EJI. This organization is a multifaceted organization based in Montgomery, AL, working to educate people on the history of slavery and the injustices of lynching.

Looking forward, EJI is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the U.S., challenging racial and economic injustice, and protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. People may be familiar with the founder, Bryan Stevenson, for whom the book and movie “Just Mercy” is a biographical tale. EJI also supports the “Lynching Museum” as well as 3 other museums in Montgomery. Members of our congregation have visited these sites and felt profoundly affected by them.

OUR FOOD PANTRY

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

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



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.

Tired of Self Isolating? Getting Cabin Fever?

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!



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

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Looking to help older adults in need of assistance?

United Way of East Central Iowa has partnered with Hy-Vee and Lindale Mall to conduct a food drive May 1-3. Food, personal care items, and cleaning supplies can be dropped off at Lindale Mall. Can't make it to Lindale Mall? Order online through aisles online and Hy-Vee will deliver to the site.

The City of Cedar Rapids is seeking donated masks

to be distributed to local service agencies and community members in need. Drop-boxes for masks are at City Hall (corner of 1st Ave SE and 1st St SE) & City Services Center front lobby (500 15th Ave SW).

Linn County Department of Public Health's mapping of the COVID-19 virus shows that it is concentrated in low-income neighborhoods

where black, brown, and immigrant individuals and families live. Of course, there are systemic social and political reasons for this but not everyone understands this. It is important for us to be vigilant as backlash is to be expected

About 17% of Iowans with confirmed cases of COVID-19 are Hispanic or Latino.

Yet, they make up only 6% of the state's population. About 9% of the cases are African-American, though only making

up 3% of the population. Latinos and African-Americans are doing the heavy lifting all over the country when it comes to this disease. Race is not to blame but racism that results in disparities in social and economic policies is. Ibram X. Kendi writes in *The Atlantic-Stop Blaming Black People for Dying of the Coronavirus*. Here is the [link for this article](#).

Book Recommendations: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama and *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

Bryan Stevenson is the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative which is our second quarter recipient of our First Sunday Plate Collection. An excellent movie, *Just Mercy*, was recently released on DVD and Blu-Ray. The EJI has videos explaining their work on their website at www.equaljusticeinitiative.org.

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 grocery stores are swamped with these requests. One hun-

dred 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 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.

St. Marks: The Africans in our neighborhood contacted us about **making face masks**. Several of our ladies have sewing machines and have started on this project. If **anyone from Peoples has any surplus cotton fabric, elastic or bias tape or flat shoestring** we can use these for masks. **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:

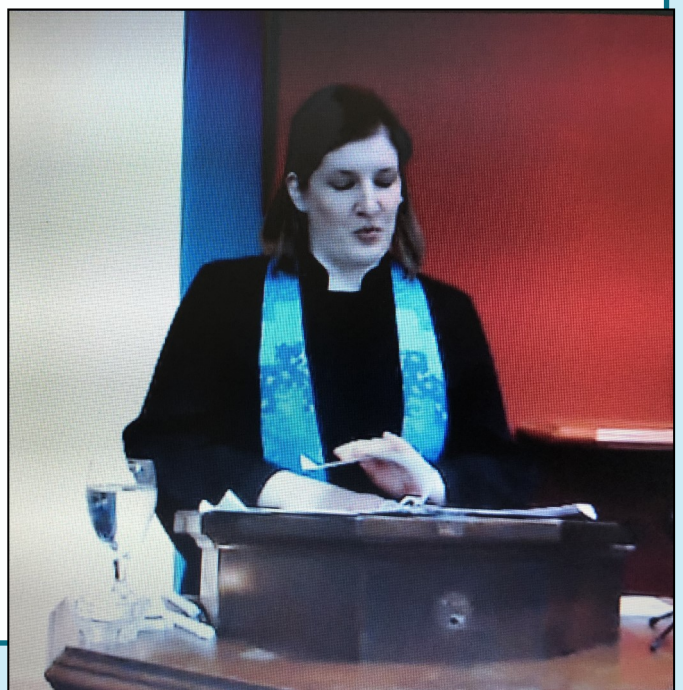
- A link to the livestream video
- The phone number if you prefer to call in and listen to the service.
- The meeting password

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-QpRCmLq1SepNDPq/videos?view=57&flow=grid>



CARING COMMUNITY

GOOD NEIGHBORS - May

Kris Davis | 294-5010 (h) | 319-361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

PARAMINISTERS

April 27 - May 10 | Suzie Hauter

May 11 - May 24 | Rose Gabe

May 25 - Jun 7 | Deb Maynard

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:

office@Peoplesuu.org | (319) 362-9827