

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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

Expanded Weekly

May 21, 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.

Stepping Through the Threshold

Marion Patterson

We are always stepping through thresholds. From room to room, day to day, activity to activity, decade to decade. The act is so common we do not think about it.

When something big happens, we think about it - lots! So, we round out May's service theme of Thresholds, and step through more thresholds of orienting a new Board and "doing business virtually".

Hearty thanks go to our outgoing board members, each of you who has helped in untold ways, SSTP (Super Staff Team Peoples), and new board members for agreeing to share their gifts at this time in history. Each has helped us on our upward trajectory of doing and "being" church well.

Just how far Peoples Church has come in four plus years came clear to me in late April, after I had agreed to serve as Board President.

Here is the story: I have sat in this sanctuary before in unsettled times. This day, as I walked into the darkened sanctuary and paused, a quiet spirit enfolded me. I waited. My eyes adjusted. Objects that I would have bumped into had I blindly kept going in the dark, took shape. "Be not afraid," came to me.

I knew with certainty Peoples Church is OK. And we will be OK. We are moving forward with clarity. In future columns I'll remind us of our progress and point to the ways we are moving forward in our Developmental Ministry ends.

We are navigating unfamiliar terrain - physical distance, emerging technology, being sociable,

helping others, managing loneliness, listening as never before, sharing. As Mike Meshak pointed out in Sunday's Flower Communion service, we are indeed like the flowers - all beautiful and different. That is our strength.

Now, as we realize that this interlude of inconvenience is really a lifestyle for the foreseeable future, I invite us to continue to work with that strength. That paradox Reverend Rebecca talked about in her service message:

There will be Great Suffering. Therefore, let us continue to show Great Love.

To adapt a phrase from the Pogo cartoon of years ago, "We have met the church and we are us!"

With warm regards,
M~



The Reverend Reverend Rebecca teams up with the Irreverent President, Marion Patterson, as we navigate the terrain of this 2020-2021 Peoples Church year.

THIS Sunday May 24

11:00am Redemption Songs

Guest Speaker Andy Douglas will talk about his experience as a volunteer singing in a choir with prisoners, as well as issues of restorative justice, music and the arts as rehabilitative tools. Service led by Rev. Rebecca Hinds and Andy Douglas. Music by Joan Jacobs and Bryan Davis.

NEXT Sunday May 31

11:00am Things I have learned during the pandemic!

How has it changed our lives for the better or worse? None of us imagined this. What are some of the things we have learned this early in the ordeal? Service led by David Wise. Music by Bryan and Kris Davis

Wise Words



David Wise, Director of Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION

Isn't technology wonderful!!! It is amazing how much society has come to depend on Zoom for communication and connections! When I arrived at church on Sunday morning and read some posts in tech groups on Facebook I knew it was not going to be an easy day! In the end most things worked well and we made it through the worship service and annual meeting without too many glitches. Churches that met earlier than us were not as fortunate. Just a few months ago a Zoom outage on Sunday morning would have gone mostly unnoticed. Because of the importance it holds these days in our lives Sunday could have been horrible! Thankfully we go on about our lives in spite of the issues.

As we are wondering and working to make alternatives work it dawned on me more than it had before how important seeing the faces and hearing the voices is in these pandemic times! We can touch and connect! Our only alternative is seeing and hearing each other from a

distance. I am glad we have the technology to be able to do that these days! Can you imagine if this pandemic had hit 20 years ago! Life would have been much harder than it is today! I know some have issues with technology and struggle to get on the Zoom calls. If you are one of those people—please reach out. We want you to be part of the connection!

Tuesday May 26 1:00 Family Trivia!!! Kids and parents may play. Join us for a fun time!!!

Gathering times in June:

June 2 and 16

David



African American Civil War Memorial, Washington DC

Calendar

Sunday	May 24	11am	Live Streaming Worship on Zoom and YouTube
Monday	May 25	All day	<i>Memorial Day</i>

The Finance Team met on 5/14/20 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for April was positive:

- April income \$33,348
- April expenses \$15,064

Peoples Board of Trustees 2020-2021

Board President

Marion Patterson

Board Members

Danny Booth

Charlie Cizio

Sue Davis

Erin Ogle

Sammie Wilson

IMPORTANT WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Zoom is constantly upgrading their system to make it as secure and reliable as possible. They have released a new version of the program. **If you are prompted to upgrade to version 5.0 please do so when prompted. If you do not when you start to use the service on May 30 or beyond you will be forced to upgrade.** The upgrade consists of saying YES to the question. **It is painless!!** If you are not asked the question and Zoom works fine—there is nothing to worry about! It simply means Zoom updated automatically. If you have questions email David at dre@peoplesuu.org or leave a message at the church.

Options for Giving while Social Distancing

Here are three options for paying your pledge and/or giving to Peoples Church:

1. Send in a check to PCUU 4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
2. Give online at www.peoplesuu.org – go to the Donate Now tab.
3. Give Plus app on your smart phone. Go to the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) and search “[give plus church](#)”. Download app and simply search for Peoples Church.

Social Distancing **BINGO**

Went on a walk	Did a home workout	Read a book	Cooked a healthy meal	Remembered to wear your mask
Ordered takeout	Video chatted with friends	Made a meal out of food you <u>didn't</u> realize you had	Joined a Zoom Worship Service Sundays at 10am!	Took a nap
Completed a home project	Walked a pet	<i>FREE</i>	Cut your own hair	Meditated
Come up with a song other than happy birthday to sing when washing your hands	Check in w/PCUU friends on Facebook Page or Facebook Group	Played a board game	Practiced Yoga	Went for a bike ride
Read your weekly newsletter from PCUU	Slept 8+ hours	Called a family member	Played a video game	Gotten attitude from your pet

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.



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.

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.

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

The Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness & Advocacy Network connects UU churches, societies, and fellowships across Iowa with each other.

The IUUWAN Board of Directors is composed of UU representatives from both rural and urban areas and meets monthly. The board shares experiences and ideas and works to build strength and hope for social justice projects within the UU community. IUUWAN can be followed on Facebook. Or, go to the website, www.iuuwan.com and sign up to receive the newsletter in your email.

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 ex-

pected

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.

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 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 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.

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 - 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