

THE VOICE

August 2020

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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

Peoples Church UU Cedar Rapids, Iowa YouTube Channel

www.peoplesuu.org

Six months into this global pandemic and reality has started to sink in. We are in this for the long haul. What we thought might be a brief inconvenience has turned into a way of life.

Given the option, none of us would choose this. But here we are, each of us experiencing an endless list of losses.

We've lost loved ones and the opportunity to grieve them properly in community. We've lost jobs and income. We've lost in-person Sunday worship and time together as a church family. We've lost in-person milestone celebrations like graduations and birthday parties. We've lost summer rituals like sports and music festivals. We've lost precious time we would have spent with grandparents or grandchildren. We've lost our sense of normal. And there is no end in sight.

Psychologists call this phenomenon "ambiguous loss."

Ambiguous loss is any loss experienced without closure. It is a loss which does not have a clear beginning, middle, or end and which can lead to unresolved grief. Sound familiar? If this doesn't perfectly describe the experience of living in the year 2020, I don't know what does! We are collectively living through a time of ambiguous loss – we don't know when it will end or what closure will look like.

Without taking the time to face this truth and grieve, it can be truly overwhelming.

So, beloveds, please know that it is okay to grieve for what you have lost. Closure may not be possible right now, but that does not mean we cannot face our losses, grieve deeply, and keep moving forward.

As we do this work, it will be important for us to stay grounded and hopeful.

Perhaps hope seems hard to find right now, but that is what Peoples Church is here for - to offer hope and help you find it again. For as Emily Dickinson

wrote, "hope is the thing with feathers, that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all."

This month at Peoples we will keep exploring Hope as we continue in PHASE 1 of our reopening plan, which essentially means the church building will be closed with everything, including worship, online. Only extremely limited in-

person operations will be allowed with no more than 5 people present wearing masks and practicing social distancing requirements.

But just because we are not together physically does not mean we are not connected spiritually and socially. So please join us this month in our brave journey to face reality and find good reason to hope.

In faith,
Rev. Rebecca

**NOTE: Rev. Rebecca has a
new home phone number:
(319)-775-0113**

“REMEMBER,
HOPE IS A
GOOD THING,
MAYBE THE
BEST OF
THINGS, AND NO
GOOD THING
EVER DIES.
-Stephen King

MOMENT

Ministry's



Rev. Rebecca
Hinds

August 2020

Hope

August 2: To Be Continued...

An exploration of revelation, hope, and life during an apocalypse. Zoom Service led by Casey Guet

August 9: Quarantine Advice from Screwtape

This year has been challenging for all of us. Voices from all sides are telling us what to do and how to survive. Just for fun, let's consider what Screwtape, the senior devil in C.S. Lewis' masterpiece *The Screwtape Letters*, would tell us to do during these difficult times. Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Castle Ridge.

August 16: Disabilities

Service led by guest preacher Peighton Carter, a candidate for UU ministry in Eau Claire, WI.

August 23: Pandora's Box: Finding Hope Within

When Pandora opened her box and let out all of the evils of this world, one small thing remained. Hope. Let's explore this ancient myth and rediscover where hope resides deep within the self. Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Pete Kies and Deb Hunemuller.

August 30: Transgender Stories from our Younger Community

We believe in justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. There is no better way to promote these qualities than to understand the struggles and the needs of everyone in our community. Therefore, this week we turn our attention to our transgender and non-binary community. Join us as we hear the stories of our community and connect with one another. Zoom Service led by Deb Booth. Music by Angie Pierce-Jennings.

Wise Words



David Wise, Director of Faith Formation

Karen and I recently watched the first couple of episodes of a Netflix show called *Virgin River*. The premise is a big city nurse/midwife is hired by the mayor of a small rural town to come and help the “aging” doctor in his practice. When the doctor found out about this he was not too pleased. He resisted all help, said he wasn’t aging, and could do everything he needed to do. Grudgingly he allowed the nurse to stay. He wouldn’t let her do anything, but she could stay and he would see if he could trust her.

Isn’t that all of us in life? Especially these days? We are weary of the whole COVID issue, not sure who to trust, and we hesitant to accept help because we can do it ourselves. When situations are like they are in the world today we often need help. We can’t do it all alone. Sometimes that help comes to us and we want to push away. I suggest you think twice before

saying no. Perhaps someone in your life sees something you don’t and realizes that assistance might be needed.

In these days we can’t do it all alone. If you need help reach out to someone and ask. There is no shame or harm in accepting help.

In the same vein if you see someone who needs help and it is safe to do so—offer! You never know how valuable you may be in that moment!

Faith Formation will be held in the Fall. Look for details to come in the September VOICE!

I have been in conversations with my colleagues in the Quad Cities and Coralville about some joint programming—keep an eye out for that information.

We are also looking at organizing a group for parents who are home-schooling this year. It is a new venture to many parents, and we felt that a faith-based discussion group might be helpful. Look for information to be coming soon!

David

Cool off in a new t-shirt

These make great gifts and are a chance to help the church. Feel free to order more or to pass the link on the to friends anywhere who might share the sentiments these shirts express!

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



[Click here!](#)

LET'S SOCIAL DISTANCE PARTY!

THURSDAY AUGUST 13 6:30-8PM
PEOPLES CHURCH PARKING LOT

I am entering a new decade of life this month and I think it is time to celebrate my birthday and all of our Peoples' friends who are having birthdays in August. Masks are welcome and social distancing rules apply, but we'll still be closer than we have been for a long time.

Bring your own drink, food, chair and good vibes. I enjoyed the first time I was in the 70's. I know these 70's will be just as fantastic. I can't wait to see you all!

Linda Levy
Chairman, Membership Committee

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.

Community Food Assistance

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

OUR FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generous donations throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

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

- Cereal
- Canned meat
- SpaghettiOs
- Fruit
- Vegetables (not green beans)
- Box potatoes
- Box meals i.e. Hamburger or Tuna Helper, Macaroni and cheese
- Peanut butter / Jelly
- Crackers / Muffin Mix / Cookie Mix
- Personal products (soap, toilet tissue, kleenex)



Nurturing the Flame

Hope and Healing Reach Out to You

Marion Patterson, Board President

Hope and Healing. How are you dealing in this pandemic time?

For many, the coronavirus pandemic has been an inconvenience, disrupting our plans. For a few, it's "Whatever." For some it has upended our lives with juggling jobs from and kids at home or losing our job(s). For others, it has been devastating.

With all these varied experiences how are we to be? What do we do?

After the shock. After the denial and bargaining. After the excitement of new ways to do service and meet via ZOOM wears off, then what? Then, the work of Hope and Healing and Helping begin.

Tell me, what help you need. Contact me. Phone. Letter. Email. Text. What do you need to hold that touchstone of our values?

Those who have managed fairly well, share your perspectives and tools; how you have weathered these treacherous waters of uncertainty.

One way is to hold fast to our touchstone values as stated in our Mission: Leading compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action.

As Peoples Church enters the fifth year of developmental ministry with Reverend Rebecca and her dream team, let us remember how we make a difference in the world, for others, and at a healthy capacity.

We are living our "ends": Partnering. Welcoming. Speaking, teaching, living our faith. Supporting through time, talent, and finances. Creating transformative experiences. These through inspirational services, music, social justice, finance, and stewardship teams. And, your duly elected board members.

These folks have deep commitment to Peoples and have melded well as we listen to you and hold our mission in trust.

Hope, Healing and Helping Peoples people and the larger community through this pandemic time.

We continue to Nurture the Flame.

M~

[*Follow this link for a new video!*](#)



Hope and Healing are like
keeping calm in the midst of
seeming chaos.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The SJC will be holding a **Forum via Zoom on August 9 at 9:45 am**. Our guest will be Megan Isenberg who is with the Harambee House. The Harambee House, 404 17th St SE offers services to the neighborhood such as telephone and internet access, weekly bread distribution, clothing closet, housing support, and job seeking through Iowa Works. Harambee House is our 3rd quarter First Sunday Plate Collection beneficiary.

The Social Justice Council has decided we wish to support **Advocates for Social Justice**, a Cedar Rapids group of young adults, ordinary citizens working hard to bring about change. Four out of the five extremely well attended protests in Cedar Rapids over the last 2 weeks have been organized by this group. They have met with the City Council and police chief several times to demand action on the 7 police reform proposals being promulgated throughout the nation. The council and chief have committed to implementing these proposals in Cedar Rapids. We have provided \$100 to this group out of the SJ budget to assist with their costs. Our next step is to put pressure on a consistent basis on the city council and police chief so that they fulfill their commitments. Please email or call the following city leaders to let them know you want reform that will address police violence against black citizens.

- Mayor Brad Hart: b.hart@cedar-rapids.org. 319-775-0635
- At-Large CR Council Member Tyler Olson: t.olson@cedar-rapids.org. 319-535-0635
- District 1 CR Council Member Michael Hoeger: m.hoeger@cedar-rapids.org. 319-775-7896
- District 2 Council Member Scott Over-

land: s.overland@cedar-rapids.org. 319-899-6709

- District 3 Council Member Dale Todd: dalet@cedar-rapids.org. 319-775-7926
- District 4 Council Member Scott Olson: scott.olson@cedar-rapids.org. 319-390-5295
- District 5 Council Member Ashley Vanorny: a.vanorny@cedar-rapidas.org. 319-286-5529

And, for our members and friends in Marion: Go to the Marion, Iowa government website to connect with Mayor Nicolas AbouAssaly and Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller and demand police reform.

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.

State funds from the federal CARES Act are now available to assist eligible households with rent, mortgage, and utility assistance. This state program is called the Iowa Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act. For information on how and where to apply contact www.iowalegalaid.org/resource/2020-coronavirus-outbreak-what-you-need-to-know or call 1-800-332-0419.

READY • SET • GROW

PEOPLES CHURCH 2021 PLEDGE DRIVE

Date of Report: 7/30/20

Total Dollars 2021 Pledge Goal \$163,000

2021 Dollars Pledged to Date \$109,790 67%

Goal for Pledge Returns 90

Number Pledge Forms Returned 36 40%

2021 Dollars Pledged to Date



Please let us know your pledge intentions for 2021 as soon as you can.
Thank you for your generous and timely response!

The Finance Team met on 7/16/20 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for the first six (6) months of 2020 was positive:

- January through July income \$126,512
- January through July expenses \$110,539

**The only wealth which you will keep forever is the wealth
you have given away.**

- Marcus Aurelius



Summer's bounty in our African Neighbors' Garden!



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.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

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.



August

Date	Day	Time	Event
2	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship
5	Wednesday	4:30 – 5:30pm	Membership Committee Meeting
9	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	SJC Forum: Harambee House
		11am – 12pm	Worship
		12:15 – 1:15pm	Worship Associates
14	Friday	2:30 – 3:30pm	Stewardship Zoom Meeting
16	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship
19	Wednesday	1-2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
20	Thursday	7-8pm	Finance Meeting
23	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship
27	Thursday	7:30 – 9pm	PCUU Monthly Board Meeting
30	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am	Trans Minor Rights Forum with Chriss Nelson
		11am – 12pm	Worship

*Worship and Forums are on Zoom and YouTube.
Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on Zoom.

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.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Hinds
Developmental
Minister
(319) 362-9827(w)
(319)-775-0113 (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
Marion Patterson
(319) 362-1470

Treasurer
Gary McGraw
(319) 373-9449

Board of Trustee Members

Charlie Cizio
Danny Booth
Sue Davis
Erin Ogle

THE VOICE.

PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.



CARING COMMUNITY

Good Neighbors

Kris Davis | 361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

Paraministers

August 3 - 16 | Deb Maynard Booth
August 17 - 30 | Jan Federer

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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



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CHURCH**
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