

An abstract painting of water ripples and rocks. The water is depicted with swirling, concentric circles in shades of blue, green, and yellow, creating a sense of movement and depth. Scattered throughout the water are numerous rocks of various sizes and colors, including brown, tan, and grey. The overall composition is dense and textured, with a focus on natural elements.

THE VOICE

September 2020

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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

BEH
ARR
ELL

Dear Ones,

September has always felt like a true beginning to me. As the weather cools and the apples ripen, we head into a new season, a new school year, and a new church year. Usually I find it all exciting and invigorating. But not this year. This year I am coming in already tired. And I suspect I am not alone.

It has been a difficult year so far and we have all been through a lot. As we head into autumn, tired and grieving, some things feel welcome and familiar, but other things just feel overwhelming. Which is why I am so glad our theme for the month is RENEWAL. How refreshing! I trust we could all use some renewal and revitalization of our spirits, passions, and commitments right about now.

The word renewal itself speaks to a paradox which feels particularly poignant this year. “Re” indicates a coming back, a return, a repetition of something known. But “new” indicates the opposite, the novel, original, different, or brand

new. It is almost like doing two opposite things at once. In other words, renewal invites us to return to the familiar and leap into the unknown.

This month we will fully live into this paradox of renewal. For example, we will return to the familiar with our annual **Water Ceremony on Sunday, September 13.** But instead of doing it in the sanctuary like we usually do, we will be trying something brand new. This year the service will take place **outdoors at the Indian Creek Nature Center** (to accommodate social distancing best practices).

There will certainly be other aspects of this month that

will feel both familiar and odd. So, let us be kind to ourselves and generous with one another. It will be an interesting season. But we will get through it together. And in the process, we just might find ourselves comforted, made whole, and renewed.

In faith,
Rev. Rebecca

“IT IS ALWAYS
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THRILLING TO FIND
YOURSELF
LOOKING AT A
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WELL BUT HAVE
NEVER SEEN FROM
SUCH AN ANGLE
BEFORE.”

-Bill Bryson

MOMENT

Minister's



Rev. Rebecca
Hinds

SEPTEMBER 2020 RENEWAL

6TH

Labor Day 2020: Renewing Our Covenants

This Labor Day Weekend we will thank all the workers, paid and unpaid, who keep the gears of society moving and make our lives possible. In light of the pandemic and all that is changing around work and school, we will explore covenant renewal as part of the way forward. Online service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Deb and Pete.

13TH

Take Me to the Water: Annual Water Ceremony

Join us for a special IN PERSON (masks and social distancing required) Water Ceremony service at the Indian Creek Nature Center. Bring your own chair, hat or umbrella, mask, and vial of water to offer during the Water Ceremony. In addition, consider bringing a piece of wood from your home to add to a growing art project idea we are cooking up! Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

20TH

Balance and Renewal: Celebrating the Autumn Equinox

At this time of year, the seasons are changing, and day and night are perfectly in balance. The Earth itself is inviting us into a time of reflection and renewal. Come honor the Autumn Equinox and renew your own spirit. Online service led by Rev. Rebecca.

27TH

TBD

Online service
led by Kathleen Mavity.

Natalie Sleeth was an American composer who died in 1991. In 1985 she composed what I think is an incredibly beautiful hymn. It was debuted just before the death of her husband and has become a very popular song in the more liberal Christian churches. It is frequently used at Celebrations of Life services. The words are very simple but are filled with great hope for the future.

In all that we have faced these last few months we must look to the future and what is to come our way. We need to hope that better times are ahead. We need to believe renewal is just around the corner.

Here are those words:

In the bulb, there is a flower
In the seed, an apple tree
In cocoons, a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free

In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

There's a song in every silence
Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me

Wise Words



David Wise, Director of Faith Formation

From the past will come the future
What it holds, a mystery
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

In our end is our beginning
In our time, infinity
In our doubt, there is believing
In our life, eternity
In our death, a resurrection
At the last, a victory

Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

(words covered under Peoples Church CCS license)

Hope for the future is what will get us
through these difficult days!

Faith Formation will begin October 4th.
Gathering time for children through 5th
grade will be 10am with classes complete at
10:30.

Other class times will be shared in the
coming weeks!

We will be sponsoring a support group for
home-schooling/virtual school parents in
conjunction with Coralville and the Quad
Cities. More info will be available soon.

David

Derecho Relief Money Available!

Not one of us escaped the derecho unscathed. It was a huge event that impacted all of us – some more than others. In response to this tragedy, we have received a large Disaster Relief grant from the UUA. In addition, money has been coming in from Peoples members, friends, and UUs all across the country for the purpose of helping people after the storm. I would LOVE to be able to send you some of this money.

If you or someone you know would benefit from receiving some money to help you recovery from the derecho please let me know asap between now and Sept. 15th. At that point I will cut the checks. Thank you! Remember it is OK to ask for help.

– Rev. Rebecca



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Assist Iowans Recovering from the Derecho

Posted on August 27, 2020

Category: Justice

[Description](#) [Updates](#) [FAQ](#) [Comments](#) [Backers](#)

\$875 RAISED
18%
8 DONORS
23 DAYS LEFT TO DONATE

Towns in Iowa are reeling after a monster storm hit Iowa, creating chaos, homelessness, and hunger.

CAMPAIGN BY



Emma

Created 2 Projects

[DONATE](#)

IMPORTANT NOTES

Use the blue "DONATE" button on this page to give to this campaign.

Having trouble logging in to your Faithify account? Dormant accounts established before April 2018 may need to change their password and refresh the site before proceeding. Use the link below:

[CHANGE PASSWORD](#)

Campaigns close at 10:55 pm Eastern Time of the last day. Pledges are processed one day before the deadline.



Low-income apartment building destroyed by the storm

Here is the link to [Faithify](#) should you wish to donate to Iowans recovering from the derecho.

Nurturing the Flame

Policy Governance and Brushing Out After a Derecho are About the Same

Marion Patterson, Board President

What? Has “Mme Prez” finally succumbed to heat exhaustion and lost her mind? Not exactly.

In living Policy Governance and responding to a crisis we ask: What difference do we want to make? For whom? At what healthy capacity?

Based on my short bandwidth, here is my list. Both literal and metaphoric.

Gather Data: Assess and put systems in place. Watch out for live wires and gas leaks. (Covenant of Right Relations, Executive and Operations Roles)



Check in: Call. Text. Email. Write Notes. Climb over brush and check in on neighbors. (Communicate)

Share ideas: None of us is as smart as all of us. Figure out different ways to get things done. (Congregational Values and Mission Statement)

Develop a flexible plan: Life happens! Like the young trees that bent before the winds, be ready to change. (As congregations change, re-visit the Mission periodically)

Empower: Certain people do certain jobs like chain sawing. Stay out of each other's way and, at the same time, stay in communication. (Sources of Authority and Accountability, Transparency, Operations & Executive)

Protect: Wear protective gear. Help others. Take breaks. (Pause to Consider What is already in place. Board & Ministerial limitations)

Forgive misunderstandings: (Trust Others' Good Intentions)

Pivot when necessary: Switch to a different task and think creatively about next steps. (Create Transformative Experiences)

Show Up and Reach Out: Little offerings make a difference. Water. Food. Gift Card. Listening ear. Donations. Rake. Haul brush. (Support Mission with Time, Talent, Finances)

Create the future: Look beyond the debris to new possibilities.

“Living compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action.”

We know we have been successful when.... We are there folks! Policy governance is working. This past month's Post Derecho, especially. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to support our congregation and the community.

M~

SOCIAL JUSTICE

25 Black Lives Matter yard signs have been donated to us from the UU Society in Coralville. Contact macia.swift@gmail.com to make arrangements to get a sign. Some signs will be left at the church and people can pick them up during the food bank hours of Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 10 am.

Peoples and the UU Society of Coralville have created a Faithify account to assist people such as our African neighbors who have lost everything because of the storm. Go to www.faithify.org to create an account and make a donation. Faithify is a crowdfunding site developed by the UUA in order to raise funds for UU projects. We need to reach the goal of \$5,000 by the end of September in order to receive the funds. You will not be charged your pledge amount on your credit card if we do not reach the goal. Please spread the word about this UU fund to others.

If you have extra produce from your garden you can bring it to Peoples and leave it by the African gardens. People come most everyday to work in the gardens and they need all the food they can get. We have also opened up our Peoples food pantry to our neighbors who live or lived in the Cedar Terrace and Glenbrook West apartments. Most of the displaced families have moved in with other families and are living in very crowded conditions.

The Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness & Advocacy Network is hosting a Zoom Event featuring Damonte Stogner of the ACLU on Saving Our Democracy By Getting Out the Vote. IUUWAN Board members will introduce themselves and each UU church will share what they are doing for social justice. The event is on **Sunday, September 13 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm.** Zoom information will be sent ahead of time. if you are interested in participating and learning more about Peoples supports IUUWAN **contact marcia.swift@gmail.com.**

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.

COVID19 & DERECHO HAVE INCREASED FOOD INSECURITY

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.

Peoples Food Pantry

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)

Community Food Assistance

Linn County Food Bank is distributing food in the parking lot of First - 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.

Community Clothing Assistance

Olivet Mission also has free clothing available Tuesday - Friday from 8:30 - 11:30 am and Saturdays from 9:00 - 11:30 am

FEMA & Other Derecho Financial Aid for Linn County

Financial help is available to people affected by the Aug. 10 derecho, the powerful windstorm that devastated parts of Iowa, particularly the Cedar Rapids area.

Here are details on financial aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state and other organizations.

FEMA assistance for individuals and homeowners

Those who suffered losses in Linn County can begin applying for assistance by through FEMA's Individual and Households Program. It provides financial assistance for homeowners and individuals to help with disaster-related recovery needs, such as grants to help pay for temporary housing, emergency home repairs, uninsured personal property losses and medical expenses caused by the disaster. The federal aid is requested for other counties but has not yet been approved.

To apply:

- Call 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 for TTY users. Users of 711 or Video Relay Service may call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers operate from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Iowa time seven days a week, for now.
- Or register online at DisasterAssistance.gov.

You'll need this information to complete your registration:

- Social Security Number (SSN) OR the SSN of a minor child in the household who is a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien
- Annual household income
- Contact information: Phone number, mailing address, email address*, and damaged home address (*You must provide an email address if you want to review your registration status online. If you do not provide an email address, you will be required to contact FEMA for any updates to your registration.)
- Insurance Information (coverage, insurance company name, etc.)
- Bank account information (if you are eligible to receive financial assistance, the money can be deposited in your account)

Rental and mortgage assistance

The Iowa Association of Realtors partnered with the National Association of Realtors to provide storm relief with a grant of \$250,000. This grant can help with mortgage payment assistance or rental costs due to displacement up to \$1,000 per applicant. Deadline to submit an appli-

cation is Oct. 31.

Some scenarios that would be eligible:

- A homeowner with a mortgage that was displaced due to damage of their home.
- A homeowner with a mortgage living in their home without power due to the storm damage.
- A renter that was displaced due to damage of their apartment building.

To apply:

- Visit iowarealtors.com/news/derecho-storm-relief and fill out the application for disaster relief assistance.

For questions, email derechorelief@iowarealtors.com or call 1-800-532-1515

You'll need this information to complete your registration:

- Photo identification to show proof of residency (driver's license or other government form of documentation)
- *Copy of mortgage statement, mortgage payment coupon, lease agreement or rent statement*
- One of the following to show proof of damage: Photos of damage; insurance estimate; copies of written claims, settlement proceeds of claim status reports; copies of repair estimates from contractors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING:

Red Cross financial aid for storm victims

State assistance, for counties not approved for FEMA aid

Assistance for Iowa WIC families for food replacement

Help to replace food for families who receive other food assistance

Help for farmers, Nursery tree and Orchard Operators

Small Business Administration loans for business, residential

Disaster loans from local banks, credit unions

Select [THIS LINK](#)

*IOWA UU WITNESS AND
ADVOCACY NETWORK
CONFERENCE*



SAVING DEMOCRACY & GETTING OUT THE VOTE

Keynote by Damonte Strogner,
Iowa ACLU
Discussion to follow

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
1:30 TO 3:00 PM**

For the Zoom link
on 9/13, go to:
IUUWAN.com

READY • SET • GROW

PEOPLES CHURCH 2021 PLEDGE DRIVE

Do you want to talk about our Ready Set Grow pledge drive? We will be at the ready to answer all your questions in chat rooms after the Sunday Worship Service—see you there!

What I know for sure is that what you give comes back to you.
- Oprah Winfrey

EMAIL SCAM
ALERT

I am so sorry to report that scammers have again targeted the Peoples Church community by using my name to email many (if not all) of you.

It seems *they create an email account that looks very close to mine*, but is ever so slightly different, in an attempt to fool people into responding.

This is not the first time this has happened and I fear it won't be that last. **Please remember I would NEVER email you and ask for money or gift cards. If you get an email like this again in the future, do not respond.** And by all means, call me if you are unsure. I can be reached at the church office 319-362-9827 or at 319-775-0113.

-Rev. Rebecca Hinds

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.

Are you interested in learning more about faith, spirituality,
and theology? Looking for others to talk to about it?
Join Faith Explorers!

Faith Explorers is a study group which meets twice a month to discuss various books. This fall Faith Explorers is beginning a study of Robin Meyers' [Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus](#). Faith Explorers meet the first and third Saturday of the month at 10am. We are continuing our online meeting via Zoom. No meeting on Sept. 5. On September 19th we will discuss the prologue and chapters 1-2.

If you are interested in joining Faith Explorers, please email Nancy Kotalik nkotalik@gmail.com and she will send you the Zoom link.

City of Cedar Rapids Mayor Issues Mask Mandate

September 2, 2020

Click [here](#) to see the entire announcement.

Cedar Rapids Mayor Brad Hart today signed an emergency proclamation making face coverings mandatory in public places throughout Cedar Rapids, whenever proper social distance cannot be maintained. The mandate is effective immediately. Scientific studies have shown that face coverings over the mouth and nose significantly reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

COMMUNITY 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.



September

Date	Day	Time	Event
2	Wednesday	4:30 – 5:30pm	Membership Committee Meeting
6	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship
7	Monday	all day	Labor Day
13	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship at Indian Creek Nature Center
		12:15 – 1:15pm	Worship Associates
16	Wednesday	1-2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
17	Thursday	7-8pm	Finance Meeting
20	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship
24	Thursday	7:30-9pm	Board Meeting
27	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship

Looking Ahead Together: Our Themes for 2020-21

September **Renewal**

October **Deep Listening**

November **Healing**

December **Stillness**

January **Imagination**

February **Beloved Community**

March **Commitment**

April **Becoming**

May **Story**

June **Play**



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

Kathy Juba | 378-3116 | kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

August 31 – September 13 | Jan Federer
September 14–27 | Dorothy Hershner
September 28–October 11 | Rose Gabe

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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



**PEOPLES
CHURCH**
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