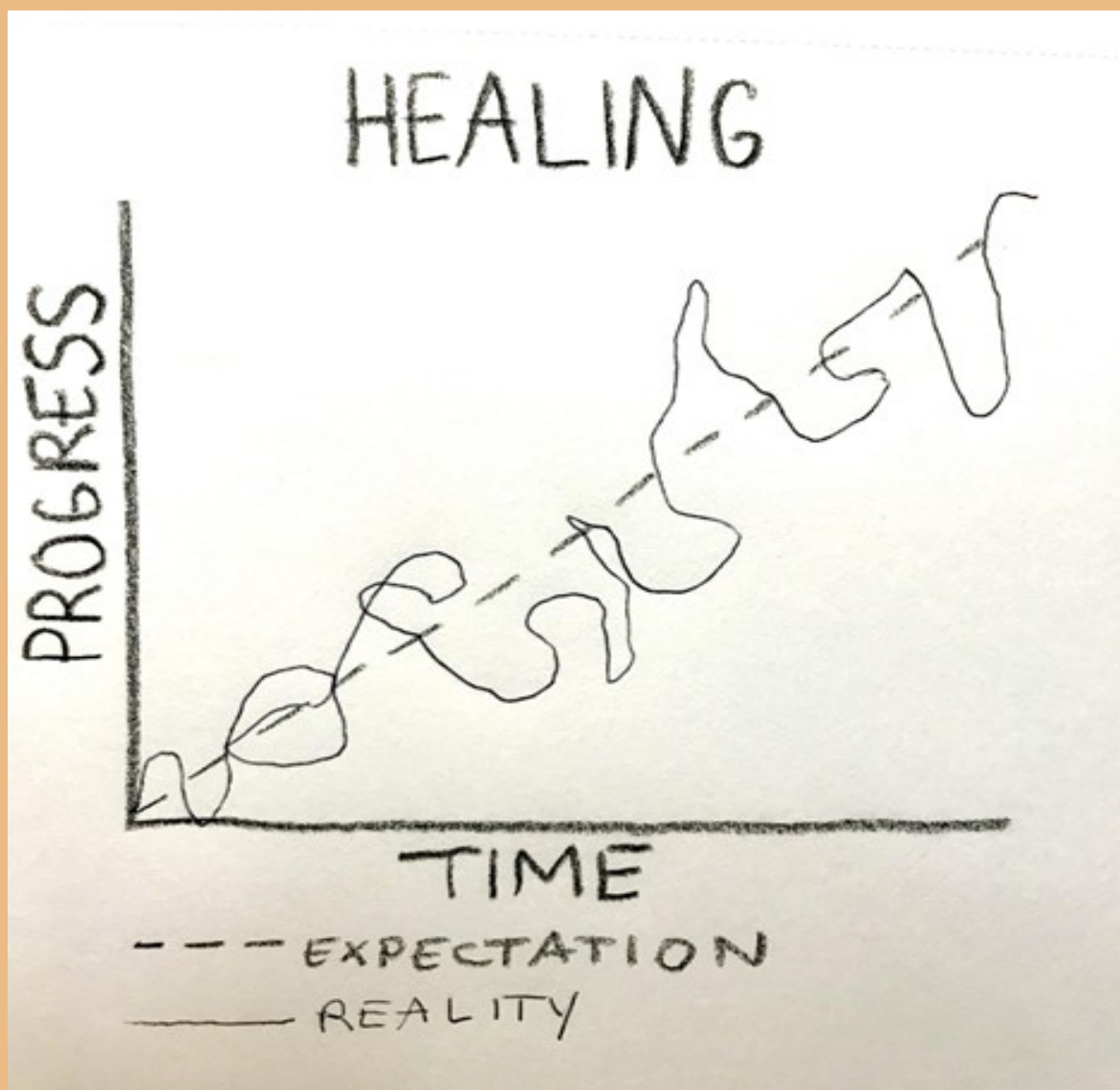


THE VOICE

November 2020

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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



Peoples Church UU Cedar Rapids, Iowa YouTube Channel

www.peoplesuu.org

Dear Ones,

Since the pandemic began last March, I have spent more time than I care to admit imagining the worst-case scenario. And then it happened. My family and I all came down with Covid-19.

We were lucky. Our symptoms were relatively mild, and we were able to get through it safely and comfortably at home. But as we all know, not everyone is so fortunate.

Throughout the experience, Peoples Church was there for me and my family, holding us in love.

The same is true for you and yours. People Church is here for you.

If something bad happens, even your worst-case scenario, this community will be here for you. I am here for you. Our Good Neighbors are here for you, ready to help anyone in need. Our paraministers are here for you, ready to be a listening ear and comforting presence. Our Social Justice Team is here for you, doing the work and fighting for justice and equal rights every day. Our Worship Team and musicians are here for you, crafting meaningful weekly worship to offer you spiritual nourishment, comfort, and community. Our Faith Formation leaders are here for you and all our children, diligently helping kids stay grounded and navigate this crazy year. Many other teams are here for you, quietly working behind the scenes to ensure that Peoples Church runs smoothly



RARELY, IF
EVER, ARE
ANY OF US
HEALED IN
ISOLATION.
HEALING IS
AN ACT OF
COMMUNION.

-bell hooks

so that we can continue to offer all these important ministries.

Whatever is happening in your life or in the world, whatever may come (including the election results which at the time of this writing are still unknown), you are not alone.

Yes, it has been a heck of a year. Pandemic anxiety, election stress, and all the rest has been traumatic for all of us. But you are not alone. Perhaps we should take some time now to remember this great truth, to heal and to recover?

As such, our theme for the month of November is HEALING. Throughout the month we will focus on healing our bodies, our spirits, our communities, and our nation. We will restore and repair ourselves as we get ready to head into the next chapter of American life, whatever it looks like. We will renew our promises to one another and remind ourselves that none of us is alone. For we are united and strong and together we will heal. Together we will keep going towards the new day that is dawning.

In faith,
Rev. Rebecca

Thank you, Good Neighbors!

When my family and I got sick the Good Neighbors were there for us! Thank you so much to Kathy Juba, Amy Bostwick, and Kris Davis for being the coordinators of this mighty team. And thank you to everyone who called us, sent a card, and delivered meals to our door.

If you ever find yourself in need of the kind of help that a good neighbor might provide, let this team know! They are very skilled at mobilizing the community to support members and friends in need of a helping hand. Isn't it good to be part of such a caring congregation?!



NOVEMBER 2020 HEALING

Remembering the Ancestors

1ST

We often only think of this weekend as a time for putting on costumes and collecting candy . The spiritual teachings of Earth Centered Religions look at this weekend as an important time to remember those who have passed before us. Please join us as we explore how and why this can be part of our religious experience for Unitarian Universalists. Service led by Rev. Jay Wolin. Worship Associate Bryan Davis. Music by Angie Pierce Jennings.

Feeling Our Way Forward

8TH

On this Sunday the election will be behind us, but the work of healing and building the world we dream about continues. Regardless of the election results, we will take time to acknowledge what happened, connect with our emotions, and begin the healing process. Together we will feel our way forward. Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

Lighting The Way

15TH

We are beginning a new chapter, a new way forward. What does it look like? What does it sound like? Feel like? Let us explore the narrative *third* way: beginning with the one not yet told, created together this day. Service by Andrea Hawkins-Kamper, M.Div

The Healing Power of Truth Telling

22ND

November is Native American Heritage Month. As we acknowledge and learn about Native American history, what opportunities do we have to finally tell the truth about the centuries of racism, colonialism, and genocide that have transpired in America? Can truth telling be part of the healing process?

Showing Your True Colors

29TH

We will use songful meditation to reflect on the healing power of being yourself and being seen. Service led by Angie Pierce Jennings



Congratulations Peoples Church!

2021 Pledge Campaign is a HUGE success

When the Stewardship Team and I started meeting last March to plan the 2021 Campaign: Ready, Set, Grow!, we had no idea what to expect this year. With the pandemic just beginning and the economic impact of it all yet unknown, we decided to just take it slow and steady. We kept our goal the same as last year and didn't ask for any big increases.

And then you all HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK! Not only did you achieve the 2021 pledge goal, you surpassed it! What an amazing accomplishment in an otherwise uncertain and difficult year.

I wish to thank Judy Price, the Stewardship Team chair, for her skillful leadership this year, as well as the rest of the Stewardship Team members, Bryan Davis, Charlie Cizio, Bob Butikofer, Brenda Meshak, Sue Davis, and Ann Gruber. Well done!

While the world around us swirls with uncertainty, one thing remains true: Peoples Church is full of generous, kind people who are committed to justice, compassion, community, and Unitarian Universalism.

Now, with the budget setting us up for success in 2021 (members will have the opportunity to vote on the 2021 budget at the December Annual Meeting) let's get to work building a better world!

Rev. Rebecca Hinds

Rev. Linda Hansen

Linda M. Hansen, 71, of New Berlin, WI, died of cancer on October 30, comforted by her sister and best friend, Marian. Linda spent seventeen years as a college professor, first at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, and then at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. She made a mid-life change to become a Unitarian Universalist minister, and considered herself lucky to serve three wonderful congregations: the Peoples Church UU in Cedar Rapids, IA; the UU Congregation of Danbury, CT; and the United UU Congregation in Waukesha, WI. Adopted by three cats while in CT, Linda discovered a passion for animals, volunteering in shelters in Danbury, Milwaukee and Waukesha.



Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Catherine (Therese) Hansen. She is survived by her sister Marian Hansen and many loving friends and family members. Marian would like to thank the staff of Aurora At Home and the Aurora Zilber Family Hospice for their compassionate care. Due to Covid and according to



Linda's wishes, no service is planned. If you would like to make a donation in Linda's memory, please consider the Humane Animal Welfare Society (hawspets.org) in Waukesha, the Aurora Zilber Family Hospice, or a charity of your choice.

Wise Words From David Wise Director Faith Formation



Thanksgiving has always been about large family gatherings. When I was young, we had close friends who were like family and my mom and I would join them for part of the day and then go to my cousins later in the day or visa versa! It was a day that had food, football, games, and conversation! Over the years Karen and I have gathered with her family or our kids and grand-kids and fun has always been part of the celebration. I would speculate for many of you the tradition has been the same.

I am worried that this year that tradition is going to end for so many of us. COVID has caused so many issues for us this year and Thanksgiving traditions are likely to be one more. What are ways that we can get through the holiday season?

There are all sorts of video chat programs. We use Zoom extensively here at the church. There is also FaceTime, Skype, Google Hangouts and others. Find a way to connect with your family via video.

It used to be families who were separated by long distances would talk to each other on the phone! That seems to be a lost communication method these days! We email, text, KIK, Snap

chat, or use some other app on our phone. Why not use it for the old-fashioned reason it was created? Call someone and talk to them!

Write a note to someone you care about. I don't write notes, but I remember getting them and the good feeling they cause! Take a moment and write a note to that person that might be able to use a lift!

As the healing starts from a tough year of health, economy and politics think about those friends that could use a little bit more in these difficult times! How can you lift them up? Bring a smile to someone else's face and it will bring one to you as well!

David

Faith Formation Schedule:

Nov 8 No Class

Nov 15 Class at 10 am

Nov 22 Class at 10 am

Nov 29 No Class

Dec 6 Class at 10 am

Dec 13 Holiday Program as part of worship

Dec 20 No Class



THANKSGIVING DINNER

2020 has been a challenging year and many people are overwhelmed by the demands of COVID19 and the derecho.

We are providing a pre-cooked, take out Thanksgiving dinner from HyVee for our congregants in need.

Please contact Rev. Rebecca to make arrangements: 362-9827 or minister@peoplesuu.org.

Nurturing the Flame

Healing

Marion Patterson, Board President

For November's theme, Healing, I have struggled. The constant "October surprises" of illness increases, ramped up political rancor, voting process uncertainty, and snow (seriously?!), coupled with the ongoing derecho recovery work had about done me in.

I reached out to Marcy Mattison with an idea of how to use the branches that members brought to the water communion service. To respectfully burn the branches then create a springtime ceremony honoring the trees. Marcy gave me new perspective on healing.

"That transformation of our trees (into ash...) can be tied with transformations we may see in our lives. As we reach a point when we can peer over the edge of today's chaos into a clearer future, a less tumultuous future, that will feel magical." She then shared about her rediscovery of her "...brave and hardy garden plants... their tenacity and simple strength in doing what plants must do. Blooming, making peppers, sending up seed stalks – and those simple miracles quietly inspiring and lovely." She continued, "I'll harvest and prepare the beds for winter – tuck them in – and that is reassuring too. What gifts we have in the natural world. Sanity. Simple truths. Healing inspiration."

So, here are my thoughts on healing as "...this year wraps up." Giant trees that seemed solid were rotten in the core. Their heartwood gone. They shattered before the tempest. Younger trees bent. Although still leaning, they are righting themselves, leaning into the sun. In the clearings saplings emerge soaking up the light. They are the new forest.

Healing takes time. Healing takes courage. Healing is individual, communal, and societal. Healing takes planning. Healing is action. Healing is Hope.

Let's count the ways Peoples Church has healed and supports others' healing in 2019 and 2020:

- Refurbished our building for Sesquicentennial 2019.
- Partnered with other denominations for services

and gardening.

- Updated faith offerings for children, youth, and adults.
- Upgraded lighting, the HVAC system, and technology.
- Pivoted in a "New York Minute" to provide inspiring ZOOM services and programs for all near and far. (Maine, Florida, Texas, California, Alaska)
- Initiated phone tree callers and note senders to keep in touch, especially with our more vulnerable members.
- Distributed Easter treats to children to help with normalcy.
- Honored members who have died.
- Married couples virtually.
- Shared grief over the derecho in outdoor services.
- Worked mightily with friends to remove debris and secure our building from storm damage.
- Compassionately helped people impacted by the derecho.
- Enjoyed a calm, warm Sunday for water communion at Indian Creek Nature Center.
- Studied and met together via ZOOM to share, solve problems, and celebrate.
- Called a competent, creative, compassionate developmental minister who has assembled a dream team of staff to manage and guide the congregation's mission and goals.
- Elected dedicated board members who work diligently in governance policy for the good of the members and larger community.

Healing is bit by bit. Up and down. Remembering. Reflecting. Choosing to be of Hope. Healing is, in Marcy's words, "powerful connections."

May it be so. M~

***Please click on
Marion's picture
to enjoy her
video column this
month.***



NOVEMBER 15 Special Congregational Meeting 12pm

By now you should have received your official meeting notice for November 15th. This will be a very brief meeting—only a few minutes. It can be hard to get past all the legalese to break down what this meeting is for—we are changing our Articles of Incorporation from a renewal of every 50 years to “in perpetuity”. No longer renewing this document with the Secretary of State will save us time and money.



You are invited to A Virtual Pre-Thanksgiving Social

No cooking, no housecleaning, just Peoples People and friends, sharing a Fall memory, favorite food idea, a warm beverage by your fire and great companionship.

Friday November 20th 7-8:00 PM
On Zoom

Hosted by: Sheryl Ochs, Manny Patterson, & Joye Winey

The Zoom invitation will be emailed prior to the 20th.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

On **November 8** at 9:45am the **SJC Forum** we will be showing half of a YouTube video called *Whose Faith Is It Anyway? A Black UU Theological Framework Panel Discussion 2/14/19* followed by discussion.

Way to go People's people! \$914 was raised and donated to the Equal Justice Initiative from our second quarter First Sunday Plate Collection. This is the highest amount ever donated. Thank you for your support of organizations doing the work to address racial injustice and bring about equality in our country's institutions and systems.

For the remainder of the year the proceeds from our First Sunday Plate Collections will go to the Youth Restorative Justice Project of Kids First.

Letter to the Editor in the Cedar Rapids Gazette

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Don't squander this opportunity, white people

Church groups, card clubs and drinking buddies should examine white supremacy

Rev. Rebecca Hinds and Marcia Swift

Ever since the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis by an indifferent and callous police officer was caught on camera, white Americans seem to be finally waking up to the unfairness and injustice perpetrated on Black citizens by police and the criminal justice system. In the months that followed Floyd's death many white people showed up to protests and demonstrations ... [**click here to read the entire editorial**](#)

**FOOD PANTRY
NEEDS**

Fruit	Boxed Meals
Soup	Peanut Butter
Canned Meat	Cereal
Boxed Potatoes	



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 23 at 7pm

The Interreligious Council of Linn County will be hosting the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service online this year. Prayers and reflections from different faith traditions will be shared and religious scholar, Jason Mahn, from Augustana College will be our featured speaker. Come join your neighbors from other traditions for an evening filled with gratitude and hope.



The Shared Pulpit

Thursdays, 4-6pm twice a month

Starting in January 2021

Have you ever wanted to preach a sermon? Do you dream about becoming a Worship Associate, but feel a little too scared to volunteer? Or are you just curious about the art of preaching and ready to learn more about the theory and theology of it?

Join Rev. Rebecca for an eight-session workshop all about preaching. Participants will practice writing and gradually build towards composing a high-quality sermon of their own. Contact Rev. Rebecca to sign up!

LAST CHANCE!

This is it, your *LAST CHANCE* to purchase one or both of our fabulous t-shirts. They are great gifts for UU friends and non UU friends alike!

To Order
[Click here!](#)



Peoples Christmas Carol Singalong

Friday, December 18 7pm

Zoom invitations will be sent



fa la la la la
la la la la



OPTIONS FOR GIVING WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

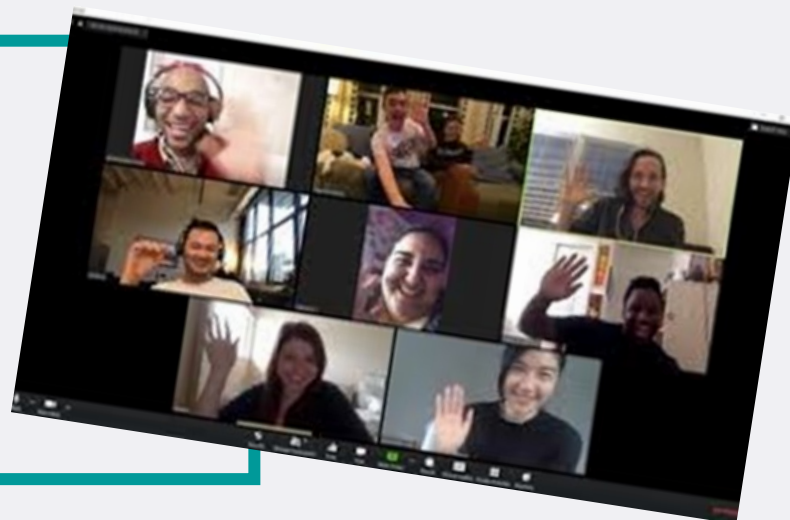
Here are three options for paying your pledge and/or giving to Peoples Church:

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.

ZOOM HOSTING!

If you are Zoom comfortable and would like to help by hosting worship in the sanctuary or co-hosting from home, please contact David Wise.

dre@peoplesuu.org



Finance Team Update

The Finance Team met on October 15th by Zoom to review the finance reports and discuss 2021 budget recommendations to Board of Trustees.

The first three quarters of 2020 (January 1 through September 30) were positive:

January through September Income \$162,740

January through September Expenses \$152,391

Post-Election Vigil & Community Gathering

Thursday November 5 7pm on Zoom

Hosted by Side with Love and Unitarian Universalist Association.

**PROTECT
YOURSELF
FROM
SPAM!**

Please remember Rev. Rebecca would NEVER email you to ask for money or gift cards. If you get an email like this, do not respond. And by all means, call the office if you are unsure.

ALSO

NO ONE from Peoples Church will email you to ask for your social security number or date of birth. DO NOT give this information out! Please call the office to report any such emails.

Office - 319-362-9827

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.



Date	Day	Time	Event
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1	Sunday	all day 11am 12pm	Daylight Savings Time Ends Worship Annual church-wide FF Halloween Party & Costume Contest
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3	Tuesday	all day	Election Day
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4	Wednesday	4:30 – 5:30pm 7 – 8pm	Membership Committee Meeting Election Debrief
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8	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am 11am 12:15pm	SJ Forum : First half of Video Whose Faith Is It Anyway? A Black UU Theological Framework Panel Discussion Worship Worship Associates
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11	Wednesday	all day	Veterans Day - We thank you all for your service.
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12	Thursday	7 – 8pm	Finance Team
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15	Sunday	10am 11am 12pm	Faith Formation Worship Special Congregational Meeting
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18	Wednesday	1 – 2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
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19	Thursday	7 – 8:30pm	PCUU Monthly Board Meeting
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22	Sunday	10am 11am	Faith Formation Worship
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23	Monday	all day 7-8pm	Rev. Rebecca's Birthday InterReligious Council Thanksgiving Service on Zoom
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26	Thursday	all day	Happy Thanksgiving - Office closed
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27	Friday	all day all day	Office closed Native American Heritage Day
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28	Sunday	11am	Worship
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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
Sue Davis
Erin Ogle
Marta Hershner

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

October 26—November 8 | Deb Booth

November 9-22 | Susie Hauter

November 23-December 6 | Jan Federer

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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



**PEOPLES
CHURCH**
4980 GORDON AVE. NW
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52405