# THE VOICE December 2020

# Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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



Peoples Church UU Cedar Rapids, Iowa YouTube Channel
www.peoplesuu.org

Dear Ones,

There is only one month left in 2020 and I suspect many of us are happy about that. It has been a long, difficult year full of



anxiety, stress, and loss. We were inundated all year long with election news and drama in our political system, we have been living under a global pandemic and economic recession, and we survived yet another natural disaster- the derecho of August 2020.

So as the year winds down, I can't be the only one ready to officially say, "goodbye 2020 and good riddance!"

But I am trying not to get too far ahead of myself. The calendar still says December 2020 after all. And as I don't want to wish time away, I find myself wondering how can I not only get through, but maybe even thrive in these final days of the year?

How about you? How will you spend your time this month? Without the usual hustle and bustle of the holidays, how will you experience the next few weeks? How will you move through this strange and full time we live in? How will you find peace and wholeness?

We all know we can never get any time back, so before we jump ahead and leave this year behind, let us each take the time to be mindful and present; to dwell in the wonderous stillness of early winter before it slips into the artic chill of January. It is well worth it! For if you ask me, the hush of December is truly a magical time, rich with meaning and tradition, and full of chances to be here now. To be still. Let's not rush it.

Please join us on Sunday mornings this month to engage with our monthly theme of STILLNESS and to mindfully tune into the present moment.

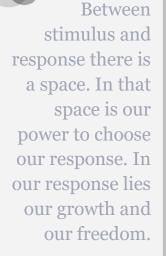
In addition, be sure to check out our special worship and social of-

> ferings— a Christmas Carol sing, a Blue Christmas Service, our annual Christmas Eve service, and a Celebration Concert at the end of the month.

Beloveds, the future will arrive in time, it always does, but let's not be hasty. For now, let's see if we can slow down, be still, and fully experience the final days of 2020. To do so, simply breathe and let yourself occupy the space between "stimulus and response." In

doing so, you will grow and be free.

Happy Holidays, Rev. Rebecca



-Viktor E. Frankl

free.

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# Don't miss our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting!

Sunday, December 6, 2020 at noon
Attendees will log into Zoom through the worship service link.



# 6ТН

#### Celebrating and Surviving the Holidays

The holidays are going to be very different this year. How can we make peace with what is and maybe even find some holiday magic during a pandemic? Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Jason Wright.

# **13TH**

#### Faith Formation Holiday Program

Service led by the children in our Faith Formation Program.

### Merry Yule!

## **20TH**

On the day before the longest night of the year we will honor the darkness and prepare our hearts and homes for the returning of the light. Service led by Rev. Rebecca and Deb Booth. Music by Angie Pierce Jennings.

# Blue Christmas Service at 4:30pm in the Peoples Church parking lot

### **21ST**

This special service will provide all who are feeling vulnerable and alone this year a place to lament, grieve, and experience community. We will gather in the parking lot, stay in our cars, and tune into the service on FM radio. An option to Zoom from home will also be available. Service led by Rev. Rebecca and David Wise.

## Christmas Eve Service at 4:30pm

## **24TH**

Join us online for our annual Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols. We will hear the Christmas story, sing our favorite carols, and welcome love and peace into the world. Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Judy Mitschelen.

#### The Varieties of Awe II Concert

## 27TH

Join us to say farewell to 2020 and CELEBRATE all that Peoples has done to thrive in a difficult year. This Zoom concert will feature many of Peoples favorite musicians. Service organized by Bryan Davis.

# **Nurturing the Flame**

**Brave and Bold Marion Patterson, Board President** 

2020 has been a difficult year. Full of doubt. Fraught with fear. Looking back and ahead to a new year I see that Peoples people, our staff, and friends near and far have been Brave and Bold. Each day living our values, mission, and ends. (Check them out on our web page)

#### Here's how:

The seemingly empty church building is indeed alive because WE are The Church. The building has had appropriate activity as individuals manage the details of church life.

By pivoting to Virtual programming, we reached a wider audience. Those who travel or winter in warmer climes and have loose connections to Peoples. This will continue even when we move back into the physical building.

We've ZOOMed into the technology era. Interacting compassionately with each other. Teams, like social justice, boldly pursue their missions. Board meetings are creative. Remember you are welcome to listen in any time. Just alert Rev. Rebecca or David Wise, our director of Faith Formation, who can forward the link.

And check out programming by the goofy "Guerrilla Zinks"? Check out the activities designed to help all of us to weather Iowa winter months in good humor and spirits. The name is a mystery, so you become a sleuth to figure it out.

Your strong support has created solid finances and allowed us to help others in need. You've sent notes, emails, made calls, distributed food and fun "baskets" for kids, and refurbished the building damaged in the derecho. Your support makes it possible for us to plan forward.

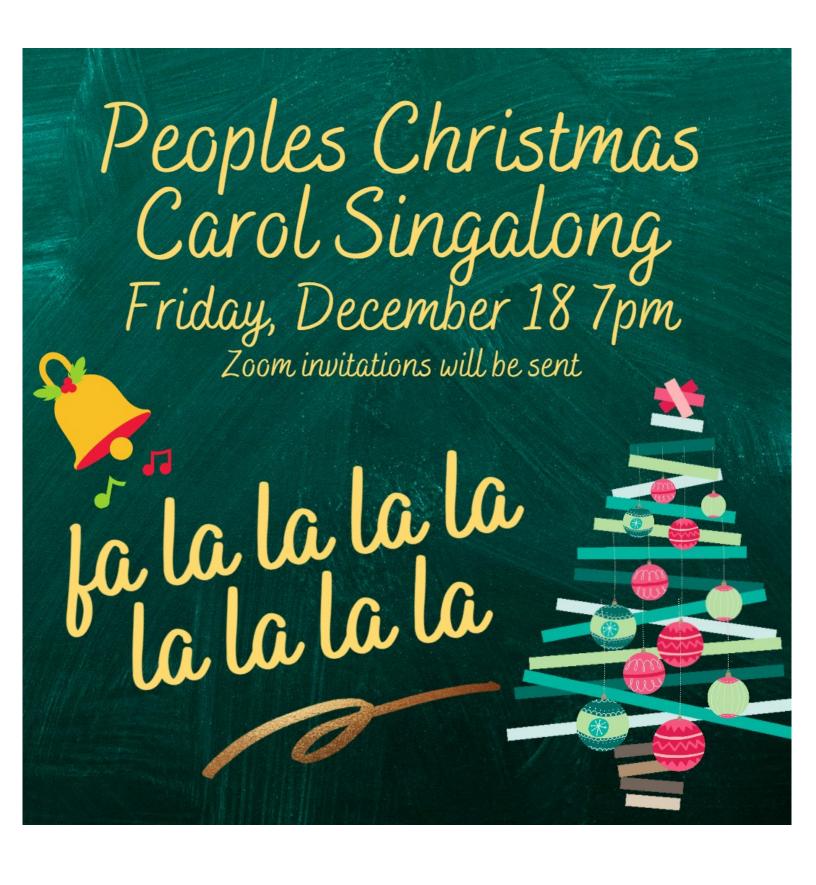
The dedicated board you have elected collaborates to serve Peoples through Policy Governance. We discuss broad topics and support the staff. We model direct communication, slow down when in doubt, seek information, and ask for help. These practices strengthen our relationships, trust, and covenanting. Above all, we engage in a variety of daily spiritual practices.

Recently board members and staff shared their thoughts. "We have kept a routine...." "We have worked with the broader community." "We've made great progress on all developmental ministry fronts." "I have managed my own expectations (of what and how to accomplish tasks)." "We speak with one voice on church matters. (Policy Governance)"

Bravely and Boldly attitudes we upgrade technology to better serve all, work to maintain a healthy capacity as we all "row to the other side."

May it be so. M∼





Wise Words From David Wise Director Faith Formation



This past Saturday Karen and I flew to Florida with our daughter and her sons. (There are all sorts of problems with doing that in these COVID times, but we made the trip.) She recently adopted her 5-year-old son, and it was his first trip in an airplane.

The amazement at things we so often take for granted was so much fun to watch! He was amazed at all the planes at the airport, amazed at the size of the engine, amazed he could see the clouds from the top, and the next day it continued! He was amazed at the ocean (yes, grandpa made sure the ocean was part of the itinerary), amazed at the birds running along the sand, and amazed at all the cars everywhere! It has been a fun couple of days with him and I would imagine the rest of the trip will be just as amazing!

In these times of pandemic, politics, and concern it has been fun to watch things that are all so common to us through the eyes of a young child. The happiness and the smile that the littlest

thing brings to his face is thrilling to watch. I hope he never loses that sense of amazement! It seems like as adults that it is harder for us to find things amazing and enthralling!

In this month when we celebrate and remember so many things like:

Advent (Christian) Nov. 29 -Dec. 24, 2020

Bodhi Day (Buddha's Enlightenment) - Dec. 8

Chalica (UU) Dec. 3 - Dec. 9

Hanukkah (Jewish) - Dec. 11, 2020, begins on the evening of the 10

Yule, Solstice (Pagan/Wiccan) - Dec. 21

Christmas Eve - Dec. 24, 2020

Christmas Day - Dec. 25, 2020

Holy Innocents Day (Christian) - Dec. 28

Kwanzaa - Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

Can we look these with new eyes and thoughts? Can we transport ourselves back in time before things became so common to us? Can we see the lights differently? Can we watch the flickers of the candles dance in a new way? Can we pause, open our eyes, and see things amazingly?

May you have a WONDERFUL HOLI-DAY SEAON even in these challenging times knowing that amazement is indeed there for us to see!

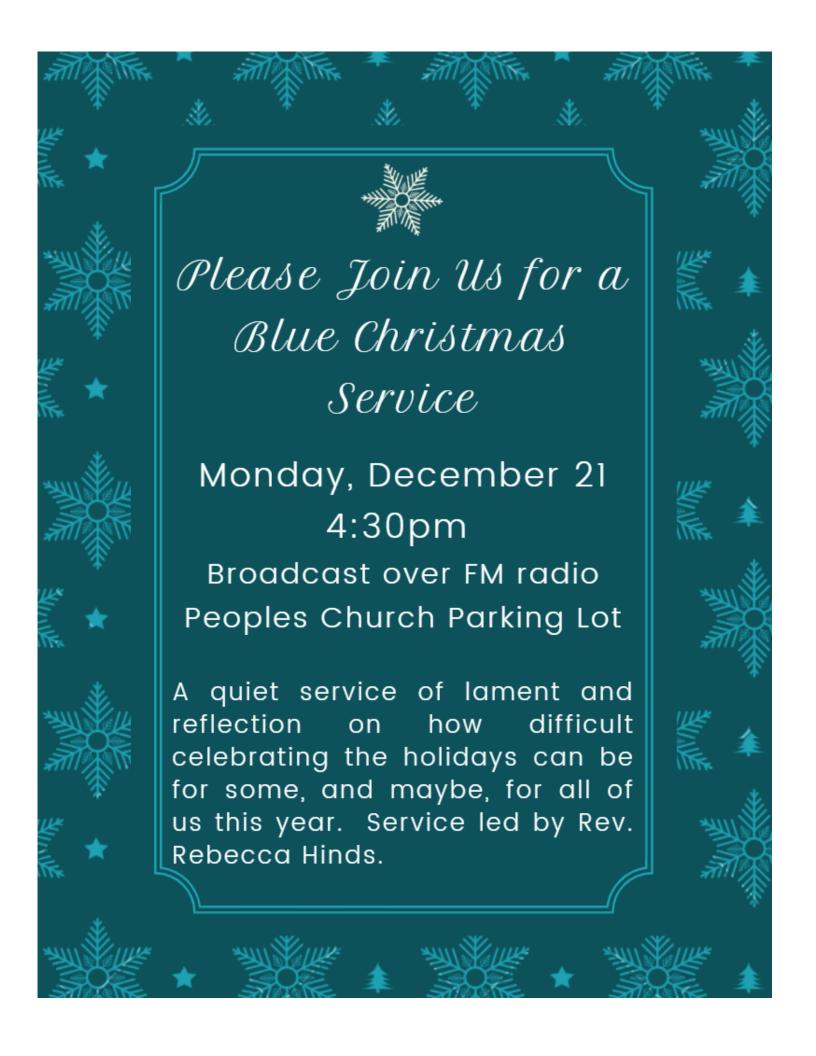
David

#### **Faith Formation Schedule:**

Dec 6 Class at 10 am

Dec 13 Holiday Program as part of worship

Dec 20 No Class



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice Forum: Sunday, December 13, 2020 via Zoom. Why do Black UUs feel the need to have their own space within our faith? How do Black people feel about entering a majority white UU space? Here a panel discussion with members of the Black Lives of UU at our Forum on 12/13 with discussion to follow. A link will be included with the Worship Service Link email.

**The Patch Program** is a new initiative formed by Matthew 25, Waypoint, HA-CAP, Habitat for Humanity and the Neighborhood Finance Corp. The program utilizes volunteers to help with

home repairs on houses impacted by the derecho. At this point they are trying to help people make their home liveable before the winter. They are covering holes in roofs and walls and shattered windows and replacing mobile home skirting. Waypoint is handling applications from homeowners who need assistance which is open to people who fall at 80% of the median income or below which is \$68,150 for a family of four. Skilled volunteers and contractors who can help with emergency repairs are being sought. For more information call Waypoint at 319-366-7999 or Matthew25 at 319-362-2214.



# 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!

# **HOLIDAY MEAL**

In celebration of the December interfaith holidays we are offering our congregants in need a pre-cooked, take out meal from HyVee. Your meal can be ordered in accordance with the date of your celebration.



Please contact Rev. Rebecca to make arrangements:

319-362-9827 or minister@peoplesuu.org



### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

The Point Foundation, the nation's largest provider of scholarships to LGBTQ+ students, has opened their application period for the 2021-2022 school year.

#### **Students receive:**

- Financial Support for every academic year (up to four years)
- Mentoring
- Leadership Training

Access to Point Foundation network of LGBTQ scholars and more than 400 alumni

#### Eligible applicants:

- Must be enrolled or intending to enroll at an accredited college or university based in the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska, in the fall of 2021.
- Must be "out" as a person who identifies as a member of the LGBTQ community.
- Must be enrolled full-time for the full academic year.

Must <u>submit an application online</u>. The application opened November 1, 2020. *The application closes January 25, 2021*.

More information regarding eligibility can be found **here**.

### For more information <u>click to view this flyer</u>.

<u>Point Foundation</u> empowers promising lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ) students to achieve their full academic and leadership potential – despite the obstacles often put before them – to make a significant impact on society.

Feel free to reach out to **applications@pointfoundation.org** with any questions or further information.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** 

Fruit Boxed Meals

Soup Peanut Butter

Canned Meat Cereal

Boxed Potatoes Veg—not beans



PEOPLES CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

# A Zoom Concert at 11 am Sunday, December 27

Join us to say farewell to 2020 and **CELEBRATE** all that Peoples has done to thrive in a difficult year

Featuring many of Peoples' favorite musicians
Watch for details in the eWeekly

# 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 from your laptop or desktop at **www.peoplesuu.org** go to the Donate Now tab. *This option does not work from your smart phone.*
- 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.

## **Finance Team Update**

The Finance Team met on 11/12/20 to review financial and photovoltaic task group reports, building repair plan, and discuss with Board Members the proposed 2020 budget.

Cash flow for October was negative:

- · October income \$18,269
- · October expenses \$19,794



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.



				Merry Christmas
Date	Day	Time	Event	Poce Adapt A
2	Wednesday	4:30 – 5:30pm	Membership Committee Meeting	FAITH FORMATIC
3	Thursday	all day	Chalica (through the 9th)	PROGRAI
6	Sunday	11am – 12pm 12 – 1pm	Worship Semi-Annual congregational Meeting	Sunday, December 13, during Worship
8	Tuesday	all day	Bodhi Day (Buddha's Enlightenment)	
10	Tuesday	6:30 – 7:30pm	Finance Meeting	
11	Friday	all day	Hanukkah (through the 18th)	
13	Sunday	9:45 – 10:45am 11am – 12pm 12:15 – 1:15pm	SJC Forum: Second half of Video Whose Faith Black UUTheological Framework Panel Discuss Worship Faith Formation Holiday Program Worship Associates	
16	Wednesday	1 – 2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting	
17	Thursday	7 – 8:30pm	PCUU Board Meeting	
18	Friday	7 – 8pm	Christmas Carol Singalong	
20	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship	
21	Monday	4:30 – 5:30pm all day	Blue Christmas Service Yule	
24	Thursday	4:30pm	Christmas Eve Service	
25	Friday	all day all day	Christmas Day Asarah B'Tevet (Tenth of Tevet)	
26	Saturday	all day	Kwanzaa (through January 1)	
27	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship	
28	Monday	all day	Holy Innocents Day	
31	Thursday	all day	New Year's Eve	

#### **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

<u>Office Hours</u> Tuesday 8:30-2:30 Wednesday 8:30-2:30 Thursday 8:30-2:30 Friday 8:30-10:30

<u>Childcare Providers</u> Valerie Angerer Zieser, Alexis Wauford & Jenna Straatmann

<u>Custodian</u> 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.





#### **Good Neighbors**

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

#### **Paraministers**

November 23-December 6 | Jan Federer December 7-20 | Rose Gabe December 21- January 3 | Dorothy Hershner

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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



