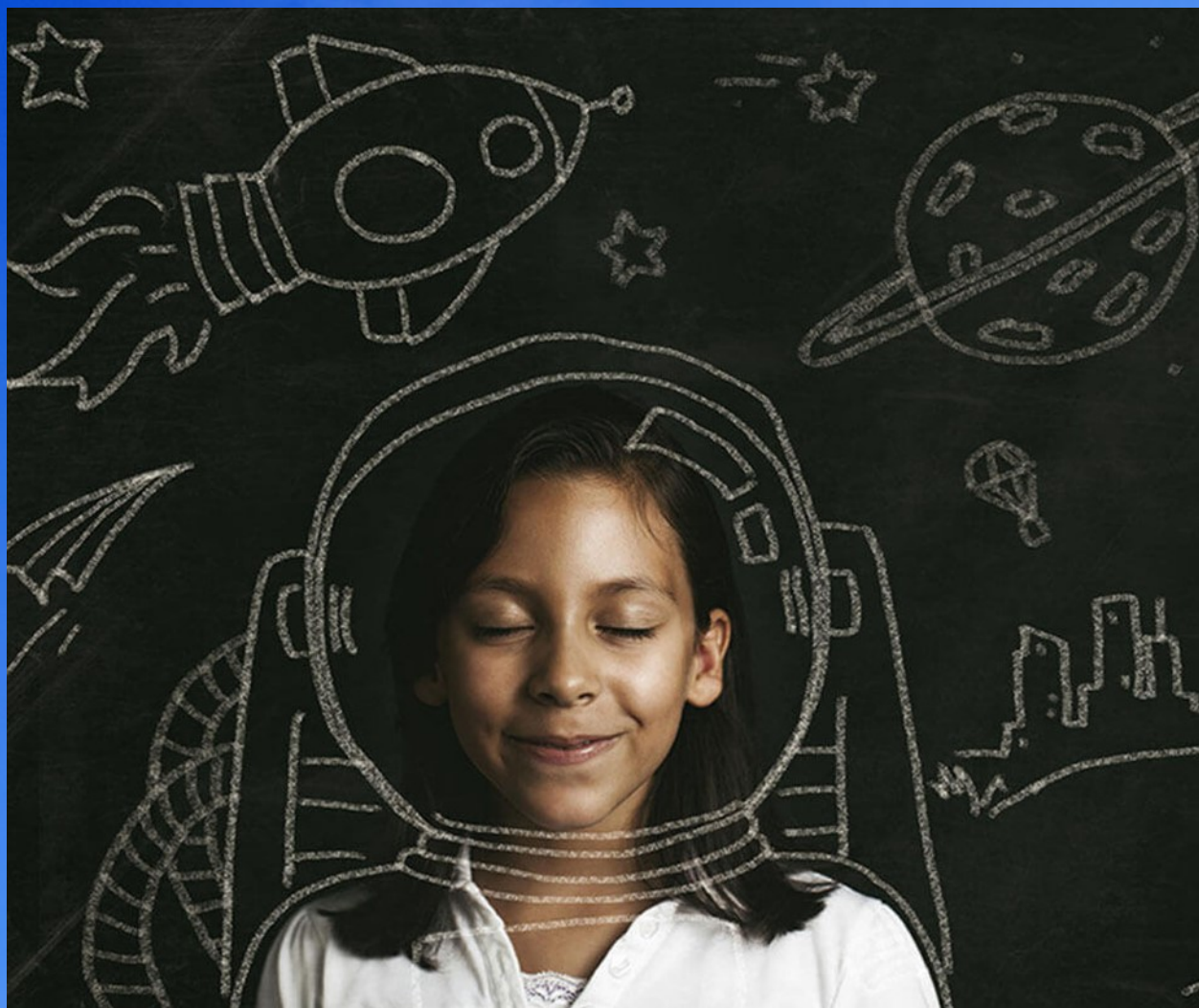


THE VOICE

January 2021

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,

Over the years I have heard many parents wonder out loud why they bother buying their children toys. Kids seem to have just as much fun (or more!) playing with the empty box!

On Christmas morning this year I found myself wondering the exact same thing. Why had we bothered to get our daughter any Christmas presents at all when she ended up playing more with the empty boxes and wrapping paper than anything else?

Toys come to children predesigned. They have a specific purpose already.

But a box?

There is no pre-determined purpose for an empty box. It can become a rocket ship, a boat, a castle, or anything else a child could possibly imagine. The sky is the limit.

This kind of play involves real freedom. It requires empty space and room to move and grow. Likewise, in order to use our imaginations in other areas of our lives, we need to let go of what we already know. We need to free ourselves from preconceived notions and let go of old habits.

As the calendar turns to a new year, and 2021 lies before us like a blank canvass, it seems once again like the perfect time of year to do some of this work.

So, as a goal for 2021, I wonder if we can find the freedom that children access so easily? I wonder if we can free ourselves from old habits and old ideas? I wonder if we can repurpose our lives and move forward with more creativity and hope into a brighter future?

Yes, the coronavirus pandemic has changed everything we know about life. For some of us, our familiar busy schedules and over programmed daily lives have vanished into endless free time.

For others, essential workers in particular, the pandemic has added unwanted chaos and stress to life. But in either case, this crisis has presented us with an opportunity as a society to reimagine our world. The old ways no longer make sense. So, perhaps this is the year we truly make room for creativity and growth and stop managing our lives in order to start imagining them?

To get started, think about what space you have in your life. Can you create more of it? Can you use it to imagine the life you want to live and the world you want to live in?

I'll meet you there.

In faith,
Rev. Rebecca

Imagination is
more important
than knowledge.
-Albert Einstein



JANUARY 2021 IMAGINATION

The Question Box

3RD

This is your chance to ask Rev. Rebecca any question you want (well within reason)! As we launch a month devoted to imagination, we will first orient ourselves in a position of curiosity as we explore the power of asking questions. Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Randy Arcenas and Lu Wilcox.

Lessons from America's First Social Worker

10TH

In the early 1800s Joseph Tuckerman walked the streets of Boston to better understand the needs of the poor. Instead of simply doing the same old thing, he imagined a new way. What can we learn in our own time from this important figure in our UU history? Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Joan Jacobs.

The Dream...

17TH

Almost 60 years ago Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream! Have the wings of the eagle lifted us close or is there much work to do? Service led by David Wise. Music by Judy Mitschelen.

Taking a Break from Imagination

24TH

Imagination is a wonderful tool and a good friend. But sometimes it can fill us with fear and dread if we let ourselves imagine the worst. How can we free ourselves from worry and anxiety? Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

First Signs of Hope

31ST

A special celebration of Imbolc, the pagan Celtic festival which brings us out of winter and into spring. Service led by Deb Booth.

Nurturing the Flame

Imagination

Marion Patterson, Board President

Imagination coupled with action yields growth. Growth in our stated values, mission, and ends. In community engagement. In our spirit as Loving, committed people.

For 151 years, Peoples Church has embraced imagination. Members have visioned then dug in to accomplish our purposes.

Endowment: through financial ups and downs Peoples has endured. Then, with gifts small and large far-sighted members established an endowment which has yielded financial stability. This places Peoples in a strong position to live our mission, “leading compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action.”

Facility: Peoples envisioned a facility that offered needed 21st Century amenities. One that is accessible, has fewer structural challenges, is free from mold, and accommodates technology. What is wonderful, is that Peoples cared for not only the future but also honored the past. We brought with us and repurposed significant artifacts from the beloved downtown building. After several years, we have re-furbished our Gordon Ave NW space and truly made it our own. We continue forward thinking planning for a more energy efficient building. Savings we can use for programming.

Pandemic: The novel coronavirus turned the world upside down. In response, Peoples staff and members turned on a dime embracing technology to check in, provide engaging services and programs, and engaged good old-fashioned communications – notes, phone calls, gift baskets, and in-person outside gatherings after the derecho and for Blue Christmas. Creativity continues to blossom

with programming to help us through the winter.

Outreach: Peoples has always been community minded. United Nations activism. Support during the Indian Trials of the 1970s. Today’s emphasis on Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ, economic equality, and sustainability all demonstrate how we form an idea into action.

Inclusion: We partner with other congregations in programming, and providing space for services and gardening. Helping to support the wider community.

Policy Governance and Developmental Ministry: Fortunately, we are more organized and clearer about roles than the famous Abbot and Costello comedy, [Who’s On First?](#) That is thanks to the visioning and groundwork laid over four years by members, board, minister and staff. We all have benefited from this diligent work by asking questions, honoring our different roles, referring to policy governance, and using the Covenant of Right Relations with each other.

In short, our imagination over decades coupled with work, has yielded success. As we move into 2021 may we continue to embrace our imagination, pair with action, acknowledge our sense of loss, and rejoice in our resiliency. We, Peoples people, are in a good place.

May it be so. M~





First Sunday Plate Collection: Advocates for Social Justice



The first quarter First Sunday Plate Collection will go to the Advocates for Social Justice, a grassroots group of young adults formed in Cedar Rapids following the murder of George Floyd. The group organized large protests in the city. This group was instrumental in advocating for a Police Citizens Review Board with the City Council. Following the derecho the group organized sites for the provision of food, diapers, cleaning supplies, and other needs. They actively worked on voter registration of youth and people of color up until the November election. They continue to work to meet community needs and advocate for law enforcement reforms.

JANET (DRAGO) OBANDO Marion

Janet (Drago) Obando, 68, died Dec. 16, 2020, while at home and with her family at her side. She was greatly loved by her family and friends. Janet was born in Omaha, Neb., on Feb. 28, 1952. She was the eldest of five siblings born to Esther (Thurman) and Bill Drago. Janet attended Linn-Mar schools from kindergarten through graduation in 1970 and received a B.S. from ISU in family services and an M.S. in adult education. Janet served in the Peace Corps in Colombia from 1974 to 1976, where she met her future husband of 40 years, Heberth C. Obando. Janet provided leadership in a variety of student initiatives. She was employed with the Extension Service as 4H & youth leader in Hamilton and Wright counties for eight years. She also served international students as a specialist with the 4H International Exchange Programs on the ISU campus and as the associate director for the IEOP (ISU English & Orientation Program) for three years. The Obando family moved to Wichita and Janet became the international student advisor at Butler Community College for eight years. When the family moved to Jacksonville, Texas, she taught Spanish for five years before returning to the home farm near



Marion, Iowa, where she taught Spanish for 10 years in the Springville School District. Janet loved gardening, hosting family gatherings, traveling, fixing up the farm house she grew up in as well as biking and dancing with her husband. She wanted to thank the staff and volunteers at the

Hall Perrine Cancer Center (Mercy Medical Center) and Hospice for their care. She especially wanted to thank Dr. Deborah Wilbur for her expertise. Janet will be sorely missed by her family, Christopher in Wichita, Kan. (Alma) with Jeramiah, Jazleen and Janet; Nicolas in Houston, Texas (Hoda) with Mia; Liliana Roddy in Houston, Texas (Blake) with Alliana and Rex; and Peter in Winterset, Iowa (Kelsi) with Daniel. Her compassion and guidance will be missed by her siblings, Melissa Rucker (Denny) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Melinda Vance (Al) in West Plains, Mo., Will Drago (Chris Clements) in Stoughton, Wis., and Robin Vasquez (Felix) in Bakersfield, Calif. There will be a small family service. In honor of Janet and in lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Iowa Yucatan Partners of the Americas (c/o William Edwards, 2232 170th St., Boone, IA 50036) or to the Van Vechten Guild (c/o Peoples Church UU, 4980 Gordon Ave. NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405).

Wise Words
From David Wise
Director Faith
Formation



What a year!!!

Normally we are looking back at the year just ended with fondness and looking forward with anticipation to the year that is coming. This year I think most of us are just looking forward to 2020 being in our rear-view mirror and not remembering much of this year! Yes, there are some good things that have happened:

We have learned we are far more resilient than we ever thought!

We have learned that whatever our age we can learn new things like Zoom and other technologies that have allowed us to survive.

We have learned that we can survive a few days to a few weeks without power and internet. We also learned how hard that was as well.

I am sure there are many other things we have learned individually and collectively this year.

As we move into 2021 we have high hopes for so many things!

We look forward to the vaccine being readily available and effective.

We look forward to a brighter future for our country and world.

We look forward to getting back together for Faith Formation events and classes!

Just a few more months and things will be better! We have to believe! We know there are good things ahead for us!

David

On a personal note—THANK YOU for the Holiday Gift.

Also, a special thanks to the Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, Congregation, and Rev. Rebecca for continuing to pay our nursery workers through the end of 2020. It was very helpful to them in these difficult and uncertain times!

Faith Formation Schedule:

Classes: January 3, 17, 24



Friday, January 22, 2021!

Family Scavenger Hunt

7-8:00 PM

Please join us for a family scavenger hunt.

No coats, no tripping in the dark.

Virtually in your own home!

Come join us to find some things

in your home you didn't know you had.

All ages encouraged, welcomed and needed.

Sponsored by the Guerrilla ZINKS:

Manny Patterson

Sheryl Ochs

Clarice Krippner

Laura McGraw

Joye Winey

SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Join Peoples Church Unitarian
Universalist in a conversation**



Dr Kesho Scott

Where Do We Go from Here? *Racial Justice in 2021*

Featuring: Dr Kesho Scott, Associate Professor of American Studies and Sociology at Grinnell College and an award winning writer. Dr Scott has led hundreds of professional and community-based workshops on “unlearning isms.” She has developed an “affirmative duty” technique for moving people toward being actively and personally anti-racist and anti-sexist.

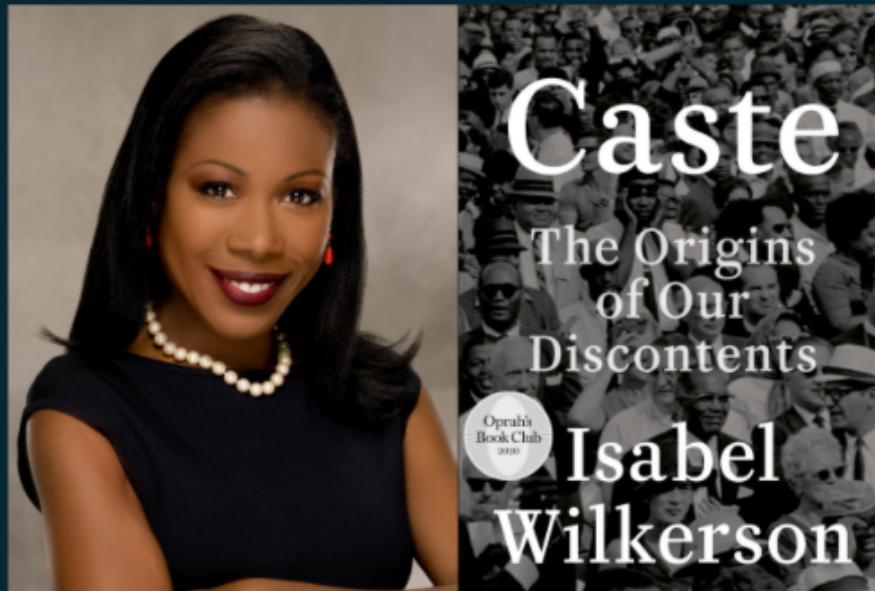
Also presenting: Jackie Jordan of Marengo speaking on raising biracial children in a small town in Iowa and Pastor Kate West of Belle Plaine on holding conversations on race in rural Iowa.

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021
7 pm (CST)**

Register in advance at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlodOmtpzstHNA6f0yZH4lFVZzVo_uAwBrT

Space is limited so register early. You will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom meeting ID number.



Want to take a deep dive into the compulsion deep within ourselves to categorize and rank other individuals?

Want to know the history of caste practices in India?

Want to know how our culture has been influenced by caste practices and how they influenced Nazi Germany?

Want to have a sounding board to discuss these issues as you read?

The Social Justice Council invites you to join our book group reading *Caste, The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson. This well reviewed and recommended book is available in hardcover, ebook, and audio book. If you are interested but your budget is constrained, contact Rev. Rebecca to borrow (or obtain a copy) from the church.

The main text of the books is 388 pages, which we plan to read in 100-page bites or so throughout the year. There are also about 76 pages of notes, bibliography and index. Although it is well researched, it not full of jargon or difficult to read.

The day and time of our discussions will be chosen based on when you tell us you are available. We will try to find a time when most of us can meet on Zoom, hopefully early to mid-March for our first session.

Send Clarice Krippner an email at cbkrip@gmail.com by 2/1/2021 indicating your interest and available times.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Fruit
Soup
Canned Meat
Boxed Potatoes



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 **submit an application online**. The application opened November 1, 2020. ***The application closes January 25, 2021.***

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

For more information ***click to view this flyer***.

Point Foundation 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.

An Imagination Walk

Come walk the Phoenix Harmony Labyrinth in the front yard of Marion and Rich Patterson. Reflect on this past year, finding even small moments of Grace as you leave sorrow behind. Imagine our upcoming year as we plan and carry out our creative activities. The Harmony Labyrinth is large enough to accommodate several walkers at one time.

Pilgrims will enter on the right side, walk the path to the center. There, turn left around the tree and exit to the left, following that path back out.

1080 30th St Drive SE Cedar Rapids. Pull in the drive on the west side by the green mailbox. Pull all the way around and park with driver tires on the grass/snow so others can pull out as needed. (if snow is not too deep). If you choose, stay in your car and hold space for other pilgrims.

We will have a warm beverage by the garage alcove that Jill will serve.

Wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. Flashlight if you choose. Masks required. Maintain physical distance. Blessings to all as we "end" and "begin" all at once.

Thursday, December 31st 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Friday, January 1st 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



Blue Christmas 12/21/20



Christmas Eve 12/24/20

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 12/10/20 to review financial reports and discuss related issues.

Cash flow for November was positive:

- November income \$18,408
- November expenses \$15,695

Thanks to all who have kept up to date with your 2020 pledge payments!

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



Please Be on the Alert!

Please watch for an email from your Developmental Ministry Evaluation Team coming very soon. This email will contain the link for a short survey asking your thoughts on the progress that Peoples Church has made during our church's Developmental Ministry. For five years, Rev. Rebecca and the church's Board have been working on the five goals developed from your input and now need to take an in-depth look at where we are and what should be focused on in the next couple of years. Your input is very important. Please take the time to participate in the survey.



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.

January

Date	Day	Time	Event
3	Sunday	10am-10:45am 11am – 12pm	Faith Formation Worship
6	Wednesday	4:30pm-5:30pm	Membership Committee Meeting
10	Sunday	11am – 12pm 12:15 – 1:15pm	Worship Worship Associates
13	Wednesday	7pm	Where Do We Go From Here? Racial Justice in 2021 <i>Featuring Dr. Kesho Scott</i>
17	Sunday	10am-10:45am 11am – 12pm	Faith Formation Worship
20	Wednesday	1 – 2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
21	Thursday	6:30pm	Finance Meeting
22	Friday	7 – 8pm	Zoom Scavenger Hunt sponsored by Guerilla ZINKS
24	Sunday	10am-10:45am 11am – 12pm	Faith Formation Worship
28	Thursday	7 – 8pm	PCUU Monthly Board Meeting
31	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship

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

Amy Bostwick | 775-2805 | sassafrass2011@gmail.com

Paraministers

December 21– January 3 | Dorothy Hershner
January 4-17 | Jan Federer
January 18-31 | Susie Hauter
February 1-14 | Deb Booth

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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

the Voice



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PEOPLES
CHURCH

4980 GORDON AVE. NW
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52405