

THE VOICE

February 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,

Beloved Community.

What does that even mean? What does it look like? Where can it be found?

The truth is, I don't know. I have never actually experienced Beloved Community.

Beloved Community is a realized eschatology. It is that which is "not now and yet shall be." It is a world in which all are free from injustice and suffering.

None of us have ever known this world.

You may recall that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. often talked about Beloved Community during his years of ministry. It was his way of describing his dream of a world without racism, poverty, or inequality. It was his way of naming the common good.

But Dr. King did not invent the concept.

"Beloved Community" can be traced back to 19th century American religious philosopher Josiah Royce (1855-1916). Royce coined the phrase "Beloved Community" as "a spiritual or divine community capable of achieving the highest good as well as the common good."

what we are up to as a faith community: nothing less than, "achieving the highest good as well as the common good."

It is a radical message to proclaim these days, isn't it? The common good seems to have really fallen out of favor in recent decades. Everyone is so concerned with individual rights and freedoms, that they forget about the rights and well-being of everyone else. But as my colleague Rev. Theresa Soto says, "All of us need all of us to make it."

Our ultimate end must be reconciliation; the end must be redemption; the end must be the creation of the beloved community.
-Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1956)

So, this month as we celebrate Black History Month and explore the theme of Beloved Community, let's try to remember this. "All of us need all of us to make it." Liberation is collective. We need everyone to be free or our freedom is meaningless. We need one another.

The Beloved Community may not yet exist, but it shall be.

May we be the ones to make it so.

In faith,
Rev. Rebecca



February 2021

Beloved Community

Your Growing Place

7

Oftentimes, people describe Peoples Church as their happy place. But how comfortable are we supposed to be? What is the relationship between comfort, growth, and beloved community? Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Deb and Pete.

Side with Love Sunday

14

What if to "side with love" meant making bold, faith-full choices? What if it were even a little bit scary? This worship service brings together worship leaders and musicians from across the country to offer hopeful, moving, challenging reminders about what we, as Unitarian Universalists, are called to do, and BE, in the world.

The Welcome Table

21

Where do we locate beloved community? And who is welcome at the table? Come explore the concept of radical hospitality both within and beyond Unitarian Universalism. Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Angie Pierce Jennings.

We're what??

28

We often refer to Peoples Church as a beloved community, but what the heck does that really mean? Until we each have clarity about the definition, we'll never be able to recognize, much less create and honor, that beloved community. Fortunately, we're UU's, so you don't have to agree with anyone else's definition; you just get to have one that works for you. So bring your magnifying glass to our virtual service on February 28th as we get clear about what it means to be a beloved community that really shines. Service Led by Kathleen Mavity. Music by Joan Jacobs.

Nurturing the Flame

Beloved Community

Marion Patterson, Board President

Beloved community does not just happen. Members of Peoples Church has labored diligently over 151 years to create, hold, repair and restore beloved community through our ups and downs.

At this time of the great unfolding, we can celebrate a time of strength.

Peoples Church as an institution is well into the developmental ministry process. The evaluation team (Kathy Juba, Scott Gay, David Miessler-Kubaneck, and Sue Davis) has asked each of you to complete a survey of developmental ministry. They have interviewed many for more complete perspectives. They will share the results of developmental ministry in the spring.

Over several years past boards have [honored our by-laws](#), forged [positive policies](#), lived our [covenant of right relations](#), and worked diligently with our developmental minister, Reverend Rebecca and her excellent team to support our beliefs through action as reflected in part in the [board meeting minutes](#). It is foundational work that provides stability.

You have been an integral part of all this, particularly this past year.

You have stepped up, supported each other, laughed, cried, given generously of your resources, and been engaged in the wider community. It's been work.

I like to remember that work is a four-letter word. Just like Love, Home, Care, Safe, Heal, Hope, Grow. They all take work. And, they reflect belovedness.

You have lived belovedness. May you receive belovedness in return.

May it be so. M~



Orienting ourselves to our world is beloved work. Finding our way to the future.

If you've always wanted to be at one of our board meetings, but just don't have the time to drop in or visit by Zoom, you can find the board minutes here:

[Peoples Board Minutes](#)

The Finance Team met on 1/21/20 to review financial reports and discuss financial planning for the future.

Cash flow for both December and the 2020 year was positive:

- December income \$16,826
- December expenses \$16,651
- 2020 income \$216,528
- 2020 expenses \$204,332

**WOW, we ended 2020
with a SURPLUS of
\$12,196!!!**

Additional good news:



*PCUU endowment monies have exceeded
the million-dollar mark!*

Thank you to everyone for your caring and generous support of
Peoples Church UU!

Dear Friends of Linda Hansen,

You are one of many who had a special love for Linda. Although she did not want her death marked by any formal service, I think she would be glad if friends gathered informally to share memories of her life and reflect on her goodness. We have talked with her sister, Marian, and she readily gave her blessing for such a venture. To this end, we are inviting you to a Zoom gathering on Thursday, February 25th at 7:00 pm CST to share in Linda's life and friendship.

The gathering would not have a formal structure and there would be no official prayer or eulogy. Everyone present would be given a chance to speak, but not required to do so. If you are interested and able to "attend," please respond to this in-

itation by February 15th and we will send you a Zoom link in plenty of time for the gathering. If you know anyone else who would like to attend, send us their email address and we will send them an invitation. If you do not have Zoom installed on your computer, it is a relatively simple operation. Go to <https://zoom.us>

RSVPs must be received by February 15th. Please RSVP to:

conlonj@mtmary.edu



Wise Words From David Wise Director Faith Formation



Anniversaries are usually a time that causes reflection!

With the 6 month anniversary of the derecho coming so close to the beginning of Lent what kind of message does that send? It is time we need to reflect. Couple that with the recent Developmental Ministry Survey of the congregation and there are many reasons to look back, look within, and look ahead.

Growing up Lent was not a time on the year that really meant much to me. I grew up in a Christian church but not one that practiced Lent. To me it was something that my Catholic friends did. As my life changed and I left the church of my youth I discovered the beauty and wonder of Lent. It has become something more important to me.

Lent is 40 days, not including Sundays, that Christians and others use as a time to improve themselves, reflect on where they are and where they are going. It is a time to think. It is a time to search within. It is a time to look to the future.

Around five years ago this congregation entered a period of reflection in order to improve itself. It was to be a five to seven year window to reflect, prepare, and seek direction for the times that are to come. As that window closes what has been learned? What can be gathered from all the changes that have been made?

What would a time of reflection say about Faith Formation? Right now so many things are hard because of the pandemic. What can become though? What needs to happen to make things even more

vital in the coming months and years?

The derecho devastated our community! The remnants are everywhere. On my way to the church I normally pass by Westdale Court Apartments. A sad reminder of that day. I take Jacolyn Drive on that trip as well. As I come down Jacolyn from Johnson Ave I am saddened every time at the loss of trees. The sky is beautiful but that drive used to be filled with trees. On that drive I recall and remember what was there and I remind myself that there is something better on the way.

As these anniversaries and Lent converge what about you? What can you improve? What can you do to bring more peace? What can you do to bring more justice?

David

Trivia April 9th 7pm. This is a fund-raiser for the congregation. We will play as teams. Up to 12 teams with up to 8 people per team. This will be done via Zoom. The cost will be \$50 per team. You can send a check to the church office, call the office with a credit card, or use the Give Plus app and choose fundraiser.

Categories will be: Science, music, movies, politics, history, Iowa, and religion.

Any questions email David at:
dre@peoplesuu.org. See flyer below

Faith Formation Schedule:

Classes February 21 and 28

There will no Easter Eggs to fill this year! I know how the congregation loves filling the eggs and watching the kids search! For safety reasons it will have to wait until 2022!



Get Ready to Party!
February 19th
7pm-8pm
for all ages

Sponsored by our own Guerilla ZINKS!

PEOPLES VIRTUAL MARDI GRAS!

You will need to get ready before you join us...Jump online and investigate Mardi Gras.

Choose to show us one Mardi Gras related thing you have made from what you have learned:

- A tasty Mardi Gras food
- A Mardi Gras mask or headdress
- A Mardi Gras costume
- A piece of Mardi Gras art
- A miniature Mardi Gras float

or?

Be prepared to answer some trivia questions about Mardi Gras!

LAISSEZ LES BONS
TEMPS ROULER!
LET THE GOOD TIMES
ROLL!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Team will hold a **forum on Sunday, February 14 at 9:45 am**. We will have a follow-up discussion on Dr. Kesho Scott's presentation of January 13th--Where Do We Go From Here? Racial Justice in 2021. If you were unable to attend the January 13 event you can view it on the Peoples UU Church YouTube channel.



Join us for Equity Conversations: Creating a Community of Belonging



EQUITY CONVERSATIONS

CREATING A COMMUNITY OF BELONGING

Every Tuesday in February via Zoom



The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission and the United Way of East Central Iowa are partnering to host a series of equity conversations each Tuesday evening in February, from 6:30pm-8pm.

The purpose of this series is to build awareness and understanding around equity within the areas of education, financial stability, and health.

Advance registration is required

Registration is only required once for the full series.

See below for the full schedule.

February 2, 2021: Equity and Education

February 9, 2021: Equity and Financial Stability|

February 16, 2021: Equity and Health

February 23, 2021: Next Steps

[Register here](#)



A Side With Love Watch Party:

The Black Church

February 16 & 17

8:45pm-11:15pm EST

Side With Love invites you to join as we livestream the premiere of PBS's The Black Church, an epic production about the impacts of the Black church movement on American society, culture, and politics. As Unitarian Universalists with our own unique history of engaging abolition and civil rights, it is important for us to know how our history has supported and has been in conflict with the Black church. The Black Church can also help us understand the rich tradition out of which our Black UU religious professionals and laypersons came to be and all that we bring to Unitarian Universalism.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the board and president elections that will take place at the Annual Meeting in May. Anyone who is interested or would like more information is invited to contact a member of the committee.

Nominating Committee:

Bryan Davis
Lu Wilcox
Geoff Johnson
Kris Davis - Board Liaison

PEOPLES VIRTUAL

Congregational
Fundraiser!

TRIVIA

MUSIC

Friday, April 9, 7pm
on Zoom!

RELIGION

MOVIES

Up to 12 teams with up to 8 people per team. The cost will be \$50 per team. You can send a check to the church office, call the office with a credit card, or use the Give Plus app and choose fundraiser.

IOWA

HISTORY

POLITICS

SCIENCE

New Day Rising Conference National 2021

Saturday, February 27, 2021, 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm EST

Type of event: Workshop

Is your congregation ready to take a new step in changing white supremacy culture? Want to learn what your fellow congregations are working on, and how you might apply it at home?

Join a continent of UUs as we explore next steps in creating Beloved UU Communities

On Your Own:

Watch compelling video TED-talk style testimonials from selected congregations around the continent sharing their learnings, hopes and next steps in their quest for racial equity in their congregations

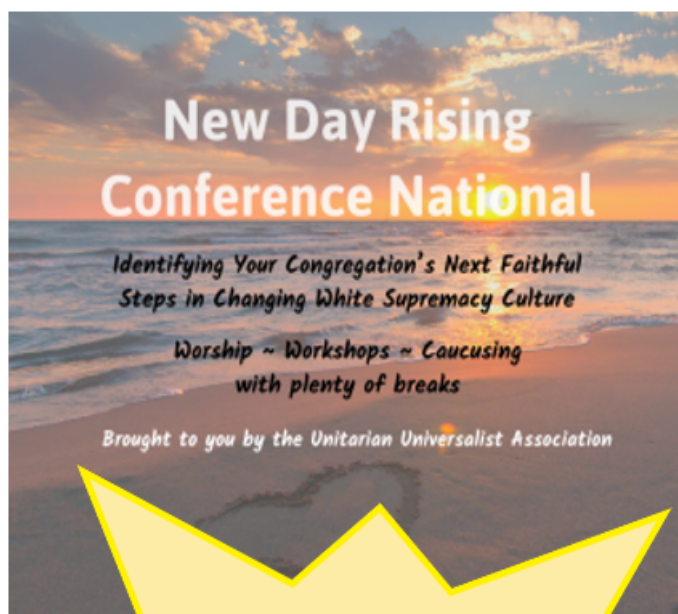
Together on February 27, 2021

- Worship ~ Workshops ~ Caucusing
- *With plenty of breaks*
- 9a-6p PT/10a-7p MT/11a-8p CT/12n-9p ET

Do note that youth need to have permission forms signed before they can attend.

Cost will be a sliding scale fee of your choosing: \$20/30/40/50. Registration fees are on a sliding scale, based on your assessment of your ability to pay. Those who pay at the two highest levels are making a donation to help those in financial need for this event. Please remember that for a sliding scale to work, we need the same number of people with means to generously pay more to balance the needs of those who can afford less. (This is one way we try to build the Beloved Community!) *If you are part of a congregational team of three or more, please pay the lowest fee.*

Brought to you by the Unitarian Universalist Association



**Registration Funds
are available!
Contact Rev. Hinds
for information.**

[Register Now](#)

FOOD PANTRY

Fresh onions are
available

Book Group for *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson

The Peoples Caste Book group will meet Tuesday March 2nd from 7pm. to 8:30pm. This is the first of four conversations we are going to have about *Caste*.

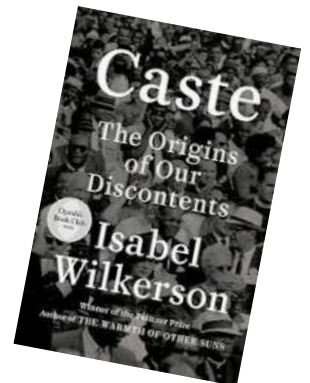
We will be discussing Part 1 and Part 2. This is up to page 99 in the print edition. Please come prepared to take part in the discussion. Bring questions about the text and related issues, as well as passages you think are important, interesting, or confusing, or connections you see between the book and the world we find ourselves in.

This is not going to be the kind of group where one or two people give a book report or prepare questions to take you to particular interruption. Rather, we want to have the opportunity for all of us weigh in and ponder together what these chapters have to offer.

Watch for more information on registration for the Zoom link.

We are looking forward to seeing you in March.

Our lending library has 3 copies available.



BE VIGILANT!

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

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.

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.

February



DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
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4	Thursday	1-2pm	Paraministry Team Meeting
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7	Sunday	10am 11am 12:15pm	Faith Formation Worship Service Worship Associates
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11	Thursday	4-6pm	The Shared Pulpit
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14	Sunday	9:45-10:45am 11am	Social Justice Forum Worship Service
16	Tuesday	all day	Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras
17	Wednesday	1-2pm	Social Justice Team
18	Thursday	6:30-7:30pm	Finance Meeting

19	Friday	7-8pm	A Mardi Gras Celebration sponsored by PCUU's own Guerrilla Zinks
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21	Sunday	10am 11am	Faith Formation Worship Service
24	Wednesday	7pm	Peoples Board Meeting
25	Thursday	4pm 7pm	The Shared Pulpit Linda Hansen Zoom Remembrance

28	Sunday	10am 11am	Faith Formation Worship Service
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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
Kris Davis

THE VOICE.

PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.



CARING COMMUNITY

Good Neighbors

Kris Davis | 294-5010 or 361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

Paraministers

February 1-28 | Deb Booth
March 1-14 | Jan Federer

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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



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