

THE VOICE

March 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,

In 2015-2016, Peoples Church was having a conversation about its hopes and dreams for the future. “Who do we want to be, how do we want to be together, and what needs to change in order for us to be at our best?” were some of the questions being asked.

It was soon decided that the best course of action would be to enter Developmental Ministry.

The congregation, led by a skilled, dedicated team of volunteers on the Board and on the Developmental Ministry Team, made a plan, wrote up an application, and hired me.

Together we made a commitment.

In the last 5 years, we have stayed true to this commitment and made considerable progress on the five Developmental Ministry goals of 1) Governance, 2) Stewardship, 3) Membership, 4) Communication, and 5) Involvement in the Broader Community.

We have drafted a new mission statement. We have transitioned into Policy Governance, a model which liberates people for action by providing clarity on authority and accountability in congregational

life. We have grown in generosity, steadily increasing our annual budget and our endowments funds. We have shown up in new and exciting ways in the Cedar Rapids community (at Juneteenth and Pride, to name two) and we have been working hard to dismantle white supremacy culture. And finally, we have improved internal communications and kept our membership steady.

“
Unless
commitment
is made,
there are only
hopes, but no
plans.”

*-Peter F.
Drucker*

Because of the commitment Peoples Church made 6 years ago, we have been able to turn hopes into plans into accomplishments. We are living our mission!

In faith,

Rev. Rebecca





March 2021

COMMITTMENT



Keep the Faith, baby!

7

March is a difficult time of year to keep the faith. Winter isn't over yet, but it's not quite spring. This year, the pandemic continues, and we still don't know how it will end. How can our faith and our commitments see us through? Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by special guest, The Ranters.

Stories of Commitment

14

Of all the religious and spiritual options out there, why commit to Unitarian Universalism? Why commit to Peoples Church? Our worship associates will reflect on this theme and tell their own stories of commitment to this faith. Service led by Worship Associate Team. Music by Bryan and Kris Davis.

A Balancing Act

21

Life is a balancing act. As the Spring Equinox arrives and day and night are once again perfectly in balance, we will reflect on finding balance in our own lives. Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Karen Pierce.

Remembering Oscar Romero

28

Archbishop Oscar Romero died 41 years ago this week. Our very own Rev. Jorge Montes Clausen, who grew up in El Salvador, will reflect on the life and death of this important figure as well as his own experience surviving the civil war in El Salvador in the 1980s. Service led by Rev. Jorge Montes Clausen. Music by Megan and Tim Jones.

Nurturing the Flame

Willie, Robert and Commitment

Marion Patterson, Board President

Is Peoples Church more like Willie or Robert? Or both?

You know Willie. He is the guy from Cedar Rapids who loaded up food, water, and headed to Texas to help stabilize people during this deep freeze. Owner of Willie Ray's Q Shack he found a way to marshal resources and live the Nike ad – Just Do it!

Questions abound. With scant electricity or natural gas where is he going to stay that is warm and dry? Gas stations have limited pumps operating, so where will he buy gas? What is he going to eat? I bet he doesn't exactly know.

But I wager he will find a way, and help those in need. He is committed. His generosity in the short run is important. Stabilize people. Give them hope. Remind them we are all connected.

On his way to an errand in town, Robert stopped by Woods on Snowy Evening. He paused in the frozen northland to admire the lovely, dark and deep forest. But Frost had promises to keep and miles to go before he could sleep. Other commitments.

So, with Peoples Church. When we committed to Developmental Ministry over five years ago, we recognized that this process had a defined time and goals. Up front we stated that we wanted "to stay the course and do church better." Our top priorities have been: Governance, Financial Stewardship, Communications, Membership and Involvement in Broader Communities.

Like Willie Ray, some people jumped right in, marshaled resources, figured things out, and

got us started. Search committee, hiring an energetic Developmental Minister, guiding us in identifying our values, crafting a relevant mission statement, studying Policy Governance – ends and means, updating policies and procedures. Wow! When these tasks were completed, they ceded responsibility to others who have picked up the standard.

As I've written in past columns, we have made solid progress. And, like Robert Frost's poem we have miles to go.

As winter wanes and the hope of spring advances let's celebrate Peoples' strong emergence and commitment to spiritual growth.

In the next several weeks we will see more clearly progress in our Developmental Ministry goals as the board reviews the results of the congregation-wide survey.

We need both Willies and Roberts in our congregational lives as we "stay the course" and do the hard work to maintain and grow our church. (This last line is from the document *Congregational Needs and Strengths*.)

By the way, please join us online for our monthly board meetings. Usually, 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month. Contact David Wise for the link.

M~



If you'd like to attend our board meetings, but just don't have the time, you can find our board minutes here:

[Peoples Board Minutes](#)



A Friend in Need

Erik Federer has asked that we share this and, if possible, make a donation to support Jason's Dialysis Care. Jason's mom, Rosie Rimrodt, was the RE director at People's when Jason and Erik were growing up in the 70s-90s. She and Jason were an important part of the lives of many UU youth during that time.

From Erik:

Jason was one of my best friends growing up and I recently learned he was hospitalized with liver and kidney failure. His kidney function is repairable but he was in the hospital for number of days in critical condition and now requires dialysis three times a week as well as other medical/recovery needs. Jason's mom, Rosie, is doing everything she can to help take care of her son but she needs help. I know Jason has many friends across the country from UniStar, disc golf, tennis, and other aspects of his life. My hope is you'll help lighten the financial burden just a bit for Jason and Rosie. All funds raised will be used to help cover the cost of medical expenses not covered by insurance and for living expenses.

Erik

Wise Words
From David Wise
Director Faith
Formation



March 8, 2020 was the last time we met in person for Faith Formation or worship at Peoples! A year of not seeing each other face to face. Not being able to shake hands, pat someone on the back, or give a hug. This disease/mess/pandemic has totally changed the way we think about and live our lives. Very little is the same as it was a year ago.

We take so many pre-cautions. We have changed so many habits. We have changed our lives in dramatic ways to combat this invisible enemy that challenges, sickens, and kills.

We can ask all sorts of questions! What if we had done this or that? What if we tried this rather than that? And the list goes on and on. We can ask every question imaginable for as long as we want and still not have all the answers. Life as we know it has changed.

What hasn't changed is the commitment that Peoples has to carry out the mission of **LEADING COMPASSIONATE**

LIVES THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.

It would have been so easy to sit back and say we can't do something because of the pandemic! That has not been the case. Whether it has been through financial support, hosting teaching forums, hosting discussion forums, or just lifting up issues that affect the community Peoples has been carrying on the commitment to do the right thing!

It would have been so easy to stop and sit back! Thank you Peoples people for setting an example and showing commitment even in these difficult times!

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 the flyer in this issue

Faith Formation Schedule:

Classes March 7 and 28

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

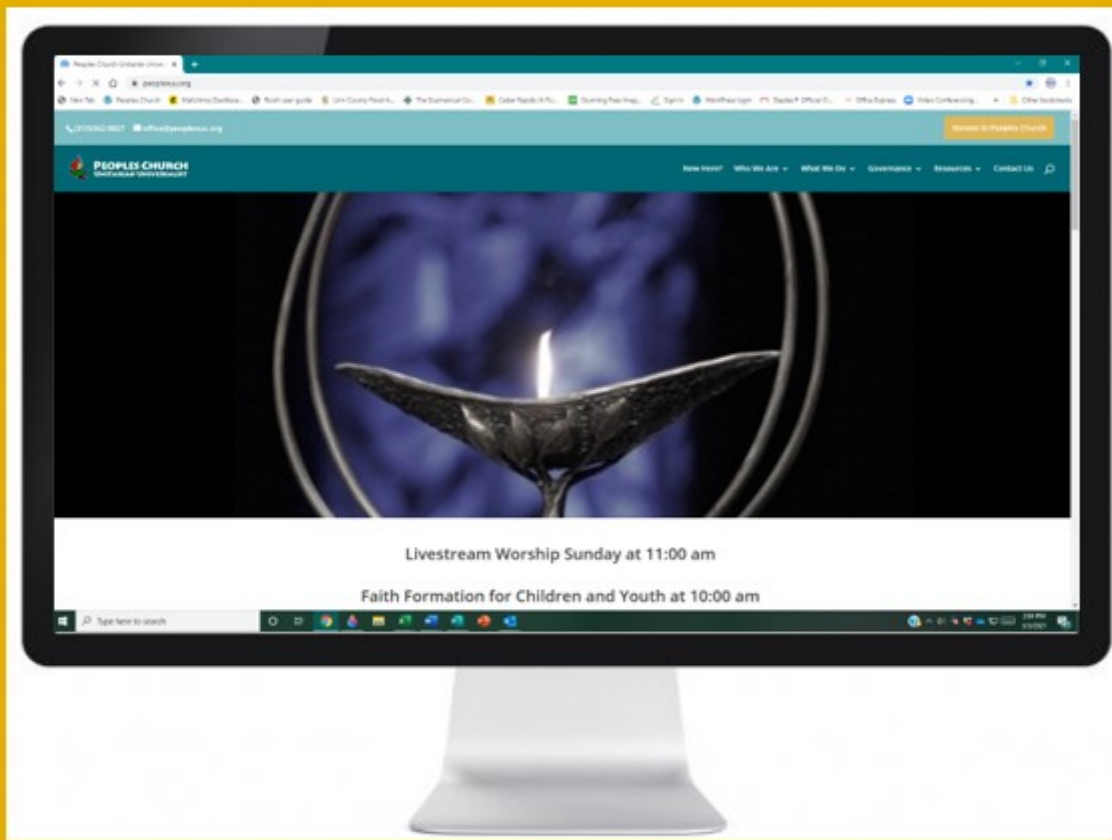
HISTORY

POLITICS

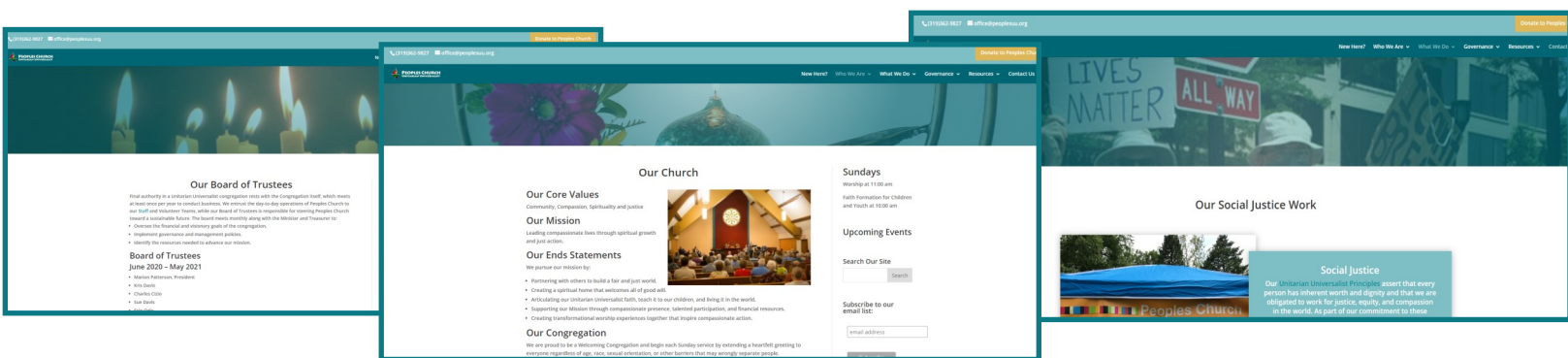
SCIENCE

PEOPLESUU.ORG

Our Updated Website Is *LIVE!*



Click here to view our site on your computer, tablet, or phone today!



drawdown ecochallenge

During the month of April you are invited to participate in the Drawdown EcoChallenge. The idea of EcoChallenge is to report on-line your environmental actions to reduce global warming. This climate justice action is an opportunity for us to be a part of something big and collaborative. Many of our UU congregations across the country are joining in. You will be able to sign up for this month-long event in March. Watch for additional information and join in!



It's Girl Scout Cookie time! Aida Jones is selling online through her [digital cookie website](#). Shipping options are available and if you are local, Aida is offering contactless delivery!

If ordering online is not your thing, on March 7 she will be holding a virtual cookie booth directly after worship with a pickup in the church parking lot the following Saturday, March 13 from 1pm-2pm. We will be masked and can put the cookies directly in your trunk or backseat!

Donations continue to be an option this year! You can donate to troops on her digital cookie website OR you can order a box and we can put it directly in the church's food pantry for you.

*Thank you for supporting
our Girl Scout!*



SOCIAL JUSTICE

FIRST SUNDAY PLATE COLLECTION: Advocates for Social Justice



BENDING THE ARC SPEAKER SERIES



Building a movement for change.
Learn, experience, act.

HARD CONVERSATIONS ON RACE IN A DIVIDED TIME

JaNae' Bates

Director of Communications, Isaiah, St Paul, MN

MONDAY, MARCH 8

6:30 – 8:00 PM

[Register here](#) (you'll receive a Zoom link)

How do we talk about hard issues such as racism with friends, family, and even strangers in these divided times? Honest conversations, in general, and certainly those about racism and racial injustices are difficult and rare.

JaNaé Bates will lead us in an interactive, nationally tested workshop designed to build *your* skills that are effective and values-driven. This online event is a remarkable opportunity for progressive Iowans of faith and all beliefs to learn how to have hard conversations and communicate for change based on our values.

INTERSECTIONS and CROSSROADS too!

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

11:50 AM - 1:00 PM

(program begins at noon)

FAITHFUL LEADERS WORKING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

PASTOR ROB JOHNSON, No Justice No Peace and Second Baptist Church of Ft Dodge

PASTOR LEE SCHOTT, Valley United Methodist Church, West Des Moines

Our nation has much work to do in understanding and dismantling racism. The faith community has a particular responsibility in understanding the history and current impact of systemic racism. Join us on Friday, March 5, as Pastor Rob Johnson and Pastor Lee Schott discuss the need for faith communities to understand, work together, and speak out on issues around systemic racism and racial justice issues. They will also share their experience of being part of the Faithful Voices for Racial Justice, a project of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa that was created to start conversations, promote learning, work together, and take action.

Please register here in advance for Intersections. A confirmation email including the link to join will be sent to you once you register. All are welcome to attend.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

You've heard of Black Lives Matter, but do you know its origins?

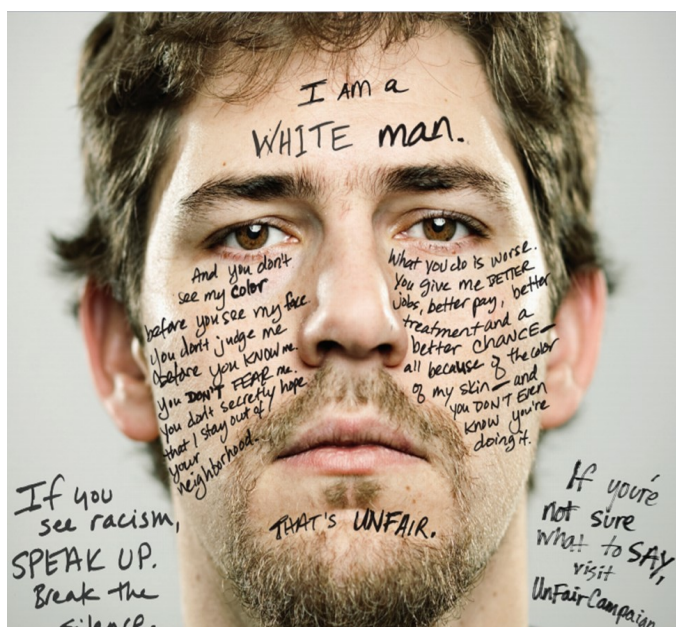
Born out of a social media post, the **Black Lives Matter movement** has sparked discussion about race and inequality across the world. In this spirited conversation with Mia Birdsong, the movement's three founders—Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi—share what they've learned about leadership and what provides them with hope and inspiration in the face of painful realities. Their advice on how to participate in ensuring freedom for everybody: join something, start something and "sharpen each other, so that we all can rise."

[Click here](#) to watch the TED Talk interview.

Responding to Microaggressions

Why is there a Black History Month? There's no White History Month.

White people are celebrated every single day. In the news. In the history books. At Mount Rushmore. White people have always been esteemed. Black people have had to push to celebrate themselves, and their culture.



Allen Lincoln Douglass Banquet 2021

Since 1928 we have taken only one small break, in 2020, and then we engaged in an ecumenical event that was as historic as the 93 years of events itself. 2021 again finds us in the unique situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our team has developed an "ALD Invisible Banquet". Although we cannot come together in person, we can still come together in unity and spirit.

Our request is that you support our event by with invisible banquet patronages—\$60 each or any amount. Each participant will receive a commemorative document celebrating their support of the ALD Invisible Banquet 2021.

We ask that you send your support by April 30, 2021, check payable to Bethel AME Church, memo ALD Invisible Banquet 512 6th St. SE CR 52401 or see our website for payment options: www.bethelministriescr.org/give.

WAYS TO GIVE WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCEING



Send in a check to:
PCUU
4980 Gordon Ave. NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405



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.*



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.

BE VIGILANT!

Please remember, **Rev. Rebecca will NEVER email OR text you to ask for money or gift cards.** If you receive such an email or text, supposedly from Rev. Rebecca, ***do not respond!*** We do NOT ask you for donations, of any kind, over text message or email! 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 communications.

Office - 319-362-9827



The Finance Team met on 2/18/21 to review bookkeeper reports, finance procedures, etc.

Cash flow for January was positive:

- January income (includes pre-paid pledges and quarterly endowment disbursement)
\$40,793
- January expenses \$20,813

FOOD PANTRY

Every Bite Helps Thank you!

Items needed for our Food Pantry:

canned corn
canned fruit
canned meat
crackers
canned pasta
noodles
packaged potatoes
muffin mix
pancake mix
laundry soap & cleaning supplies



COVID-19 information for general population 65+

Don't Let Your Guard Down
Mask Up. Sleeves Up.

- ➔ **Vaccines are effective and safe.**
- ➔ **Vaccine supplies are limited, so be patient and continue to wear a mask, wash hands and maintain social distance.**
- ➔ **Help Linn County Public Health by staying informed and not listening to rumors.**

Linn County Public Health strongly recommends you mask up and don't let your guard down prior to and after vaccination.

Vaccine facts to know:

- There is not just one registration area for vaccines. We know that is frustrating, but remember, there are nearly 230,000 people living in Linn County.
- Mercy, UnityPoint Health, Eastern Iowa Health Center will contact you when they have vaccine for patients. If you do not have a provider, call Linn County Public Health.
- You still need to wear a mask after you receive your vaccine.

Turn to



LinnCounty.or

Important phone numbers:

• UnityPoint Health Call Center 319-730-9439

If you have received phone call, text message or letter from UnityPoint Health asking you to register for a vaccine. This number is a number for individuals having technical difficulty.

• Mercy Medical Center 319-369-4604

If you do not have a computer

Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership Program

Select pharmacies are participating in this program and have appointments available: Clark's Pharmacy, CVS, Hy-Vee Pharmacy and Walgreens

Information current as of February 22, 2021

• Eastern Iowa Health Center 319-730-7300

Call to make an appointment; appointments may be limited.

• Linn County Public Health 319-892-6097

Vaccine questions



Public Health
Linn County, Iowa

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.



March

Date	Day	Time	Event
2	Tuesday	7 – 8:30pm	Book Group for Caste by Isabel Wilkerson
7	Sunday	10 – 11am 11am – 12pm 12:15 – 1:15pm	Faith Formation Worship Worship Associates
11	Thursday	4 – 6pm	The Shared Pulpit
14	Sunday	2am 11am – 12pm	Daylight Savings Time STARTS Worship
16	Tuesday	all day	David Wise's birthday
17	Wednesday	all day 1 – 2pm	St. Patrick's Day Social Justice Team Meeting
18	Thursday	6:30 – 7:30pm	Finance Meeting
21	Sunday	11am – 12pm	Worship
25	Thursday	4 – 6pm 7 – 8:30pm	The Shared Pulpit PCUU Monthly Board Meeting
27	Saturday	all day	Passover Eve
28	Sunday	all day all day 10 – 11am 11am – 12pm	Palm Sunday Passover (Day 1) Faith Formation Worship
29	Monday	all day	Passover (Day 2)
30	Tuesday	all day	Passover (Day 3)
31	Wednesday	all day	Passover (Day 4)

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

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

Paraministers

March 1-14 | Jan Federer
March 15-28 | Rose Gabe
March 29-April 11 | Suzie Hauter

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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



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