

# THE VOICE

April 2021

**Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist**

**4980 Gordon Ave. NW ● Cedar Rapids ● Iowa ● 52405**



**Peoples Church UU Cedar Rapids, Iowa YouTube Channel**

**[www.peoplesuu.org](http://www.peoplesuu.org)**



Dear Ones,

In Tales of Hasidim Martin Buber tells the story of Rabbi Zusya. It goes like this.

At the end of his life, Rabbi Zusya is lying on his death bed weeping. His students are confused and try desperately to comfort him. They remind him that he lived a wonderful life and that he is a great man, almost as wise as Moses himself. But in response, Rabbi Zusya simply says, *"In the coming world they will not ask me: 'Why were you not Moses?' Instead, they will ask me: 'Why were you not Zusya?'"*

This story reminds us that we cannot be anyone else but ourselves. It invites us to stop comparing ourselves to others and just delight in becoming who we already are.

Of course, this is not an easy process, and sometimes the hardest part is that, in addition to embracing who we are, we have to let go of who we are not.

The journey involves steady, lifelong commitment, self-love, and an openness to transformation.

It is the same for communities like Peoples Church.

We cannot be any other church. We can only be ourselves and become who we already are. Our journey is to be and become Peoples Church. Nothing else.

As you know, just 5-7 years ago the congregation

was struggling and decided to enter into Developmental Ministry. The 5 goals of our shared Developmental Ministry (governance, stewardship, membership, communication, and involvement in the broader community) helped us focus on some of the technical fixes that were needed and oriented us towards the goals of community healing and wholeness, but 5 years into my ministry here with you all, and I am starting to see an even bigger picture unfold.

In addition to achieving our specific goals, Peoples Church is becoming.

Peoples Church is becoming itself: a loving, welcoming community with a clear focus, identity, and mission.

Well done! Today Peoples Church is solidly on the path towards spiritual wholeness and congregational health. We know who we are and who we have always been, because we took the time to remember and we opened ourselves up for transformation. We committed to living in our most sincere sense of self.

May the journey continue as we walk deeper into who we are and celebrate who we are becoming.

In faith,

Rev. Rebecca

The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not.  
-Albert Schweitzer



# April 2021

## BECOMING

4

### Becoming Easter People

Happy Easter! What does it mean to be a people who are open to surprise and joy; who affirm new life and believe in second chances? And how does this impact our daily life? Join us on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the season and invite rebirth, renewal, and transformation into the world. Service by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Judy Mitschelen.

11

### Being and Becoming

We talk a lot at Peoples Church about *becoming* as a spiritual practice. But becoming what? And what's wrong with simply *being*? This service will honor both the rich possibilities of spiritual transformation and the simple joys of living an ordinary life. Service by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Angie Pierce-Jennings.

18

### Happy Earth Day!

IN PERSON SERVICE AT INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER. Join us for a special outdoor celebration of Earth Day at Indian Creek. Bring your own chair and pray for sunshine! (A virtual option will be provided for those who prefer to participate from home.) Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Jonny Lipford.

25

### Drawdown EcoChallenge

Do the realities of our climate crisis overwhelm you? Are you looking for something to do about it? Come connect the dots between your values and the impact of your actions with Drawdown Ecochallenge! Drawdown, an environmental program, focuses on solutions to climate change. Service led by Sally Hartman of the UU Society of Coralville. Music by Kelly Montijo Fink and Gabe Fink.

Outdoor Worship  
Service



# Nurturing the Flame

## Becoming

Marion Patterson, Board President

Poking through **past annual meetings** from oldest to newest (2014 through 2020), I saw how Peoples Church is Becoming: (Actually, the review was fun and visually satisfying. Try it! You might like it.)

- \* plain, perfunctory reports often lacking detailed financial information;
- \* budget deficits;
- \* a dispirited, disorganized congregation;
- \* board members, struggling to guide the congregation, who felt unappreciated;
- \* acknowledgement that dysfunction must stop!
- \* a straight-talking interim minister who helped steady our boat in spite of unanticipated volatility;
- \* developmental ministry and search teams that continued to re-direct the congregation towards our better selves;
- \* optimism as the congregation navigated the terrain of healing from trauma and committed to a positive way to be in right relations. Initiating governance with developmental ministry;
- \* starting in 2017 colorful and detailed annual reports from a wide variety of teams, the board, and staff. Ways that members continued to step forward with a professional team do the daily background work necessary to create a

healthy congregation while refurbishing our facility. Beginning to claim Gordon Ave NW as our physical home.

\* since 2018 developing, then living, our values as stated in our mission. Learning **about policy governance to help “steer our ship.”** How and who to contact with questions, concerns and compliments. Clean and inviting building and grounds. Partnerships with other congregations and work for justice.

\* Each successive year’s reports show our commitments, reaching into the community while nurturing our selves. It’s called growth.

In short, Peoples has diligently stepped from disorder to re-order to direction and Becoming. Becoming a congregation with an abundance attitude, spirit, healthy finances, firm commitment. Loving.

## We are Becoming.

As noted in one of the Archives team reports: “Our history reveals how we have evolved in belief and practice and how we have attempted to assert a positive influence on the world around us.

“In order for us to know who we are today, we need to have an understanding of who we have been.”

M~



If you’d like to attend our Board meetings, please contact David Wise [dre@peoplesuu.org](mailto:dre@peoplesuu.org). Past board minutes are here:

**[Peoples Board Minutes](#)**

## Phase II

### Re-opening Peoples Church!

When Peoples Church building “shut down” thirteen months ago (March 2020) no one knew what to expect. To their credit, the staff and board combined common sense and the UUA guidelines of how to safely stay in contact with and nurture members and friends. Within days a process was crafted, approved and sent to all.

These guidelines and Peoples response plan have been in place since the beginning of the pandemic. They are available to **read online** (website>Governance>Other Documents>Church Operations During COVID-19.)

We emerge into Spring 2021 with vaccinations happening and a better understanding of how SARS-CoV2 is transmitted. And awareness of variants.

From careful examination, the staff and board have agreed that the option to *cautiously* move to Phase II will be OK *for now*. We will start with the next two Sundays. We will evaluate as we watch COVID-19 numbers and variants.

Phase II allows up to 10 people in the sanctuary at a time. Usually, four to five people provide the service. (minister, worship associate, pianist, technology host)

So, four to five congregants can come. Masks. Distance. No hymnals.

We want EVERYONE to be and feel safe. We are well aware of the ever-changing numbers and that some folks may choose to continue to take in service online, maybe forever! It is convenient for our traveling members, snow birds, friends who live far away, those who have limited driving options, and in inclement weather.

**Contact the office *no later than 2:30pm on Thursdays to sign up to attend either the Sunday, April 4 or Sunday, April 11, 11am service.***

Use the parking lot door as the “back” door needs repair.



## Peoples Church

### to Harvest Sunshine

#### Rich Patterson

The Peoples Board recently approved a bid from CBSolar to erect a 13.2 kilowatt solar array on the roof. It will be installed after derecho roof repair is completed, hopefully by summer.

The system costs \$21,400 and is estimated to generate electricity worth \$2,419 in its first year, with increased savings going forward. That’s an 11% return on investment. The system is projected to last 25 years.

I thank Dick Woodward, Bryan Davis, Rev. Rebecca, and Mike Meshak for serving on the ad hoc committee that did background work, with additional thanks to Kathy Juba and Bill Hart for assisting the committee. I also thank these members who made cash contributions to more than cover the cost of the system: Dick Woodward, Tom Hess, Jill Jones, Jim and Jan Federer, Steve and Marta Hershner, Gary and Laura McGraw, Rich and Marion Patterson, and Judy Price.

Photovoltaics convert solar energy into a stream of electrons-electricity. The system will be net metered, meaning that when we produce more electricity than we use the excess flows outward into the Alliant grid. When we use more than we produce power flows in. We pay Alliant the “net” at the end of each month.

The PV system reduces our electricity bill and fossil fuel consumption while creating a positive model for others to copy. We do what we preach!

Solar is appropriate and cost effective for most homeowners. Marion and I installed a system four years ago and enjoy tiny monthly electric bills. Federal and state tax credits paid for almost half our system. It is quiet and requires only sunshine. There’s no maintenance. Consider “going solar” at home.

Wise Words  
From David Wise  
Director Faith  
Formation



I invite you to read the words of this song I recently heard for the first time.

I am miles from where I was  
It's so far from where I wanna be  
With each step I learn to trust  
The maker is still making me

And I, I'm becoming  
I, I'm becoming

Life is a house full of rooms  
Each door opens to another door  
I can't walk into something new  
Till I leave behind where I was before

'Cause I, I'm becoming  
I, I'm becoming

Sorry for the days that I let you down  
Thank you for the way that you stuck around  
Giving me the grace to figure it out  
While I was still learning to be found

'Cause I, I'm becoming  
I, I'm becoming

It's progress, not perfection  
Not arrival, it's direction  
It's the living and the learning  
Not the finish line but the journey  
It's progress, not perfection  
Not arrival, it's direction  
It's the living and the learning  
Not the finish line but the journey

I, I'm becoming  
I, I'm becoming

Who I am  
Who I am  
Who I am

I'm still becoming  
I'm always becoming

The question is—do we ever totally become?  
Or are we continuously striving and searching for a different place? Are we becoming better people? Are we becoming better parents, children, neighbors, friends? Are we trying to become the best person that we can be?

*David*

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### Trivia April 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dre@peoplesuu.org)**.

*See the flyer in this issue*

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### Faith Formation Schedule:

- ♦ April 4—Family Conversations
- ♦ April 11—Class
- ♦ April 18—Worship is at Indian Creek Nature Center. You are invited to come early (ICNC opens at 10) or stay after and take advantage of the space.
- ♦ April 25—Class

# 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



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## FIRST SUNDAY PLATE COLLECTION:

*Bethel AME Church-Granny's House*

### Social Justice Forum Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:45am

Our speaker will be William Micheel, Assistant Director of Community Development and Planning for the city of CR. He will be presenting to us on the new Police Citizens Review Board in CR. The Social Justice team is eager to host a city staff person who can talk to us about the development of a police citizens review board in Cedar Rapids. We urge people to attend and show our support to the city for improving police and community relations.

### Responding to Microaggressions

'You're so articulate' or 'You don't sound black.'

The implication here is that the white person didn't expect to hear intelligence from a black person.

The black person didn't fit the white person's offensive stereotype, so the white person complimented them for surprising them.

Instead make your compliment specific to the content of what was said by the black person.



### HARKIN INSTITUTE SUSSMAN LECTURE WITH NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES

THURSDAY, APRIL 8  
7:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

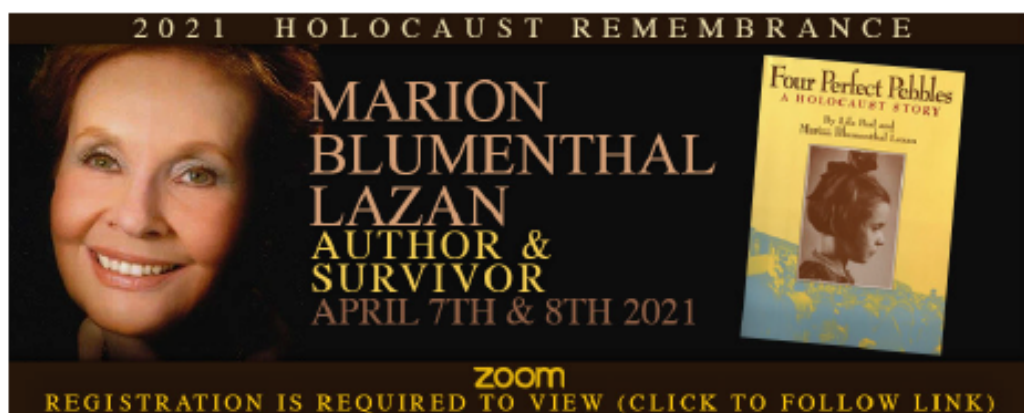


Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist and Iowa-native Nikole Hannah-Jones will deliver the spring Sussman Lecture on April 8, as part of a community-wide dialogue about systemic oppression and racial equity.

Hannah-Jones grew up in Waterloo, Iowa, and found her passion for journalism while working for her high school newspaper. She covers civil rights and racial injustice as an investigative reporter for *The New York Times Magazine* and is creator of **The 1619 Project**, for which she won a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 2020. She is a co-founder of the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, a nonprofit that provides training and mentorship for journalists of color pursuing careers in investigative reporting.



ZOOM EVENT: AUTHOR & SURVIVOR MARION BLUMENTHAL LAZAN  
(REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED)



Marion Blumenthal Lazan's unforgettable memoir recalls the devastating years that shaped her childhood.

*These are virtual events with limited attendance.*

*Registration is required.*

*Select your preferred date and time below*

**zoom**  
PRESENTATION ONE

[Click Here to Register](#)  
[April 7th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.](#)

**zoom**  
PRESENTATION ONE

[Click Here to Register](#)  
[April 8th from 9 to 10:00 a.m.](#)

**zoom**  
PRESENTATION ONE

[Click Here to Register](#)  
[April 8th from 1:30 to 2:30 a.m.](#)

Following Hitler's rise to power, the Blumenthal family — father, mother, Marion, and her brother, Albert — were trapped in Nazi Germany. They managed eventually to get to Holland, but soon thereafter it was occupied by the Nazis. For the next six and a half years the Blumenthals were forced to live in refugee, transit, and prison camps that included Westerbork in Holland and the notorious Bergen-Belsen in Germany. Though they all survived the camps, Walter Blumenthal, Marion's father, succumbed to typhus just after liberation.

It took three more years of struggle and waiting before Marion, Albert, and their mother at last obtained the necessary papers and boarded ship for the United States. Their story is one of horror and hardship, but it is also a story of courage, hope, and the will to survive.

## 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](http://www.bethelministriescr.org/give).

[ecochallenge.org](http://ecochallenge.org)

## drawdown ecochallenge

Since 1993, drawdown ecochallenge has provided ways for all of us to connect the dots between our actions, our impact, and our will to create significant environmental + social change. We show you, your workplace, your school, your community how our collective behavior connects with a better shared future.

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. Watch for additional information and join in!

### 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](http://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](http://www.foundation2crisischat.org)

[www.iowacrisischat.org](http://www.iowacrisischat.org) [www.yourlifeiowa.org](http://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.

# Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

## 2021

**Annual Meeting  
May 16, 2021  
12pm  
on Zoom**



The Finance Team met on 3/18/21 to review bookkeeper reports, discuss pledge goal for 2022, etc.

Cash flow for February was negative:

- February income \$12,238
- February expenses \$14,772

### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| • canned fruit | • packaged potatoes |
| • cereal       | • ramen noodles     |
| • hearty soups | • laundry soap      |
| • canned pasta | • hand soap         |
| • noodles      |                     |



# 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](http://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.

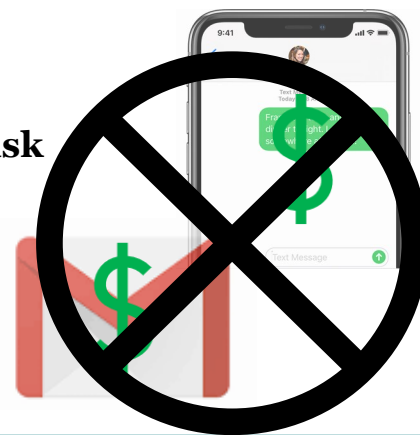
## BE VIGILANT!

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 or text 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





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.org/vaccine](https://linncounty.org/vaccine)

For the latest COVID-19 information

## 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

- **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

## 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*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Linn County, Iowa



# April

Date	Day	Time	Event
1	Thursday	all day all day	Maundy Thursday Passover (Day 5)
2	Friday	all day all day	Passover (Day 6) Good Friday
3	Saturday	all day all day	Passover (Day 7) Holy Saturday
4	Sunday	all day 11am	Easter Worship
5	Monday	all day	Easter Monday
8	Thursday	all day 4-6pm	Yom HaShoah Shared Pulpit
9	Friday	7-8pm	Peoples Trivia Night!!
11	Sunday	9:45-10:45am 11am 12:15-1:15PM	Social Justice Forum - new Police Citizens Review Board in CR Worship Worship Associates
14	Wednesday	all day	Yom HaZikaron
15	Thursday	all day 6:30-7:30pm	Yom HaAtzmaut Finance Meeting
18	Sunday	all day 11am	Earth Day Worship - <b>Outdoor Service at Indian Creek Nature Center!</b>
20	Tuesday	7-8pm	Stewardship Meeting
21	Wednesday	1-2pm	Social Justice Meeting
22	Thursday	4-6pm 7-8:30	Shared Pulpit Board Meeting
25	Sunday	11am	Worship
30	Friday	all day all day	Lag BaOmer May Voice items due





## 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

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

### Paraministers

March 29-April 11 | Suzie Hauter  
April 12-April 25 | Deb Booth  
April 26-May 9 | Dorothy Hershner

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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



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