

THE VOICE

May 2021

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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



Peoples Church UU Cedar Rapids, Iowa YouTube Channel

www.peoplesuu.org



Minister's Moment

Dear Ones,

There is a classic story about how NOT to say goodbye in ministry in a book called *Running Through the Thistles* by Roy Oswald.

In telling the story, Oswald recalls growing up in Saskatchewan and taking a short cut home from school most days – right through a big patch of thistles. This was during a time when they didn't wear shoes to school very often. Facing this obstacle, he would muster up all the courage he had and just take off - running full speed directly into and through 20 feet of prickly thistles. It hurt. A lot. But it was quick.

As we get ready to say goodbye to one another we know it is going to hurt. It may be tempting to run full speed through the grief and the pain in order to get to the other side as quickly as possible.

And sure, we could do that. This method works, but unfortunately, it usually backfires. Usually, we are left with at least a few thistles hanging on, clinging to feet and legs, a reminder of powerful emotions we didn't properly tend to.

I am sure we all have personal stories like this, grief and pain we tried to rush through only to be left with unresolved emotions and more struggles later on.

We don't have to say goodbye this way. We don't have to rush or pretend it is easier than it is. It will be hard. We know that. So, in the months ahead let's avoid shortcuts. Let's slow down and be present to the transitions upon us. Let's allow love to be with us and guide us, and, if necessary, let's not be afraid to grieve.

I will be with you through the end of June. Between now and then we will find ways to connect and say goodbye. Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you would like to chat. I would love to hear from you!

In faith,

Rev. Rebecca

If we
choose
love, we
must also
have the
courage to
grieve.
-Roy
Oswald

MAY 2021



STORY

2

Beltane

Service led by Deborah Booth. Music by Stephanie Bad Soldier Snow.

9

Flower Ceremony Sunday

Bring a flower with you to your computer screen on Sunday as we honor our annual Flower Ceremony. We will show off our flowers and spend a morning drenched in beauty. In addition, it will be a great joy for us as we dedicate Oly Wilcox, daughter of Lu and Mark Wilcox. Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Randi.

16

Telling Stories

The stories we tell create who we are. What narratives do you have in your life and how do they shape you? What stories do we tell as a religious community? Do these stories limit us? Or set us free? Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Castle Ridge.

23

TBD

Service led by Kathleen Mavity.

30

Our Story

We have spent five incredible years together. What have we learned, what story have we created, and how shall we tell that story in the years to come? Let us tell and honor the shared story of our ministry. Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

Nurturing the Flame

Story

Marion Patterson, Board President

When I'm "wandering" and "wondering" mentally and emotionally, I find it helpful to walk our labyrinth. As is this reading by Oriah Mountain Dreamer:

*What if life is not a maze but a labyrinth,
a path that meanders to give us different views,
doubles back on itself to give us multiple chances to see clearly,
lets us revisit our joys & sorrows but in the end
always takes us to the sacred centre -
to Life, to Love, to the Wholeness of which we are made
& by which we are held?*

How would imagining life this way affect the quality of your day?

During this time of transition for Peoples Church may we remember that ours is a story of change and adaptation. A long-time member shared this perspective: Perhaps the best way to honor Reverend Rebecca is to continue to act in ways that reflect she has done her job.

"Leading Compassionate Lives through Spiritual Growth and Just Action."

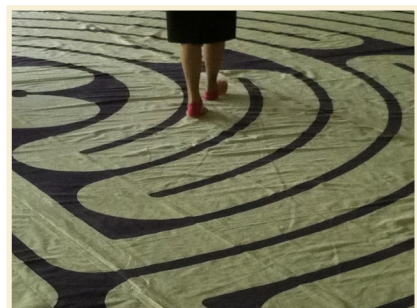
This is our Story.

With Love,

M~

If you'd like to attend our Board meetings,
please contact David Wise dre@peoplesuu.org.
Past board minutes are here:

[Peoples Board Minutes](#)



*Life always takes us back to our
sacred center.*

Attending Worship in Person

We are still moving forward with caution in Phase II of our COVID19 church operations. *This allows up to a total of 10 people in the sanctuary at a time.*

Usually, four to five people provide the service. (minister, worship associate, pianist, technology host) So, **only four to five congregants can come in person**. Masks. Distance. No hymnals.

For each Sunday Worship you wish to attend, you must contact the office no later than 2:00pm the prior Thursday.

You will receive confirmation that a seat has been reserved for you.

Fellow members of Peoples,

We are saddened by the news that Rev. Rebecca Hinds will be moving on to her next assignment and maybe a little frightened about what that means for our church. We are all going to miss her, her family, and her talents; but we are well equipped to move into the future.

The Archives committee, which has spent the last decade studying the history of our church, wants to remind you that we have faced much bigger challenges in the past: financial crisis, difficult staffing issues, a decaying building, congregational discord as well as a flood and a pandemic just to name a few. The church faced those challenges and soldiered on. Our congregations kept the institution alive and worked on social justice needs: poverty, civil rights, peace initiatives, reproductive rights, marriage equality amongst others.

Because of Rev. Rebecca's talents and work with us, we are well equipped to move forward. With good structures for governance, financial management, and staffing, and our clear definition of our mission, we are ready. We have cleaned, repaired, repurposed, re-decorated and made our home more energy efficient, usable and attractive. And we have continued to go on with our social justice work.

Our work is not done, but through Rev. Rebecca's leadership we have the tools and courage to move forward and become the church we need to be.

With love and gratitude,

Bev Philpott

Clarice Krippner

Jan Federer

Joye Winey

for the Archive Committee



Wise Words
From David Wise
Director Faith
Formation



going to be difficult for virtually everyone at Peoples. Know that your stories and memories are important! The stories make you who you are and the church who the church is as well.

David

We all have stories! A birth story, growing up, young adulthood, for some relationships or children enter the story, for others solitude is a way of life. There is no right or wrong story. No two people have the exact same story. We are all different and incredibly unique! Our stories help make who we are and who we become. Each of us has both good and bad in our history.

When we join a club, group, or church our stories combine with others to create the history or background of the group. We have collective stories to add to our individual stories and together they form who we are as a group. And each story is important.

In the coming weeks and months lots of stories are going to be shared here at Peoples. Some will be happy and some not so happy. But they form who we are as individuals and as a group. Share your stories! There should always be a place for them! The coming weeks are

Faith Formation Schedule:

- ♦ May 9—Class
- ♦ May 16—End of year party on Zoom

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Trivia Night last month!!!

Summer Camp details
will be coming very
soon!



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

2021

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



Periodic Ministerial Search Updates will be in the e-weekly and the monthly Voice

Board, Search Teams, President

To help us all move through this transitional time feeling and being more confident and secure, we will update periodically as information comes in.

Here is what has been done to date:

- The interim search is well underway with our application successfully submitted ahead of the deadline. Kudos to Sue Davis, Scott Gay, and Steve Hershner.
- The board is forming the settled ministerial team. A former search team member stated, "This was enjoyable because the goal is concrete, people are focused, and tasks are done in order."
- The UUA provides substantial help. Also, there are sometimes other simple tasks that members can help with such as gathering information and providing photographs. If interested in knowing more, please contact Marion Patterson. [**marion.patterson@gmail.com**](mailto:marion.patterson@gmail.com) or 319-362-1470

Here is what is in the works:

- Keepsake Video Project for Rev. Rebecca and Her Family (see details below)
- Farewell gifts—Contact David Miessler-Kubaneck ([**dmkcreative@gmail.com**](mailto:dmkcreative@gmail.com)) or Kathy Juba ([**kathywilson@imonmail.com**](mailto:kathywilson@imonmail.com)) with ideas or contributions. (see details below)

Here is what we each can do:

- Stay informed. Avoid filling the void with misinformation. Contact me with thoughts and comments. [**marion.patterson@gmail.com**](mailto:marion.patterson@gmail.com) or 319-362-1470.
- Consider what qualities you have valued in this ministry that will help the search team. We will have conversations in the summer to help refine our needs, wants and vision.

Keepsake Video Project for Rev. Rebecca and Her Family

Dear Members and Friends of PCUU, we would like to invite you to please submit a video clip sharing your thoughts and feelings for Reverend Rebecca and her family, Casey and Madeleine as they begin their journey from our congregation to the next one in Charleston, SC. These individual video clips will be combined into one larger video that we will send with them for their personal viewing as a keepsake to remind them of their time with Peoples. If you would like to contribute to this video keepsake project, please email David Miessler-Kubaneck directly at [**dmkcreative@gmail.com**](mailto:dmkcreative@gmail.com) with your video clip.

Requirements:

- The video clip must be a MAXIMUM of 30 seconds in duration,
- You must include the full names of the people in the video in the email to help identify the participants,
- Video clips are DUE May 20, 2021, noon, Central.

Farewell Gifts to Rev. Rebecca and Her Family

With Rev. Rebecca and her family moving to Charleston, SC this summer, we would like to send them off with wonderful things to enjoy along the way and once they arrive. We have lots of ideas and would be willing to take more if you have them! If you would like to contribute specific items or money to a congregational gift, please send them or drop them off to David Miessler-Kubaneck at 1807 Bever Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids by Friday, May 28. David's email is [**dmkcreative@gmail.com**](mailto:dmkcreative@gmail.com) for making arrangements. Kathy Juba ([**kathywilson@imonmail.com**](mailto:kathywilson@imonmail.com)) can also be contacted for any assistance with picking up or dropping off.

Sunday, May 16 Worship Service

Of necessity, all in-person attendees will be restricted to those presenting at the Annual Meeting immediately following the service.



West Entrance (Red Door)

Regrettably, the west door is again broken. Please bear with us as we await repairs.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee consists of Bryan Davis, Lu Wilcox, Geoff Johnson, and Kris Davis as board liaison. *The committee is elected anew at each annual meeting* and we have slots that can be filled and you can join the fun by letting Bryan Davis (bd@bryandavis.us) know before the annual meeting on May 16. And as always nominations from the floor can be made at the meeting itself.

Developmental Ministry Evaluation Report

This past January and February, staff, members, and friends of Peoples responded to an online survey and participated in personal interviews regarding the accomplishments of the Developmental Ministry Program that we have been involved in the past five years. Members of the Developmental Ministry Evaluation Team, Sue Davis, Scott Gay, Kathy Juba and David Miessler-Kubanek, compiled the results into a 30-page document that will be reported on at our congregational meeting later this month. Results show people feel progress has been made in all five goal areas and yet work remains for all goals. Below are listed the goals in the order that people felt had the most work yet to be accomplished:

1. Membership: Develop and maintain rich and vigorous processes for attracting and integrating members.
2. Involvement in Broader Communities: Develop and implement a plan for increasing Peoples Church presence and involvement in the geographical and religious communities of Cedar Rapids and beyond.
3. Communication: Communicate positively and consistently among Peoples Church stakeholders.
4. Governance: Establish church governance structures and practices that make the best use of church resources.
5. Financial Stewardship: Develop, implement and maintain a financial stewardship system based on generosity and stewardship as theological foundations understood by all members of the Peoples Church community.

For the full report, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/6mkrtee3>

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Microaggression

Clutching your purse, dodging while passing a Black man, or unnecessarily calling the police.

These behaviors suggest that Black men are menacing. They stem from fear that responds to a stereotype that classifies Black men as threats.

If you're present during this type of situation ask the perpetrator if they can explain to you what makes them think the Black person is a threat to them. Doing so invites them to reconsider their stereotypical gut response.



We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Why the 8th Principle?

Our 7 Principles have never been etched in stone. Our Principles and its sources evolved and changed over time. In the 1970s and 1980s UU women prodded UUs to reconsider sexual assumptions and language in some of the original Principles and sources. The Principles were changed in 1985 in order to remove the male centeredness. At the same time, amid growing environmental consciousness, UU s added the 7th Principle- 'Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.'

Today in 2021, as UUs we face another challenge. Black Lives Matter. As mainly white UUs are we ready to step up, understand our privilege and the white supremacist history of our nation and then say, we need another Principle? At Peoples we have been doing the work of dismantling racism and becoming anti-racist for three years. Now is the time for consideration of the 8th Principle. More will be shared as the year goes on.

INTERSECTIONS and CROSSROADS too!

MAY 7, 2021
12:00 - 1:00 PM

Embracing important conversations in rural Iowa on race and racism

Presenter: **DR. KESHO SCOTT**

Associate Professor of American Studies and Sociology,
Grinnell College



Conversations on race and racism can be difficult and uncomfortable, perhaps even more so in rural Iowa.

However, Dr. Kesho Scott, Associate Professor of American Studies and Sociology at Grinnell College, is embracing the conversation and encouraging others to do likewise. Dr. Scott will join us for

Intersections/Crossroads to talk about how she approaches the conversation and may even share some "aha moments" she has witnessed in those conversations. Join us May 7 to hear what she has learned about Iowa and Iowans as well as what work we need to be doing in these times. And perhaps a takeaway will be how we can each use Dr. Scott's approach in our own hard conversations with others regarding race, racism, and ultimately becoming anti-racist.

Please register 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.

REGISTER HERE

Dear The Peoples Church UU,

Here at the UUA, now is when so much of our attention turns to our largest gathering of the year—General Assembly (GA). GA is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across our Association. It is where we engage the governance and business of our Association, explore the theological foundations of our faith, learn together, worship as a larger community, and discern the ways we are called more deeply by our mission and principles. This remains true even when we cannot gather in person. Last year, virtual GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Let's build on this number!

This year we have exciting and interactive programming, invigorating worship, and transformative business on the agenda. We also have exciting updates in our technology to strengthen virtual engagement. Registration gives you access to **our new GA app** where announcements are made, conversations are already happening, and the program guide is published. Remember too that our on-demand library of GA content will be yours to view throughout the summer...if you register!

And in case you missed it, I am thrilled to announce that **the 2021 Ware Lecture** will feature Stacey Abrams & Desmond Meade! I can't wait!



Special Announcement
Unitarian Universalist Association

REGISTER HERE

The Finance Team met on 4/15/21 to review bookkeeper reports and discuss the interim minister financial package.

Cash flow for the first quarter (January, February, and March) was positive due to people pre-paying pledges:

- Jan – March income \$88,105
- Jan – March expenses \$50,466

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Fruit
Vegetables (not green beans)
Cereal
Soup
Crackers
Peanut Butter
Packaged meals
Canned Meat

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.

WAYS TO GIVE



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 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



Tree Adoptions!

In partnership with the City of Cedar Rapids and our generous sponsor Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust, Trees Forever is hosting a tree adoption for residents of Cedar Rapids! Adopters may reserve up to two trees for pick up at the Veterans Memorial Stadium parking lot, on Sunday, May 16, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Purchase your beautiful native trees at this secure online site! Orders are being taken through Friday, May 14, at 3:00 p.m. Trees must be purchased prior to the pickup date. Quantities are limited for each species.

To order a tree:

treesforeveradoptions.org



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/

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
Linn County, Iowa

May

Date	Day	Time	Event
1	Saturday	all day	First Day of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
2	Sunday	11am	Worship
4	Tuesday	7pm	Book Group for Caste by Isabel Wilkerson
5	Wednesday	all day	Cinco de Mayo
9	Sunday	all day 10am 11am 12:15pm	Mother's Day Faith Formation Worship Worship Associates
10	Monday	all day	Jerusalem Day
13	Thursday	all day 4-6pm	Ascension Day Shared Pulpit
16	Sunday	all day 10am 11am 12pm	Shavuot Eve Faith Formation Worship Annual Congregational Meeting
17	Monday	all day all day	Tax Day Shavuot
19	Wednesday	1pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
20	Thursday	6:30-7:30pm	Finance Meeting
23	Sunday	all day 11am	Pentecost Worship
24	Monday	all day	Whit Monday
27	Thursday	1pm 4-6pm 7pm	Paraministry Meeting Shared Pulpit Board Meeting
30	Sunday	all day 11am	Trinity Sunday Worship
31	Monday	all day	Memorial Day



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 (h) 361-0280 (c) | daviskris49@gmail.com

Paraministers

April 26-May 9 | Dorothy Hershner
May 10-23 | Jan Federer
May 24-June 6 | Rose Gabe

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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



**PEOPLES
CHURCH**
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