

THE VOICE

June 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 Peoples people,

I was 33 years old when the Peoples Church Board first hired me as your Developmental Minister 5 years ago. Still wet behind the ears (having been ordained only 2 years earlier), I was inexperienced and nervous. At the time I was also newly married. It was an era of big transitions for me - a significant, exciting time in my life.

And Peoples Church was with me every step of the way.

When I became a wife, you celebrated with me. When I become a mother, you honored me and cared deeply and compassionately for my family (A baby shower! A Meal Train! Baby snuggles!). And then when I became a minister, you may not have even noticed, but you were present for that too. It happened. I may have come in the door with all the right credentials, but I truly believe I became a minister while serving Peoples Church.

Thank you. Thank you for this opportunity. Thank you for teaching me how to love and how to serve. Thank you for trusting me, having faith in me, and allowing me to work for you and this extraordinary congregation. Thank you for making me the minister and person I am today. What a powerful, wonderful experience we have had together!

Meaningful closure occurs when no aspect of the relationship is either denied or avoided at the time of departure.

-Roy Oswald

As you know, I am not leaving because I am unhappy or lacking in anything. I love Peoples Church and all of you and always will. I am leaving because we always knew this was a time-limited ministry and the day would come. Seizing this opportunity that has presented itself to me and relocating to a bigger city (with the added benefit of being closer to my wife's family), is the right thing to do for my family at this time. It will also be good for my career and help me even better provide for my family and secure our future.

As I look back on our time together and how our shared ministry unfolded over the years, it makes me smile. Sure, we went through some ups and downs, and some days were better than others, but in general, I am simply filled with gratitude. Thank you.

Let's really take the time we need this month to celebrate our ministry together and honor all of our accomplishments. I'll see you on June 12th at the Bon Voyage picnic and on Sunday mornings as we celebrate, process the transition, and prepare to say a good goodbye.

In faith,
Rev. Rebecca



June 2021

Play

The 8th Principle

6

What is the proposed 8th Principle and what is it inviting us into? More than 50 UU congregations have adopted it already. Shall we join them and commit to growing spiritually and dismantling racism? Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Joan Jacob.

When Love Needs Boundaries

13

I love you. I will always love you. And love needs clear, healthy boundaries in order to keep everyone safe and well. So, what boundaries do we need moving forward, beyond this time when I am your minister? What can you expect from me and what do I expect from you? Service led by Rev. Rebecca. Music by Pete and Deb.

A Good Good-Bye

20

This will be Rev. Rebecca's last Sunday in the pulpit. It is hard to say goodbye, but we must. Join us in learning how to say it well and cultivate change as a life skill. This special service will include much music and a ritual of release and letting go. Service led by Rev. Rebecca.

General Assembly Sunday

27

Tune into the largest annual gathering of UUs together in worship. Recognizing the importance of shared ministry and the many innovative approaches to worship created by congregations during the pandemic, UUA President, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick Gray, selected the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis to serve as worship leaders for this year's GA Sunday Morning Service.

Nurturing the Flame

Play

Marion Patterson, Board President

Thank you for your support in electing this strong board team and me to serving you during this year of transition. We are working together for us all.

Have you ever felt like you are between a rock and a hard spot? I've found that sometimes the best thing for me is just play! The photo shows me just before donning climbing gear and tackling a granite face in the Black Hills. I made it with only a few scratches and a deep sense of accomplishment.

I invite you to "play around with":

- The **website** that Rev. Rebecca, Christine and our web designer, Shelly Turner have created and updated. It is attractive and easy to use. All you need to know is there under easy to access drop-downs.
- The Developmental Evaluation which is now posted and has a link on FB page. (Governance>Other documents>click the + sign and download the pdf.) The perspectives will help us all move forward as we Nurture the Flame of Liberal Religion.
- The questions – What is a gift YOU can offer members, the church and the larger community? How can we minister to you?
- Love each other deeply. Join us Saturday, June 12 from 10:00-11:30 at the Grandview Pavilion, Bever Park for a Goodbye to Rev. Rebecca, Casey and Madeleine. See details in this issue of the Voice.
- I invite us all to be light hearted especially in this summer of transition and, thus, uncertainty. To borrow a line from Bobby McFerrin, "Don't Worry. Be Happy!" We are a good group.



In gratitude, M~

We have provided a link to a wonderful article from FaithandLeadership.com - "Greeting our return when the old is gone and the new is here."

"As we resume in-person ways, churches are uniquely equipped to welcome people back, writes a managing director of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. ..." ***continue reading***

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

Peoples Board Minutes

Bon Voyage!



Saturday, June 12
10-11:30am
Bever Park
Grandview Pavillion

Please join us as we bid farewell to Rev. Rebecca, Casey, & Madeleine as they begin a new and exciting chapter in their lives.

Masks preferred.
Cookies provided
Please bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.

Please contact the office if you will need a ride to this event.
362-9827 or office@peoplesuu.org.

Information of note:

- Please consider car pooling as there are not a lot of parking places at the top of the steep hill near the Grandview Pavillion.
- There are NO RESTROOMS within walking distance of the pavillion.
- There is a small piece of playground equipment.
- The pavillion is not near the petting zoo.

Directions:

- Take 19Th St SE to Grand Ave.
- Turn East (Left or right depending on what direction you come from.)
- Follow Grande Ave into the park and follow the road around to the left towards the pavillion entrance.
- You will see the pavillion and playground on top of the hill as you enter the park.

Wise Words
From David Wise
Director Faith
Formation



I've spent almost my entire life around the church. I have spent almost 20 years in some form of professional ministry. Sometimes ministry is not a lot of fun. It can be very taxing and trying at times.

The last four years that I have spent here at Peoples have been very rewarding and quite a bit of fun. I had no intention of returning to ministry but when I saw the ad for the job at Peoples something inside caused me to apply. And I am glad that I did! Working with Rebecca here at the church has shown me that indeed ministry can once again be rewarding and fun. I appreciate the situation I have had here working with her and the rest of the staff.

Saying goodbye is never an easy task! It is something that we don't want to do. It is something that hurts inside and tears a little bit at the very fabric of our being but it is something that is a part of life. Whether we like it or not saying goodbye and change is going to happen. I know it is hard but believe it or not, life will go on. It may not be exactly the way we had imagined. It may not be the way we had hoped, but it will continue. And we will be stronger because of the pain.

I am so grateful for the opportunity that Rebecca gave to me here at Peoples. And I am very thankful for these past four years.

David

Summer Camp program books will be mailed out next week.

Attending Worship in Person—**UPDATED**

We are taking one tentative step into Phase III of our COVID19 church operations. We are going to test having up to a total of 15 people in the sanctuary at a time this month.

Usually, four to five people provide the service. (minister, worship associate, pianist, technology host) So, an additional 10 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.

FYI—you may want to bring ear buds and a phone or tablet that runs Zoom in order to hear the musicians who play remotely.

Please watch this section in our weekly newsletters where we will post updates on in-person attendance.



Calling for your favorite recipes!

We are going to compile some of the congregation's favorite recipes to share with Rebecca and Casey. Please send in your favorite recipe(s) by email or mail, even if it is written on a card or napkin. We prefer recipes that are not very long or complicated.

Please include the following information with your recipe:

- Your name
- Source of the recipe, if known
- Your phone number in case there are follow up questions.

Send recipes to Jill Jones:

Email: **jill.jones@mchsi.com**

Phone: 319-431-9815

Address: 701 34th Street SE, CR
52403

Deadline: June 11th

We will send our recipes to Rebecca and Casey when they are compiled into a finished cookbook.

Keepsake Video Project for Rev. Rebecca and Her Family

UPDATE: We would really appreciate more videos! New UPDATED due date of June 4. **If you need assistance creating your video please contact David Miessler-Kubanek directly at dmk-creative@gmail.com or Kathy Juba at kathywilson@imonmail.com or 378-3116 (h).**

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 give 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-Kubanek directly at dmk-creative@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 June 4, noon, Central time.







Peoples stewardship campaign is underway! Early in July you will receive a letter and pledge form. Please complete the form with your giving intentions as soon as possible. It has only been recently that the church has been able to meet financial obligations without dipping into reserves. We want to continue this! **Each pledge is important** so give generously if you can. When we all give, Peoples Church can continue to give to us, our programs, staff and the community. Lets be **Generous Together!!**

The Stewardship Committee

The Finance Team met on 5/20/21 to review bookkeeper reports and the interim minister financial package.

Cash flow for April was positive due to pre-payment of pledges and quarterly UUCEF disbursement:

- April income \$31,998
- April expenses \$11,274

A BIG thank you to Mike Meshak and Charlie Cizio!
On June 2nd they removed the last of our trees damaged by last year's Derecho.

More facility news:

We look forward to having our new roof installed this month, followed by our new solar array!



SOCIAL JUSTICE

FIRST SUNDAY PLATE COLLECTION:

Bethel AME Church-Granny's House

**Our next Social Justice Forum is Sunday, June 13
at 9:45am on Zoom.**

Rev. Leoma Leigh-Williams will speak about the Allen Lincoln Douglass Project, Granny's House, and Mentorship. This groups is our 2nd quarter First Sunday Plate Collection recipient. All are welcome!



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.

The PCUU Board of Trustees at its May meeting has voted to approved the formation an 8th Principle Task Force which will work to prepare the congregation for its adoption at the December Congregational Meeting.

Juneteenth Festival—NewBo 11am-6pm
Join us and wear your Peoples Church shirt!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Canned Meat Fruit Vegetables (not green beans)
Packaged meals Cereal Packaged potatoes

Developmental Ministry

Some members have expressed a need for further clarification of the “rankings” of the goals of the Developmental Ministry that have been reported as a result of the recent evaluation

Here is a chart from the report showing ***the percentage of respondents who said the goal had been reached*** are as follows:

GOAL AREA	% OF RESPONSES
Financial Stewardship	60%
Governance	56%
Communications	49%
Involvement in Broader Communities	26%
Membership	11%

Those areas people think have the most work going forward can be read from the bottom up. Furthermore, the goal that most people thought had accomplished the most, Financial Stewardship, still had 40% saying more work is needed.



Special Announcement
Unitarian Universalist Association

[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!

Rev. Jeff Briere is Retiring

Greetings from Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Gray, Tennessee! Our current minister, Rev. Jeff Briere, is retiring and we are conducting a virtual reception for him on June 17th from 7-8pm EST. Because Rev. Briere served your worship community, we wanted to invite anyone in your community to participate in this reception.

The reception is via Zoom; the Zoom registration link is <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvdeGsqDIuG9dq1q4xjxQy3mxy9CfzR16y>. Although the time published is 7-8, we can go as long as needed to accommodate all who want to share words with Rev. Briere.

WAYS TO GIVE WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCEING



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



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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.

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.



Day	Date	Time	Event
Tuesday	1	all day	First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
Wednesday	2	all day	Corpus Christi
Sunday	6	11am	Worship
Monday	7	all week	Christine is out of the office
Saturday	12	10-11:30am	Bon Voyage to Rebecca, Casey and Madeleine Bever Park Grandview Pavillion
Sunday	13	9:45 – 10:45am 11am 12:15 – 1:15pm	Social Justice Forum Rev. Leoma Leigh-Williams will speak about the Allen Lincoln Douglass Project, Granny's House, & Mentorship. Worship Worship Associates
Monday	14	12pm	Van Vechten Guild Brown Bag Picnic at Noelridge Park
Wednesday	16	1 – 2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
Thursday	17	6:30 – 7:30pm	Finance Meeting
Saturday	19	all day	Juneteenth Festival 11am-6pm at NewBo - Wear your Peoples Church shirt!
Sunday	20	all day 11am	Father's Day Worship (Rev. Rebecca's last Worship Service at Peoples Church)
Thursday	24	7 – 8:30pm	PCUU Monthly Board Meeting
Sunday	27	all day 11am	17th of Tammuz 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
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Sue Davis
Steve Hershner
Marcy Mattison
Erin Ogle

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

May 24-June 6 | Rose Gabe
June 7-June

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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

the Voice



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PEOPLES
CHURCH

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CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52405