

# THE VOICE

August 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)**



## Pastor's Page

I am thrilled to begin this new role at Peoples! I look forward to the coming months and working with the congregation in a different way. In my time here at the church I have gotten to know many of the members and friends. In this new position I will have more of a chance to get know even more people.

The good thing is that Peoples is in a good place! Things are going well and there is no reason for that to not continue. We can face together anything that comes our way in this interim time. The last 5 years of Developmental Ministry have laid the groundwork for great things to continue!

As I have said before I am both humbled and honored to be the Interim Pastor at Peoples. This pulpit has been occupied for the last 150+ years by women and men who sought to lead a congregation seeking to do the right thing. And that is the same today.

There are so many issues that are causing concern and difficulty in our

country and world. Do we have all the answers? No. Do we have some ideas on how to make our part of the world better? Yes. I invite you to journey along with me as we try new things, experiment with the old, and continue to do the right thing!

I encourage you to keep an open mind while we look at the last part of the Developmental Ministry goals and see how we can make our little part of the world more livable.

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### COVID UPDATE

I know people want to be back in the building for worship. I know other churches in Cedar Rapids and surrounding towns are back in buildings for worship.

During July as I was preparing to become the Interim Pastor I kept checking the COVID numbers for the county and the state. I was optimistic and thought that we could make it back in the building for the water ceremony in September. Unfortunately, the numbers in Iowa and Linn County continue to rise. Another major concern is no vaccine available for those under the age of 12.

Marion (BOT President) and I communicate on a regular basis. As soon as it is safe to do so—we will return to the building. We just need to know it is as safe as possible.

David

# August 2021



## Who is he?

**15** David has been around Peoples for 4 years. But who is he? Where did he come from? Why did he end up here? Tune in to hear those answers and more!

## Where do we go from here?

**22** It has been 5 years since Peoples started Developmental Ministry. What is left to be done and how do we get it done?

## What is Sabbath and why is it crucial?

**29** We are a 24/7 world! That can be bad for us and those around us. Why is it important to slow down and go a bit easier at times?

# Effective August 1...

we are going to ask that those who come into the building to please wear a mask. The recent COVID numbers in Linn County have been alarming! Please do your part to help reduce the spread.

We will be having workers in the building in the next few weeks for upgrades and repairs. They will be expected to follow their company masking policy.



The word “Wish” is such a wishy-washy word. Because we misuse it. When we empower the word “Wish” with a strategy called **WOOP**, we empower it with energy and direction. [Scroll to hear Dr. Gabrielle Oettingen explain the “Four Steps of WOOP”]. **WOOP** offers a way to empower Wishes.

**W:** What do we Wish for? (Take time to be *calm and reflect*)

**O:** What Opportunities will achieving this Wish get us? (*Feel the benefit*)

**O:** What Obstacles are before us in achieving this Wish? (What *holds us back*?)

**P:** What is our Plan to overcome these obstacles? (*Specific strategy*: If this happens “Name obstacle”, then we will do “State the Behavior to Overcome”).

Using **WOOP** can be for small or BIG ideas. Short or Long term. [See YouTube Video “**What is WOOP?**”] Here is an example:

**W:** I wish to have an in-person get together in mid-pandemic times.

**O:** Help friends reconnect, energize, and *feel* more part of a community.

**O:** Acknowledge the presence of the Delta variant of COVID-19. Vaccinated people can carry it asymptotically, pass it on to others, and contract it.

**P:** Meet outside. If people do not want to hug, then touch the heart as a greeting.

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How can we use **WOOP** at church to invite a settled minister to partner and walk with us into the future?

*Look back first:* What characteristics/talents of ministry have we appreciated? Reflect on the chapters of our history: Perseverance, Renewal, A person is not the church, A building is not the church, and Love, which IS the Church.

*Discern who and what we are **now**:* (Let’s make a list!)

*Move forward:* As we move forward in Love, what do we at Peoples Church **Wish** for? The

## Nurturing the Flame

WOOP!

Marion Patterson, Board President

board of trustees and search team (Bylaws IX.1.a) want to hear from you.

What does ministry in the future look like? Where do we want to go? What do we want to be? What do we **Wish**?

What **Opportunities** does achieving this Wish offer?

What **Obstacles** might arise that we need to overcome?

What is our **Plan** to overcome these? {If Name an Obstacle, then state the plan}

**WOOP** works when we have a Plan that reaches beyond “wishy washy wishing.”

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*To Help Peoples Get where we Wish to Go these are some Action steps the board and settled search team plan:*

\* Call people and hold a series of virtual and in person gatherings to share.

\* Ask members to help with various tasks and get this information to the core search team members to incorporate in our search packet and webpage.

(i.e. photography, webpage content, descriptions of our many activities, go beyond ministry to community/regional activities and lifestyles.)

Please share: What is Peoples common vision as we work to call a settled minister and family to partner and walk with us?

Let’s **WOOP** it up!



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**



## Settled Minister Search Update

### Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck

Say hello to the Settled Ministry Search Team!

Below you will find brief introductions from the core Search Team members so you can start getting to know us. But please note the word “core” is included **because everyone at Peoples Church is a part of our ministerial search.**

The core Search Team has three primary tasks:

1. **Learn from the congregation** where we would like to go next and what kind of partnership we need to get there.
2. **Craft an attractive and exciting Congregational Record (CR)**, which is basically our job advertisement. The CR will show the opportunities that ministry at Peoples Church offers and should reflect our complexity along with our aspirations.
3. **Interview candidates and find the best match for**

**our church.** The candidating process will help the core team get to know the candidates before we present our recommendation to the congregation.

The key thing you need to know right now is that **we will need your help to do this work.** The only way we will find the right partner in our future ministry is by showing potential ministers both who we are and where we want to go.

That means:

- We need everyone in the congregation to participate in discussions and activities where you share your ideas, hopes, and aspirations for our church.
- We need volunteers to help with discrete tasks and activities coordinated by the team.

We will begin in September with small-group discussions. **Look for a survey in August letting us know when you can participate.**

And then, watch for updates in the Voice, the eWeekly, and on Sundays.

### Steve Hershner

My involvement with Peoples Church goes back 50+ years and I am committed to and believe whole-heartedly in the mission and work of this church and Unitarian Universalism more broadly. After retiring in 2020 from the City of Cedar Rapids Utilities Department, I have been riding my bike and working on several non-profit activities. Retirement has also allowed me to step back into leadership at Peoples to help advance the progress we have made during our Developmental Ministry.

### Kathleen Mavity

I joined Peoples Church in January 2013, as soon as I relocated from the Twin Cities to be nearer to my two big sisters. Over the last 8+ years, I have:

- Served on the Board of Trustees as both member and president, my term as president being primarily focused on the sexy work of policies and bylaws.
- Acted as a Worship Associate dedicated to the premise that screw-ups are just a way of demonstrating authenticity.
- Sung and directed the choir back in the good ol' days of in-person worship.
- Painted, scrubbed, stripped wallpaper, and generally futzed with housekeeping as needed.

My current goal is to decide what I want to be when I grow up.

### Laura McGraw

Hello fellow congregants! I've been a member of Peoples Church for 25 years. My husband, Gary, grew up in Peoples and suggested we attend when we moved here from Los An-

geles. As a person who never belonged to any religious institution, I was truly surprised by the immediate connection I felt. When our daughters were young, I chaired the Religious Education Committee, and more recently I have become involved with the Social Justice Council and the 8th Principle Task Force. I can't think of a more important task than choosing a new leader to guide us through the next phase of our growth and am excited to be serving the congregation in this capacity for the next year.

### Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck

I have been a member since 2007 and have participated in many teams from worship to finance to serving on the board. I decided to step back into leadership after a pandemic hiatus because times of organizational transition require a great deal of support to navigate smoothly. I want to be a part of finding a great fit for our church's next ministerial partner. When I'm not hanging out with Peoples people, I play games, work on my garden, knit, and entertain my husband with my antics (he says I'm never boring.)

### Susan Petersmith

Hi Friends! I and 7-year-old Ila have been part of the Cedar Rapids community the last 8 years. I joined Peoples Church after I was diagnosed with leukemia because it became very important to me to teach my child how to find and build community with like-minded individuals. The 7 Principles align with my own values, which I want to impart to my child and build into our daily life. I have worked as an abortion and reproductive justice advocate, a humane educator, a phlebotomist, a doula, a graphic designer and most recently as a licensed massage therapist. I love live music, small town festivals, cats and dogs, and traveling the country with my little girl.

# SOLAR PANEL DEDICATION

***Thank you to our generous donors!!***

Going solar is another confirmation of our respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



David Wise, our new Interim Pastor leads our dedication ceremony.



Dick Woodward flips the ceremonial switch to our new solar system!



## Benefits:

- Reduce the demand for fossil fuels
- Limit greenhouse gas emissions
- Shrink our carbon footprint
- Reduce air pollution
- Help to slow global warming

**Click here** to see the Cedar Rapids Gazette article on our new Solar Panels—"Lighting the Way"

# Our new video equipment is installed in the Sanctuary!

Look for sharper and cleaner images in the coming weeks on Zoom.



**The message below is particularly important with COVID cases rising in Linn County. *Please read!***

## Attending Worship in Person

We are continuing our move into Phase III of our COVID19 church reopening plan. We are having up to a total of 20 people in the sanctuary at a time—this includes the worship team.

Usually, four to five people provide the service. (minister, worship associate, pianist, technology host) **So, an additional 15 congregants can reserve a spot for in person attendance.** *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





### **Let's Be Generous Together!**

As we work our way through the 2022 Generous Together Stewardship Drive, we ask you to consider a couple things about our Peoples Church finances when you're completing and returning your pledge sheet.

Over the past few years, we have done a great job with financial stewardship, bringing our income in line with our expenses, and we have been successful at that. The majority of this success has been the result of generous giving on your part. Our endowment investment income, grants, and rental income generated by sharing our church building with Voices of Christ also help. And, the addition of solar panels to the church will serve to reduce the expense side of our balance sheet.

But the reality is that pledges still make up the majority of our income (almost 75% of our expected income for 2021) and almost surely will for years into the future.

Every pledge, small or large, is important to our continued success. Your pledge is important to our continued success. As you complete and return your pledge sheet, please remember that our goal for 2022 is a 2.5% increase in pledging. Let's be Generous Together!

*The Stewardship Team*

The Finance Team met on 7/15/21 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for the first six (6) months of the year was positive:

- January through June income \$126,781
- January through June expenses \$112,549





Date of Report: 8/3/21

Total Dollars 2022 Pledge Goal	\$171,000	
2022 Dollars Pledged to Date	\$115,494	68%
Goal for Pledge Returns	84	
Number Pledge Forms Returned	32	38%



Please let us know your pledge intentions for 2022 as soon as you can.  
 No time for forms? Please contact the pledge treasurer, Charlie Cizio, directly.  
 He can be reached at [pcuu.pledge.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pcuu.pledge.treasurer@gmail.com) or 319-395-7499.  
 Thank you for your generous and timely response!

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

The last **book discussion on Caste: The Origins of our Discontent** by Isabel Wilkerson will be on Tuesday, September 7 at 7 pm. Contact Clarice Krippner at [\*\*cbkrip@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:cbkrip@gmail.com) for the zoom link.

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The **Social Justice Council** will have a zoom forum on **Sunday, August 8 at 9:45 am** prior to the Service. Our speaker will be Erin Foster with the Linn County Mental Health Access Center. This organization is the recipient of our First Sunday Plate Collection for the third quarter of this year. This new center was developed in co-operation between Linn County, law enforcement, area hospitals, and local mental health partners. The Center will provide 24 hour crisis care for those experiencing a mental health or substance abuse disorder. The center was designed to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and arrests. It will provide evaluation, suicide screening, detoxification, and care coordination and referrals. To donate go to Peoples Church Website. Click on Resources and then Donate Now. Under Give Now select *First Sunday Plate Collection*.

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United Ways across Iowa are sponsoring a 21 Day Equity Challenge during the month of September. 100% free and open to everyone. Receive an email every weekday in September with links to recommended articles, videos, podcasts, and more. Topics include-implicit bias, child care, mental health, housing discrimination, generational wealth. Register at [www.IowaEquityChallenge.org](http://www.IowaEquityChallenge.org).

## Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness & Advocacy Network

### Grant for Part-Time Position!

The Iowa Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network has received a grant to hire a part-time organizer. The organizer will work to build relationships between IUUWAN and UU congregations in Iowa and will strive to build UU congregations into a unified effort to expand our social justice advocacy actions in the state. If you or someone you know is interested and would like to receive a copy of the job description please contact [\*\*marcia.swift@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:marcia.swift@gmail.com).

## The 8th Principle

*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.*

Our Principles have changed in relation to society's demands in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. It could be time for a change in the Principles in the 2020s because recent events have shown us that many Americans are still deprived of access to liberty, equality, and justice.

UUs are actually a part of the problem. Our congregations are and have always been white centered and of European heritage in membership and leadership roles. For people identified as white, it is too easy to ignore issues of systemic racism in our congregations and in society. This is exactly what keeps the system of racism alive and, in fact, worsening right now. We need to de-center whiteness and other dominant cultures in UUism.

The 8th Principle came from a feeling that we need something to renew our commitment to this work, to hold ourselves accountable, and to fulfill the potential of our existing principles.

Our 8th Principle Task Force will be moving Peoples toward this goal of de-centering whiteness during the next 5 months. We thank Kris Davis, Laura McGraw, David Meissler-Kubaneck, Marcia Swift, Joye Winey, and Dick Woodward for their commitment to this work by serving on the Task Force.

At the GA Assembly in June 91% of the delegates voted to include anti-racism and anti-oppression in the 8th Principles. 112 UU congregations across the country have voted to adopt the 8th Principle.

The 8th Principle Task Force met on July 19th. There will be a Sermon in one of the September, October, and November Services on the 8th Principle. A Forum on the 8th Principle with a Q & A will be held on Sunday, October 10. For learning more about the 8th Principle visit

**[https:// www.8thprincipleuu.org](https://www.8thprincipleuu.org)**. 100+ congregations across the country have already adopted the 8th Principle. People's has done the work of anti-racism for the last several years. We are in a good position to adopt the 8th Principle at our December Congregational Meeting. Please join our mission!!

**Iowa public health officials report an increase in hospitalizations as the more transmissible delta variant of the coronavirus is spreading in Iowa.**

**If you haven't yet, please consider getting vaccinated.**



## **Worship Tech Specialist Position**

The new video system has been installed! We are seeking to hire someone to help with the tech work here at the church. Here is more info:

The Worship Tech Specialist would provide the needed technical support for the Peoples Church by handling all technical aspects of creating successful Zoom Sunday worship services.

Hours required may vary from week to week but will probably average out to be approximately three hours per week.

The successful candidate for this position would be dependable, punctual, demonstrate strong attention to detail, have good communication and data organization skills and adhere to deadlines.

The technical skills and equipment required for this position include:

- Strong understanding of basic computer skills
- Strong understanding of the Zoom Platform
- Strong understanding of YouTube Platform
- Strong familiarity with Power Point and/or Google Slides
- Familiarity with editing sound and audio files
- Familiarity with PTZ cameras and controllers would be helpful. Ability to learn is crucial.

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Host Sunday morning Zoom services from approximately 9:30am – 12:30pm
- Participate in tech service rehearsals with worship leaders, to the extent this is necessary
- Record Sunday services and edit content in accordance with congregational policies
- Organize and maintain cloud files
- Provide requested technical support for occasional non-Sunday-morning Religious Exploration and other congregational activities

**To apply send an email to [humanresources@peoplesuu.org](mailto:humanresources@peoplesuu.org)**

## EXCITING PEOPLES' TIMES AHEAD...

- > Sunday, Aug. 15th David presents his first Interim Minister service!
- > Early September POSSIBLE larger Sunday service gatherings!
- > *This Fall...* An updated church video & a special webpage by the Core Ministerial Search Team as they begin the search for a settled minister.

*This Calls for A Special...*

## SHIP-SHAPE-SATURDAY !

August 7 9am - 1pm

A savvy person will be on hand with materials and details for each of the following teams....

- Landscape - spiffy and photo ready
- Painting - touch up indoor scuffs
- Nursery - freshened and neatened
- Classrooms - extra clean and neatened
- Andre Room - display refreshed

Just come or leave word at the office 362-9827  
for the team(s) you'd like to assist!  
Bring your own snack/beverage

*Our teamwork will have Peoples camera-ready in no time!*

## 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.



Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	7	9am-1pm	Ship-shape Saturday - let's work together to refreshen the church!
Sunday	8	9:45 – 10:45am	Social Justice Forum - with Erin Foster, Director of the Linn County Mental Health Access Center
		11am	Worship
		12:30 – 1:30pm	Worship Associates
Sunday	15	11am	Worship
Wednesday	18	1-2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
Sunday	22	11am	Worship
Monday	23	6:30pm	Finance Meeting
Saturday	28	9am	Board Retreat
Sunday	29	11am	Worship



Our Minister and staff will NEVER email OR text you to ask for money or gift cards - do not respond to these communications.

NO ONE from Peoples Church will email you to ask for your social security number and/or birthdate.

It is increasingly common for people to be impersonated on social platforms. Please be aware of the possibility that you could be seeing/following a fake account on any social media platform. Feel free to check with the office when in doubt if an account belongs to Peoples Church. Thank you!

If you get an email or text like those mentioned above, do not respond. And by all means, call if you are unsure. 319-362-9827



## **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.

## OUR STAFF

### David Wise

Interim Pastor  
(319) 362-9827  
Tuesday, Wednesday,  
and Thursday usually  
10am-3pm or  
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**

Kris Davis  
Sue Davis  
Steve Hershner  
Marcy Mattison  
Erin Ogle

# THE VOICE.

PEOPLES CHURCH

## MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.



### Good Neighbors

Kathy Juba | 378-3116 | [kathywilson@imonmail.com](mailto:kathywilson@imonmail.com)

### Paraministers

August 2—15 | Rose Gabe

August 16—29 | Jan Federer

August 30—September 12 | Dorothy Hershner

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

[OFFICE@PEOPLESUU.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@PEOPLESUU.ORG) | (319) 362-9827