

# THE VOICE

## September 2021

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# 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 Pages

What interesting times that we live in today! A few years ago if you had asked me what I thought the future held a global pandemic would not have been on my list of possible ideas! I doubt it would have been on the list for anyone! But here we are.

As a congregation we have changed and adapted. In the space of a week in March 2020 we were able to from a totally in-person service to a totally on-line service. Did we really know what we were doing? No! It was a trial and error process. We did some things right. We made some mistakes. We learned along the way. We embraced possibilities that came our way! And we continue to do that today.

Opportunities have come our way to enhance the video quality and process at Peoples and we have done so. We embraced the possibility of reaching people beyond the walls of the church more than ever before. In our worship services and events we regularly have people join us from all over. We have embraced the possibility of bringing in new ideas and new people to Peoples.

What other possibilities can we embrace? What other ways can we share the message of Peoples with the greater world?

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### COVID UPDATE

I had so hoped to be writing a newsletter column for the month of September that would invite you to join us in the sanctuary for worship! Unfortunately the Delta variant of COVID has made that impractical and unsafe. We will gather at Morgan Creek Pavilion on September 19th for the annual Water Ceremony. Based on guidance from the CDC and the UUA, because Linn County is a high risk area, please wear a mask even though we will be outdoors.

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The SOLAR SYSTEM is awaiting 2 final approvals. The city must inspect and sign off and then Alliant needs to install a meter and give their OK. Once that occurs we will be able to turn on the system and start helping the environment.

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I will be gone Sept 7 to Sept 14. Andrea will be available for pastoral care. You may reach her through the office or by email at **[dre@peoplesuu.org](mailto:dre@peoplesuu.org)**

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I am holding a surprise informal get together for friends and family to stop and say Happy Birthday to Karen. It is a major birthday and I would like to invite the Peoples people to stop by Red Oak Pavilion at Bever Park September 5 from 4-6 pm to celebrate. Of course social distancing will be important and snacks will be pre-packaged. No gifts please. Just come and say hello and Happy Birthday!

*David*

As I shared on Sunday I have been added to the Kidney Transplant list at Des Moines Unity Point Hospital. Naturally it is unknown when a transplant will be available. Plans are being made here at Peoples so that everything will happen smoothly in my absence. Once the call comes I will have about 6 hours to get to Des Moines for the surgery. When the time comes Andrea will preach the first Sunday I am gone and Angie Pierce-Jennings will preach the second week. Christine, Marion, and I have discussed all the items that need to be done on a regular basis here in the office and an action plan is being put in place. Andrea will also handle pastoral care while I am gone.

Following surgery I will be in the hospital for 2-3 days and in Des Moines for about two weeks. After that I will be 😊 home and back in the office as soon as possible. They may not be full days at first, I will use sick time and vacation time to cover the days away.

A few Q and A's:

Why do need a transplant? I used an over the counter pain reliever that is bad for the kidneys. My then doctor knew I was using the drug but did not caution me against the use. I should have done more research to learn of potential issues.

What is your 😊 (fill in the blank) number? I have been asked about several numbers from tests I assure you I have the numbers as I think I have had every test imaginable! One day they did take 20 vials of blood to run all types of tests. The important thing is my kidneys are functioning at about 10% right now. I am not on dialysis at the present time and hope that can be avoided. However kidney transplants are a waiting game. One never knows when it might happen. The only issue causing me worries right now is fatigue.

Why Des Moines? There are two transplant centers in Iowa. Des Moines and Iowa City both transplant kidneys. The wait is shorter in Des Moines and my kidney specialist here is a Unity Point Physician so it makes sense to use that facility.

What can we do? Be understanding. 😊 For those for whom prayers are comfortable they are much appreciated. Good thoughts as well! This will be an interesting journey! Some of the steps might be easy and some will be hard. Knowing there are people who care for Karen and I will be invaluable.

*David*

# September 2021



## Mental Health

5

Mental health has been in the news a lot lately. We will discuss ways you can help yourself and your friends in difficult times. Service led by Pastor David. Special music by Deb Hunemuller and Pete Kies.

## 8th Principle

12

The UUA is exploring an 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. Peoples has a task force involved in research and education related to the proposed Principle. This morning features a sermon from Rev Monica Dobbins of 1st Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City. Service led by Pastor David. Special music by Lea Morris.

## Water Ceremony

19

Morgan Creek Park Pavilion. Come, bring your small container of water, and join us in this annual ceremony that calls us together as people connected by the precious resource of water. Service led by Pastor David. Special music by Angie Pierce Jennings

26

## TBD

Service led by Deborah Booth. Special music by Mike Maas and Carlis Faurot.

## ***Peoples is returning to Phase 1 of our Pandemic Response & Reopening Plan***

In Phase One the church building is closed with virtually everything online.

- Worship: online only**, with a small crew of no more than 5 people physically in attendance to lead the service.
- Weddings and Funerals: online or in person with no more than 5 people physically in attendance.
- Adult Programs, Fundraisers, and Social Events: online only.
- Office and Building: Anyone visiting the building should wear a mask**; people should sanitize surfaces when working in office space.
- Pastoral Care Visits: Pastoral care visits to senior living facilities, hospitals, and high-risk individuals are prohibited.

*Please watch this section each week for updates.*

## Ministerial Search Team Update

Your Search Team has been meeting weekly during August and will continue to meet at least that frequently throughout the fall.

During our first meetings, we began to wrap our heads around the full scope of the search process and all the elements involved. We also began laying the groundwork for gathering and organizing the information we will need to complete the church's Congregational Record, which is essentially our Help Wanted ad.

As we move more deeply into this work, please remember:

The Search Team is **NOT** establishing the criteria or characteristics for a potential minister. Our charge is to learn **FROM YOU** what kind of ministry we want to create as a community.

What are our dreams and aspirations within, among, and beyond Peoples Church?

In what ways will we do more to lead compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action?

**We have identified numerous areas where congregational input will be crucial to create an accurate and enticing Congregational Record.** We will begin gathering that input primarily in two ways:

**Survey.** Yes, we know everyone recently completed a survey about the Developmental Ministry. The Search Team has those survey results and will not duplicate effort **BUT ALSO** there are questions we need to ask that are specific to the search process. Please respond to the survey quickly and completely when it goes out. More on this soon.

**Small Group Discussions.** We will join some of our Sunday breakout discussion groups after church services to ask questions and gather feedback. We also plan to hold separate meetings at other times so we can talk to as many people in the congregation as possible. Look for more information in the Voice, eWeekly, and before services.

You might think about this information gathering stage as similar to a 360° evaluation. We want to hear from everyone about all aspects of the church and our ministry so we can accurately convey to ministerial candidates both who we are and who we want to become.

That is the work of our entire congregation this fall.

If you have questions for the Search Team during this process, you can reach us at **[pcuu.search@gmail.com](mailto:pcuu.search@gmail.com)**

Warm Regards,

Kathleen, Laura, Robyn, Steve, & Susan

*My life has been a path at the edge of uncertainty. Today, I think we educate kids to be settled in the comfortable chair. You have your job, you have your little car, you have a place to sleep and the dreams are dead. You don't grow on a secure path. All of us should conquer something in life and it needs a lot of work and it needs a lot of risk in order to grow and to improve you have to be there at the edge of uncertainty"*

*- Francis Mallmann, Chef, Restaurateur, Author*

For the better part of a decade Peoples Church has chosen to embrace possibilities and "walk on the edge of uncertainty." We tired of repeating negative behaviors and recognized the importance of doing things differently. An interim minister and board handled tough stuff as a search team called a developmental minister to walk with us; members articulated our values of what we are about; then, skilled wordsmiths crafted a dynamic mission statement; subsequent boards developed policy governance to guide us; a Covenant of Right Relations has helped us interact with each other positively; we have supported one another in times of need and celebrated in times of joy.

In short, we have embraced possibilities and chosen to walk on the edge of uncertainty.

Today, Peoples Church is the proof in the pudding: Budgets in the black. Our

## Nurturing the Flame

Embrace Possibilities

Walking on the "Edge of Uncertainty"

**Marion Patterson, Board President**

growing endowment yields substantial funds for projects. Refurbished areas brighten our building. A multi-platform AV system better reaches members and friends from Maine to Texas to California to Alaska. A solar system generates electricity. Our work to understand and counter endemic racism enlightens us. These are all purposeful movements forward.

With a sense of confidence and commitment we again Embrace Possibilities as we step to the edge of uncertainty calling a settled minister.

May each of us choose to contribute our individual efforts resulting in collective action as we continue work together in peace, seek the truth, and help one another.



M~

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

# FAITH FORMATION

## **Welcome to our new Acting Faith Formation Director!**

### **Andrea Hawkins-Kamper**

I use she/her pronouns, and am originally from the Louisville, Kentucky area by way of Phoenix, Arizona, but have called northern Illinois home for the better part of two decades. My spouse, Wren (they/them), and I currently live in Rock Island with our two cats. Both of our children live their own lives, and we are blessed to visit with them often.

I received my Master of Divinity from Meadville-Lombard Theological School in 2020; and elected to continue my studies at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, where I am pursuing a Doctor of Ministry on Public Theology. I am currently a candidate for the ordained Unitarian Universalist ministry.

I am a poet, author, musician, and visual artist- all talents that weave their way through my ministry. I look forward to working with you all on this sacred journey.



## **Faith Formation 2021-2022 begins Sunday, September 19**

September 19 Faith Formation is at a different time and location! Classes will be held after worship from 12:15-1:30 at Morgan Creek. Please bring own snacks. Parents and kids—please come introduce yourselves to Andrea, our new Faith Formation Director.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## ***First Sunday Plate Collection - Linn County Mental Health Access Center***

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.

### **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 multi-cultural 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.

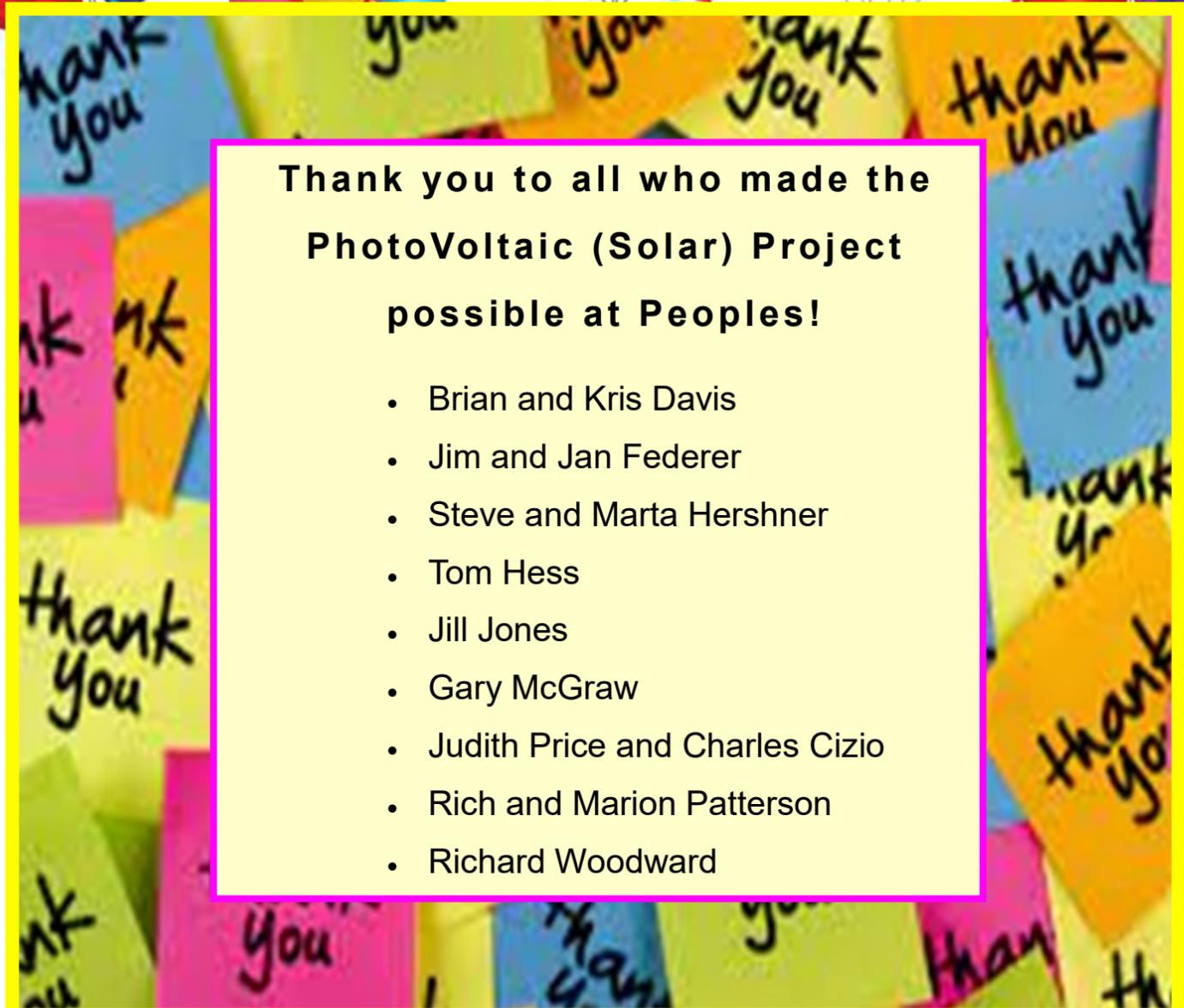
Our 8th Principle Task Force will be moving Peoples toward this goal of de-centering whiteness during the next 5 months. We thank Kris Davis, Laura McGraw, David Meissler-Kubaneck, Marcia Swift, Joye Winey, and Dick Woodward, Megan Jones, and Aida Jones for their commitment to this work by serving on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



**Thank you to all who made the  
PhotoVoltaic (Solar) Project  
possible at Peoples!**

- Brian and Kris Davis
- Jim and Jan Federer
- Steve and Marta Hershner
- Tom Hess
- Jill Jones
- Gary McGraw
- Judith Price and Charles Cizio
- Rich and Marion Patterson
- Richard Woodward

## Peoples' Stained Glass Windows

Through this hot summer, church members have “spiffed up” the building and grounds. They have cleaned stuff and dust that accumulated during the Pandemic hiatus, and weeded plants that have grown in spite of the drought.

All in preparation as we highlight the church to call a settled minister.

We are making progress!

One area of “spiffing up” has been re-examining options for the remaining stained-glass windows now stored in the far back of the music room.

Joye Winey, who has served on the aesthetics' team and who spearheaded the efforts to create beautiful jewelry from some of the window pieces, has investigated this. Twenty or so panels are taking up space in the music room, the frames deteriorating, and the panes in sore need of professional, deep cleaning.

Joye has doggedly checked out 17 different possibilities such as the history and art centers, auction houses, purveyors of church artifacts, and restaurants.

Below are tentative plans to help these remaining artifacts come to life again in new homes:

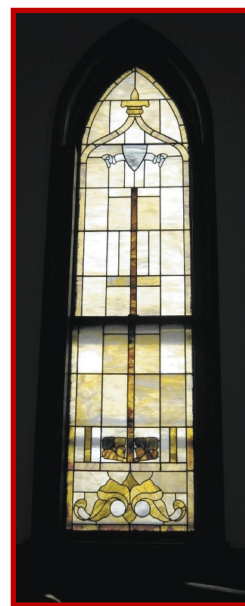
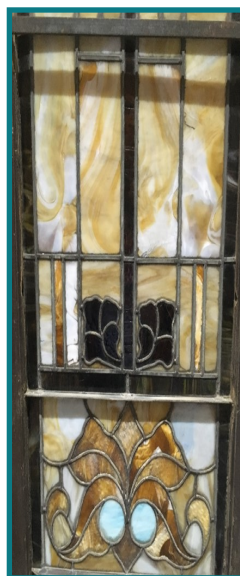
- Display representative windows in the Ely room from Sept 16 to Sept 24.
- Members/friends can make an appointment to stop by the church and see them.
- Sept 19th Forum on WINDOWS.  
9:45am at Morgan Creek Park. Gather other ideas about what are practical

ways to give new life to the windows.

- Donate a window to the History Center. This allows the legacy of Peoples Historic Third Avenue building to continue living. The History Center will view the windows and make their decision.
- Allow members of Peoples to select a window(s) to take home and care for. The expectation is to remove the window from the Peoples Building by October 31, 2021. We encourage members to make a free-will gift to the congregation for the window.
- At the end October remaining windows will be offered to other sources.
- The funds will go toward continuing to beautify our building and grounds.

We believe congregational input is important. We ask you to provide some guidance. We have answers to questions you may have and welcome ideas that will help the windows find good homes and “sparkle again” in new locations. Come to the forum for a discussion or contact Joye or Marion prior to the forum.

Here are two examples of the stained-glass images:



## ***Welcome back Van Vechten Guild!***

We will be meeting each month on second Monday at noon like we usually do. Our September 13 meeting will again be outside at Noelridge Park Pavilion at noon. We will do a bring your own lunch as Covid does not allow for our annual potluck start up meeting. Program will be sharing our summer activities and any good reads since we last met. Folks may wish to bring a lawn chair if they don't wish to sit the whole time on the picnic tables.

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

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

## **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.



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

*From the Stewardship Committee*

*The stewardship report at the beginning of September contains good news and even better news! The good news is we expect to surpass our pledge goal for \$171,000 for the 2022 church year! Including the automatic pledge payments currently being made and the pledges returned, our pledges for 2022 currently stand at \$172,929. Thank you for your generous support of Peoples Church UU. Your pledges will help the church to more fully live our mission: to lead compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just actions.*

*The even better news is that the stewardship team is actively working to strengthen our church community by reaching out to talk to those from whom we haven't yet heard. For those of you we are trying to reach, please respond to the messages so we can honor your pledge intentions for 2022. Even better, if you would like to be included in the pledge campaign and haven't heard from us, please reach out to the church with that information. Your generosity sustains our momentum towards a better church and a better world.*

*The Stewardship Team*

The Finance Team met on 8/23/21 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for July was positive:

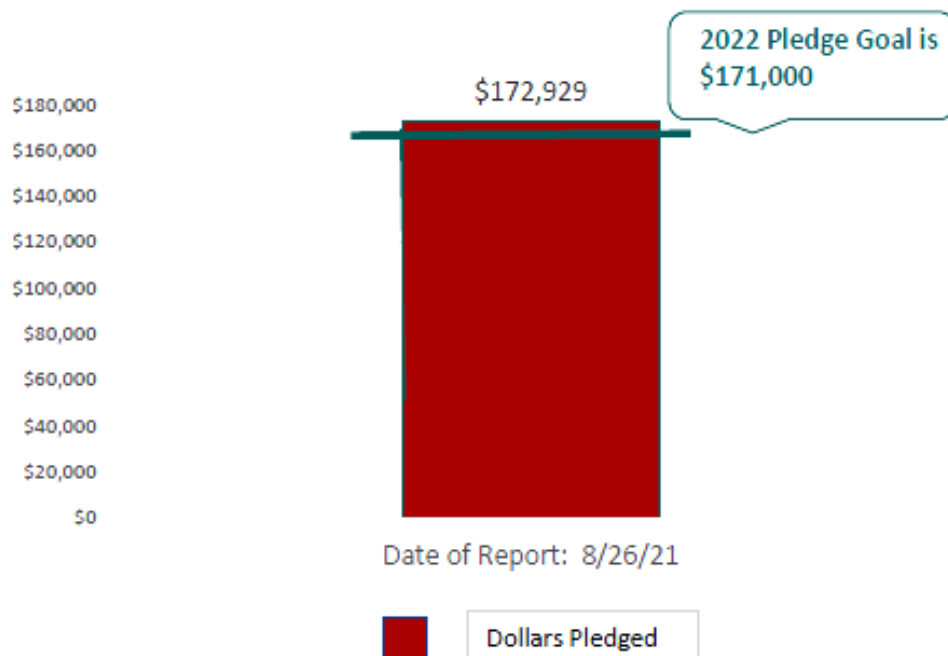
- July income \$16,825
- July expenses \$13,551



Date of Report: 8/26/21

|                                |           |      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Total Dollars 2022 Pledge Goal | \$171,000 |      |
| 2022 Dollars Pledged to Date*  | \$172,929 | 101% |
| Goal for Pledge Returns        | 85        |      |
| Number Pledges Counted*        | 61        | 72%  |

### 2022 Dollars Pledged to Date



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!

\* Includes continuing all EFT's from 2021 to 2022

# September

| Day       | Date | Time  | Event  |
|-----------|------|---|--|
| Sunday    | 5    | 11am  | Worship  |
| Monday    | 6    | all day<br>all Day                              | Labor Day<br>Rosh Hashana Eve  |
| Tuesday   | 7    | all day<br>7-8pm                                | Rosh Hashana<br>Book Group for Caste by Isabel Wilkerson   |
|           | 8    | all day   | Rosh Hashana (Day 2)   |
|           | 9    | all day   | Gedaliah Fast  |
| Sunday    | 12   | 11am  | Worship  |
| Wednesday | 15   | all day<br>all day<br>1-2pm                     | First day of Hispanic Heritage Month<br>Yom Kippur Eve<br>Social Justice Team Meeting  |
| Thursday  | 16   | all day<br>6:30-7:30pm                          | Yom Kippur<br>Finance Meeting  |
| Sunday    | 19   | 9:45-10:45am<br>11am<br>12:15pm<br>12:30-1:30pm | Stained Glass Windows Forum at Morgan Creek Park<br>Water Ceremony Worship Service at Morgan Creek Park<br>Faith Formation at Morgan Creek Park<br>Worship Associates at Morgan Creek Park |
| Monday    | 20   | all day   | Sukkot Eve   |
| Tuesday   | 21   | all day   | Sukkot (Day One)   |
| Wednesday | 22   | all day   | Sukkot (Day Two)   |
| Thursday  | 23   | all day<br>6:30pm                               | Sukkot (Day Three)<br>Board Meeting  |
| Friday    | 24   | all day   | Sukkot (Day Four)  |
| Saturday  | 25   | all day   | Sukkot (Day Five)  |
| Sunday    | 26   | all day<br>11am                                 | Sukkot (Day Six)<br>Worship  |
| Monday    | 27   | all day   | Sukkot (Day Seven)   |
| Tuesday   | 28   | all day   | Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah  |

# BEWARE...

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

### Andrea Hawkins- Kamper

Faith Formation  
Director  
(319) 362-9827

### 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

Kris Davis | 361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

### Paraministers

August 30–September 12 | Dorothy Hershner

September 13–26 | Deb Booth

September 27–October 10 | Susie Hauter

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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