

THE VOICE

October 2021

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Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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[Peoples Church UU Cedar Rapids, Iowa YouTube Channel](#)

www.peoplesuu.org



Pastor's Pages

In preparing to write this column for the newsletter I came across an article that struck me as ideal at this time. With the upcoming Charlottesville trial and the discussion about adding an 8th Principle Chris Crass who is a longtime organizer, educator, and writer working to build powerful working class-based, feminist, multiracial movements for collective liberation has written:

To become an anti-racist faith community, the key question for a white/white majority community is not “How do we get people of color to join our faith community?” It is, instead, “How can we make a prolonged, spiritually-rooted, engaged commitment to uprooting white supremacy within our community and take ongoing collective action to challenge it in society?”

Our goal is not to have white people sit alongside a person of color so as to affirm that those white people aren't racist. Our goal is to build and be part of beloved community, united to end structural oppression and unleash collective liberation in our faith communities, schools, neigh-

hoods, workplaces, and throughout society. Our goal is to join hands across the divisions of racism in our faith and in our communities, and affirm the humanity in each other.

Our goal is to join our hearts and minds to the task of destroying white supremacy in every worldview, policy, law, institution, and governing body of our society. For our faith communities to be places of healing from the nightmare of racism that haunts people of color and white people. For our faith communities to be places of nourishment, sustaining the multiracial struggles of our people to advance economic, racial and gender justice. For our faith communities to be part of the continual process of working within the movement as part of the journey to end oppression in society. For our faith communities to raise our children of all backgrounds to be freedom fighters and practitioners of liberation values.

Our goal is for our faith communities to be spiritually alive, learning from and contributing to liberation cultures and legacies. For our faith communities to be welcoming homes for people of all colors, sexualities, classes, ages, abilities, genders and citizenship statuses. For our faith communities to regularly invite us into and prepare us for courageous action for collective liberation, held in loving community for the long haul.

May our faith communities be active agents in the world, to help us all get free together.

Isn't that what it is all about?

Pastor David

Thanks to everyone who stopped by or sent a card for Karen's birthday. 😊 She really enjoyed seeing everyone and getting the cards!

Last week, for the first time in several weeks, the COVID numbers in Linn County went down!! Let's hope that trend continues! At Peoples we are being cautious. It is important that we be as safe as we possibly can. Thank you for understanding that health and safety are important to us!

Be on the lookout for Peoples Church on SOCIAL MEDIA platforms. We are beginning a concentrated effort to promote the congregation on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram! More info will be coming soon!

Pastor David

October 2021



Cultivating Relationships

3

Cultivating relationships is hard enough in normal times! When you add a pandemic into the mix things get much harder! How can we as a congregation help cultivate relationships in these trying times? Service led by Pastor David. Special music by Mike Maas and Carlis Faurot.

Relationships are easy peasy—right?

10

David will explore a few things to help make relationships a little better. Service led by Pastor David.

The 8th Principle

17

Service led by Meadville Lombard seminarian Roddy Briggs. Join us as Roddy explores the 8th Principle through their lenses as a person of color.

TBD

24

Service led by Paulette Montague. Special music by Angie Pierce Jennings.

All Things End

31

On All Hallows Eve, as we stand on the threshold between the season of bounty and the season of scarcity, let us reflect on the ultimate ending of all things: death. Though often a topic of fear and dread, death is not something to avoid. Approaching death with intention and returning it to the sacred cycle of life can help us all live with more intention, with more peace of mind, and even with more joy. Service led by Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck.

“The mark a (person) makes in this world is most often a trail of Faithful Love, and Quiet Mercies and Unknown Kindnesses.”

(This quote is slightly adapted from Michael Lindvall)

Such has been the legacy of Peoples Church members and friends for over 152 years! We have seen this legacy grow over the past several years in how well we have responded to the 2008 and 2016 floods, and the 2020 Derecho; chosen to upgrade and refurbish the building; boost our financial commitment; govern with consistency and transparency; support the 8th Principle; and reach out to each other.

Quiet, unknown acts of Love and Kindness have helped us move with Grace through past and current challenging times. I thank you all for these Kindnesses – the known and the unknown and the many groups and individuals who have supported others and offered hope for the future. Staff who work behind the scenes and keep this “ship” steady. Those who informally staying in touch with notes, calls, emails, filling the food bank, and offering extra financial support. The various teams and groups such as Faith Formation, Social Justice, Paraministers, Good Neighbors, Van Vechtan Guild, Book Clubs, Music Ministry, Worship Associates, CUUPS, Archives, Finance, Stewardship, Good Neighbors, Ministeri-

Nurturing the Flame

Cultivating Relationships

Marion Patterson, Board President

al Search, Nominating, Adventures in Dining, the Board, and Covenants all form a fabric of Kindness and Mercy. Likely there are more people and groups quietly supporting each other and our community. Thank you!

These ways of sharing that are primary to our quality of life at Peoples, in Cedar Rapids and beyond.

M~



We cultivate relationships one moment at a time.

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

Ministerial Search Team Update for October

Your Search Team continues to meet weekly to gather information for the Congregational Record, also known as our congregational help wanted ad.

The Congregational Record asks questions on a wide range of topics so applicants can get an idea of who we are and what we're looking for in a ministerial partner.

That means we - as in, everyone in the congregation - need to take part in helping to answer these questions. Involving everyone is the only way we'll be able to present ourselves authentically to prospective ministers. And presenting ourselves authentically is the only way we'll find the right fit for our community.

Our first step is completing the congregational survey. After the survey, everyone will have an opportunity to join a small group discussion where we dig into more detail. More information on these small group meetings is forthcoming.

But first: please complete the survey by Thursday, October 7! It should only take you about 20 minutes.

You can complete the survey online at <https://tinyurl.com/pcuu-search-2021>

If you need a paper copy, please contact the search team at pcuu.search@gmail.com or 319-594-3458 as soon as possible.

It is vitally important that everyone participate in helping the Search Team gather information about our faith community. So please do take some time to respond to this survey.

Give us your thoughts. Tell us your aspirations for Peoples Church. Help us help our faith community create the new ministry of our church that will help us all to more fully live compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action.

If you have questions for the Search Team during this process, you can reach us at pcuu.search@gmail.com.

Warm Regards,

Kathleen, Laura, Robyn, Steve, & Susan

Peoples Church remains in 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.

Faith Formation

Hello all and greetings!

October is nearly upon us, and with it, a month of Faith Formation! I know I am excited about the upcoming gatherings of our youth and people and hope you will be as well!

On 10 October, we will meet at Morgan Creek, starting in the Pavilion (same place as the water ceremony), for a lesson on harvest ceremonies and the Seventh Principle. We will meet from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

On 24 October, the annual Hallowe'en Costume Contest returns!! This year it will be held at the Patterson's home, Winding Pathways, from 2pm through 4pm. We will be doing a food drive as well, so look for details soon about that.

My father's folks hail from places where the Norse settled, and these are the times of the year when they would begin to gather together in their halls, telling the Old Stories we now know as the Ed-das. We do things a little differently today, the spirit of that tradition holds true, and I look forward to hearing your stories this month.

Let's tell some good ones together.

Andrea Hawkins-Kamper
Interim Director of Faith Formation



SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 6** to attend the Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop.

Unitarian Universalist ministers who are People of Color, LGBTQ+, disabled, young, old, and/or working class still face discrimination as part of the ministerial search process.

As part of our settled minister search process, the Search Team is committed to finding the best fit for Peoples Church, no matter how they dress, how they talk, or how they identify.

But remember: **the ultimate decision about who to call as our next settled minister rests with the congregation as a whole.**

And that's why **EVERYONE at Peoples Church** should plan to participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop this November 6th.

What: Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Association as part of our settled minister search process.

When: Saturday, November 6, 2021 (the exact times will be announced; please reserve the whole day on your calendar)

Where: On Zoom

Who: Everyone at Peoples Church who will interact with our new minister

WHY: To explore assumptions and biases that could prevent us from recognizing the person who is the best match for our congregation.

Mark your calendar for November 6 and stay tuned for more information.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

First Sunday Plate Collection - Black Lives Matter

Elections in Iowa

The Republican Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law many changes in how Iowans vote, such as not allowing voting officials to send out absentee ballot request forms and reducing the amount of time for requesting an early ballot. For further information go to Elections@Linn County-IA-gov. Bringing about social justice and equality begins with voting!

We have 10 Black Lives Matter signs in the office—first come, first served!

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, 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>. 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!!

Van Vechten Guild update

September 2011

At the Guild's September meeting, Dorothy Hershner encouraged members to attend the upcoming meeting of the local United Nations Association, a group that VVG financially supports every year. The United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) is a movement of Americans dedicated to supporting the United Nations. UNA-USA members are united in their commitment to global engagement and their belief that each of us can play a part in advancing the UN's mission and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The annual pledge to People's Church was renewed and money was collected for our annually identified charities, Trees Forever and IAFF.

The Guild will be selling pecans this fall with Jan Federer again in charge. The cost will be \$13 per bag for 3 types, plain, milk chocolate, and dark chocolate. On the topic of financially supporting landscaping for the Gordon Avenue side of the church, the group voiced its continued support and interest. Joye Winey updated the group on plans for the remaining stained-glass windows from the 3rd Ave. building. The guild will again be donating mittens to a charity this winter.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 11 at noon at Noelridge Park with the program being an update on the recent changes to the election process. All Peoples people are welcome to attend.

WAYS TO GIVE WHILE SOCIAL DISTANC-



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.



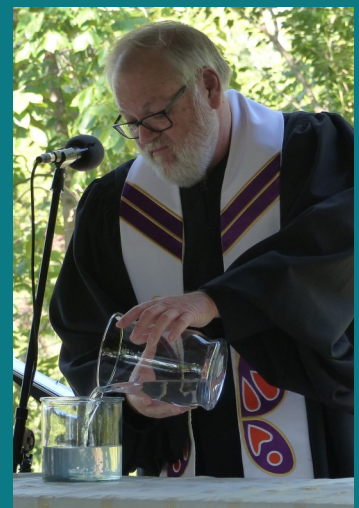
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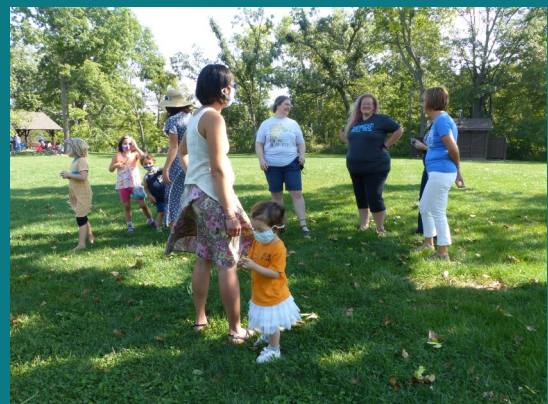
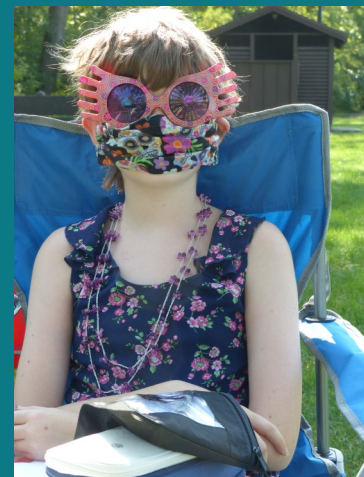
Vanco Mobile app on your smart phone.

Go to the **App Store** or **Google Play** and search "**Vanco Mobile**". Download app and simply search for

*** Vanco Mobile is free!**
Members' log-in credentials in Vanco Mobile are the same as they are in GivePlus Mobile.
Recurring gifts will continue to be made as scheduled.

Water Ceremony 2021







Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	3	11am	Worship
Monday	4	all day	Feast of St Francis of Assisi
Mon-Fri	4-8	all day	Christine out of office
Mon-Wed	4-6	all day	Pastor David at an offsite Retreat
Sunday	10	9:45 – 10:45am 11am 12:30pm 2-4pm	Social Justice Forum Worship Worship Associates Faith Formation <i>at Morgan Creek Park</i>
Monday	11	all day	Indigenous Peoples' Day
Sunday	17	11am	Worship
Wednesday	20	1 – 2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
Thursday	21	6:30 – 7:30pm	Finance Meeting
Sunday	24	11am 2-4pm	Worship Faith Formation <i>at Winding Pathways</i>
Thursday	28	6:30 – 8pm	PCUU Monthly Board Meeting
Sunday	31	all day 11am	Halloween Worship

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.

Flu Shots are now available.

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

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.

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

September 27–October 10 | Susie Hauter

October 11-24 | Rose Gabe

October 25-November 7 | Dorothy Hershner

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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