

THE VOICE

November 2021

Table of Contents

[Pastor's Page](#)

[November Service Information](#)

[Nurturing the Flame](#)

[Ministerial Search Team](#)

[Faith Formation](#)

[Social Justice](#)

[Finance](#)

[What's Happening](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Helpful Information](#)

[Peoples Church Contact Information](#)

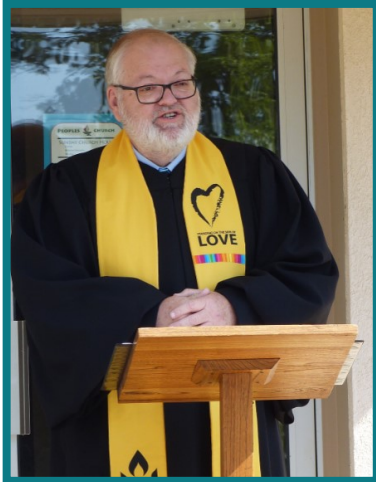


Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

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

www.peoplesuu.org





Pastor's Pages

It is hard to believe that it was 2 years ago that we gathered here in the building and at the Flamingo Restaurant to celebrate 150 years of Peoples Church! So much has happened in the time since that gathering. It seems so strange to think about all of us gathered together in one place visiting with each other and sharing a meal.

The past 20 months has changed our outlook and thoughts about so many things. One thing that has been reinforced during this time is our need for each other and for connection. It has been hard being away from everyone. It has been hard not seeing your faces up close. It has been hard not to hear kids laughing and learning in the building. It has been hard to sit in a sanctuary with just a few people spread out. Our sanctuary is designed to hold people. It is designed to be filled with singing. This time in our history has been hard and strange. I am thrilled that the empty sanctuary will be coming to an end.

I know not everyone will be comfortable being back in person. I know we have the issue of the young children not being able to be vaccinated yet. Those are issues that are important.

It is also important that we gather as a community of faith. A community brought together by the hard work of people over the last 152 years.

I invite you to join us this Sunday as we come together to continue history and be the people of Peoples!

Since March of 2020 we have been on a roller coaster. On a roller coaster you have twists and turns and thrills. This version of the roller coaster we have been on has had the twists and turns but has lacked thrills!! When it started we had no way of knowing what was going to happen. We are still not sure. We have done our very best in these times to navigate the best we can.

After much thought, mediation, prayer, and conversation with staff, and Marion, I am thrilled to share with you that next Sunday we will move into phase 3 of our COVID protocols. What that means is next Sunday the building will be essentially open for worship. Masks must still be worn. Social distancing will be enforced with some pews unavailable. There will not be social time and you will be encouraged to visit with each other outside of the building.

Is this forever? We don't know. We will always make sure we are being as safe as we can. And each person must decide for themselves what is best for them. Safety concerns may require us to close again. But perhaps it won't. The time has come for us to be together again.

Pastor David



November 2021



History-whole or part?

7

History is crucial to who we are. Do we need to know everything about a person to assess their relevance? Or are some things better left out of public view? Service led by Pastor David Wise.

"Will the new minister hear me? Will MY concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I'm living with? How will the community respond to our new minister?"

14

These are questions that when answered, a picture of the 'ideal minister' (categorized by age, gender nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation) comes to mind. With this picture in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. At times we get caught up in comparing candidates to our "picture." We can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

Today, our congregation is sharing in a service about Beyond Categorical Thinking. This program is offered by the UUA for congregations involved in a ministerial search. Service led by Jerry Carden.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

21

The Transgender Day of Remembrance has been observed annually as a day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. It is a day to draw attention to the continued violence endured by transgender people. Service led by Pastor David Wise.

When "history" is really a fairy tale.

28

It's becoming increasingly clear that there's truth in the claim "history is written by the victors." How do we know what to accept and what to reject when it comes to the history of our nation, state, city, and church? How do we discern what to take as fact and what to take with a grain (or a bushel) of salt? And why should we bother figuring it all out? Come explore these ideas in a service featuring a tag-team sermon offered by Kathleen Mavity and Cate Sheller.

17th

7pm

Stories, Sacred Objects, in the Senses

This is a special 30 minute **BONUS** worship service led by Angie Pierce Jennings. Please join in on Zoom or YouTube.

Holding History can be tricky.

Our personal and family stories are riddled with holes and speckled with embellishments and hyperbole. The stories of community, corporations, cultures, and nations, are often told from a dominant perspective. Holes are conveniently filled in. Actions polished until they become the story. The back story can get lost. One interpretation dominates others.

So, how does Peoples Church authentically Hold History without perseverating on troubles, glorifying ourselves, or dismissing successes?

Preparing for the 2019 Sesquicentennial Peoples Heritage Team carefully preserved remnants from our past. Today, the Heritage Team ensures relevant pieces are kept in archives as print and audio. Photos, articles, recorded services. YouTube. Physical artifacts, photographs of honored members with rooms named after them are placed around the building and honor our past. The list of ministers graces the foyer wall. Our pictorial past is outlined near the stairs.

Various meeting minutes rest securely in our organized office systems services. people's memories. Our Covenant of Right Relations, by-laws, operational and board policies, and past Voices are accessible on the website.

We also Hold History by honoring our tradition of activism. Topics may change. Social Justice, Equanimity, and Kindness are always the bedrocks of our historical activism.

Nurturing the Flame

Holding History

Marion Patterson, Board President

We work to authentically present ourselves to ourselves and others. We acknowledge our struggles and celebrate our successes.

Recovering from the 2020 derecho; walking through the ongoing pandemic with confidence and energy; encouraging Voices of Christ ministry in our sanctuary; supporting the community with Social Justice actions, Q+ activities and Black Lives Matter, voting in elections, and staying committed to the Interreligious Council of Linn County; financially bolstering the church; completing the roof and solar installation (from which we now are reaping benefits!); energetically pursuing a settled ministry while producing quality services; installing and learning how to work upgraded technology; and gathering in person; sharing our stories in Faith Formation and Forums.

Through each of these steps we authentically create our story and Hold our History.

M~



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 November

Hello happy Peoples people!

Work on creating our Congregational Record continues at breakneck speed.

We deeply appreciate everyone's help with gathering all the information we need to create a comprehensive and exciting story about our congregation.

If you haven't shared your thoughts or you have something to add, please reach out: pcuu.search@gmail.com or 319-594-3458. **We need your input by Noon on November 10 at the latest** in order to incorporate it.

Right now we're busy analyzing and summarizing the information we've gathered so far.

In addition, Susan has been developing fabulous ideas for our website, which will share all kinds of fun information about Peoples Church, Cedar Rapids, and living in the Midwest. We'll let you know when it's ready to check out.

So what's next?

1. Once we're done with our Congregational Record, we'll send our materials to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for review. This will happen by mid-November.
2. If the UUA Transitions Office recommends changes, we will review their recommendations, possibly do some tweaking, and then resubmit.

Our Congregational Record will then go live on December 1. That's when ministerial candidates will be able to review openings and *crossing fingers* apply to our church!

We'll talk more about the rest of the process later.

For now, if you have questions for the Search Team, you can reach us at pcuu.search@gmail.com

Warm Regards,

Kathleen, Laura, Robyn, Steve, & Susan

Faith Formation

Hi everyone!

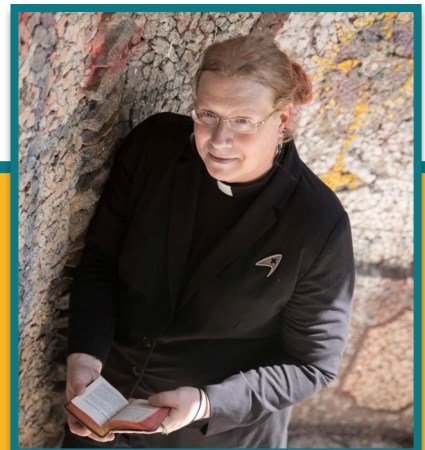
The Wheel has turned again, and the Third Harvest has been gathered. We are likely still singing the great songs of our Ancestors, still telling those spooky tales of derring-do and things that go bump in the night. It's a time of the year that makes my heart sing, makes me smile in wonder, and brings me back to the work we are called to do in the world.

Faith Formation during a pandemic is hard. Straight up. Between distance learning and travel and social distancing- the toll on us as educators and our children as children is significant. We are all in this together, and we'll get through this, together.

In November, our in-person faith formation classes will meet on the first and second Sundays of the month – November 7th and November 14th. Details will be sent via the Faith Formation newsletter.

My prayers are with you and your families, always.

Andrea, Director of Faith Formation



We are once again offering a pre-cooked, reheat at home, HyVee holiday meal to those in need.

Please contact the office by November 16 to make arrangements for a Thanksgiving meal for 2 or 4 persons.



Van Vechten Guild Pecan Sale Update

The pecan order has been placed and will be shipped November 11th. Currently only 6 pkgs of milk chocolate pecans are available. If enough requests come for halves, I will order another case.

Jan Federer

janfederer46@gmail.com

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County *Thanksgiving Service 2021*



“Returning to Community”

Monday, November 22nd, 7:00 p.m.

**Lovely Lane UMC
2424 42nd Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402**

An inter-faith gathering for reflection and thanksgiving.
Participation from various faith and secular traditions, including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Secular Humanism and Unitarian/Universalist.

Guest speaker: Dr. Scott Samuelson
Assoc. Prof. of Philosophy and the Humanities
Kirkwood Community College

A monetary offering will be collected to support of
Central Furniture Rescue

Refreshments provided after the service.

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County, 601 Second Avenue SE, Suite 5, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
www.irccl.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE

First Sunday Plate Collection Black Lives Matter

BLM Yard Signs are available outside the Church Office door!

Your Social Justice Team is working hard to develop a social justice plan for 2022 that recognizes that this will be a profound election year with so many implications for the future of our state and country. Our Sunday Forums, special events, and First Sunday Plate Collection nominees will be all geared around the races for Governor, US Senate, and 1st Congressional District US House of Representatives. All First Sunday Plate Collection nominees will be organizations working on voting rights and/or get out the vote efforts. You will learn about the plan we are recommending to the Congregation in your mailing for and participation in the December Annual Meeting. Stay tuned!!

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 Miessler-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!!

8th Principle Q & A

Question: After adopting the 8th Principle what does our church need to do to operationalize it?

Answer: This is an ongoing conversation with the 8th Principle Learning Community. Peoples has made great strides in partnering with and supporting groups and organizations that work to address racial injustice. We will want to make a commitment to continue and strengthen this work. Internally, we may want to take a look at our policies, procedures, Sunday Services format, and committee work? Are we being inclusive? Are we reaching out to include, welcome, respect, and celebrate diversity as a part of everything we do?

Finance Team Update

The Finance Team met on 10/21/21 to review financial reports and discuss financial planning for the future. Cash flow was positive for the first three (3) quarters of 2021 (January through September):

- January through September income \$168,121
- January through September expenses \$153,538

Thank you to everyone for your caring and generous support of Peoples Church UU!

WAYS TO GIVE WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING



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.



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 Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist. *

* 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.



Image from the
National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)

November

Day	Date	Time	Event
Tuesday	2	all day	Election Day All Souls Day
Sunday	7	2am 11am tbd	Daylight Saving Time has ended Worship Faith Formation - families to receive email
Thursday	11	all day	Veterans Day - thank you for your service
Sunday	14	11am 12:30-1:30pm tbd	Worship Worship Associates Faith Formation - families to receive email
Tuesday	16	7-8pm	Finance Meeting
Wednesday	17	1-2pm 7-7:30pm	Social Justice Meeting Special <i>BONUS</i> Worship Service
Thursday	18	6:30-8pm	Board Meeting
Sunday	21	11am	Worship
Thursday	25	all day	Thanksgiving - office closed
Friday	26	all day all day all day	Native American Heritage Day Office closed <i>December Voice Items due</i>
Sunday	28	all day 11am	First Sunday of Advent Worship
Monday	29	all day	Hanukkah (Day 1)
Tuesday	30	all day	Hanukkah (Day 2)



Iowa public health officials continue to report on cases, hospitalizations, and even deaths due to the coronavirus. Numbers are dropping in Linn County because of immunizations and social distancing.

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

Booster shots are now available for Pfizer and Moderna!



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

October 25-November 7 | Dorothy Hershner
November 8-21 | Jan Federer
November 22-December 5 | Deb Booth

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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