

THE VOICE

December 2021

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Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org





Pastor's Page

Journeys take interesting paths! Sometimes they are boring. Other times you want to get away from the path. 😊

These last couple of weeks have been all sorts of journeys. A surgery that went well followed by complications. I was working in my hospital room after surgery and then a bit later could not eat and was struggling at times to walk.

I am still in the hospital in Des Moines and will be moving to a rehab unit soon. They have started dialysis until the new kidney starts working. This is very hard for me—I love the Holiday Season of the

church and missing out on this time is hard.

I appreciate the wonderful leadership of Peoples, my outstanding staff, especially our fantastic administrator Christine!!!

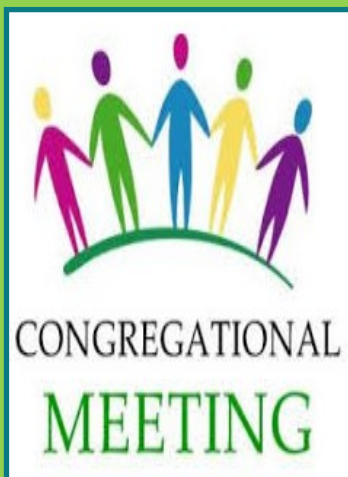
When you have a moment, please say THANK YOU to our tremendous WORSHIP ASSOCIATES! The last 20 months they have worked incredibly hard to produce interesting and varied worship, bringing them to your screens, and help lead Peoples!! I am so appreciative of all their hard work going above and beyond.

This journey is far from over at this point—I do hope it gets to be very boring!!

Thank you for the support, love and prayers!

May this season of holidays allow us to refresh and prepare for a great future!

Pastor David



Don't miss our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting!

THIS Sunday, December 5, 2021
immediately after Worship.

Remote attendees will log into/remain
on the Zoom worship link.

December 2021



Opening to Joy

5

As we move through changing and uncharted waters, the pressures of the season can be difficult to be navigate. Join us this week as we explore the transitions between our grief and our joy, how manage them, and the role faith plays in maintaining a healthy spiritual life. Service led by Andrea Hawkins-Kamper. Special music by Randy Arcenas.

Grief...Hope...Joy (Looking Back...Holding on...Moving Forward)

12

Join us as we look back on our beloved minister, Linda Hansen, featuring reflections from her sermons. Service led by Paulette Montague. Special music by Joan Jacobs.

Yule Service

19

Yule is a time to celebrate the longest night of the year and the return of the light. Join us as we celebrate the different origin stories of Yule and focus on how we can bring the light back into our own lives. Service led by Deborah Booth. Special music by Mya, Caden, and Avery Messenger.

Christmas Eve

24

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. Service led by Andrea Hawkins-Kamper.

26

Spirituality and Creative Expression: Opening to Art, Movement, and Joy
Service led by Angie Pierce Jennings. Special music by Kris Davis.

We need your favorite carols!

Judy Mitschelen is collecting your favorite Christmas Carols for a good ol' fashion carol sing to be held as part of the Christmas Eve service. Judy will combine your suggestions into a musical mélange for the whole family. Will there be a count down to the most popular carol? Anything's possible!



Help us make it happen by sending your 3 favorite carols on or before December 12 directly to Judy at: jmitsch60@gmail.com.

In the midst of grief, William Wordsworth and CS Lewis both found Joy. They turned the phrase "Surprised by Joy." For the past 21 months it has sometimes felt like little Joy exists. Yet, it has and does.

As we round out 2021, I invite you to Open to Joy. Where have you found Joy in your personal life and at Peoples? Where have you found lightness, satisfaction, pleasure, a smile, light-heartedness? Joy of any sort.

Consider: physical, emotional, educational, relationships, spiritual, activities, community, family, friends, strangers, business success, personal or congregational achievements. You will have more ideas.

Jot down your thoughts. Condense them to one or two words. Send them to me or leave a short message. (marion.patterson@gmail.com, 319-362-1470)

Share them at the Annual meeting in person or type into the Chat box so we can see them.

"Joy!"

M~

Nurturing the Flame

Opening to Joy!

Marion Patterson, Board President

When you come to the end
of all the light you know,
and it's time to step
into the darkness
of the unknown,
faith is knowing
that one of two things
shall happen:
Either you will be given
something solid to stand on
or you will be taught to fly.

Edward Teller



Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Please join our
Christmas Eve Service
at 6pm
In-person or via livestream*



A Very Special Message

From Teddy Shuttleworth and Family

When my husband and I moved to Cedar Rapids in the 1950s we looked for a church that would be welcoming to a variety of ideas and allow us to explore and develop our own beliefs. When we found Peoples Church we found such a place, both for ourselves and our children! Peoples Church stands for friendship and acceptance, it is a camaraderie of warm, friendly people, where free-thinking, discussion, exchange of ideas, and problem-solving are nourished and encouraged. Over the years Peoples has been a great influence on our family and enriched our lives. With this gift, we hope to empower and sustain the ministry and Peoples to do the same for others for decades to come.

*More details will be announced at this Sunday's Congregational Meeting!
We invite you to attend: December 5 at noon, in-person and via livestream.*

Faith Formation

Hello everyone!

As we transit into the busy holiday season, it can seem like everyone wants a some of our and our children's time. Memories, whether commercial or traditional, are what we make. Quality, not quantity, should be our guidestars. Our principles can be our frameworks to healthy, holistic living during this time of the year.

One way to do that is to cultivate a spiritual practice of gratitude, something that will allow us to better observe and witness what is around us, thus identifying the ways we can be of service to others.

A few days ago, my colleague Bridget Laflin shared this meditation by Jack Kornfield, which I immediately fell in love with. I hope you do too, and I hope it finds a home in your family's spiritual life:

Meditation on Gratitude and Joy

By Jack Kornfield (<https://gratefulness.org/resource/meditation-on-gratitude-and-joy/>)

Let yourself sit quietly and at ease. Allow your body to be relaxed and open, your breath natural, your heart easy. Begin the practice of gratitude by feeling how year after year you have cared

for your own life. Now let yourself begin to acknowledge all that has supported you in this care:

With gratitude I remember the people, animals, plants, insects, creatures of the sky and sea, air and water, fire and earth, all whose joyful exertion blesses my life every day.

With gratitude I remember the care and labor of a thousand generations of elders and ancestors who came before me.

I offer my gratitude for the safety and well-being I have been given.

I offer my gratitude for the blessing of this earth I have been given.

I offer my gratitude for the measure of health I have been given.

I offer my gratitude for the family and friends I have been given.

I offer my gratitude for the community I have been given.

I offer my gratitude for the teachings and lessons I have been given.

I offer my gratitude for the life I have been given.

In faith,
Andrea



Ministerial Search Team Update for December

Great news! The Peoples Church Congregational Record has been submitted!

We want to send out a great big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the efforts to gather the information needed for our record. All that information went into answering in-depth questions about our congregation intended to help candidates decide whether to apply to our position.

So what's next?

1. Once the UUA Transitions Office approves our Congregational Record, it will go live on December 1. That's when ministerial candidates will be able to review openings across the country.
2. Applicants have through the end of December to submit their materials.
3. The names and ministerial records of applicants are released to the Search Team on January 2nd.

The Search Team begins the process of identifying the right candidate for Peoples Church.

The discernment process of moving from applicant to candidate takes many weeks and many conversations. It's important to share one important note before we get started: **the Search Team cannot share any information about applicants to our position until we have identified our candidate.**

We can and will give regular updates on where we are in the process, but we cannot share any information about the number of applicants, who they are, where they are located, or even gender pronouns.

We know everyone will be anxious to know all the details about our search. At the same time the UU community is small, and our online lives are very public, so it's necessary to maintain complete confidentiality about all our applicants until we announce our candidate.

Thank you for your understanding.

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

Warm Regards,

Kathleen, Laura, Robyn, Steve, & Susan

SOCIAL JUSTICE

***First Sunday Plate Collection
Black Lives Matter***

**BLM Yard Signs are available
outside the Church Office door!
First come first serve.**

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!!

WATCH NOW!!!

8th Principle Video

WATCH NOW!!!

The 8th Principle

In the words of author and activist, Dwayne Reed:

"White supremacy won't die until White people see it as an issue they need to resolve rather than an issue they need to empathize with."

Vote Yes on adopting the 8th Principle for Peoples Unitarian Universalist Church.

Voter Suppression and Voting Rights:

The Freedom To Vote Act (S.2747) would set national standards to protect the freedom to vote, counter election sabotage, and partisan redistricting, and fix our broken finance campaign finance system. The US Senate has voted against bringing the bill to the floor. It has passed the House.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Act (1) would restore parts of the original Voting Rights Act stripped by the US Supreme Court. The House passed this Bill in March of this year. The bill was introduced in the Senate this month and failed to attain the 60 vote threshold.

As citizens we must push our Republican and Democratic representatives to pass these bills which likely means getting rid of the filibuster. Let your voice be heard.

Is Solar For You??

The Peoples Church recently added solar energy, or photovoltaics, in an effort to save money on the electric bill and reduce carbon released into the atmosphere through conventional power generation. Join several PC members to learn about our new system and the systems they've put on their homes.



THIS Sunday, December 5 at
9:45am

In-person, in the Ely Room.



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

**Please contact the office by December 14 to
arrange for a Christmas meal for 2 or 4 persons.**



Van Vechten Guild Annual Cookie Walk!

Monday, December 13 at 12pm

The Van Vechten Guild invites you to join us in the Andre Room at Peoples Church for its annual December meeting and cookie walk. Bring a brown bag lunch and a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies to share in our cookie walk. We will have a brief meeting but mostly it will be enjoying visiting and seeing each other again. All our welcome to attend.



Adventures in Dining



The Adventures in Dining group will meet again in 2022, starting in February, and would like to invite members and friends of Peoples church to join. This will be the 8th year of dining together and the group always welcomes new diners.

There are currently around 40 members in the group. The group meets 5 times a year: February, April, June, August, and October, on the first Saturday evening of the month. There is a random grouping of 8 people per house party, with a person or couple designated as hosts. There is a theme for the year, with corresponding countries, and food for the dinner is based on one of those countries. The host provides the main dish, with the other members of their party bringing other dishes. Everyone is asked to host once a year.

The main idea is to have fun with some great people, different people each month, and experience foods from around the world. Small house, big house, condo, or apartment will do. Dining room or TV tray, china or paper - these things don't matter. Fun is the first rule of the evening.

The 2022 theme is classical movies filmed in international cities, and the schedule is as follows:

February 5	"An American in Paris"	France
April 2	"Zorba the Greek"	Greece
June 4	"Out of Africa"	Kenya
August 6	"For Whom the Bells Toll"	Spain
October 1	"Under the Tuscan Sun"	Italy

If you are interested, please contact me and I will send you more specific information.

Ann Woodward (319) 389-3025 or annmariewoodward@hotmail.com

Finance Team Update

The Finance Team met on 11/16/21 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for October was negative:

- October income \$14,364
- October expenses \$18,024

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 Mo-**
bile". 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.

December

Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	1	all day	Hanukkah (Day 3)
Thursday	2	all day	Hanukkah (Day 4)
Friday	3	all day	Hanukkah (Day 5)
Saturday	4	all day	Hanukkah (Day 6) / Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Sunday	5	all day 9:45am 11am 12-1pm	Hanukkah (Day 7) Solar Forum - Ely Room Worship December Congregational Meeting
Monday	6	all day	Hanukkah (Day 8)
Sunday	12	11am 12-1pm 12:30-1:30pm	Worship December Board Meeting Worship Associates
Monday	13	12-1pm	Van Vechten Guild - Annual Cookie Walk - Andre Room
Tuesday	14	all day	Asarah B'Tevet (Tenth of Tevet)
Wednesday	15	1-2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
Thursday	16	7-8pm	Finance Meeting
Sunday	19	11am	Worship - Faith Formation Program
Friday	24	6pm all day	Christmas Eve Worship Office closed
Saturday	25	all day	Merry Christmas Everyone!
Sunday	26	11am	Worship
Monday	27		DEADLINE FOR JANUARY VOICE SUBMISSIONS
Friday	31	all day all day	New Years Eve Office Closed

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!
Don't forget to get a booster shot if you are eligible!**

BEWARE
WHAT YOU SHARE

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

Jackie Wedeking

Digital Media Specialist

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

Paraministers

November 22-December 5 | Deb Booth

December 6-19 | Rose Gabe

December 20-January 2, 2022 | Jan Federer

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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