

THE VOICE

February 2022

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Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org

 YouTube





Pastor's Page

Is it possible to reunite the country?

I wonder at times if the task is too big. We have become so divided that almost seems impossible to ever have everyone back on the same page. When did it become ok to make fun of people for their skin color, their disability, their looks, their economic status, their sexuality, or their gender. Yes, people have often faced rough roads and discrimination. The last few years it has ramped up to alarming levels.

Can we ever get to a point where people respect each other? Where they have the ability to put aside differences in order to work together for the greater good?

As we enter into an election year I am concerned that it is simply going to get worse than it already is. I encourage each of us to always act respectful even when it is hard and seems impossible to do. It is our responsibility as adults (and parents) to role-model the correct behavior for everyone around us!

As we explore the Widening of the Circle this month—think about how you can be part of the solution to the issues we face.

Pastor David

Coming soon...

Forums return Feb. 20 with a session on Death and Dying. Find information elsewhere in the newsletter.

New member class will be forming. If you are interested in membership please email Pastor David at minister@peoplesuu.org or call the office at 319-362-9827.

Easter and Earth Day worship will be at Morgan Creek on April 17th. Easter Egg hunt will follow. In case of bad weather we will use the church building.

The Church Building Will Be Closed...

Monday and Tuesday, February 21 and 22, while new carpet is installed in the main level hallways. *We will be working remotely so please reach out by email!*

February 2022



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How do we Widen the Circle in these polarizing times?

Service led by Pastor David Wise. Special music by Carlis Farout and Mike Maas.

What is love?

13

How can we use love to Widen the Circle and become more united? Service led by Pastor David Wise.

20

TBD

Service led by Angie Pierce Jennings.

Where do we go from here?

27

We have become an 8th Principle Congregation. What are the next steps? Service led by Pastor David Wise.

Sunday, February 20th 9:45am Forum on Death and Dying:

What matters most at the end?

In his book *Being Mortal*, Atul Gawande writes, “Whenever serious sickness or injury strikes and your body or mind breaks down, the vital questions are the same: What is your understanding of the situation and its potential outcomes? What are your fears and what are your hopes? What are the trade-offs you are willing to make and not willing to make? And what is the course of action that best serves this understanding?” As part of a series of forums on death and dying, join Robyn M-K to talk about our living and end-of-life values and how they can help with decision making.

Sunday, February 27th 9:45am Forum on Death and Dying:

Pre Planning

Scott Greenman of Stewart Baxter Funeral and Memorial Services will be in the forum to discuss pre-planning and making arrangements for your funeral and memorial needs. He has been a co-owner of Stewart Baxter since 2008 and is well-versed in caring for families.

Nurturing the Flame

Widening the Circle
Patterson, Board President

At first this theme stumped me. My reaction was, “I have only so much bandwidth and feel like I am dipping into my reserves to be helpful, kind, optimistic, inclusive.”

On deeper reflection I confirmed two areas that demonstrate we as individuals and the congregation of Peoples people are “Widening the Circle.”

We widen the circle of Grace and Compassion when:

We as Individuals reach out with small gestures.

Name Gratuities each morning ... Smile at ourselves ... Smile at others... Dress up a little ... Say “Thank you!” sincerely ... Ask for help ... Offer help ... Acknowledge a mis-step ... Kindly state our thoughts ... Wonder ... Send blessings to a driver who is careless ... Open a door for another ... Acknowledge the service of a teller, clerk, receptionist.

We widen the circle of Community when:
We as the congregation of Peoples people interact with and include others.

Participate in Social Justice studies and events (i.e. BLM, LGBTQ, writing campaigns) ... support the annual Lincoln Douglass Banquet with Bethel AME and First Presbyterian Churches ... vote to ap-

prove the 8th Principle ... Practice the Covenant of right Relations ... help those impacted by the 2020 Derecho ... Welcome the congregations of Voices of Christ and St. Marks Gardeners ... are longtime supporters and members of the Interreligious Council of Linn County ... continue to ensure that our congregation is financially sound so we live our mission.

Other ways we can Widen the Circle:
Help with Faith Formation activities ... Join the Worship Associates team ... Take in upcoming FUN activities ... Take a self-care Sunday and attend another congregation’s service ... Invite someone to listen in on our Sunday services.

In small and larger ways, we each Widen the Circle. May we continue to Nurture the Flame as we approach mid-winter.

M~



Ministerial Search Team Update for February 2022

It's already February!

Last month, the Search Team reviewed applications, watched sermons, called references, and conducted screening interviews.

We're happy to announce that we have invited three interesting and well-qualified applicants to become pre-candidates for Peoples Church!

For those not as versed in the search process, here's a quick breakdown of the process:

Churches and ministers independently create job application documents that explain who they are and what kind of ministry they're looking for. **We did this in the fall.**

Ministers submit applications to congregations. **This happens in December.**

Congregational search teams review the applications, conduct screening interviews, and do preliminary reference checks. **This is where we were in January.**

Search teams invite promising applicants to become pre-candidates. **They accepted!**

Pre-candidates come visit for a weekend for more interviews, to see the church, and experience the city. **Coming up.**

We think each of our chosen pre-candidates will bring something unique to Peoples Church that could blossom into a bountiful ministry together. Our next steps are to learn more about them while they learn about us, to see if we're the right fit right now.

As a reminder: **the Search Team cannot share any information about the pre-candidates until we have identified and announced our candidate.**

No, we will not announce when the pre-candidates will visit, schedule meet-and-greets, or in any way indicate who is under consideration.

We **WILL**, however, continue to post regular updates on where we are in the process, so keep reading the Voice. And if you have any questions for the Search Team, you can reach us at pcuu.search@gmail.com

Warm Regards,

Kathleen, Laura, Robyn, Steve, & Susan



Faith Formation

Faith Formation classes in February: 13th, 20th, 27th



Lu Wilcox, Megan, Milo, Ada, Payton
enjoy a game of Wildcraft!



Van Vechten Guild

February 14 Meeting and BYO lunch

We are proud to announce our program this month features our own: *Karen Wise from Foundation 2!* Everyone is welcome to join us.



Kathy Juba and Bob Butikofer have expressed interest in working on a solution for the outdoor sign on Gordon Ave. It is in need of much repair or replacement in order to be an effective tool for Peoples.

If you would be interested in collaborating with them reach out to them at kathywilson@imonmail.com or bobcf321@yahoo.com.

Dick Woodward shares with Peoples how we are actually living our values by installing solar. He has compiled and shared the data in a chart showing the kilowatt-hours and dollars the church has used for October, November, December over the past four years. Our expense plummeted from \$991 for the three-month period in 2018 to \$75 for the same three-month period in 2021! (Remember two weeks in this past October the system had not yet been turned on.)

Kudos to Dick for the follow-up monitoring and to all who have supported this project.



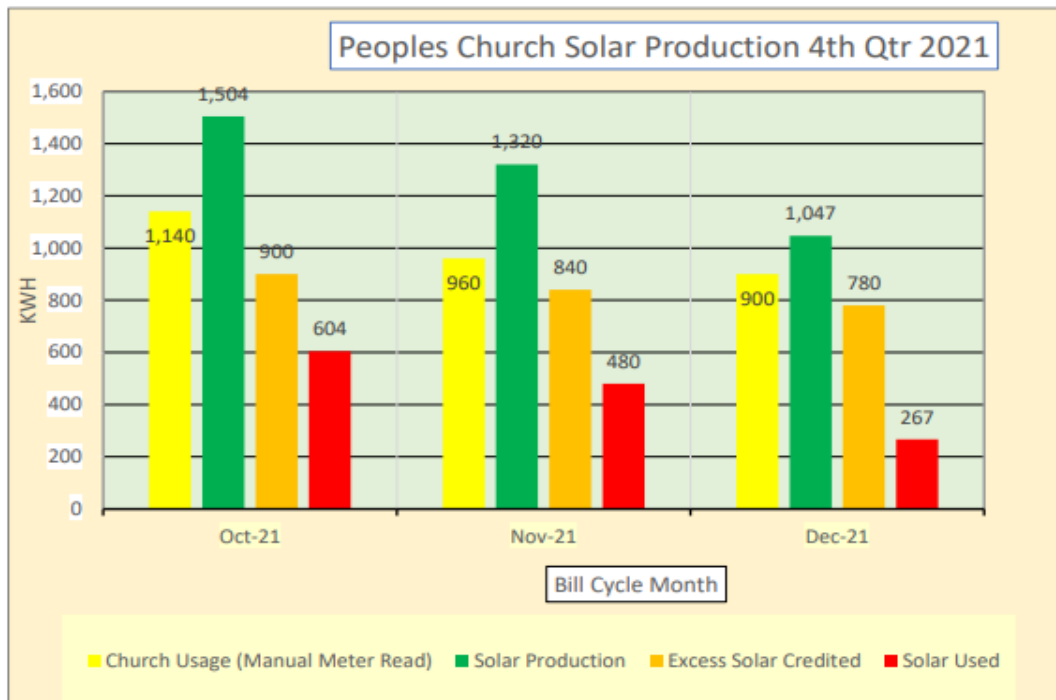
Peoples Church Photovoltaic Report

The church's Electricity bill for the three billing cycles ended January 10 was just \$75. We actually paid more for the exterior lighting, \$90.

The rooftop photovoltaic array produced 4050 KWH, 2520 of which Alliant credited to the church's account. Production will increase in the spring when the number of sunlight hours increases. The building consumed only 3000 KWHs. When the PV array produces more power than the church requires, the excess production (1352 KWHs) flows back into the grid.

Not all the savings were sun-powered. The table below shows that electricity usage had already been trending downward. The Oct 2019 – Jan 2020 quarter was before the pandemic and after the changeout of inefficient electrical equipment. Consumption was 4800 KWHs. Perhaps representative of a more nearly normal year.

Billing Cycle	KWHs	Bill Totals
Oct 2018 – Jan 2019	6960	\$ 990.560
Oct 2019 - Jan 2020	4800	\$ 739.11
Oct 2020 – Jan 2021	4020	\$ 555.75
Oct 2021 – Jan 2022	3000	\$ 75.00



Welcome Back Sun!

Winter Readings by Peoples people

Celebrate with us the Return of the Sun with mid-winter readings by Peoples people. Stories thus far include North Country Night, Owl Moon, Stopping by Woods on Snowy Evening and The Cremation of Sam McGee from the Robert Service collection.

Wednesday, February 16

6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

To keep simple, we will do ZOOM. Look for a ZOOM link to come closer to the date.



Landscaping!

We are starting a new Landscaping Team to design a new landscape look for Peoples Church that is more welcoming and easier to maintain than our present landscaping. This will mainly focus on the Gordon Ave area and somewhat on the main parking lot entrance. If you have interest in being part of the planning team or in helping with some volunteer labor at a later time please call Susan Davis at 319-981-4484 or email her at Sdavisod@southslope.net so you can be added to the list of interested members and friends. Our first meeting date will be early March—watch our newsletters for more information!

Congratulations to Steve Hershner, shown here receiving an environmental award from NACWA (National Association of Clean Water Agencies)

Living Peoples Values!



Social Media Outreach

Results

Facebook Page Reach

1,558 ↑ 156.3%



Instagram Reach

166 ↑ 100%



In the final quarter of 2021 and into 2022, we've increased our social media outreach. Our Facebook page now shares the sermons from Sunday along with related content. Cate's recent sermon reached 575 people on Facebook (historically our posts have averaged closer to 30-50 people)! **If you felt inspired after a particular sermon, please share the video with your friends and family.** In the coming month, the sermons will be live on Facebook.

We're also increasing our presence on Twitter and Instagram, and we are sharing our YouTube broadcasts more broadly. Our YouTube page has had 799 views over the past 90 days.

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
Published by Jackie Kay · January 20 at 5:06 PM · 🌐

This week we took a contrarian view of living with intention. What does it mean to live without intention? To paraphrase John Lennon: Life is what happens while we're making other plans. Service led by Cate Sheller.

1:32 / 16:22

575 People reached 311 Engagements

Boost post

12 7 Comments 4 Shares

Like Comment Share

Top Tweet earned 19 impressions

Join us to light our chalice at 11 a.m. today
[m.youtube.com/c/PeoplesChurch...](https://m.youtube.com/c/PeoplesChurch)
pic.twitter.com/1w2VtHfv77



1

SOCIAL JUSTICE

First Sunday Plate Collection: *Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness & Advocacy Network*

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



TANAGER PLACE
SPEAKER SERIES

PRESENTS

BRANDON P. FLEMING

Nationally acclaimed Harvard
University educator and author.

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

SATURDAY

February 5, 2022
10:00 - 11:00 am

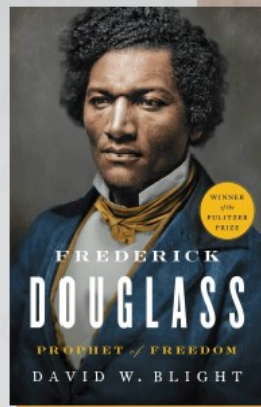
REGISTER AT:
bit.ly/BPFleming

Complimentary book for first 100 registrants!

EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



THIS SATURDAY!



THE COE HISTORY DEPARTMENT'S JAMES & LINNIE PHIFER HISTORY SPEAKER SERIES

PRESENTS

DR. DAVID BLIGHT

professor of history, African American studies and American studies at Yale
University and winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in History, speaking on
"FREDERICK DOUGLASS: PROPHET OF FREEDOM"

Thursday, March 10 | 7:00 PM
Kesler Auditorium, Hickok Hall

Free and open to all campus and community members

 COE COLLEGE

March 10, 2022

— HISTORIC —
BETHEL
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

January 12, 2022



**THIS
SATURDAY
2/5/22!**

Allen Lincoln Douglass Soul Food Banquet 2022
"Neighbors In Unity in the Community: Fun, Food and Fellowship"

Ministry Friend,

Thank you for being our loyal, ministry friend, supporter, and prayer partner. We have missed you and the fellowship we have shared. Due to the deadly Covid-19 virus, we have lost many and have seen the recovery of many others who were ill. But, by grace and mercy, many of us are still standing!

Ninety-four years ago, two neighborhood congregations in the SE sector of Cedar Rapids, agreed to come together in food, fun and fellowship. Hence, the Historic Allen Lincoln Douglass Banquet was birthed.

Begun as a partnership between Bethel AME Church and the First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids in 1927, the banquet has been celebrated for decades. In 2022, both congregations will once again join and celebrate as *"Neighbors in Unity in the Community: Fun, Food, and Fellowship."*

ALD 2022 Banquet will be a Soul Food Feast, celebrated on Saturday, February 5, 2022, and hosted at the First Presbyterian Church, 310 5th Street SE from 12 noon until 2 pm. There will also be a silent auction on site.



We welcome our newly elected CR School Board Member at-large Marcy Roundtree as our featured speaker. Motivation speaker, soul coach, author, ministry leader, wife, parent, liturgical dance instructor, friend and educator.

Proceeds from the event will go to the support of programs training, self-help and development of our community youth.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Pastor Leoma Leigh-Williams
Bethel Ministries CR

**The Allen Lincoln Douglass Banquet honors the legacies of the Rev. Richard Allen, Founder of the AME Church; President Abraham Lincoln; and Abolitionist and Author Frederick Douglass.*

Cost of tickets are \$50 per person. 10 people to a table. All you can eat buffet. Social distancing and masking will be in effect.

[Click here for a ticket order form.](#)

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!



Cookie season is upon us!

**This year you have TWO Girl Scouts
ready to meet your cookie needs!**

There are many ways to order:

- On February 27th you will have two options: Scout Gwendolyn will have *an in-person Cookie Booth outside the sanctuary* and Scout Aida will hold *a virtual cookie booth in a Zoom breakout room after service*.
- On March 6th both Scouts will hold one final in-person Cookie Booth at church.
- *OR* you can order online any time! Contactless delivery is available to our local customers, or you can have your cookies shipped directly to you. Visit [Gwendolyn's web-site](#) or [Aida's website](#) to learn more.

Donations to the military can be made online at either site. Feel free to speak directly to Scout Parents about donating to the church pantry or local food banks.

Thank you for supporting our Girl Scouts!

The Finance Team met on 1/20/22 to review financial reports and plans.

Cash flow for both December and the 2021 year was positive:

December income \$27,827

December expenses \$16,631

2021 income \$220,727

2021 expenses \$203,062

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

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society
Presents its
**2022
GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL
SHOW**

57th
Annual
Show

**Iowa's Largest
Among Midwest's Largest**

Mar

Saturday, 26 - 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Mar 27 - 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Hawkeye Downs Expo Center
4400 6th Street SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa**



IOWA'S INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

PROGRAMS

Programs on
Theme-Related Topics
Call ahead or check our
website for Speakers & Times

ROCK IDENTIFICATION

Iowa Geological Survey

DEMONSTRATIONS

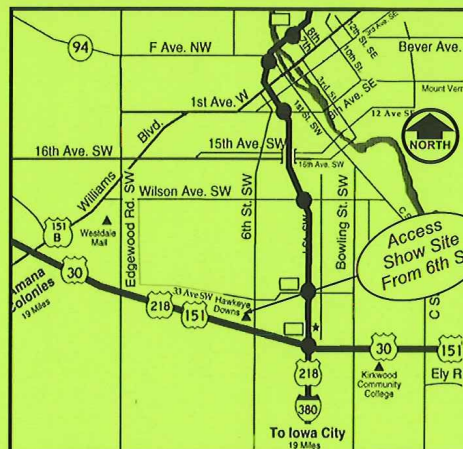
Tumbling
Flint Knapping
Geode Cracking
Gold Panning
Wire Wrapping

PEBBLE PIT FOR KIDS

1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, & 50¢ Items
\$1 Rock & Mineral Kits

HOT FOOD

PROFITS GO TO
SCHOLARSHIPS
NOT RESPONSIBLE
FOR ACCIDENTS



SLUICE FOR MINERALS (Kids & Adults) MANY ITEMS FOR SALE, INCLUDING:

Books	Fossils	Jewelry	Minerals	Book Ends
Opal	Agates	Carvings	Seashells	Petrified Wood
Slabs	Geodes	Crystals	Tumblers	Lapidary Equip.
Gems	Beads	Spheres	Meteorites	Jewelry Findings

DISPLAYS

Agates, Geodes
Minerals, Crystals
Amethyst, Fossils

SILENT AUCTION

Geodes, Minerals,
Crystals, Agates
Fossils, Shells

EDUCATIONAL POSTERS

Posters on Various Aspects
of the Theme

DONATIONS REQUESTED

Adults over 18\$3.00
Students(12-18)\$1.00
Children (Under 12)Free
Youth Groups (w/adult)Free

CHILDREN MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
ONLY SERVICE DOGS
ALLOWED

For Additional Information, Contact:

Marvin Houg (319-350-9435; m_houg@yahoo.com);

Sharon Sonleitner (319-396-4016, sonnb@aol.com); Ray Anderson (rockdoc.anderson@gmail.com)

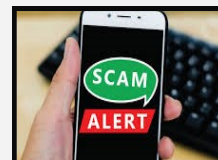
For program, dealer, and show updates, check: <https://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org>

February



Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	6	11am	Worship
Wednesday	9	1-2pm	Paraministers Meeting
Sunday	13	9:45am 11am 12:45pm	Faith Formation Worship Worship Associates
Monday	14	all day 12pm	Valentines Day Van Vechten Guild BYOL, speaker Karen Wise, Foundation 2
Wednesday	16	1-2pm 6:15-7:15pm	Social Justice Team Meeting Mid-Winter Readings - Zoom only
Thursday	17	7-8pm	Finance Team
Sunday	20	9:45am 9:45am 11am	Faith Formation Forum: Death and Dying Worship
Monday	21	all day all day	Carpet installation on main floor Presidents Day
Tuesday	22	all day 7-8pm	Carpet installation on main floor Defund Fear book discussion - part 2
Thursday	24	6:30-8pm	Board Meeting
Saturday	26	10am-2pm	Tech Training
Sunday	27	9:45am 9:45am 11am	Faith Formation Forum: Death and Dying Worship

Recently we have had reports of ***fraudulent texts being sent, in Pastor David's name, to congregants asking for gift cards.*** This is NOT from Pastor David or anyone else from Peoples Church. *Our Minister and staff will NEVER email OR text you to ask for money or gift cards - do not respond to these communications! If you receive such a communication, please let the office know.*



Additionally, NO ONE from Peoples Church will ever text or 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.

Iowa public health officials continue to report on cases, hospitalizations, and even deaths due to the coronavirus.

If you haven't yet, please consider getting vaccinated!
Don't forget to get a booster shot if you are eligible!

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.

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

Congregational
Administrator
(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 | 361-0280 | kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

February 1-13 | Rose Gabe
February 14-27 | Jan Federer

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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