

THE VOICE

March 2022

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Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org





Pastor's Page

I really enjoy when Spring starts to arrive. We see more birds, animals, and people moving about outside. We hear more sounds! College baseball and softball have started, and teams are traveling all over the country to play games in warm environments. Spring is a time of renewal! A refreshing of the world.

It is also a good time for us to look at ourselves and see what we can do to help ourselves or the world be a better place. Perhaps there are habits we want to start or break. Perhaps there is reading that we have been putting off. Perhaps we need to slow down and smell the flowers that will soon be everywhere! Maybe the time has come to renew your commitment to your faith and to the church. What better time than Spring to do just that!!

What is holding you back from taking that step? Rev Nathan Detering writes:

About 100 yards down, on a plateau that juts down and then out into that horizon, with an edge that leads to nothing but air... And there, there is a woman and she's forty feet from the edge, and then she begins to run! Oh my God! But its ok, maybe, because in her hands is a bar and over her shoulders Are the wings of a glider. And she's running, running, and just as she gets close enough to leap and a big breath of air push up the nose of her glider and pushes her back, nearly on her back. So she backs up again, undeterred, and puts herself in her starting position, and seems to stare down the uncertain horizon, seems to say with her body: This is just a wee jump. And then she starts

running, running and she gets closer and closer. But then she rears up, and pushes the nose down and, stops, right on the edge, her body seeming to say, are you sure? You trust these wings? You have faith in this air? But then she backs up again, more uncertain, but still undeterred, and puts herself in her starting position, and stares out into the open horizon and its invisible currents, her body seems to say: trust, trust, faith, faith. And she starts running, running, running and just as she gets closer. A big breath comes and pushes underneath the wings and lifts her body out into the open, trail-less, uncertain, scary, beautiful, Wild, empty, turbulent...twilight sky.

Friends, who I love, and I do love you, here's the thing: ...though I'm uncertain of much, and have more questions than answers, This I believe;

That on these edges and on these plateau's, the bars we hold onto are the hands we hold, and the wings over our backs is the community we create. And that together we can step back and get into the starting position that is this church year together.

That [together we can] start running, running to that edge....and leap. Maybe even with just a wee bit of faith....

That the breath of love will carry us through the messy, turbulent, beautiful, the wild, empty, uncertain horizon of our lives.

If you don't have faith, let us hold faith for you. If you don't know trust, let us hold trust for you. Together let's leave what's heavy behind...and fly.

What better time than Spring to take that leap, fly, and try new things!! Take a chance and do something new! Or do something old that has gone by the wayside. Leap! Fly!! Soar!!!

Pastor David

March 2022



6

Spring is in the air. It is a time of renewing! What can we do to help ourselves and our world be better?

Service led by Pastor David Wise. Special music by Aida and Gwendolyn.

13

How do you have faith in times of despair?

Service led by Pastor David Wise. Special music by Karen Mueller.

20

Renewing faith and joining others for the common good and cause.

Service led by Pastor David Wise.

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Finding Faith in Community

As we move into Spring and the next phase of the pandemic, we are searching for how to find our way back into our community. People have changed over the past couple years and so have we. How do we find the new normal and what does our faith look like after this ordeal? Join Deborah Maynard Booth as we tackle these questions together as well as look towards celebrating the International Transgender Day of Visibility. Special music by Deb Hunemuller and Pete Kies.

Sunday, March 6th 9:45am Forum on Death and Dying: *Organ Donation*

Kate Bruner from Iowa Donor Network will have a presentation about organ donation in-person and on Zoom.

Sunday, March 13th 9:45am SJ Forum on *Co-Creating A Spiritually fulfilling and Socially Just World*

Our presenter is Kirk Witzberger, Outreach Organizer of the Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness & Advocacy Network.

Attend this Forum and learn about IUUWAN and how it uses our annual dues of \$1 per church member. How can IUUWAN support our social justice efforts? How can we better network with other UU congregations in making our UU voices heard in Iowa?

Sunday, March 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.

Nurturing the Flame

Renewing Faith

Patterson, Board President

In this “Swiftly Tilting Planet”* of uncertainty of legislative hijinks and global invasions it’s easy to lose Faith. Let us keep the Faith by holding this (slightly altered) quote by Michael Lindvall: “The mark a person makes on this world is most often a trail of faithful love and quiet mercies and unknown kindnesses.”

Below are some kindnesses you have shown at Peoples:

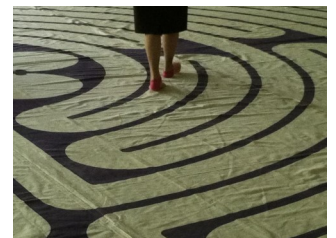
- Strong financial support that helps us live our mission.
- A member independently secured the back door until it can be replaced.
- A friend suggested replacing the broken candle bowl with one made by a local artist.
- The Social Justice team provided thoughtful perspectives for next steps in the Eighth Principle.
- Superb board of engaged people.

- An interim pastor who has navigated illness and myriad church details with aplomb.
- Staff who are committed to using improved ways to communicate.
- Smaller groups that gather in community.
- Visitors dedicated to becoming members.
- Involvement with the Interreligious Council of Linn County and the wider community.

May we, as we can, bolster our Faith. Project the positive into our relations, the community, state, and world to counter the negative. Let us live Faithful Love and Quiet Mercies.

**Madeleine L'Engle*

M~



Solvitur Ambulando: It is solved by walking as we Renew our Faith.

That Quiet Power within Us by Jay E Abernathy, Jr

Let us join in a moment dedicated to that quiet power within us.

It is within that power we find the will to face the world; it is within that we find the love to embrace the world; it is within that we find our personal identity and know the world.

Yet, within us is also a great void. We feel this void at times of great loneliness, frustration, and despair. Sorrow, hatred, and greed, too, are within us.

Just as we need to be alone at times to put things right, so do we need to be with others to love and be loved. This great social urge also is within us as powerfully as that separateness -- that uniqueness -- that gives us identity.

The Red Door Is *FIXED*!

Ministerial Search Team Update for March 2022

March is here and spring is just around the corner.

The Search Team is moving forward with pre-candidate visits and are excited to welcome our special visitors to Cedar Rapids.

While they're here, the pre-candidates spend a large chunk of time talking with the Search Team so we can learn about each other and whether we're a good fit.

We'll let you know more as soon as we're able.

As always, you can reach us at pcuu.search@gmail.com if you have any questions.

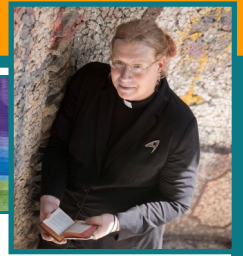
Warm Regards,

Kathleen, Laura, Robyn, Steve, & Susan



A 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-

Faith Formation



The weather has begun to turn for the warmer these last few days, and with it comes much anticipated longer days. I, like many of you, am enthusiastically welcoming this change from the cold and grey of winter's last grasp.

In Faith Formation, we continue to work our way through an engaging set of curricula about being a UU youth in our faith, and more importantly, what it means to explore and develop a unique identity as a UU youth.

We are looking forward to Easter at Morgan Creek, and we hope we can count on your help again this year. Soon we will begin our annual "Fill the Eggs" drive, so please keep an eye out for more details in the next week or so! We are also looking for a couple of volunteers to assist with the Easter Egg Hunt- if you would be interested, please email me at your earliest convenience.

Faith Formation parents should watch the weekly newsletter for weekly announcements pertinent to class specifics.

My last thought today is in honor of what to-

day is – Ash Wednesday in the Christian liturgical calendar. For me, this is a holy day, as Lent is a period in which I look inward, lamenting and grieving the hurts, losses, and pains of the last year. This period is a time of renewal and reflection, of looking behind the curtain, of sitting in metaphorical sackcloth while simultaneously holding the door open to resurrection.

I will leave you with this blessing, an excerpt from a larger piece:

ashes to ashes and dust to dust, remember?

you are dust and to dust you shall return, but

it is that you are STARDUST and to the STARS you shall return-

always remember that, beloved, and SHINE.

always.

we got this. whatever it is. together. selah.

Andrea



Our New Carpet!



2022 HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE



The David & Joan Thaler
Holocaust Remembrance Fund

2022 Yom HaShoah Guest Speakers
Michael Bornstein & Debbie Holinstat

Authors of
*Survivors Club: The True Story of a
Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz*

Michael Bornstein is one of the youngest survivors of the Auschwitz concentration camp, having withstood seven horrifying months as a four-year-old. This could be considered nothing short of a miracle, when many other children often survived only weeks. Bornstein was carried out of the camp by his grandmother in 1945, and spent much of his life trying to put the experience behind him.

March 27th

7:00 pm

Coe College

Sinclair Auditorium

1220 1st Ave NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

March 29th

11:15 AM

Kirkwood

College

Cedar Hall

Room 234

6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW

Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

March 28th

6:30 pm

Cornell College

Hall-Perrine

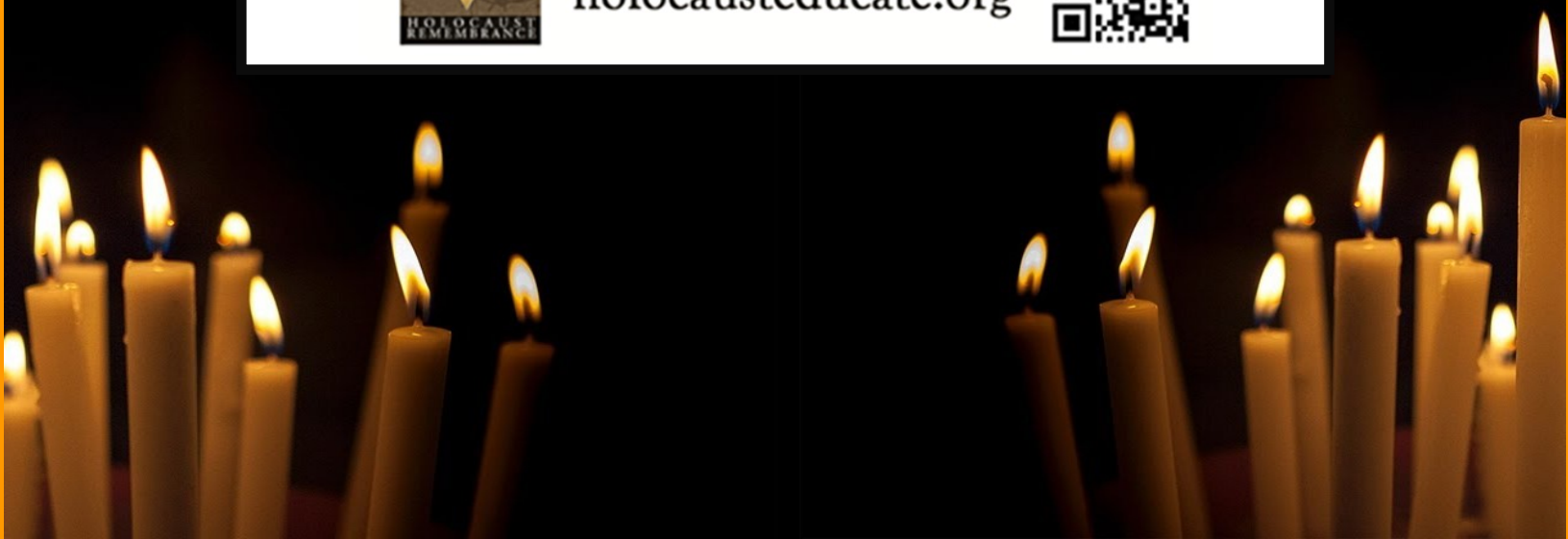
Thomas Commons

600 1st St.

Mt Vernon, IA 52314



find out more at
holocausteducate.org



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.

Peoples Invited to Join ReSetCR Coalition

We have been asked to participate in the RSetCR Coalition addressing local efforts to reduce gun violence. The ReSet Coalition is offering free to us, a four week training session which we plan to hold in April. A Forum on the ReSet Coalition will be held on April 10. The objectives of the training are to: understand local efforts to reduce community violence; build stronger relationships with ReSetCR, community partners and members; build resilience and reduce stress; build a sense of community; and build the community capacity to reduce violence.

An orientation on the ReSetCR initiative will be held on Wednesday, March 2 *and* Wednesday, March 9 from 4:15 to 5:30 pm. The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9938913574>.

Co-Creating A Spiritually fulfilling and Socially Just World

**Social Justice Council Forum on
March 13 at 9:45 am via Zoom with
Kirk Witzberger, Outreach Organizer of the Iowa Unitarian Universalist
Witness & Advocacy Network**

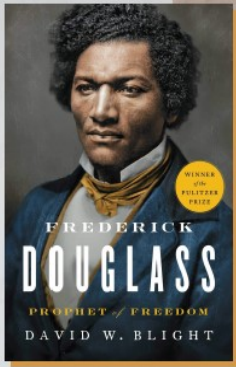
Attend this Forum and learn about IUU-WAN and how it uses our annual dues of \$1 per church member. How can IUU-WAN support our social justice efforts? How can we better network with other UU congregations in making our UU voices heard in Iowa?

From Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment

"When we devote resources to programs that make the most vulnerable people in our society healthier, more educated and more engaged in meaningful pursuits we make all of America safer."

As we move in the Spring into an examination of the history and culture of Indigenous peoples, our next book read is Braiding Sweet Grass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The author, a member of the Potawatomi Tribe, provides an insightful look at the relationship between humans and Mother Earth. She shares how the traditional practices of Native Americans can help us make the world a better place for future generations. The Social Justice Team will order some copies for lending. The book is also available at the library and electronically.

NEXT THURSDAY!



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



Finance Team Update

The Finance Team met on 2/17/22 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for January was positive:

- January income \$43,319
- January expenses \$17,401

Van Vechten Guild

March 14 Meeting and BYO lunch

Our noon lunch meeting will feature a speaker from Arc of east central Iowa. Arc empowers people with intellectual and developmental challenges to engage in live long opportunities. *Everyone is welcome!*

Winter Readings



Cookies, Cookies, Cookies!

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

How you can order:



- **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 website](#) or [Aida's website](#) to learn more.

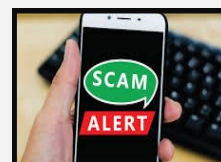
Donations to the military can be made online at either site. Feel free to speak directly to Scout Parents about donating to the church pantry or local food banks.

Thank you for supporting our Girl Scouts!

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.





**This is the Official Call for the
2022 MidAmerica Region Annual Business Meeting
Saturday, April 30, 2022 Online Meeting**

Business Meeting begins at 9:45 am Central Time

Delegates must be credentialed online by their congregation no later than 5:00 pm Central Time on Friday, April 29, 2022

DELEGATES:

Peoples has 3 delegate slots. Delegate credentialing process information will be sent to congregations in early March 2022. Delegates must ensure their names and email addresses have been provided no later than April 29, 2022, at 5:00 pm Central Time. Delegates will be sent information about voting prior to the meeting.

Voting materials will be made available on the MidAmerica Region website and will be emailed to presidents, ministers, religious educators, musicians, administrators, and those credentialed as delegates for the Annual Meeting by no later than March 29, 2022.

Questions? Contact the Regional Office at 312-636-9724, or email midamerica@uua.org.

Please let [Pastor David](#) know if you are interested in becoming a delegate.

MARCH



Women's History Month



Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	6	9:45am 9:45am 11am 12:45pm	Faith Formation Forum on Death and Dying Worship Worship Associates
Sunday	13	11am 12:45pm	<i>Daylight Saving Time starts</i> Worship Worship Associates
Monday		12pm	Van Vechten Guild BYOL, speaker Arc of east central Iowa
Wednesday	16	all day all day all day 1-2pm	Pastor David's Birthday Fast of Esther Purim Eve Social Justice Team Meeting
Thursday	17	all day 7-8pm	St. Patrick's Day Finance Team
Friday	18	all day	Shushan Purim (Jerusalem)
Sunday	20	9:45am 11am	Forum: Death and Dying Worship
Thursday	24	6:30-8pm	Board Meeting
Friday	25	all day	Voice submissions due
Sunday	27	9:45am 11am	Faith Formation Worship
Thursday	31	all day	International Transgender Day of Visibility

Upcoming...

- 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.
- Holy Thursday Service 7pm April 14
- Seder Meal \$10 6pm April 23 (must register by April 8)

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

Interim 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

From Mar 1-15 Kris Davis | 361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

From March 16-31 Kathy Juba | 361-0280 | kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

February 28-March 13 | Dorothy Hershner

March 14-27 | Deb Booth

March 28-April 10 | Rose Gabe

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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