

THE VOICE

April 2022

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Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org





Pastor's Page

As I have mentioned I have an interest in following politics. This week, as I worked, I listened to the Iowa Objection Panel deciding challenges to candidates who had filed petitions to run for various offices. The panel is comprised of three members-The Secretary of State, The Attorney General, and The Auditor of the State (and since the Attorney General was having his petitions challenged the Lieutenant Governor took his place for part of the hearing). They get to decide, if there is a challenge, who gets to appear on the ballot. During this discussion it was interesting to hear the various viewpoints. Some members were wanting to interpret the law very strictly and require apartment numbers or dorm room numbers be included or the signature would be invalid. Others were wanting to go by what the form asked for—street number and name. It was a fascinating few hours of listening as they re-hashed the same subjects at times.

It reminded me that there are folks in this country who really do want to take away the voices of voters and residents. It reminded me that it is important that we live the Principles of Unitarian Universalism in our everyday lives. That we must fight for equality and voice for those who have no voice or who have a voice that is marginalized. Let me remind you of the Principles (in kids' language):

1st Principle: We believe that each and every person is important.

2nd Principle: We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.

3rd Principle: We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.

4th Principle: We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

5th Principle: We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.

6th Principle: We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.

7th Principle: We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.

In this coming year I encourage you to fight for what you believe, speak your truth, and seek justice and voice for everyone! The rich and powerful have what they want, for the most part. The marginalized and poor need voices to fight and speak on their behalf! Will you step up and be that voice? Will you help wake the masses up to the issues of the world? Will you carry the fight for those in need?

Pastor David

CR Pride returns with a **parade on June 4th** and **the festival on July 9th**. If you are interested in helping plan Peoples presence at those events contact the office or Pastor David.

Let's start a **BANNED BOOK LIBRARY!!** This is the suggestion of someone from the congregation and I think it is a great idea! A library filled with books that people have tried to ban over the years! Look for more details in the weeks to come!!

April 2022



Wake up and Take Action! New Member Sunday.

3 Service led by Pastor David Wise. Special music by Castle Ridge.

10 **Service will be live streamed by the Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness Advocacy Network (IUUWAN)**

Service led by Cate Sheller. Special music by The Quire.

Join us outside for an Easter and Earth Day Celebration.

17 Service led by Pastor David Wise.

27 TBD

April Forums

Sunday, April 3 9:45am Forum: Dr. Mohammad khan Kharoti (Ely room & Zoom)

The Social Justice Council invites you to a special Forum with Dr. Mohammad khan Kharoti from Helmand Province in Afghanistan. Dr Kharoti left Afghanistan for his medical training. Upon returning to his own community in 1999 he saw the children of his village working in poppy fields, none of them in school. No one in the village of 11,000 could read or write. Subsequently, he received permission from the Taliban in Kabul to start a school for children in his family compound, taught by two literate women in the district. [*See more in the Social Justice section*](#)

Sunday, April 10 9:45am Forum: When You Pick Up A Gun (Ely room & Zoom)

Join the Social Justice Council in viewing this film in which three mothers from Cedar Rapids share how their lives were forever changed by gun violence in Cedar Rapids. The film aims to shed light on issues related to gun violence in Cedar Rapids. It is a powerful message on violence in our own community.

Afterwards join in a discussion with Rachel Rockwell and Tony Wilson of the Central Development Program and learn about an opportunity for members of our church to become involved in anti-violence interventions with other community stakeholders and people directly impacted by gun violence locally.

Nurturing the Flame

Awakening

Mission: To Lead Compassionate Lives
through Spiritual Growth and Just Action

Patterson, Board President

I met Punxsutawney Phil's stand-in last month who affirmed that March was too early to awaken. And February? Well, that is simply appropriation of the first astronomical cross quarter date by Western Culture. Early February is the half way point between the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox. So, yes, six more weeks of winter. Duh. But, by mid-winter people need levity. Groundhog Day does this.

All this got me thinking about Awakening and how over several years Peoples Church members and friends Awakened to better ways of interacting with each other, and serving our community and the world. We have steadfastly moved in this direction and lived our core values.
(Community Compassion, Justice, Spirituality)

The developmental minister helped us look at ourselves, honor our strengths, and guided us into Policy Governance. We identified our core values, honed a mission and vision statement (that we live!), updated policies (that we use!) and the membership list, initiated Worship Associate trainings and shared leadership, began to refurbish the building and grounds based on a long-range vision, connected members, focused social activism within our congregation and in the community, and managed finances with strong giving and a solid endowment.

By establishing clear expectations and roles for members and friends, teams, the board, minister as CEO and staff we have navigated some rough terrain well. During the Interim ministerial time we have walked through the uncertainty together emerging stronger.

A key component is our Covenant of Right Relations – how we optimally interact with each other.

These are some ways we have chosen to live our mission and Awaken.

As a small congregation we also honored the fact that sometimes our roles overlap. When the building needed sprucing up ahead of the Sesquicentennial board, members, and staff stepped up together. We accomplished this with a larger vision in mind. We have these documents of future projects to guide us.

Installing the solar panels, with the resulting decrease in electric bills by 1/3 or more, was the culmination of research, upgrading the HVAC systems and lighting, financial generosity, and commitment to living more lightly on the earth. Take a look at the Congregational Administrator's graphs in the board reports to really grasp how your dedication has impacted our Awakening!

When COVID-19 and the August 2020 and December 2021 Derechos hit, we transitioned quickly to virtual services, found alternative ways to meet, and stayed connected with each other. Dogged pursuing by our interim minister and congregational administrator of building repairs and upgrading keep moving us forward. All with the support of members, friends, and connections in the community.

It has taken work. We did it because we know our values and live our mission.

We have continued to be Awakened. April is a good month to honor this.

Thank you. M~



'Punxsutawney Phil' with Marion

Ministerial Search Team Update for April 2022



Finance Team Update

Finance Team Update

The Finance Team met on 3/17/22 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for February was positive:

- February income \$23,536
- February expenses \$13,769

**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.

Faith Formation

Hello every body and every brain!

I really hope this week is going well for each and every one of you. If you aren't quite there yet, remember that's okay, because the struggle is real, y'all. Each of you is Beloved, just as you are, for who you are, where you are.

There will be no Faith Formation this week, as I will be out of town at a family event. My wife and I have to do a bit of driving, so if you could light a candle or say a prayer if that is a thing you do? We'd appreciate it.

We'll resume the Faith Formation classes on 10 April, Palm Sunday, at 0945 as usual. The Sunday after is Easter Sunday, and we'll be gathering at Morgan Creek Park for a special service. The Easter Egg Hunt will occur post-service! I'm excited (and am looking for volunteers to help)!

Have a great week, and I'll see you all next Sunday (the 10th)!

In faith,

Andrea



Good Neighbors provides church members with occasional help of the type that a “good neighbor” might do. Services include supplying a meal, transporting to church or medical appointments, assistance with moving, yard work, shoveling snow, light household repairs, house cleaning, pet sitting or other small, one-time tasks.

Good Neighbors needs some more Peoples people involved. Can you help a bit? If so, call the office at 319-362-9827, email at office@peoplesuu.org, or talk to Pastor David.



Easter Season

Holy Thursday Service |
Thursday April 14 | 7pm

Easter and Earth Day Worship
Sunday April 17 | 11am | Morgan Creek Park

Easter Egg hunt will follow. In case of bad weather, we will use the church building.

Seder Meal
Saturday April 23 | 6pm
(*must register with the office by Friday, April 8*)



SOCIAL JUSTICE

First Sunday Plate Collection:

Fair Fight Action

FGFA was founded by Stacey Abrams with these words: "I'm making it my mission to advocate for free and fair elections. Join our fight to ensure access for democracy for all." Fair Fight Action was formed to work across the country to organize collective efforts to expose, mitigate and reverse voter suppression. FFA brings awareness to the public on election reform and advocates for it at all levels.

Sunday, April 3 9:45am Forum: Dr. Mohammad khan Kharoti (Ely room & Zoom) Join us for this special Forum with Dr. Mohammad khan Kharoti from Helmand Province in Afghanistan. Dr Kharoti left Afghanistan for his medical training. Upon returning to his own community in 1999 he saw the children of his village working in poppy fields, none of them in school. No one in the village of 11,000 could read or write. Subsequently, he received permission from the Taliban in Kabul to start a school for children in his family compound, taught by two literate women in the district. Through destruction and rebuilding the concept of education has made an inroad in rural Helmand Province. He was working in the school last summer when the Taliban took over the government. Nonetheless, Dr. Kharoti has developed an unusual relationship with the Taliban which has kept the school going. There are over 100 Afghan refugees settling in our community. Peoples voted last December to learn more about this population and how as a church we can be supportive. Please join us for this special opportunity.

Sunday, April 10 9:45am Forum: When You Pick Up A Gun (Ely room & Zoom) Join us in viewing this film in which three mothers from Cedar Rapids share how their lives were forever changed by gun violence in Cedar Rapids. The film aims to shed light on issues related to gun violence in Cedar Rapids. It is a powerful message on violence in our own community. Afterwards join in a discussion with Rachel Rockwell and Tony Wilson of the Central Development Program and learn about an opportunity for members of our church to become involved in anti-violence interventions with other community stakeholders and people directly impacted by gun violence locally.

An intergenerational field trip to the Museum of Art to see the special exhibit Freedom's Daughters is planned for Sunday, April 24 at 1:30 pm. The exhibit highlights Black Women suffragists and those who continued to fight for civil rights. The Cedar Rapids artist of the paintings says, "We need to understand and educate ourselves about these women of color who've been doing so much amazing work." We learned about white women suffragists in our history education, but the work of Black suffragists has gone unnoticed. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for adults over 62; \$4 for youth ages 6 to 18; free for children under 5. Please plan on a Peoples field trip to support our CR Art Museum and learn more about these courageous women.

Our **Juneteenth celebration** is returning in person and People's plans on having a booth for meeting and greeting our neighbors. Save the date of **Saturday, June 18, 2022**, to join in this annual community celebration.

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. *3 copies are in our library.*

Social Justice Opportunities at Coe College

Lives Behind Bars: Film Discussion Series

Coe is hosting a free film discussion series to create conversation in the Cedar Rapids area about the impact of incarceration on individuals and their communities



The first film in the discussion series is the award-winning *13th* which traces the rise of mass incarceration in the U.S

Screening: March 27th, 2PM

Discussion: March 31st, 7PM

Visit the event's website for more information

<https://www.coe.edu/faculty-staff/lives-behind-bars-community-film-discussion-series>

Questions & Reservations: Beth Valenta - bvalenta@coe.edu

Support by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts, and Coe College



Re-entry Simulation

Coe College is excited to host the Central Iowa Works Reentry Simulation on **Wednesday, April 6th from 4:00 – 6:00pm.**

The free simulation is designed to allow participants to gain an understanding of the obstacles offenders face upon release from a term of incarceration. By "living the life" of someone released from prison, participants experience first-hand the barriers and challenges encountered by returning citizens on a daily basis.

Questions: Neal McNabb - nmcnabb@coe.edu



Scan QR code for more information & to register!



Democracy as a Spiritual Practice

Thursdays, March 31 and April 14, 7:30pm on Zoom

Join us for a compelling two-part series on Democracy as a Spiritual Practice. Our first program - **Strengthening our Civic Muscles** - explores authoritarian regimes through the lens of Timothy Snyder's book *On Tyranny* with Rev. Patrick McLaughlin from the UU Church of Manchester NH. We encourage attendees to read this short book prior to the session.

The second session, **After the Protests**, explores the ways in which we can engage and rebuild our civic society to bring our democracy back into balance. This program is led by the Rev. Sharon Welch, professor and author of numerous books (including *After the Protests*), and First Parish's Social Action Manager, Rev. Paul Langston-Daley.

This series is co-sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy, First Parish in Concord; First Church in Belmont; the UU Church of Manchester NH; and Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice.

Please use this link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/48cmtyhx>

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting May 15, 2022



If your address has changed in the last 12 months please notify the office ASAP. We will soon be sending out the Annual Meeting notices and it is important that all members receive this information.

READ!



PEOPLES CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

PRINTABLE PROXY FORM FOR MAY 15th ANNUAL MEETING

WE WILL NOT BE MAILING PROXIES TO YOU.

4980 Gordon Avenue N.W. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405 | www.peoplesuu.org | 319.362.9827

PROXY VOTING FORM

- If you are a voting member of Peoples Church and cannot attend the congregational meeting on **May 15, 2022**, you must mail your proxy to the office **OR** email a scan or picture of it to pcuusecretary@gmail.com.
- NOTE: No one may vote more than one proxy.**

In my absence, I authorize _____ to vote on my behalf at the May 15, 2022, Congregational Meeting.

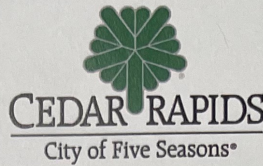
Your signature is required. Please sign and date this form below.

Signature of absentee member: _____ Date: _____

Name of proxy member to vote on your behalf: _____

If you use this proxy, it must be received no later than Friday, May 13, 2022.

MAIL DELIVERY IS SLOWER – MAIL YOUR PROXY EARLY!



March 14, 2022

RE: 325069-07: Cherokee Trail (Phase 2B) from Cherry Hill Park to Sharon Lane, Along Gordon Avenue through Cherokee Park to Midway Drive NW

Dear Sir or Madam:

Trail and street improvements in your area are tentatively scheduled to begin in March pending any final considerations or weather conditions. Construction is expected to start in Cherokee Park first, followed by Sharon Lane NW and Gordon Avenue to the west of West Post Road. We anticipate completing the project by late fall 2023. This project includes a bicycle boulevard on Sharon Lane NW from Eastview Drive to Gordon Avenue, and Gordon Avenue NW from Cherry Hill Road to Jacolyn Park, off-street trail in Jacolyn Park and Cherokee Park from Gordon Avenue to Midway Drive, and mini-roundabouts at the Gordon Avenue & West Post Road NW and Gordon Avenue & Harbet Avenue NW intersections. Sub-standard pavement conditions exist on Sharon Lane NW and Gordon Avenue NW requiring pavement patching and asphalt resurfacing on Sharon Lane NW, and total street reconstruction on Gordon Avenue NW. Storm sewers, sanitary sewers, and water main infrastructure are being upgraded along the project limits.

We wanted to share how the project will affect you:

- Sharon Lane NW pavement patching and asphalt resurfacing: contractor is required to maintain access to driveways
- Gordon Avenue reconstruction: contractor is required to maintain access to driveways
- Locations with water main reconstruction:
 - Some properties will experience a temporary loss of water service during water main construction. The contractor/Water Department will communicate expected dates and times of water service outages with affected properties. In most cases water service will be restored the same day, with typical service outages lasting between 1-6 hours depending on the repair.

If you have any questions during construction, please do not hesitate to contact us:

- Eryn Stone, Project Manager | e.stone@cedar-rapids.org | 319-286-5627
- Dillon Feldmann, Construction Project Manager | d.feldmann@cedar-rapids.org | 319-286-5703.

Thank you for your patience and support as we work to make these project improvements.

Sincerely,

THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eryn Stone".

Eryn Stone, P.E.
Project Engineer II

cc: Tim Mroch, P.E., CIP Program Manager
Jay Vavra, P.E., Shoemaker Haaland Professional Engineers

325069-07/CORRES/COURTESY NOTICE

Public Works Department
500 15th Avenue S.W. – Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-2631 – (319) 286-5778 – Fax (319) 774-5653



APRIL



Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	3	9:45am 11am	Forum: Dr. Mohammad khan Kharoti Worship (New member service)
Sunday	10	all day 9:45am 9:45am 11am 12:45pm	Palm Sunday Faith Formation Forum: When You Pick Up A Gun Worship Worship Associates
Monday	11	12pm	Van Vechten Guild BYOL
Thursday	14	all day 7-7:45pm	Maundy (Holy) Thursday Maundy (Holy) Thursday Worship Service
Friday	15	all day all day	Good Friday Passover Eve
Saturday	16	all day all day	Holy Saturday Passover (Day 1)
Sunday	17	all day all day 11am 12pm	Easter Passover (Day 2) Worship at Morgan Creek Park; if inclement weather at the Church Easter Egg Hunt!
Monday	18	all day all day	Easter Monday Passover (Day 3)
Tuesday	19	all day	Passover (Day 4)
Wednesday	20	all day 1-2pm	Passover (Day 5) Social Justice Team Meeting
Thursday	21	all day 7-8pm	Passover (Day 6) Finance Meeting
Friday	22	all day	Passover (Day 7)
Saturday	23	6-7pm	Seder Meal Must make reservation by 4/8/22
Sunday	27	11am	Worship
Thursday	28	all day 6:30-8pm	Yom HaShoah Board Meeting
Saturday	30	9:45am	2022 MidAmerica Region Annual Business Mtg. Must be credentialed by 4/29/22



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.



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.

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

Judy Mitschelen

Pianist

Custodian

Brian Reeves

Childcare Providers

Valerie Angerer Zieser,
Alexis Wauford & Jenna
Straatmann

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

April Kathy Juba | 361-0280 | kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

March 28-April 10 | Rose Gabe
April 11-24 | Jan Federer
April 25-May 8 | Dorothy Hershner

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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