

THE VOICE

May 2022

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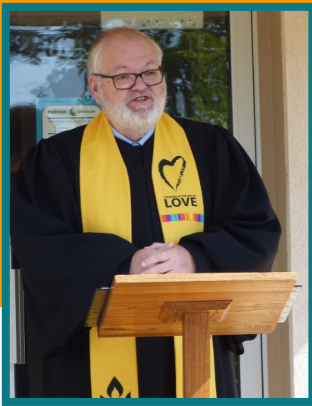


Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org





Pastor's Page

In times like these

I think it is important to be reminded of the Principles that sets a Unitarian Universalist Congregation apart from other groups. These are more than words. They are ways to live and act in relationship with each other and with society at large. They are crucial to our faith journey.

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The UUA website discusses each Principle. Here is what it says about the 3rd:

“In our religious lives, the democratic process requires trust in the development of each individual conscience—a belief that such development is possible for each of us, as well as a commitment to cultivate our own conscience. We could call it a commitment to the value of each person. In the words of [Theodore Parker](#), ‘Democracy means not “I am as good as you are,” but “You are as good as I am.”’ My con-

nection with the sacred is only as precious as my willingness to acknowledge the same connection in others.”

—Rev. Parisa Parsa

Every person has their right to believe as they choose. Often times those beliefs align with what others believe and coalitions can be formed around those issues. At other times we can be at impasses with others and that creates issues and disturbances. The country and our state is truly at a crossroads in many ways. It is imperative, if we value the Principles, that we stand up for them individually and collectively. This is the time to make your voices heard and your position known. How do you do that?

Write or call your state and federal legislators. Call your county supervisor. Call your city council person and mayor.

Write letters to the editor. Newspapers still publish them on the websites as well as the print editions.

Comment on Facebook and Twitter.

Write a blog. Start a blog.

Tell a friend or two. Encourage them to take a stand as well. Silence and sitting back has accomplished nothing. Things must be done and who better to start the next revolution than someone who holds the Principles near to them.

Take a stand for the Principles that you cherish!

Pastor David

The news and events of the last few weeks have been to say the least---TROUBLING!! We, our friends, and loved ones seem to be being attacked from every level. Join us for a discussion about feelings and emotions this Sunday in the Ely room. This conversation will not be about the issues and the problems they create but about the very real feelings of hurt and dismay that many are going through. 9:45 in person only. No Zoom.

Pride Parade is June 4th and we need help. We need folx on bikes and walking to help with our entry in the parade. The focus will be BANNED BOOKS and the new banned book library here at Peoples. If you are able to join us please reach out to Pastor David at minister@peoplesuu.org

Flower Ceremony will be held May 15. Bring your beautiful flowers to share! I have really struggled as to when to hold this ceremony! I think based on weather forecasts we go ahead and do this on the 15th as a prelude to the annual meeting!

Follow [this link](#) to our home page where you can join a live stream of our 11am Sunday Worship service.

May 2022



8

Beauty Abounds

Service led by Pastor David Wise. Special music by Randy Arcenas.

15

Flower Ceremony

Service led by Pastor David Wise. Special music by Flutenotes.



22

Among My Souvenirs

Service led by RC Eichacker. Special music by Deep Dish Divas.

29

TBD

Service led by Pastor David Wise music by Deborah Dakin.

May Forums

Sunday, May 8 9:45am Special Pre-Service Gathering Ely room only; NO Zoom

The news and events of the last few weeks have been, to say the least---TROUBLING!! We, our friends, and loved ones seem to be being attacked from every level. Join us for a discussion about feelings and emotions this Sunday in the Ely room. This conversation will not be about the issues and the problems they create but about the very real feelings of hurt and dismay that many are going through.

Sunday, May 22 9:45am Forum: Election Question and Issues (Ely room & Zoom) Presenter Jim Federer

Important elections this year will determine which political party controls Congress plus State offices. Will many new state restrictions affect the outcome? Will the Senate act on the 'John R Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act'? Also discussed: our country's current voting situation; how we reached our current partisan situation; status of the 1965 Voting Rights Act; and what should we be asking ourselves at this time. Jim will entertain questions and comments during the forum.

Nurturing the Flame

Nurturing Beauty and Creating Blessings
Patterson, Board President

May is both graduation and commencement. A pretty month in Iowa. We leave winter squarely behind us and anticipate summer. Spring ephemerals appear and bear fruits. Migrating birds arrive, mate, nest, and raise families. Gardeners nudge nature back to life. Our church year ends even as ideas percolate for the start of the next year. We nurture and through that nurturing we create blessings.

Henry Ford succinctly stated: “Coming together is a beginning; Keeping together is progress; Working together is success.”

Part of our success is continued strong, dedicated staff, committed members with varied skills and interests, and happy workers on the board with members stepping up as we move into the future. Time and again over the past several years, Peoples people and staff have nurtured our beauty and created blessings.

Join us for our annual meeting, Sunday, May 15 right after service to meet and vote

on board and president candidates and vote on updated bylaws. The updates we recommend clarify vocabulary and include technology use for communications, which is one of Peoples “ends” – goals.

As we end, we so begin.

“The Road goes ever on and on down from the door where it began. Now far ahead the Road has gone, And I must follow, if I can, Pursuing it with eager feet, Until it joins some larger way Where many paths and errands meet.” JRR Tolkien

As my tenure as Peoples Church Board President ends, I thank you all.

Thank you. M~



Question for the congregation...

Does anyone know where the “wicker” green and brown cloth chairs in the pastor's office came from originally? Email the office or Pastor David if you do, please!

office@peoplesuu.org or minister@peoplesuu.org

Ministerial Search Team Update for May 2022

As you may already know from previous updates, Peoples Church did not match with a ministerial candidate during the first round of the interview process.

The Search Team recommended to the Board that we participate in the second round, which the Board approved. Unfortunately, we did not receive any additional applications. Ultimately this means that Peoples Church WILL have a second year of interim ministry.

We on the Search Team share your disappointment at this result, and recognize you may be feeling a wide range of emotions. At the same time, this is always a potential result of a search and recruiting process and we are not discouraged. We hope you will stay positive with us on this emotional journey.

Pastor David's contract provided the option of a second year, which he has graciously agreed to serve. And all the hard work we as a community put into creating our Congregational Record is not wasted. Rather, we choose to see this as an opportunity to fine-tune our materials based on where we are as a congregation one year later.

But for now, the Search Team will be taking a short hiatus to rest up, regroup, and think about our next steps. We will likely meet with the new Board to talk about the upcoming year and expect to reconvene in July with fresh energy to continue the work of helping Peoples Church move into our future.

As always, you can reach us at pcuu.search@gmail.com if you have any questions for us or thoughts about that future.

Warm Regards,

Kathleen, Laura, Robyn, Steve, & Susan



Van Vechten Guild May Meeting

The Guild will be meeting May 9 at Hub 25 Groundswell Cafe for its regular May meeting. They have a great menu and you can support a good cause. Our speaker will be Jana Bodensteiner. All are welcome to come whether you wish to eat or just attend meeting.

Faith Formation

Hello everyone!

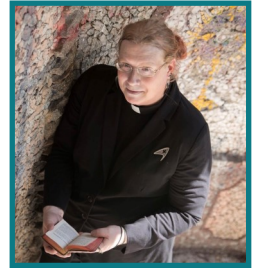
While I don't want to jinx anything, I am cautiously optimistic that maybe, just maybe, the weather thing may have turned a corner towards good. Maybe. Possibly. Hopefully. I probably jinxed it, didn't I? I'm sorry if I did, lol. Iowa in the Spring, always an adventure!

Speaking of adventures, Faith Formation will meet this month only twice more: this Sunday, May 8, and two Sundays from now, May 22, for our end of year celebration. We are not meeting on May 15 due to the Flower Ceremony in the Sanctuary that morning.

Beyond that, as the year winds down, so does my time with you all. It has been an incredible year of learning, growth, and memories that will only aid me in being a better minister wherever I end up next. My last Sunday with you all will be sometime in early June, most likely. A friend and mentor, the Rev. Tandi Rogers, says "It takes all us to care for each of us so that we all may thrive." May it ever be so, friends.

In faith,

Andrea



Camp Hantesa in Boone, Iowa

August 7-13

Camp Quest North Summer Camp

Camp Quest offers a fun, memorable **experience for secular and humanist kids**, providing them with an opportunity to be their authentic selves within **a supportive, inclusive, and like-minded community**. Our campers enjoy a traditional summer camp experience combined with activities – like Socrates Café – that promote critical thinking and humanist values. More information can be found (including registration info) at our website: <https://campquestnorth.org/>. **Scholarships are available** for families whose finances are tight right now.



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.

[illegible]

BOOK LIBRARY! We want to create a library of books that are being criticized simply because their message doesn't coincide with the highly partisan message of others.

The BANNED BOOK LIBRARY will also be part of our parade entry for CR Pride.

This is a great way to impact our community and to live our Principles!

25 year-old Michael Valentine and 35 year-old Nicole Owens were killed in local gun violence last week that also left 10 others injured. Fundraisers for the family of Mr. Valentine and the family of Ms. Owens have been established. Those wanting to help can go to these links:

Ms. Owens https://www.gofundme.com/f/funeral-costmemorialand-other-expenses?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=sms&utm_source=customer-andr

- The Finance Team met on 4/21/22 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.
- Cash flow for the first quarter (January, February, and March) was positive due to
- people pre-paying pledges:

- Jan – March income \$74,533
- Jan – March expenses \$58,017

SOCIAL JUSTICE

When You Pick Up A Gun

Peoples has been invited to join a **virtual training: Building Capacity to Prevent Violence**.

This is our opportunity to be involved in local efforts to reduce community violence, build relationships with community members directly impacted by violence and enhance community capacity to prevent violence. The trainings will be held on **May 12, May 19, May 26 and June 2 from 3:30 to 4:45 pm**. If interested in registering send name, email, and phone contact to pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com.

Network for Justice

Do you want to meet other UUs across the state working for social justice? IUUWAN is sponsoring a **four part workshop so UUs can learn about each other's work and discover how our congregations can collaborate** with each other to make the voices of UUs heard in the state. These workshops, via zoom, will be highly interactive. The dates are **May 25, June 1, June 8, and June 15 from 6 pm to 7:45 pm**. Each UU congregation can have 3 participants. If you are interested in being one of these participants please email pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com.

Juneteenth 2022!

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

PEOPLES SOCIAL JUSTICE SPRING BOOK GROUP

Over the past few years our Peoples Social Justice group has been exploring ways for us to become more aware of the inequities that our US citizens, as well as our Cedar Rapids neighbors, have been enduring.

Earlier this year our congregation voted on which populations we would like to learn more about. The first study just completed was the book DEFUND FEAR – offering an alternate method to massive US incarceration, primarily of our Black citizens.

Completing our vote to study the Indigenous Americans, we are invited to join in the spring book study: BRAIDING SWEETGRASS – Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer. From the author's role as a professor of Environmental Biology she presents the **earth science** principles. As a member of the Potawatomi tribe, she introduces the indigenous' sacred **kinship with the earth** and also the inequities in her tribe's continuing journey. Those who care about the environment, plants, and want to begin to understand the history of Indigenous People will want to read this book.

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS discussions will meet by Zoom

May 3 at 7pm (pages 1-120) * May 24 at 7pm (pages 121-303) * June 14 at 7pm (pages 303-385)

To receive the Zoom link, email <mailto:PCUUSocialJustice@gmail.com>

ReSET CR

Restoring a Safe, Equitable, & Thriving Cedar Rapids



PEACE
IN OUR
STREETS



Presenting the First-annual, Community-wide, Symposium
on Black Culture, Black Futures, and Black Joy!

MUSIC &
ENTERTAINMENT
BY:



FREE MEALS
FOR THE
FIRST 250
ATTENDEES
BY:



Bridge Under The Bridge



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

This is a family friendly event! Everyone is
welcomed.

Saturday, May 14th, 2022
3-8 pm



Dr. Percy and Lileah Harris
Public Health Building
1020 6th St SE, Cedar
Rapids, IA 52401

DONT MISS OUT!!!!

- Tiktok Walk-through Contest & 3-Point Contest with Cash Prizes!
- Kids Activities
- Breakout Sessions
- Village Storytelling
- Speakers
- Performances & More!

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting May 15, 2022



Please follow this [link](#) to see annual meeting documents.

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.

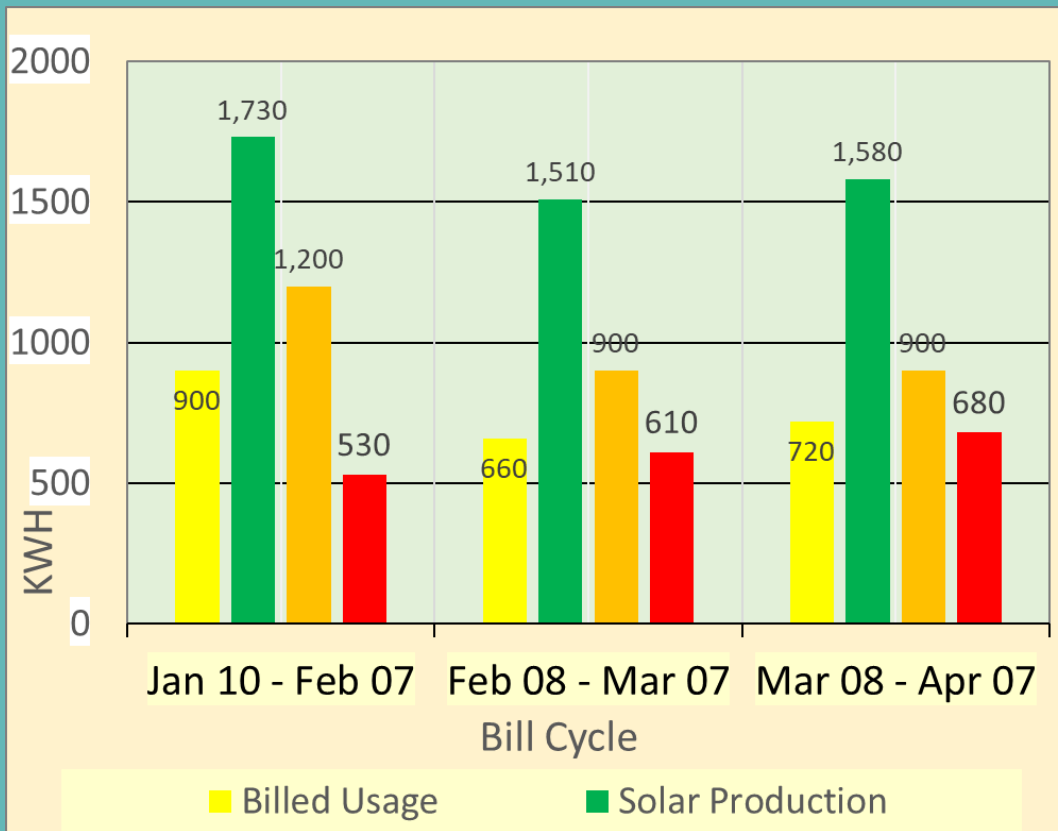
Signature of absentee member: _____ Date: _____

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!

Peoples Church Energy Profile



Peoples Church Photovoltaic Report

Charlie Cizio and Dick Woodward have been monitoring the performance of the church's rooftop photovoltaic array since went operational on October 12 last year. The church's Alliant electricity bill for the 87 days ended April 07 was just \$62.46.

That's less than 1/10 the average for the preceding five years!

The PV array produced 4820 KWH, 3000 of which Alliant credited to the church's account. Billed Usage was 2280 KWHs. Solar used was 1820 KWHs.

Billing Cycle	Usage KWHs	Excess Solar Credited	Bill Totals \$
01/09/18 – 04/06/18	4380		698.34
01/09/19 – 04/05/19	5280		772.34
01/08/20 – 04/07/20	4140		677.77
01/07/21 – 04/08/21	3180		478.49
01/10/22 – 04/07/22	2280	3000	62.46

When the PV array produces more power than the church requires, the excess production flows back into the grid. Solar production and solar usage will increase in the spring and summer when the number of sunlight hours and air conditioning load increases.

Landscaping News

The Landscaping Team is working on plans to enhance the areas surrounding the church to make a more welcoming and easily-maintained landscape. Any implementation is limited because the city has begun an extensive two-year project to build a bike path along Gordon (impacting street surfaces, water and utilities) to Morgan Creek as an extension from downtown the Cedar Rapids trails. With that in mind, our landscaping work will be done in slow stages.

Looking at each side of the building, here are some ideas under consideration (feedback welcomed):

South Side (facing Gordon Avenue)

- Remove overgrown shrubs along foundation (that require frequent maintenance to look nice); Replace with decorative, non-invasive grasses combined with broadleaf plants that look good year-round with minimal maintenance. Accent with seasonal flowering bulbs or colorful annuals.
- The Water Garden/Mandala, fruit and nut trees will be maintained as needed.
- The stucco and siding on the front of the building needs replacing. Adding new, super-realistic faux-stonework to enhance the entrance and to cover the crosses may be part of the new look to this side of the building.
- Sign replacement

West or red door side of building by parking lot:

- The Edible Planting will continue – especially the rhubarb, which was found to be a big hit among several members. No ideas yet for wooden fence to the west at this time.
- New trees – possibly evergreen or smaller fruit tree around driveway for enhancement and as a wind-break. The loss of the previous in the Derecho trees created new wind patterns that are repeatedly wrecking the door.

North (portico) side of the church with main parking lot:

- Remove the overgrown shrubs on the northeast corner of the building and replace with a memorial garden space there with some flowering planting and bench.
- To the west of the door, the hydrangea and hostas would remain, but the larger bushes will be severely cut back or removed around the HVAC area.
- The driveway next to the HVAC could be blocked off to create outdoor play area for the children instead of connecting with the main parking lot. Ask Lu Wilcox for further thoughts on this idea. We are also considering non-permeable paving and new configurations as we save up for re-paving the main parking area.

East side of building:

- The African Vegetable Gardens will continue and expand, with more raised beds for food sustainability.
- Some of the large shrubs may be removed
- Add a new garden shed

Other enhancements:

We were inspired with an idea to visually incorporate our 8 principles into the landscape with metal sculptures (see photo) We are currently checking on costs – this could be added at a future date.

Please share your comments and ideas as we continue to plan and take early steps. We also welcome anyone who is willing to help with this project as we move forward!

Contact Sue Davis sdavisod@southslope.net



NE corner > Memorial garden?



Signage at Coralville UU Church



Grasses/shrub examples from St Mark's



Sample of faux limestone siding panel 1





MAY

Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	4	all day	Yom HaZikaron
Thursday	5	all day all day	Yom HaAtzmaut Cinco de Mayo
Sunday	8	all day 11am 12:45pm	Mother's Day Worship Worship Associates
Monday	9	12pm	Van Vechten Guild at Hub 25 Groundswell Cafe
Sunday	15	11am following worship	Worship - Flower Ceremony!! PCUU Annual Meeting in-person & Zoom
Wednesday	18	1-2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
Thursday	19	all day 7pm	Lag BaOmer Finance Meeting
Sunday	22	9:45am 11am	Forum on Voting Rights & Issues led by Jim Federer Worship
Thursday	26	all day 6:30pm-8pm	Ascension Day Board Meeting
Friday	27	all day	Deadline for June Voice submissions
Sunday	29	all day 11am	Jerusalem Day Worship
Monday	30	all day	Memorial Day

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 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

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

May Kris Davis | 361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

Paraministers

April 25-May 8 | Dorothy Hershner

May 9-22 | Deb Booth

May 23-June 5 | Rose Gabe

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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