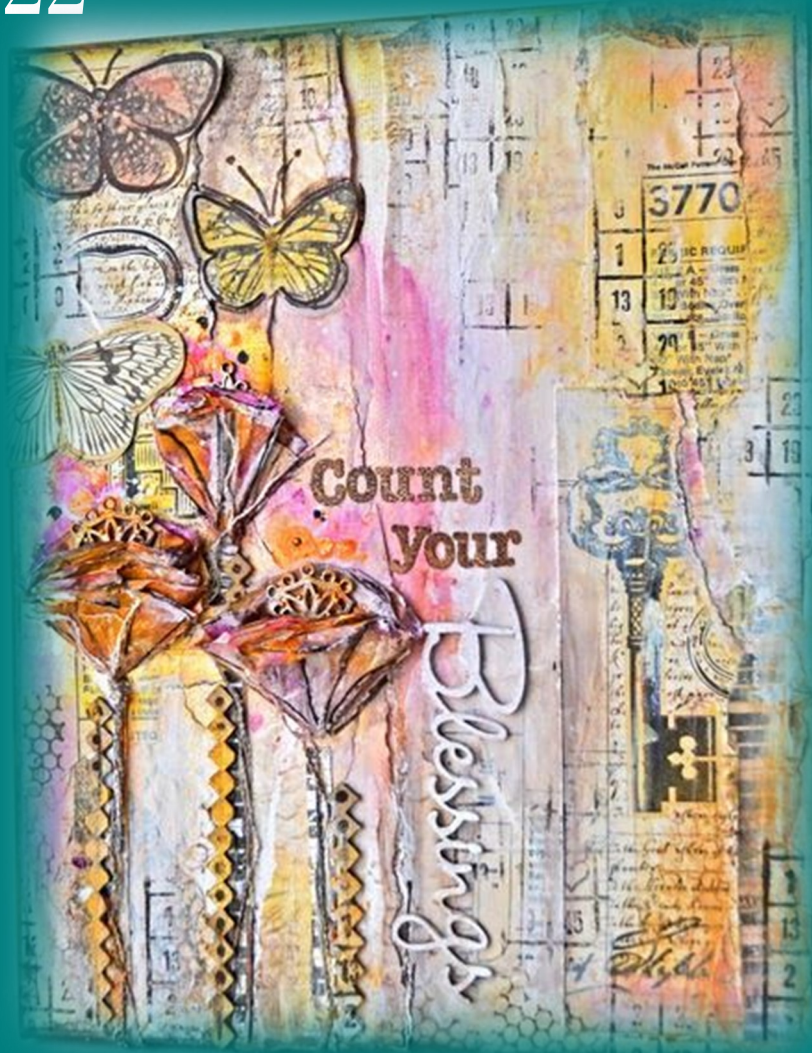


# THE VOICE

June 2022

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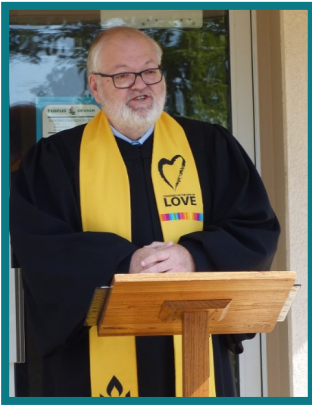


## Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

[www.peoplesuu.org](http://www.peoplesuu.org)





## Pastor's Page

There are times when it is very hard to find the blessing that are around us. We get so bogged down in all of the negative and that makes it so much harder to find the good. Hear/read this words from Rev. Anna Blaedel entitled blessed are you...

blessed are you who are raging.  
blessed are you who are mourning.  
blessed are you who feel numb.  
blessed are you who feel sick. and tired. and sick and tired.  
blessed are you who refuse to turn away.  
blessed are you who need to turn away.  
blessed are you who keep breathing deep.  
blessed are you who are tending to your own needs.  
blessed are you who are tending to the needs of another.  
blessed are you who have been calling.  
blessed are you who have been organizing.  
blessed are you who have been testifying.  
blessed are you who have been hearing.  
blessed are you who have been resisting.  
blessed are you who feel broken open beyond repair.  
blessed are you who are raw beyond words.  
blessed are you who are working hotlines and crisis care centers and bearing witness to the forces of violence and trauma unleashed and unloosed.  
blessed are you who are marching.  
blessed are you who are weeping.  
blessed are you who preach and know that divin-

ity resides in despised, abused, violated flesh. blessed are you who know deep in your bones that you are good. and beautiful. and beloved. and sacred. and worthy. and believed. and held. and capable of healing beyond your wildest imagination.

blessed are you who remind others they are good. and beautiful. and beloved. and sacred. and worthy. and believed. and held. and capable of healing beyond their wildest imagination.

blessed are we when we dare to dream of a world without sexual violence, without white supremacy, without misogyny, without police brutality, without anti-trans and anti-queer violence.

blessed are we when we stay tender.

blessed are we when we stay fierce.

blessed are we when we dare to imagine repair, and transformation.

blessed are we when we labor together to make it so.

I challenge you even in these sometimes dark and difficult times to look for the good. Celebrate the positive and so your best to stay up beat!

David

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There is still room to help with Pride Parade this Saturday. Line up is 11am at 3<sup>rd</sup> St and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave SE in the NEWBO area.

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Juneteenth is coming and Social Justice could use some help—see info in their section below.

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Pridefest is July 9th and help is needed for the Peoples booth. Contact the office or Pastor David.

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

## June 2022



Ubuntu (an African word meaning, I am because we are.)

- 5** Interconnectedness and community. Service led by Rev. Marti Stanley. Special music by Deb Hunemuller and Pete Kies.

- 12** Accepting blessings even in times of turmoil and discomfort.  
Service led by Pastor David Wise.

- 19** When the blessings aren't what we want.  
Service led by Pastor David Wise.

- 26** General Assembly worship in person in the sanctuary or at home.

Many generous people have come forward to help on the day of Mike Meshak's funeral service and reception. Now, able-bodied folks willing to help with the returning tables and chairs to their rightful homes around the church on the day after the memorial service would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Kathy Juba, 319-378-3116 or [kathywilson@imonmail.com](mailto:kathywilson@imonmail.com).

This is Andrea Hawkins-Kamper's last week with us. Please join us after our Sunday worship to wish her well!

Thank  
you!



## Special Cleaning Help Needed

Our current volunteer teams are doing a great job cleaning parts of the building each week and we are most appreciative!! Now, we need to do some deeper and seasonal cleaning *the week of June 6*.

Can you help us out with some window cleaning, inside and out; extra surface cleaning and disinfecting; entry way cleaning; additional floor cleaning? If so, we could really use your help!!!

We can work with your schedule June 6-9. Please contact Christine at [office@peoplesuu.org](mailto:office@peoplesuu.org) or 362-9827.

### Peace Camp for Kids

Peace Camp will provide a space for K-5th grade students to explore their own identities and the identities of other students. The camp aims to work with students to understand race, racism, and how to recognize and challenge racist practices. Using literacy based strategies and hands-on activities, kids will be engaged in a number of learning experiences related to becoming anti-racist.

The cost is \$10 per family. The cost can be waived if a family is unable to pay.

**Peace Camp will be held August 8-11, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at St Paul's UMC, Cedar Rapids. Register for Peace Camp on [St Paul's Methodist Church website](#).**



We will have a wagon that will have candy and bookmarks to hand out. Parade is only a few blocks and looks like less that 20 units.

Thanks for participating!!

*Saturday 1 pm!*  
*we hope to see you there!*



## Banned Book Library



Banning and challenging books are all the rage for certain groups of people these days. In order to help combat that and to provide a service to members and the community we are starting a BANNED 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.

In the next few days a list of books we would like to include in the library will appear on the website along with a way to let us know you have purchased the book to donate to the church.

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!

## May Flower Ceremony



Below is a message from Ellen Bintz Meuch, a colleague in the labyrinth movement with me. She organized the Global Healing Response several years ago in response to both natural and human disasters. She has studied the power of collective energy - bad and good. And, encourages us to lend our energy to the good.

We all know how we feel at an energizing event or with people who are positive. This energy can go forth and create positive waves. I invite you to join on June 4th to walk a labyrinth near you with the three intentions Ellen suggests. Or however best suits your needs.

I have attached two labyrinth designs if this is a better option for you (*click on the image to open and print*). Other designs can be found online. Alternatively, simply sitting quietly with these intentions is helpful.

On June 4th may we raise up good to counter the darkness that can seem to dominate around us.

Marion



#### **Meditation in Response to Gun Violence in the United States**

We offer up the pieces of our hearts, the pieces of our broken spirits

We walk because we must—

- for those who walk this earth no more,
- for those consumed by unspeakable loss,
- for those who bear the immediate burden of forever altered lives,
- for those consumed by guilt and shame and powerlessness.

We offer up the pieces of our hearts, the pieces of unanswered questions, of rage, of sorrow.

We walk because we must—

- for those whose hearts are hardened and whose ears are deafened to the pain and suffering of others,
- for those who feel powerless to effect change.
- for those who know not how to heed the call for help.

We walk because the pieces of our hearts connect with the pieces of the hearts of all others who walk because they must.

May our pieces become joined to create a blanket of loving compassion to cover every hurting heart, every closed heart, every raging heart, every confused heart, every numbed heart.

May we learn to lead in Love. May we walk in Love.

May we gather up the pieces until we are whole again.

--Johanna Manasse

#### **Intention for Labyrinth Walk in Response to Gun Violence in the U.S.**

My intention for this labyrinth walk is to feel the coherent energy of my own heart, then send that coherent energy to the victims, survivors, families, and communities of these shootings. Let me be open to hearing what action I can take to decrease gun violence.



# 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 **LAST trainings is TODAY, June 2, from 3:30 to 4:45 pm**. If interested in registering send name, email, and phone contact to [pcusocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:pcusocialjustice@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 remaining dates are **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 [pcusocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:pcusocialjustice@gmail.com).

## *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.

## Juneteenth 2022!

**Saturday, June 18, 2022**, Peoples Church will again have a booth. Please let us know if you will serve a two hour shift at our booth representing Peoples Church. The shift hours are:

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Contact [pcusocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:pcusocialjustice@gmail.com) to let us know which shift you can work. Thank you for helping to make Juneteenth an honored and celebrated community effort.

## 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**

**June 14 at 7pm (pages 303-385)**

To receive the Zoom link, email

<mailto:PCUUSocialJustice@gmail.com>



# STEWARDSHIP



**ROOTED IN LOVE • ACTIVELY GROWING**

*2023 Peoples Church Pledge Campaign*

## **Stewardship Campaign Begins in July**

This year's goal: \$180,000, a 3.2% increase.

Our pledge history shows this is realistic and attainable.

As always, the No Hassle Phase runs from July 1 to August 15. Everyone is strongly urged to return their pledge information during the No Hassle Phase, thereby avoiding the big hassle of phone calls, emails and texts that inevitably follow for those who haven't done so by August 15.

As always, the stewardship team will be available on Sundays during the campaign to answer your questions and assist in any way. And we will be keeping everyone apprised our progress throughout the campaign. Thank you in advance for your generous pledge!

The Stewardship Committee

## **Finance Team Update**

The Finance Committee met on May 19, 2022 to review financial reports for April 2022 and discuss continued financial plans for Peoples Church.

Peoples Church cash flow for April 2022 was positive:

Total Income: \$41,669 (which included prepayment of two large annual pledges + an endowment disbursement)

Expense: \$21,262

Net Income: \$20,406



# JUNE



Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	1	all month	First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
Saturday	4	all day 11am-2:30pm	Shavuot Eve <b>Pride Parade!</b> Staging at 11am; Parade at 1pm
Sunday	5	all day all day 11am	Pentecost Shavuot Worship
Monday	6	all day	Whit Monday
Friday	10	afternoon	<i>Mike Meshak Memorial Service</i> Visitation 2pm; Service 3pm; Food following
Sunday	12	all day 11am 12:45-1:45pm	Trinity Sunday Worship Worship Associates
Tuesday	14	all day	Flag Day
Wednesday	15	1 – 2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
Thursday	16	all day	Corpus Christi
Saturday	18	3-6pm 11am-4pm	Sanctuary in Use Juneteenth Celebration!! NewBo City Market
Sunday	19	all day all day 11am	Father's Day! Juneteenth! (actual date) Worship
Tuesday	21	6:30-8:30pm	Board Meeting
Sunday	26	11am	Worship
Wednesday	29	1-2pm	Paraministers Meeting

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.foundation2crisischat.org)

[www.iowacrisischat.org](http://www.iowacrisischat.org) [www.yourlifeiowa.org](http://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**

Steve Hershner

### **Treasurer**

Gary McGraw  
(319) 373-9449

### **Board of Trustee Members**

Kris Davis  
Sue Davis  
Marcy Mattison  
Erin Ogle  
Cate Sheller

# THE VOICE.

## PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.



# CARING COMMUNITY

### Good Neighbors

June 1-23 Kathy Juba | 378-3116 | kathywilson@imonmail.com

June 24-30 Kris Davis | 361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

### Paraministers

May 23-June 5 | Rose Gabe

June 6-19 | Jan Federer

June 20-July 3 | Dorothy Hershner

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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