

# THE VOICE

July 2022

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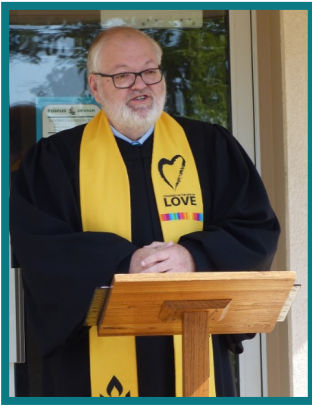
[PCUU Contact Information](#)

## Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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





## Pastor's Page

### **CONTENT WARNING:**

#### **Gun violence is discussed.**

In my lifetime there have been 3 men known as the Voice of the Gators. (the play by play announcer for football, basketball, and baseball.) The fourth was named on Wednesday.

In my lifetime there have been 12 men who have held the office of President of the United States.

In my lifetime there have been 11 people who have been Speaker of the US House of Representatives.

Since July 1st there have been at least 27 mass shootings in the US. (A mass shooting is typically defined as 4 people injured or killed).

Let that sink in for a moment!

There have been over 300 mass shootings in the US this year!

Over 10,000 people have died via gun this year (not including suicides).

Almost 3,000 kids and teens have been killed or injured by guns this year!

Where does it stop? When do we say enough is enough?

We can not continue at this pace of violence!

The Principles that we hold dear are very clear:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

How do we get the rest of the country to come on board?

When do we stop sacrificing the lives of innocent people?

When do stop blaming mental health issues (There is a common misperception amplified by mainstream media and government officials that people “go crazy” or enter some altered state of consciousness and start shooting. Rather, executing murderous plots such as mass shootings at schools, grocery stores, places of worship, and public events requires a mind that is lucid and capable of producing rational thought, planning, and logical cognitive processing. For example, the 2017 Las Vegas Route 91 Harvest Festival shooter reportedly had extensive notes on distance, trajectory, and wind changes in his hotel room. These shooters are often linked with an adherence to ideas and rhetoric that are bandied about as truth on media outlets. On top of that, elected government officials with massive public platforms echo these “truths” and reinforce their so-called legitimacy. The result is a radicalized—not mentally ill—individual absorbing all of this extremist ideology who then takes advantage of the easy access to guns in America. <https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/most-mass-shooters-are-terrorists-not-mentally-ill> )

There are those who would like a strict interpretation of the Constitution. If we strictly interpret the constitution wouldn't that take us back to the days of flintlock pistols and muskets?

How many more lives? How many more children are we willing to sacrifice?

Where does it finally stop?

*David*

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



2022

**CR PRIDE**

**Come join us at the 30th Annual Pride Fest and stop by our booth!**

**Saturday, July 9**

**11am-7pm**

**NewBo City Market**

**Volunteers Needed**

**email: [minister@peoplesuu.org](mailto:minister@peoplesuu.org)**

The banner features a rainbow gradient background. It includes the '30th Annual Pride' logo on the left and right, which consists of a large '30' and a circular emblem with a map of the United States and the text 'THIRTY YEARS OF PRIDE'. The central text '2022 CR PRIDE' is prominently displayed. Below this, the event details are listed in bold, colorful text. At the bottom, there is a row of five stylized hands in different colors (yellow, orange, pink, green, blue) reaching upwards.

# BOARD PRESIDENT

Steve Hershner



It is an honor to serve as president of Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist. Thank you for your support at the Annual Meeting in May!

The time has flown by since then, I hope to use future monthly columns to share thoughts or information about PCUU activities and programs, as well as current news at the local, state, or national level.

The past few weeks have been tumultuous because of the Supreme Court rulings. It is difficult to think of blessings or positives when faced with issues of the magnitude that are currently underway nationally and internationally, isn't it? However, we have also seen a brave woman speaking the truth about what was happening in the White House on January 6th. This is encouraging.

Let's make sure to keep our local congregational connections strong and vibrant! The best way to tackle any problem may be to ensure we have a caring, supportive, financially stable church community. We need to work together to address harmful decisions that threaten to return our country to a place that many of us had hoped we left far behind.

I know we'll continue to hear more about UU programs to support voting rights, voter registration, and other key election factors. "UU the Vote in 2022" will be one of many resources this fall that we all can support and help!

I hope all of us find time in July for recharging our collective batteries and spirit doing whatever works best for you.

Peace,  
Steve

# STEWARDSHIP



**ROOTED IN LOVE • ACTIVELY GROWING**

*2023 Peoples Church Pledge Campaign*

From the Stewardship Team

Isn't it reassuring that In these strange times Peoples Church still serves as a place of strength and calm in a turbulent world. Through your growing generosity, year by year Peoples Church is building a lasting legacy of spiritual growth, sustainable living, and just action.

The stewardship campaign information and pledge form were mailed last week so you should now have that in your hands. This year we hope for a 3.2% increase so please consider that in deciding on your pledge. And know that every pledge whatever the size contributes to that goal. We will keep you apprised of our progress throughout the campaign.

As always, the No Hassle Phase runs from July 1 to August 15. Will this be the year that the campaign is entirely completed during the No Hassle Phase? It can be if everyone returns their pledge form before August 15! We know that it can sometimes be difficult to decide during the summer what your commitment will be starting in January. If that is the case, just give us your best estimate and if you need to revise that later, we understand that too.

And, as always, many thanks to each of you for all the support you give to Peoples Church throughout the year. If you have questions, contact Bryan Davis at 319 361-9280 (voice or text) or [bd@bryandavis.us](mailto:bd@bryandavis.us). Or speak to your friendly Stewardship Team members who will be identified with a special badge at Sunday services.

## Finance Team Update

Through May we have received 61% of 2022 pledge income and we are currently running an operating surplus of over \$21,000 for the year. Thanks to Peoples People for your generosity!



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

*First Sunday Plate Collection:  
Common Cause Education Fund*



## Volunteers Needed

CR PRIDE FESTIVAL

THIS Saturday, July 9  
NewBo City Market  
10am-1:30pm  
and  
1:30-4:30

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[email\\_minister@peoplesuu.org](mailto:email_minister@peoplesuu.org)

If you have either of these banners, please email [pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com) ASAP!



Dear members and Friends of  
Peoples Church UU, Cedar Rapids

As treasurer, I have the honor of thanking you for your donation from your 1st quarter Sunday Plate collection of \$901.39. Your donation was a major contribution toward our fundraising goal of \$1500.00 allowing us to receive another \$1500.00 in a matching grant. Your church community, represented by Marcia Swift on IUUWAN's board, has been a major contributor to moving IUUWAN forward. This past year we have been able to hire an organizer, Kirk Witzberger, who is guiding us in creating a network of committed pathfinders engaged in environmentally sustainable socially just action. Your church is certainly a leader in making this happen.

With Deep gratitude,  
Linda Lemons  
Treasurer of IUUWAN



# THE LEGACY OF REDLINING, RACIAL SEGREGATION, & TAKING ACTION IN OUR COMMUNITY

A Community Conversation on the Past, Present, & Future

Facilitated by

NAACP-CR #4013 Criminal Justice Committee and  
the African American Museum of Iowa

# NAACP



**AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
MUSEUM  
OF IOWA**



**MAPPING  
EXCLUSION**  
REDLINING IN IOWA

**JULY 7 & AUGUST 4, 2022 / 6-8 PM**

**FREE**

African American Museum of Iowa  
Cedar Rapids, IA

5:45-6:00pm Registration

6:00-7:00pm Guided tour of the AAMI Redlining Exhibition

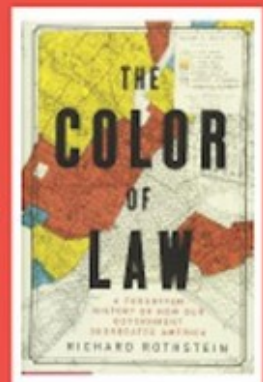
7:00-7:40pm Panel discussion with community leaders

7:40-8:00pm Create a personal/professional action plan

**FREE 2HR CEU INCLUDED  
IOWA BOARD OF CERTIFICATION**

- Identify how redlining and racial segregation are still impacting our community today
- Examine the role we have as community health professionals in addressing the relationship between redlining and public health inequities
- Create a personal and professional action plan to address the impacts of redlining in our community

Win a copy of  
**The Color of Law: A  
Forgotten History of  
How Our Government  
Segregated America**  
by Richard Rothstein



**Eric McKinley-Thompson**

MEd, PhD candidate, Assistant Director,  
The Academy for Scholastic and Personal  
Success

**Karey Chase**

MPA, Director of Community Impact, United  
Way of Cedar Rapids

**Aaron Terrones**

Support Services Director, Willis Dady Shelter

Scan to Register





# September 3, 2022



Peoples Church Celebration Concert -  
We're Still Here And Thriving!  
Saturday, September 3, 7:00 PM

Featuring:

Deep Dish Divas and Bryan Bowers  
Open to the Cedar Rapids community

**FREE ADMISSION!**

to the church or  
online Concert

(FB-Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist  
YT-Peoples Church UUU Cedar Rapids Iowa)

Peoples Church  
4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, Iowa







# JULY



Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	3	11am	Annual Picnic at Daniels Park
Monday	4	all day	Independence Day
Saturday	9	11am-7pm	Annual Pride Festival at NewBo City Market
Sunday	10	11am	Worship
Sunday	17	all day 11am	17th of Tammuz Worship
Tuesday	19	7-8pm	Finance Meeting
Wednesday	20	1-2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
Thursday	21	6:30-8pm	Board meeting
Sunday	24	11am	Worship
Sunday	31	11am	Worship

## ***Be Alert for Fraud***

Peoples Church Minister, Board members, and staff will:

- **NEVER** text or email you to ask for money or gift cards.
- **NEVER** text or email you to ask for your social security number and/or birthdate.

**Do not respond to these communications!**

If you receive either request, please let the office know.

It is increasingly common for people to be impersonated on social platforms. Please be aware of the possibility that you could be seeing or following a fake account on any social media platform. If you are in doubt if an account belongs to Peoples Church, please check with us.

## 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 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](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

### 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

July 1-21 Kris Davis | 361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

July 22-31 Kathy Juba | 378-3116 | kathywilson@imonmail.com

### Paraministers

July 4-17 | Deb Booth

July 18-31 | Rose Gabe

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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