

THE VOICE

September 2022

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Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org





Pastor's Page

We all want to belong. There is a feeling of needing to belong. The question for each of us is where. Is it a family, a team, a work group, a faith community, a combination of several places? Or somewhere else all together?

Being a part of a group gives us a feeling of acceptance. That we are part of a larger ensemble and not going through everything alone. The issue for many folx is how do we get to that sense of belonging? In some cases it can feel instantaneous. Other times it may take years. And in some cases that feeling of belonging may never come.

As a congregation it is crucial that we help most anyone who comes into the doors of Peoples to feel like they can belong here. (Obviously there are some folx that may not feel comfortable here). We are a group of people who say we welcome all! And I think we do a pretty good job of doing that most of the time.

How can we get better? What can we do to help that stranger looking for a place to belong? How do we open the doors to more people and see if we can help them belong?

Peoples is a special place and the Peoples people are incredible! How can we be even better?

David

The Water Ceremony is time when the congregation comes together to share water that is special to each person. It might be from a lake, river, ocean, backyard, or even from the tap. The water is combined into one container and is used for events throughout the year where water is needed. Everyone is welcome at the service whether you have water to share or not!

The list of banned books is on the peoplesuu.org website. Are there books you own that are on the list that you would like to donate? Are there books you would be willing to buy for the library? If so, please reach out to Christine, Ryan, or me!

Chili Cook Off returns Oct 30!! Get your recipes fine tuned! More info in the coming weeks!

The chairs in the north lobby are courtesy of Jo Wasta and her connections. There have been several requests for a comfortable sitting area where people can visit. This is an answer to that desire.

I will be gone September 14-22. Ryan will be available for any pastoral care needs that may arise. Reach out to Christine in the office or to Ryan directly.

We recently changed the email address for the Director of Faith Formation. It is FaithFormation@peoplesuu.org The old address still works for now but please update your address books.

September Worship Theme: *Belonging*

9/11/22
11am

Water Ceremony

Cherry Hill Park Pavilion

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

Interim Director of Faith Formation

Ryan Roth-Klinck

Registration

Parents, we have some great programming coming up this fall and we want to be sure your child can be part of it all! Please register your children and youth as soon as possible for the 2022-2023 year. Follow the link [here](#) to register them.



Children

9/11 - Meet and Greet

Before our service on the 11th begins, come meet Ryan, our new interim Director of Faith Formation! He will be available to talk from 9:45 to 10:30am and will have a small activity to help everyone get to know each other. Also, there will be a short parents meeting from 10:30 to 10:45am, where we will briefly check in about Sunday mornings, remind folks to fill out their registration forms, and set up a rotating schedule for snacks and additional adult leaders.

9/18 - Backpack Blessing Ritual

Our children are back at school which means it is time for the backpack blessing ritual! Please have your children bring their backpack to the service and we will have a special time set aside for us to offer a ritual and blessing for them and their school year.

Youth Co-op

9/11 - Youth Co-op Kickoff

Youth Co-op activities will kick off at Ryan's house at 3000 Carroll Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA. We will meet from 5 to 6:30pm and will have some pizza, smores, games, and do a scavenger hunt.

9/18 - Twin Pines Mini Golf and Ice Cream

We will meet at the Twin Pines Mini Golf Course (3800 42nd St NE, Cedar Rapids) at 4pm and then after we play a round of mini-golf, we will walk down to Parlor City Ice Cream. The youth co-op will cover the cost of the mini-golf and ice cream.

9/25 - Iowa Farm Sanctuary

Join us on a learning adventure at the Iowa Farm Sanctuary, which provides a safe haven to rescued farm animals. We will carpool from People's church at 1pm and plan on being back around 4pm. Please bring comfortable shoes for walking and some snacks for yourself.

Adult Volunteers

We would like to have at least one adult volunteer from People's church each Sunday to be at the Youth Co-op. Please consider volunteering once a month with the Co-op and being a presence in our youth's lives! Contact Ryan at faithformation@peoplesuu.org to let him know if you are interested in volunteering in this way.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

*First Sunday Plate Collection:
Common Cause Education Fund*



Forum on September 18 at 8:45 am

(in-person and on Zoom)

Max Cline, Washington High School Senior, will give a powerful speech on living one's whole school life in fear of a mass shooting. This will be followed by an educational presentation on the proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution which would ultimately make it harder to pass common sense gun legislation. Please feel free to invite others who may wish to know more about this ballot measure.

Volunteers will be needed to assist in voter registration:

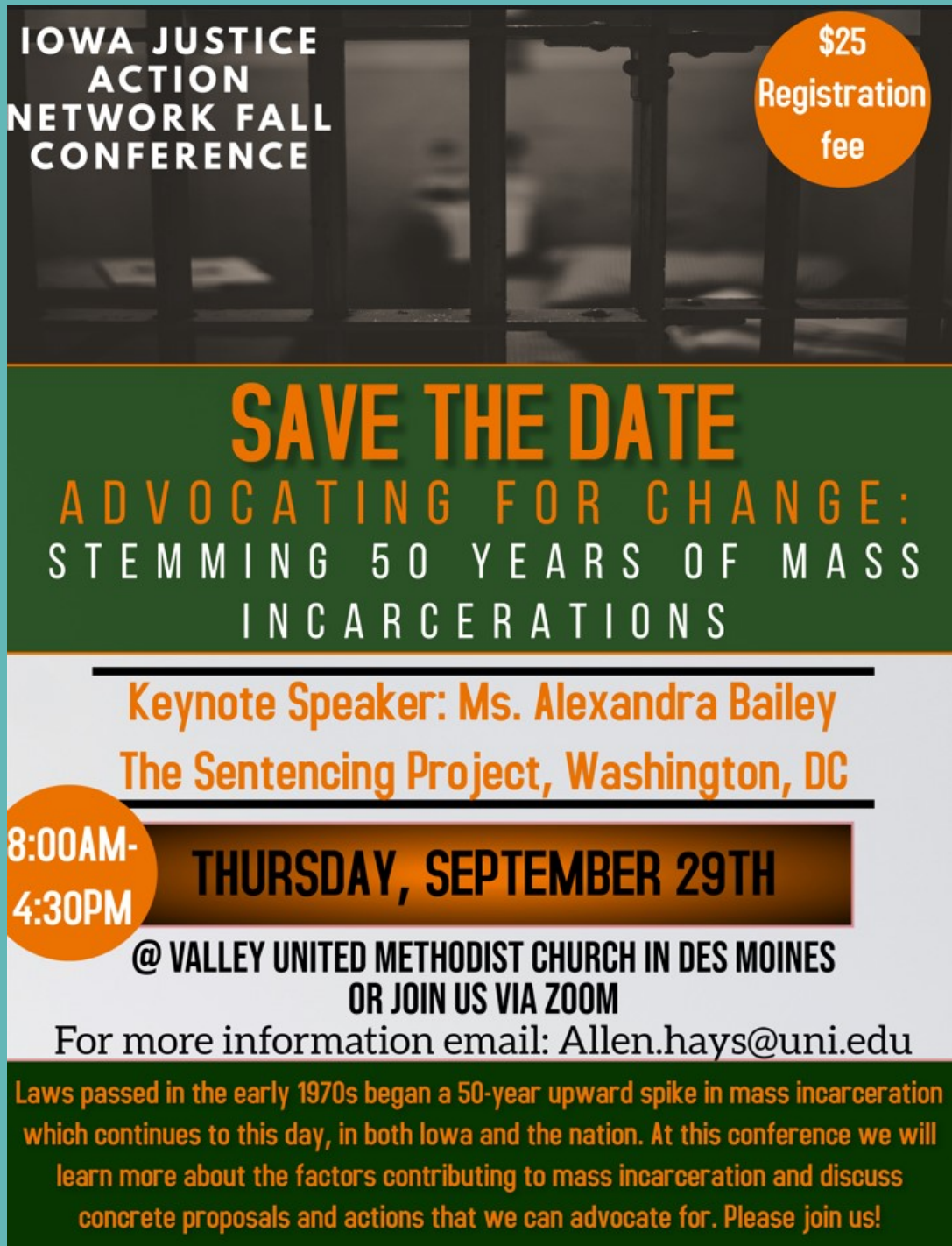
On **Sunday, September 18** at the Cedar Rapids Festival Latino

On **Saturday, October 8** Progress Iowa is planning an event called the Corn Feed .

Get Out The Vote!

Electoral justice is one of the social justice issues chosen by the congregation to work on in 2022. Through the WeVote coalition, which Peoples is a part of, there are opportunities to help citizens to register to vote.

We will be meeting with members of Voices for Christ who use our church to talk about voting and how down ballot elected officials affect their lives. This will be on a Sunday after our Service and before theirs. The date has yet to be set. This will be a good opportunity to meet and greet some of our neighbors from African countries.



IOWA JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK FALL CONFERENCE

\$25 Registration fee

SAVE THE DATE

**ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE:
STEMMING 50 YEARS OF MASS INCARCERATIONS**

Keynote Speaker: Ms. Alexandra Bailey
The Sentencing Project, Washington, DC

8:00AM-4:30PM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

**@ VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN DES MOINES
OR JOIN US VIA ZOOM**

For more information email: Allen.hays@uni.edu

Laws passed in the early 1970s began a 50-year upward spike in mass incarceration which continues to this day, in both Iowa and the nation. At this conference we will learn more about the factors contributing to mass incarceration and discuss concrete proposals and actions that we can advocate for. Please join us!

STEWARDSHIP



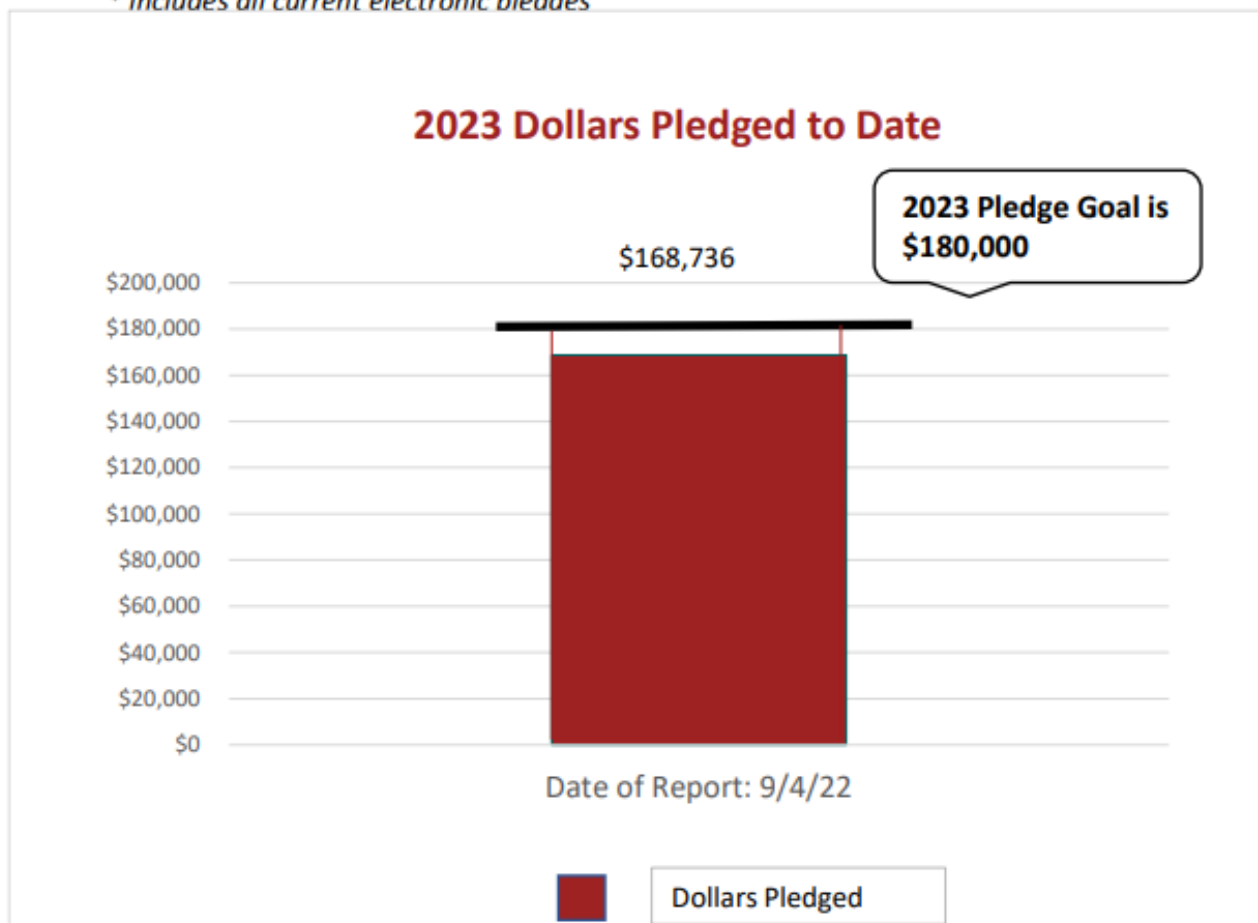
ROOTED IN LOVE • ACTIVELY GROWING

2023 Peoples Church Pledge Campaign

Date of Report: 9/4/22

Total Dollars 2023 Pledge Goal	\$180,000	
2023 Dollars Pledged to Date*	\$168,736	94%
Goal for Pledge Returns	98	
Number Pledge Communications*	63	64%

** includes all current electronic pledges*



Please let us know your pledge intentions for calendar year 2023 as soon as you can.
No time for forms? Contact Charlie Cizio at pcuu.pledge.treasurer@gmail.com or 319-360-2852.
Thank you for your generous and timely response!

Finance Summary

The Finance Team met on 8/22/22 to review financial reports and discuss plans for the 2023 budget.

Cash flow for July was positive:

- July income \$24,033
- July expenses \$12,379



Welcome Back Van Vechten Guild!

The guild will be have a potluck regathering Monday, September 12 at noon in the Andre room.



Writers Group Seeking Members

Are you a writer? A local group of writers is looking for one or two new members.

We generally write essays or fiction, not poetry. Our meetings are once a month during the afternoon. Each month we choose a topic and everyone writes up to two pages on it. Though the topic is the same for all, we allow a great amount of latitude in how writers approach the subject.

We generally write essays or fiction, not poetry.

We email our work to every member by the deadline so they have time to read and write evaluations of each piece. At the meeting, we each read our work and then the group evaluates and discusses it. We limit our membership to six or seven people so our meetings move along at a brisk pace. We're serious about writing, but we also have a great deal of fun too.

If you'd like to learn more about our group, please call Joan Thorson at 319-395-9820 or email jandlthorson@yahoo.com.

Teen
BANNED
Books Week
Event



September 23rd
City Square Park
3:30-5:30 PM



Please check the
lost and found!

All unclaimed
items will be
donated at the end
of September.

Hey Teens!

Join us at City Square Park on Friday September 23rd from 3:30-5:30 PM for our Banned Books Week Bash! Banned Books Week is an event held every year celebrating the freedom to read. This year it is September 18th-24th, and the theme is "Books unite us. Censorship divides us". Come with your favorite banned or challenged book to discuss or come to learn more about Banned Books Week! We will have our Button maker available to make your own button, a trivia game with book prizes, coloring and activity pages, snacks, book discussions, and more!

We hope to see you there!

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.



SEPTEMBER

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	11	11am	Worship Water Ceremony at Cherry Hill Park Pavilion
Monday	12	12pm 7pm	Van Vechten Guild Welcome Back Pot Luck - Andre Room Worship Associates
Thursday	15	all day	First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month
Sunday	18	9:45am-10:45am 11am	Social Justice Forum Worship
Wednesday	21	1pm-2pm	Social Justice Team Meeting
Sunday	25	all day 11am 12pm	Rosh Hashana Eve Worship Board Meeting
Monday	26	all day	Rosh Hashana
Tuesday	27	all day	Rosh Hashana (day 2)
Wednesday	28	all day 1pm-2pm	Gedaliah Fast Paraministers Meeting

Why does Hispanic Heritage Month start in the middle of September?

According to census.gov:

“The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.” You can read more [here](#)

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.**

1. Go to the **[App Store](#)** or **[Google Play](#)**
2. Search for “**Vanco Mobile**”.
3. Download the app and search for “**Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist**”.
4. Set up your account and donate!

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:

988

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

Ryan Roth-Klinck

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

Walter Robidoux

Childcare Providers

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Steve Hershner

Treasurer

Gary McGraw
(319) 373-9449

Board of Trustee Members

Kris Davis

Sue Davis

Marcy Mattison

Cate Sheller

THE VOICE.

PEOPLES CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.



CARING COMMUNITY

Good Neighbors

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

Paraministers

August 29-September 11 | Deb Booth

September 12-25 | Rose Gabe

September 26-October 9 | Jan Federer

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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