

THE VOICE

December 2022

[Table of Contents](#)

[Pastor's Page](#)

[Service Info](#)

[Faith Formation](#)

[Save the Date!](#)

[Social Justice](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Helpful Information](#)

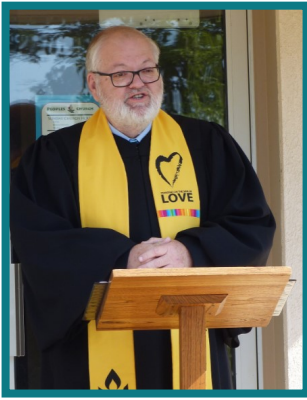
[PCUU Contact Information](#)

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org





Pastor's Page

Wonder is an interesting word! It, like so many words in our language, has multiple meanings based on how it is used. According to Merriam Webster as a noun it can be a cause of astonishment or admiration such as the pyramid is a wonder to behold or a feeling of doubt or uncertainty. As a verb it can mean to feel curiosity or doubt or wondering about the future. As an adjective it can mean an exciting amazement or admiration.

I really like the amazement part of the definition. What are things that amaze us? Over the years I have been amazed that men could walk on the moon, how far you can see on a clear day at the ocean, how our bodies function and move, how resilient people can be in the face of crisis and so many other things we encounter in our daily lives.

What are things that amaze you? What are things that make you stop and wonder how in the world does that happen? Our universe is filled with amazing things that we encounter each and every day! How often do we stop and marvel at what we see?

This time of the year is always busy it seems. We are rushing to do this or that and have little time. Perhaps we need to make time to just relax and be amazed at those things around us in this season of hustle and bustle. Perhaps we need to slow down and simply wonder how does that happen?

December is a busy time for Peoples! We have our Congregational Meeting, the Sing-along, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, and our regular Sunday worship! That is a lot of services and not everyone can attend every service. Choose what works best for you and remember:

We don't always need to rush everywhere and do everything right now—it is acceptable to slow down and enjoy life!

Happy Holidays!!

The Endowment Forum this Sunday will be very educational if you want to learn how you can support the work of Peoples into the future. It begins at 9:45 in the Ely Room! The link for the Zoom meeting will be included with the worship links you receive on Saturday morning.

The choir returns to Peoples! Ryan will be working with those who love to sing starting in January. The choir will provide the special music the last Sunday of each month (most months). Look for more information in the coming weeks!

We are in the process of re-starting the Membership and Building and Grounds Teams that went by the wayside before COVID. If you have interest in joining one of those groups, please reach out to Pastor David.

This past year has been an interesting and amazing year for me and Karen! We so appreciate all that the Peoples people have done and the ways you have supported us. Thank you! May everyone have a tremendous Holiday Season!!

December Worship Theme:

Wonder

**Our nursery will *not* be open on
December 24 and 25 and January 1.**



The January 1st service is going to be fun! You are invited to bring a favorite poem, story, song (either a hymn or solo, vocal or instrumental), reading, etc to share in the service. As you enter the sanctuary you will draw a piece of paper with a number and whoever draws 1 will go first, 2 second and so on until everyone who wants to share has shared or an hour has elapsed. In the past when I have done this service in other places folx have had a great time! I think Peoples people will as well!

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



Our Holiday Program this year is called the Friendly Beasts! The children and youth will help tell the story of a holiday dinner that happens with five different animals who celebrate different holidays during the month of December. There will be opportunities for your child to sing songs, read part of the story, and dress up as an animal! We will prepare for the Holiday Program during the faith formation time

throughout the month of December .

Also...

Ryan invites singers and musicians of all skill levels and kinds in the church to join me for the holiday program song on December 18th. Practice for the song "The Friendly Beasts Interfaith Version" will be right after the church service on December 11th from 12 to 12:30pm. Please bring your instrument / singing voice to the practice and I (Ryan) will provide the music lyrics and chords.



Children and Family Calendar

DECEMBER 4
FAITH FORMATION - LEARNING SONGS FOR HOLIDAY
PROGRAM
9:45 -10:45AM

DECEMBER 11
FAITH FORMATION - PUTTING TOGETHER OUR COSTUMES
FOR THE HOLIDAY PROGRAM
9:45 -10:45AM

HOLIDAY CAROL SING ALONG
5 TO 6PM

DECEMBER 18
FAITH FORMATION - FINAL RUN THROUGH FOR HOLIDAY
PROGRAM
9:45 -10:45AM

HOLIDAY PROGRAM
11AM TO 12PM

NO FAITH FORMATION DECEMBER 25 OR JANUARY 1



DECEMBER YOUTH CO-OP SCHEDULE

December 4th
Christmas Cookie Decorating and
Holiday Letters
4 - 5:30pm @ Lovely Lane UMC

December 11th
Visit to Indigo River to Learn about
Sustainably Made Products
2 to 3:30pm

December 11th
Peoples Church Carols and Holiday
Decorating
5 to 6:30pm

December 18
Snack Potluck and the Muppets
Christmas Carol @ Ryan's House
2-4pm



No Youth Co-op on December 25th
and January 1st



Peoples Church December Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December
4th following
worship



Agenda Congregational Meeting for December 4, 2022

I. Call to order:

II. Reports:

Faith Formation
Board President
Minister
Search Team

III. Vote on 2023 Budget

IV. Vote on 2023 Social Justice First Sunday Plate Recipients

V. Other Business

VI. Closing

**THIS
SUNDAY!**

For early voting on Peoples Social Justice First Sunday Plate
Collection 2023 go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8PK6YX6>

THIS SUNDAY!

Everlasting Life is Assured

By Rich Patterson, Winding Pathways LLC

www.windingpathways.com

November 2022



I can assure anyone they can have an everlasting life! Guaranteed. No question about it.

I don't mean it in a spiritual manner. I leave that to clergy to explain, but being an everlasting financial supporter of a favorite nonprofit or church is easier to do than most people realize. It's called an endowment.

Let's say you've been a member for years, annually writing a check to cover dues. That support helps the organization do its mission, but your dues payment ends with the printing of your obituary. Probably you'll want the organization's good work to continue. To do so requires money.

An endowment is a pool of money, usually held and managed by a foundation, that has but one purpose...to generate a perpetual (yes, perpetual) distribution to the designated organization. Most foundations distribute about 4 ½ % of the fund's total to the organization every year.

An endowment allows a person to continue providing annual support to organizations before or after death. Here are some ways of ensuring your everlasting financial support.

- Make a contribution to the organization's existing endowment, which is usually managed by trustees and is often part of an outside foundation or bank trust department.
 - Create your own endowed fund at your local community foundation. This may not take as much money as you think. Google community foundations in your state, and likely there is one in your town or county. Staff will explain details.
- Make a bequest to the endowed fund of the organization...or create your own fund with distributions to your beneficiaries.

There may be significant tax benefits to making these donations. Anyone's attorney, tax preparer, or financial advisor should be able to help. I'll be happy to help also. Give me a call.

Rich Patterson

***Please join us at our Endowment Forum on Sunday, December
4 at 9:45am***

Holiday Sing-Along

DECEMBER 11, 5 PM

• In the Sanctuary •
• On Zoom •

A song book will be emailed to everyone in early December. Song books will be available in the back of the Sanctuary December 11.



Save The DATE



Peoples Christmas Worship

Saturday,
December 24
6pm

Sunday,
December 25
11am

Please Join Us for a Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 18 6pm

A quiet service of lament and reflection on how difficult celebrating the holidays can be for some of us. Service led by Pastor David Wise.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

IMPORTANT MATERIAL BELOW!

Social Justice Council Proposal for Social Action in 2023

The Social Council, consisting of Rose Gabe, Jan Federer, Kathy Juba, Clarice Krippner, Laura McGraw, Marcia Swift, Jim Wasta, and Jo Wasta recommends the following areas of social justice action in 2023.

We ask the congregation to continue our social justice efforts addressing racism, specifically with the African American, Indigenous People, and Afghan refugees. We will continue to advocate for implementation of the 8th Principle in our congregation which is only in its initial stages.

In 2022 we worked on electoral justice efforts and along with 12 other community groups formed the WeVote Coalition. Even though 2023 is not an election year it does not mean voter suppression will end. Therefore, we propose that the congregation continue to participate in our community's WeVote Coalition and address issues of voter suppression and the erosion of democracy.

In addition, we propose the congregation take some actions in the area of environmental justice in Iowa. There is increasing concern about the quality of the water and air in our state. People in marginalized groups are the hardest hit by pollution and poor water quality.

The Social Justice Council will take its directions from the votes of the congregation in affirming our five social justice issue recommendations and our First Sunday Plate Collection recipients. Social justice actions may take the form of forums, book readings and discussions, events, marches, protests, use of social media, executive, legislative and congressional lobbying, donations, business support or boycotts, etc. The methods will alter and will depend on what is happening in the local community and in the larger political and socio-economic society.

Peoples UU Church is known in the community and the state for its social justice actions and activists. The Social Justice Council cannot do the work on its own. We need our members of all ages to be active participants.

Please vote for Peoples Social Justice First Sunday Plate Collection 2023:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8PK6YX6>

SOCIAL JUSTICE (CONT.)

First Sunday Plate Collection: Interfaith Alliance of Iowa

**The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa
will receive our First Sunday Plate Collection collections this quarter.**

The mission of this organization is to champion the rights of individuals, by promoting policies that protect both religion and democracy, and by empowering diverse voices to challenge extremism. One of many actions is the Alliance's Faithful Voices for Racial Justice which brings together religious leaders in addressing racial justice in the state and their communities. The Alliance brought together a coalition addressing the gun amendment on the ballot this November.

www.interfaithallianceiowa.org
www.iowansforresponsiblegunlaws.com

The Finance Team met on 11/15/22 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.
Cash flow for October was positive:

- October income \$18,740
- October expenses \$16,420



Thank you to everyone for your caring and generous support of Peoples Church UU!

Van Vechten Guild

The next Guild meeting will be Monday, December 12 at noon. This month will be the annual cookie walk and everyone is invited to bring a couple dozen cookies to share with other attendees. Bring your own lunch. Short meeting and other items of group interest will also occur. Of further note: Another successful pecan sale has finished and Jan Federer has your pecans if you have not yet picked them up. Thanks to all who ordered this year!

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.

December

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	4	9:45am 11am 12pm	Endowment Forum Worship Congregational Meeting and Stewardship Campaign Celebration
Tuesday	6	10am	Archives
Sunday	11	11am 12:15 5pm	Worship Worship Associates Holiday Sing-Along In-person and Zoom
Monday	12	12-1pm	Van Vechten Guild BYOL and Cookie Exchange!
Thursday	15	7pm	Finance Meeting
Sunday	18	11am 12:15pm 6pm	Worship Board Meeting Blue Christmas Service
Monday	19	all day	First Day of Hanukkah
Tuesday	20	all day	Second Day of Hanukkah
Wednesday	21	all day 1pm	Third Day of Hanukkah Social Justice Team Meeting
Thursday	22	all day	Fourth Day of Hanukkah
Friday	23	all day	Fifth Day of Hanukkah
Saturday	24	all day 6pm	Sixth Day of Hanukkah/Rosh Chodesh Tevet Christmas Eve Worship (nursery is not open)
Sunday	25	all day all day 11am	Seventh day of Hanukkah Christmas Christmas Worship (nursery is not open)
Monday	26	all day	Eighth day of Hanukkah
Saturday	31	all day	New Years Eve

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

Faith Winebrenner
Jordan Wylie

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

Lu Wilcox

THE VOICE.

PEOPLES CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES THROUGH
SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND JUST ACTION.



Good Neighbors

December Kathy Juba | 378-3116 | kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

November 21—December 4 | Jan Federer

December 5-18 | Dorothy Hershner

December 19—January 1, 2023 | Deb Booth

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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