# THE VOICE JANUARY 2023

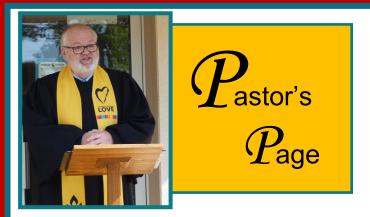
# **Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist** 4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org









This old Congolese tale tells the story of two boys:

Once there were two boys who were great friends, and they were determined to remain that way forever. When they grew up and got married, they built their houses facing one another. There was a small path that formed a border between their farms.

One day, a trickster from the village decided to play a trick on them. He dressed himself in a two-color coat that was divided down the middle. So, one side of the coat was red, and the other side was blue.

The trickster wore this coat and walked along the narrow path between the houses of the two friends. They were each working opposite each other in their fields. The trickster made enough noise as he passed them to make sure that each of them would look up and see him passing.

At the end of the day, one friend said to the other, "Wasn't that a beautiful red coat that man was wearing today?"

"No", the other replied. "It was a blue coat."

"I saw the man clearly as he walked between us!" said the first, "His coat was red."

"You are wrong!" said the other man, "I saw it too, and it was blue."

"I know what I saw!" insisted the first man. "The coat was red!"

"You don't know anything," the second man replied angrily. "It was blue!"

They kept arguing about this over and over, insulted each other, and eventually, they began to beat each other and roll around on the ground.

Just then, the trickster returned and faced the two men, who were punching and kicking each other and shouting, "Our friendship is OVER!"

The trickster walked directly in front of them and showed them his coat. He laughed at their silly fight. The two friends saw this his coat was red on one side and blue on the other.

The two friends stopped fighting and screamed at the trickster saying, "We have lived side by side like brothers all our lives, and it is all your fault that we are fighting. You have started a war between us."

"Don't blame me for the battle," replied the trickster. "I did not make you fight. Both of you are wrong, and both of you are right. Yes, what each one saw was true. You are fighting because you only looked at my coat from your own point of view."

As I sit here listening to the vote for Speaker of the House, I am reminded how much this story mirrors our country. We all feel our point of view is the only one and that our point of view is the right one. We have a Congress that is polarized for that very reason. Everyone thinks their view is the correct one.

What happened to negotiation? What happened to compromise? Sometimes in order to make progress you have to give a little. If we can look for solutions rather than always winning we would be in a better place and have a better world.

Our Principles call us to believe each and every person is important, all people should be treated fairly and kindly, that we should accept one another and keep on learning together and that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

Those principles call us to work together for the greater good. As we begin a new year how can we best do that? How we help united a divided country? How can we take care of all people?



# January Worship Theme: *Fíndíng Our Center*

Due to the holiday, our **First Sunday Plate Collection will be THIS Sunday, the 8th**. The first quarter of 2023 this collection is for **We Vote**. You can read about it in the *Social Justice page below*.

Unfortunately, with Covid, RSV, the flu, and other respiratory illnesses on the rise, we are again instituting the wearing of masks in the building.

We will continue to have masks near the north door and in the sanctuary for those in need.

Follow <u>this link</u> to our home page where you can join a live stream of our 11am Sunday Worship service.

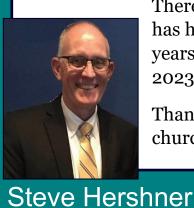
We've turned the page to a new calendar year.

I want to thank all that have helped Peoples Church during the first half of our church business year.

Financial stewardship, volunteering of members & friends, support of faith formation programs, and social justice action have all been strong and active these past several months.

As we turn the page on 2022, I hope that the actions, connections, and fellowship we have experienced this past fall and early winter will continue to grow.

The next few months might still be a little cold and dark outside, but don't forget we are still involved in the search process for settled ministry, there is work towards reigniting a choir, and our youth are connecting with others across the city in the Co-op program.



There are many reasons to be excited about what has happened at Peoples Church over the past few years and can continue to happen with your help in 2023!

Thank you again to all who have assisted the church in so many different ways.

### **Finance Team Summary**

The Finance Team met on 12/15/22 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for November was negative:

- November income \$8,269
- November expenses \$16,093

**The Lea Morris Connection** 

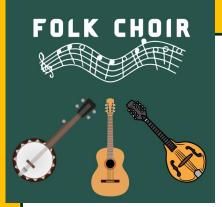
This month we're inaugurating a new feature in the Voice "**The Lea Morris Connection**". Lea is no stranger to Unitarian Universalists and performs frequently in UU venues including General Assembly 2022. Peoples People have enjoyed her music from videos in several services. Now the Voice will feature a link to a video curated by her for the worship theme of the month. If you miss it in the Voice, it will be repeated in the Peoples Weekly as well.

Lea's sound seamlessly blends gospel, Jazz, country and R & B into her own unique, multi-layered style - SoulFolk. She is a whirlwind, pursuing her music ministry with spontaneity and verve. Don't be shy to sing along with these videos, in fact it's encouraged!

Worship theme for January: Finding Our Center







**Join our "Folk" Choir!** Ryan is restarting our choir up with his friend Kathleen, but with a twist! Our choir will be open to singers and instrumentalists, making it more of a "folk" choir, due to the variety of instruments. If you sing or play an instrument at any skill level, we would love for you to come join us for Folk Choir! We will lead the special music once a month and have a regular monthly practice to prepare for the service.

Our first practice will be after service on January 15th, starting

at 12:30pm, which is when Kathleen will arrive from another engagement. You can expect us to practice about an hour for this first practice. We will work on three songs and then decide together when we will practice for February. Looking forward to starting this new adventure together!

Interim Director of Faith Formation Ryan Roth-Klinck



January Children and Family Calendar

January 8 Parent's Council (A movie and adult supervision will be available while the parents meet) 9:45 -10:45am

January 15 Putting Justice at the Center 9:45 -10:45am

> **January 22nd** Finding Our Center 9:45 -10:45am

January 29 Finding Balance 9:45 -10:45am

#### January Youth Go-op Schedule

January 6th ( Friday ) Tour of Temple Judah and Shabbat 5 to 7:30pm

January 15th \* Church Lock In @ Saint Paul's United Methodist Church 7pm to 7am

January 22nd Dungeons and Dragons, Board Games, and Sledding ( if there is snow ) 2 to 5pm

January 29th Improv Fundamentals and Games with the Improv Fort Troupe

#### Children's Council has returned!

This council is open to anyone with children in the church or is passionate about their faith formation. This is an opportunity to check in on how things are going with faith formation and to discuss how we can improve our faith formation programing. *We will meet for the first time on January 8th during the faith formation time.* 

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

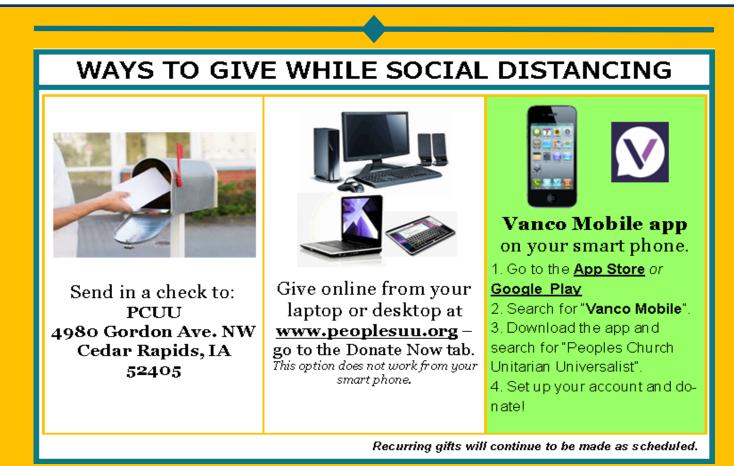
#### First Sunday Plate Collection: WeVote



Peoples UU Church joined the WeVote Coalition along with 12 other community groups in forming a coalition in 2022 in anticipation of the November election. This nonpartisan partnership works on voter education, voter accessibility, voter registration and voter turn-out. The Coalition assisted with organizing satellite early voting sites and provided education and registration opportunities at the Latino Festival and Asian Fest. Future projects in-

volve working with refugee and immigrant groups on understanding the voting process and providing access for registration and voting.

Donations are used for voter education materials and publicity through social media and at onsite events.



## ANUARY

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday Wednesday	8 11	11am 12:15pm 1-6pm 1pm	Worship Worship Associates Sanctuary in use Social Justice
Sunday	15	11am 1-6pm	Worship Sanctuary in use
Monday	16	all day	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Thursday	19	7pm	Finance Meeting
Sunday	22	11am 1-6pm	Worship Sanctuary in use
Wednesday	25	1pm	Paraministers
Thursday	26	6:30pm	Board Meeting
Saturday	26	5-9pm	Sanctuary in use
Sunday	29	11am	Worship
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#### **OUR STAFF**

<u>David Wise</u> Interim Pastor (319) 362-9827 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday usually 10am-3pm or by appointment

<u>Ryan Roth-Klinck</u> Faith Formation Director (319) 362-9827

<u>Christine Kullander</u> Congregational Administrator (319) 362-9827

<u>Office Hours</u> Tuesday 8:30-2:30 Wednesday 8:30-2:30 Thursday 8:30-2:30 Friday 8:30-10:30

<u>Jackie Wedeking</u> Digital Media Specialist

*Judy Mitschelen* Pianist

<u>Custodian</u> Walter Robidoux

<u>Childcare Providers</u> Majda Suljic 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**

January - Kathy Juba 319-378-3116 or 319-361-0280 kathywilson@imonmail.com

#### **Paraministers**

January 1-15 | Rose Gabe January 16-29 |Jan Federer January 30—February 12 | Dorothy Hershner

### QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS. OFFICE@PEOPLESUU.ORG | (319) 362-9827