

THE VOICE

JANUARY 2023

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org





Pastor's Page

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:

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

BOARD PRESIDENT

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.



Steve Hershner

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

Drop My Consciousness Into My Heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaT24jAvcwM>



FOLK CHOIR



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 programming. **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 non-partisan 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.

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.

JANUARY

| Day | Date | Time | Event |
|-----------|------|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday | 8 | 11am 12:15pm 1-6pm | Worship Worship Associates Sanctuary in use |
| Wednesday | 11 | 1pm | 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 |

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

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