

THE VOICE

FEBRUARY 2023



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org

 YouTube





Pastor's Page

Love is such an interesting word!

I love steak. I love pizza.

I love the Gators. I love the Braves.

I love my wife! I love my kids and grandkids!

All are the same word but in each setting they have different meanings.

1 million songs about love have been written according to udiscovermusic.com. And who knows how many poems, stories, verses, novels, movies, and television shows have covered the word love.

As we talk about love in the services this month it is important for us to remember that love is sometimes very hard. It is difficult to love or even like those that have opposite beliefs. It is hard to love those that may have hurt us. It is hard to love those that condemn our views and people that we care about. Love isn't always easy!

These words by Naomi King speak what we need to do fairly well:

When the world's violence shatters the joy of a moment
We pause and reach out for the hands that remain

We open our hearts with love.

When despair rises as a monster from the deep
and drags down one of our own, our answer is that

We open our hearts with love.

When hatred and anger rage in fire and suffering
We bend to pick up the wounded, to bind up ourselves and

We open our hearts with love.

When fear whispers "build more gates" "add more locks" "the blessed are those who defend themselves," we rock those fears to sleep and let them rest as

We open our hearts with love.

People will do unspeakably cruel and horrible things; we know this fact, we live and die this daily, all around the world, in every community and every wasteland. But we know the answer is found only with one action, and so

We open our hearts with love.

Hatred never ceases by hatred, but by love alone can be healed. This is the truth we affirm. We live with courage and with a wider and wider circle of that force that bends our lives to ones of mercy, justice, and compassion.

We open our hearts with love.

It's the truth: just by being born you are loved. There is something within you and every person that can be loved.

We open our hearts with love.

In love, we pray for those families, those individuals, all the persons here and everywhere who are desperately sure that there is not enough love in the world for them to have some, who are desperately sure that they do not matter. In love with life, in love with the Beloved, we turn to answer that desperation with assurance: you are loved, you are loveable, we will and do love you. Now, attend to your life's work: to love. It's the only legacy that matters.

Amen.

I invite you to open your heart with love!

The Lea Morris Collection

The Worship Theme for February:

Love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQSqDSha1Lc>



Stewardship

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, even as we start the new year, the Stewardship Committee will soon begin planning for this year's campaign.

The committee is looking for additional members. We are usually active April through September. Please contact Brenda Meshak at meshak-brenda@yahoo.com if you are interested.

FOLK CHOIR



The Folk Choir is doing the special music on 2/19 this month! We'd love for you to join us with your singing voice or instrument as we play songs that connect to our monthly theme of Love!

We are practicing on the following dates and times in the sanctuary leading up to the 19th:

2/9 - 5:30 to 6:30pm

2/16 - 5:30 to 6:30pm

2/19 - 10am sharp to warm up and run through the songs one more time before the service.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In this time of banning books and limiting curricula in schools, understanding Black history is crucial. Since 1976 every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month theme, "*Black Resistance*" explores how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynchings, racial pogroms, and police killings since the nation's earliest days.

Interim Director of Faith Formation Ryan Roth-Klinck



The difference between a child and youth continuing to go to church or not after they graduate depends on if they feel like they have at least 5 adult relationships in their church. It takes a community to make faith formation possible, and one of the most important elements to a strong faith formation program are adults like yourself! Volunteering just a few times a semester helps our children and youth feel loved and make church a positive experience.

The asks are -

- Be a second adult for the children from 9:45 to 10:45am. Hang out, keep the kids together, and do activities with us.
- Be the facilitator of the youth discussion from 9:45 to 10:45am. All instructions and discussion questions are given to you.
- Bring a snack for around 10 kids and youth.

Folks can sign up at this link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/e/1FAIpQLSceoo67gOJIOMRb2ZPgAgp-OSRZ1viaKuHeYX7zboNllSowmQ/viewform>

Upcoming Events for Faith Formation

Super Bowl Watch Party

- Faith Formation is partnering with the two other progressive churches in our youth co-op to do a joint Super Bowl Watch Party for all families.
- Feb 12 at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, 5pm till the end of the game.
- Please bring a snack or Super Bowl side dish to share. Bring your lawn chairs to sit in. There will be two HUGE projection screens for you to watch the game and/or the commercials.

Address: 1340 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Even though the address takes you to 3rd Ave, please park in the back of the church where the big parking lot on 2nd Ave. Use the entrance into the church from the parking lot and take the stairs down to their youth area.

Arts and Crafts at Marion Library

Faith Formation families are invited to do some arts and crafts at the Marion library together on Feb 25th from 9:30 to 11:30am

Iowa Raptors Soccer Game

Join Faith Formation on March 12th for an Iowa Raptors Soccer Game at the Alliant Powerhouse at 2pm. General admission seats are \$7.50. Please send Ryan your reservation by March 5th, so he can purchase tickets for us. If this expense is a financial burden but you and your family would still like to attend, simply let Ryan know and the church will cover your ticket cost.

History Center Museum

Save the date for a church wide visit to the History Place on March 25th at 10am. We will meet together with Clarice Krippner who will talk about her experience with Peoples and the Wounded Knee exhibit.

“
**February
Worship Theme:**
Love”

Our **First Sunday Plate Collection** is for **We Vote**.
You can read about it in the *Social Justice* page below.

***We have again instituted 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.

Big Changes to UU Principles Being Considered by UUA

On February 12 at 9:45 am there will be a Forum in person and on Zoom on the recommendations from the UUA Article II Study Commission regarding our UU Principles. The Principles as we currently know them could be altered and expanded upon. The Commission's current draft can be found in the E-Weeklies and the Voice (the link below). At the Forum we will hear about what's in the draft and discuss what we think and how we feel about these changes.

Principles

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Our current Principles and Purposes were last substantially revised in 1985. At General Assembly (GA) 2017, there was discussion of amending the Principles to add an 8th Principle, addressing racism, and an amended 1st Principle, addressing non-human life. The 5th Principle was the subject of a report in 2009, which dealt with the ways in which GA and other Unitarian Universalist (UU) gatherings do and don't embody an inclusive democratic process. The 7th Principle has also been the subject of discussions about possible amendments.

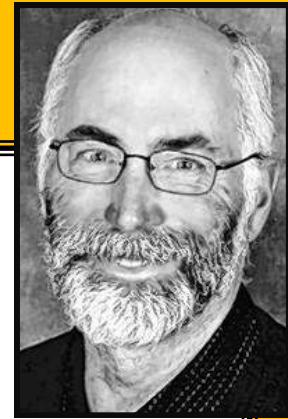
There have been many projects, resolutions, task forces and other strategies that have come from the Board, the Commission on Appraisal and grassroots groups which encourage us to take a look at our principles, purposes, bylaws and rules. It is time for us to do a review and make changes so that we are living into the Unitarian Universalism of the future, a Unitarian Universalism that holds us in times of great need and ethical, moral and spiritual crises. We are in one of those times now.

In response to those discussions, the UUA Board committed to establishing this Article II Study Commission to consider possible amendments to this Article.

Here is their report:

https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf?fbclid=IwARoE_LeZ4KeITYPbRfXvyr3RgSybWpM8ZPPrL1UHhZ6AGEMPvrT9k9UOxQY

*It is with sorrow that we note the
passing of one of our own,
Tim Merfeld.*



Timothy Merfeld, 67, died peacefully at his home on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023.

A Celebration of Life will be held 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, at the Whit-tier Community Building. The memorial service will start at 1 p.m. The family has already held a private interment. Goettsch Funeral Home, Anamosa, has taken Tim and his family into their care. Thoughts, memories and condolences may be left at www.goettschonline.com.

Surviving are two sons, Rusty (Kara) and their children, Emmett and Rowan, Jake (Courtney) and their daughter, Penelope.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Timothy James Merfeld was born Oct. 30, 1955, at Dubuque, Iowa. He was the son of Albert and Wilma Sanford, Merfeld. He received his early education in Anamosa and at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Monticello. Tim graduated from the Monticello Community Schools in 1974. Tim started working at Hearn Oil and Tire in Monticello, where he learned the tire business. He later operated his own tire business at his parents farm north of Monticello. In 1987 he bought his farm near Viola where he farmed and operated his tire business.

Tim was a member a member of the Practical Farmers of Iowa. He enjoyed taking care of his many horses, cooking, dancing and thrift store shopping. He especially enjoyed time with his grandchildren.



Where do *your* time
and talents
fit?



Sign up here to be a greeter before
Sunday worship!



Sign up here to help set up coffee
hour before Sunday worship!



Sign up here to bring snacks for a
Sunday coffee hour after worship.

Finance Team Summary

The Finance Team met on 1/19/23 to review financial reports and plans.

Cash flow for both December and the 2022 year was positive:

- December income \$31,315
- 2022 income \$231,708
- December expenses \$19,779
- 2022 expenses \$216,589

SOCIAL JUSTICE

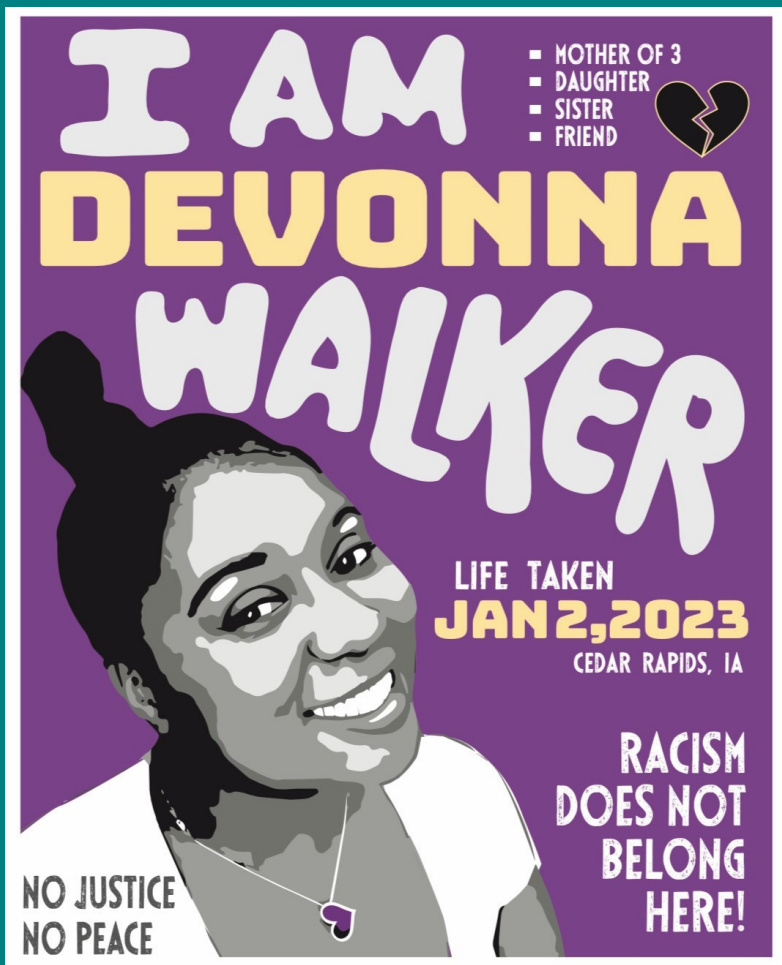
First Sunday Plate Collection: WeVote



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 involve 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.



Free climate justice course

Pachamama Alliance – Iowa and the Iowa UU Witness Advocacy Network (IUUWAN) are offering a free three-session climate justice course, *Awakening the Dreamer*. The purpose of this course is to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on this planet – a New Dream for humanity. Hosted at First Unitarian Church of Des Moines, **this course is offered via zoom from 1:30 to 3:00 PM on Sundays, February 5 & 19 & March 5.** [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

INTERSECTIONS

Meatpacking America: How Migration, Work, and Faith Unite and Divide the Heartland

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

310 5th St SE

CEDAR RAPIDS

in-person and virtual options

Presenter: Kristy Nabhan-Warren

Professor of Religious Studies, U of Iowa

“Whether valorized as the heartland or derided as flyover country, the Midwest became instantly notorious when COVID-19 infections skyrocketed among workers in meatpacking plants — and Americans feared for their meat supply.... Native midwesterner Kristy Nabhan-Warren spent years interviewing Iowans who work in the meatpacking industry, both native-born residents and recent migrants from Latin America, Africa, and Asia. In *Meatpacking America*, she digs deep below the stereotype and reveals the grit and grace of a heartland that is a major global hub of migration and food production — and also, it turns out, of religion.”

Join us for Intersections on Friday, February 3 as Professor Nabhan-Warren discusses meat packing in America and the connections to migrants and faith.

There are three ways you can join us for Intersections:

Attend in person (with lunch) by [clicking here](#). Three boxed lunch options are available: chicken, roast beef, and vegetarian; boxed lunches are \$12 each and may come with a salad, chips, and a dessert. Please note: ***You must pre-order and pay for your lunch by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 31. Late orders or walk-in requests for lunch will NOT be available.***


Attend in person (no lunch) by [clicking here](#). There is no cost for this option, but we do need your RSVP to ensure we have enough seating.

Watch via YouTube. This presentation will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. [Please register here](#) for the link to join virtually.

Support LGBTQ Youth to Feel Seen and Valued



Megan Jones is organizing this fundraiser.

Created 5 days ago •  [Education](#)

For Aida's 13th Birthday, they are raising money to send members of Mt. Vernon Middle School's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), of which they are a member and president, to The Annual Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth (<https://iagovcon.org>) on April 28, 2023 in Altoona, Iowa. This is the largest LGBTQ youth conference in the country and will allow the GSA members and advisors to learn about topics that specifically impact LGBTQ youth, listen to famous keynote speakers (last year Amy Schneider was the keynote, the first trans woman to qualify for the tournament of champions on Jeopardy!), and most importantly- network with other LGBTQ students, professionals and caregivers from across the state. Being LGBTQ can feel very lonely; connecting with other kids who are like you is impactful beyond measure.

[Read more](#)

One of PCUU's young bright lights, Aida Jones is actively living the UUA principles every day! Let's join in her efforts to support LGBTQ youth and give them an opportunity to meet with other LGBTQ students, professionals and caregivers from across the state.

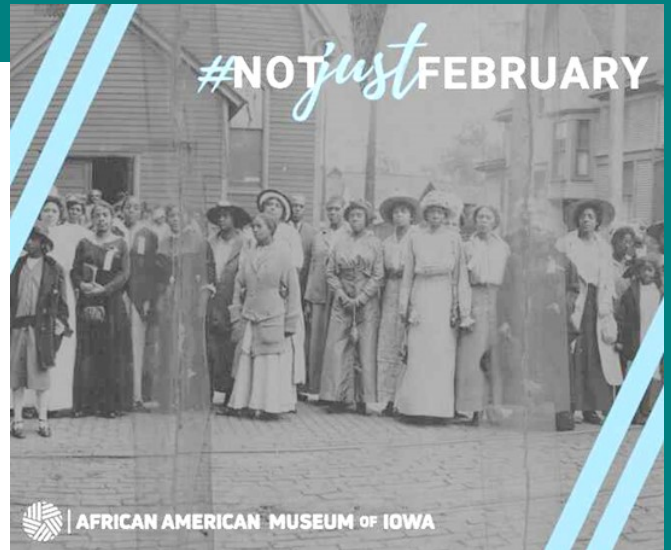
By donating to Aida's fundraiser, you will be contributing to: the registration fees for MVMS GSA member students and their staff advisors for the conference, transportation to and from the conference and small incidentals the day of the conference. If you and others donate generously, all extra funds will be saved in their account to bolster their fundraising efforts for subsequent conferences, making this a sustainable event.

Aida expresses deep gratitude for your consideration. Now more than ever, LGBTQ youth need to feel seen, valued and supported by their community. Your donation is helping them feel just that.

Select [this link](#) to go to Aida's GoFundMe page.

Source: Cedar Rapids Gazette

African American Museum of Iowa hosts Black History Month programming



This February, the African American Museum of Iowa will host special programming in honor of Black History Month. On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., the AAMI will offer free admission as part of its **Celebrating Black History at the Museum event.**

Visitors will enjoy admission to the AAMI's exhibits, Endless Possibilities and Mapping Exclusion: Redlining in Iowa. **For this event only, the AAMI's traveling exhibit, Iowa Civil Rights, also will be on display. This pop-up exhibit explores the struggles and triumphs of the fight for equal rights.** In addition to free admission to these exhibits, visitors also will be provided a free book, snack and activities sheets (while supplies last). This programming is made possible by sponsorship from Target.

The African American Museum of Iowa proudly celebrates Black history year-round. This February, the AAMI joins the nation in commemorating Black achievement while continuing its pursuit to educate communities across the state about Iowa's African American heritage.

About AAMI: The African American Museum of Iowa is a statewide museum dedicated to preserving, exhibiting, and teaching Iowa's African American history. As Iowa's leading educational resource on the topic, it educates more than 30,000 people each year through museum tours, traveling exhibits, research services, youth and adult education programs, and community and fundraising events.

ALLEN LINCOLN DOUGLAS
2023 PRESENTS

Sneaker Ball

Hosted by
Historic Bethel AME and
First Presbyterian Church-Cedar Rapids, Iowa

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

New Location!
Unity Center of Cedar Rapids
3791 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA

Semi-Formal & Sneakers. Please

Contact Pastor David for ticket information.
minister@peoplesuu.org or (319 362-9827)

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



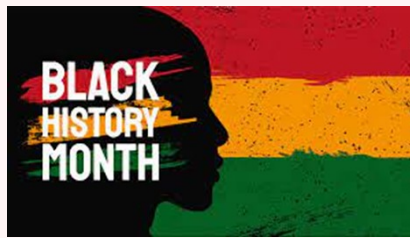
Give online from your laptop or desktop at
www.peoplesuu.org –
go to the Donate Now tab.
This option does not work from your smart phone.



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.



FEBRUARY



Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	5	11am 1-6pm	Worship Sanctuary in use
Monday	6	all day	Tu Bishvat
Tuesday	7	10am	Archives Meeting
Sunday	12	9:45-10:45am 11am 12:15pm 1-6pm	Forum: Big Changes to UU Principles Being Considered by UUA Worship Worship Associates Sanctuary in use
Monday	13	12-1pm	Van Vechten Guild Meeting
Tuesday	14	all day	Valentines Day
Wednesday	15	1pm	Social Justice Meeting
Thursday	16	7pm	Finance Meeting
Sunday	19	11am 1-6pm	Worship Sanctuary in use
Monday	20	all day	Presidents' Day
Tuesday	21	all day	Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras
Wednesday	22	all day 7pm	Ash Wednesday Board Meeting
Saturday	25	5-9pm	Sanctuary in use
Sunday	26	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

February– Kris Davis 319-361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

Paraministers

January 30–February 12 | Dorothy Hershner

February 13-26 | Deb Booth

February 27-March 12 | Rose Gabe

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS.

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