

THE VOICE

October 2023



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org



Minister's Musings

The longer I live, the more interested I become in history. I know that's a little bit self-serving. I guess I'm just getting more perspective on the smallness of my life (time flies when you're having fun, eh?!) in a much vaster universe.

During this month when we're exploring [The Gift of Heritage](#), we are being invited to reflect upon the past. As we launch our new shared ministry together, it makes sense to spend some time honoring our roots.

This reminds me of the Sakofa Bird (a word which comes from the Twi language of Ghana, meaning, "to retrieve"). In this image, the bird is looking backward in order to retrieve a seed or an egg. Before we move forward, we have to know where we're coming from. We want to take with us into the future all of the "seeds" from lessons learned previously. The importance of collecting viable "seeds" from the past is true for us as a whole congregation as well as for each of us as individuals.

What viable seeds do you carry with you? Where do those seeds come from? One way to explore your history is to write an "I Am From" poem. This is a poetic way of reflecting on your past so as to name-n-claim all that has shaped you into the human being you are today.

In that spirit, this month, I invite you to email me your "I Am From" poem. Here's how:

Click on this ["I Am From" poem template](#)

Go to File > Make a copy (or File > Download)

Create your poem

Email it to me by Tuesday, October 24, 2023, and I'll enter you into a drawing to win one of the books from my collection.



As a reminder, there will be a LAUNCH! Start-up Weekend October 20 - 22, 2023. **Peoples Church members and friends of all ages are invited to the church on Friday, October 20 @ 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** to participate in a congregational history exercise. So that we can get a headcount for refreshments and childcare, please [RSVP by filling out this form](#). Thank you!

In Growing Faith,
Rev. Karin

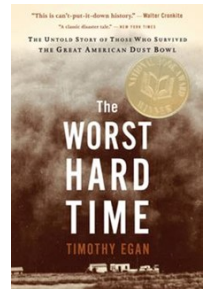


Sunday Worship

Sunday, October 8, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Throwaway Land” Rev. Rosie Rimrodt, PCUU member

This sermon is about Man’s responsibility to the environment, from the Great Dust Bowl of 1934-1939 as written in a book by Timothy Egan called the *Worst Hard Time* to the controversy of Climate Change. Rev. Rosie will talk about that time and how it relates to the weather struggles facing us today.



Sunday, October 15, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Our Flaming Chalice: Facing Down Fascism, Then and Now” Rev. Carin Bringelson, Minister

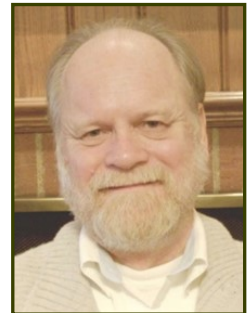


More and more we are hearing about the rise of Christian Nationalism, authoritarianism, and fascism in our midst. What might the history of our Unitarian Universalist’s central symbol – the flaming chalice – tell us about how to respond to these threats today? Come explore how we can live out our deepest values in these times.

Sunday, October 22, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Bring, O Past, Both Your Honor and Disgrace” Rev. Phil Lund, Congregational Life Consultant of the MidAmerica Region of the UUA

Those who have researched their ancestry have probably run across stories that make them feel both proud and ashamed. The same is true when we look at the stories of our Unitarian and Universalist forebears. Together, let us learn from examining the fuller history of our religious heritage, both the good and the bad.



Sunday, October 29, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Being a Good Ancestor” Rev. Carin Bringelson, Minister

On this weekend of remembrance, when we honor Samhain and All Souls Day, we reflect on those lives which, though ended, continue to shape our own. They are the stories from which our own journeys grow. During the worship service we will call the names of all those members and friends of



People Church who have died recently as well as remember the names of members’ loved ones. Everyone is welcome to bring a photo of a beloved who has passed away to include on our common altar. If you’ll be worshipping remotely, please send photos to office@peoplesuu.org by Tuesday, October 24, 2023 so that the images may be included in a slideshow.

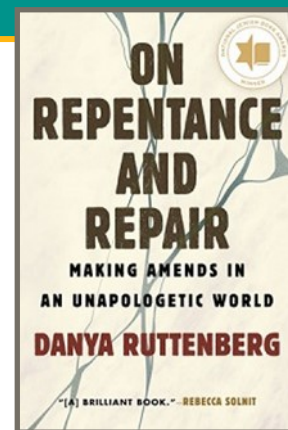
"Tea-Light-Candles_Close-Up__142887"
by Public Domain Photos is licensed
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***Please join us for coffee and treats
in the lower level after worship.***

About this year's Common Read

The 2023–2024 UU Common Read is *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World* by Danya Ruttenberg. It's now available in a paperback edition!

This book invites us to explore a process, informed by Jewish tradition, that can help us take actions for meaningful atonement in our personal, community, and national lives.



American culture often focuses on letting go of grudges and redemption narratives instead of the perpetrator's obligations or recompense for harmed parties. As survivor communities have pointed out, these emphases have too often only caused more harm. But Rabbi Ruttenberg knew there was a better model.

Rooted in traditional Jewish concepts, while accessible to people from any, or no, religious background, *On Repentance and Repair* is a book for anyone who cares about creating a country and culture that is more whole than the one in which we live, and for anyone who has been hurt or who is struggling to take responsibility for their mistakes.

This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers will explore the call to be accountable in these modern times as they follow Rabbi Ruttenberg on a powerful journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy.

Learn more about the Common Read book and resources at <https://www.uua.org/read>.

Stay tuned for information about a small group discussion on this book with Peoples Church people – coming soon!

What's an Installation?

You'll soon find out what a ministerial installation is – just stay tuned to this channel!

In the meantime, save the date:

Saturday, April 27, 2024

2:00 p.m. @ Peoples Church

Questions? Ask Laura McGraw, Installation 2024 Team Chair.

There's an App for that!

Have you ever needed some inspiring words? Or did you ever wish you had a candle but couldn't find any matches? Have no fear! There's an app for that!

Developed and maintained by the Unitarian Universalist Association, the [WorshipWeb app](#) allows you to access the entire WorshipWeb collection easily from your smartphone. It also features a light-your-own chalice, an image gallery of shareable graphics, and hundreds of inspirational words drawing from a variety of genres, including: Affirmations, Blessings, Chalice Lightings, Closings, Meditations, Poetry, Prayers, Readings, Rituals, and Stories.



Interested in Singing in the Choir? Join us on Sunday, October 22nd from 12:15-12:45 pm in the Andre Room to discuss our purpose, music, and performance/practice dates. For more information contact office@peoplesuu.org

4...3...2...

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 6:30 - 9 PM

Members and friends of all ages are invited to help us launch our new shared ministry with Rev. Carin!

On Friday night, come enjoy dessert, fellowship, and activities facilitated by the Rev. Phil Lund.

To help us get a headcount, [RSVP HERE](#) or contact the church office (319-262-9827 / office@peoplesuu.org). Childcare can be provided upon request.



SPECIAL GUEST REV. PHIL LUND

UUA MidAmerica Region's Congregational Life Consultant

LAUNCH!

Startup Weekend at Peoples Church

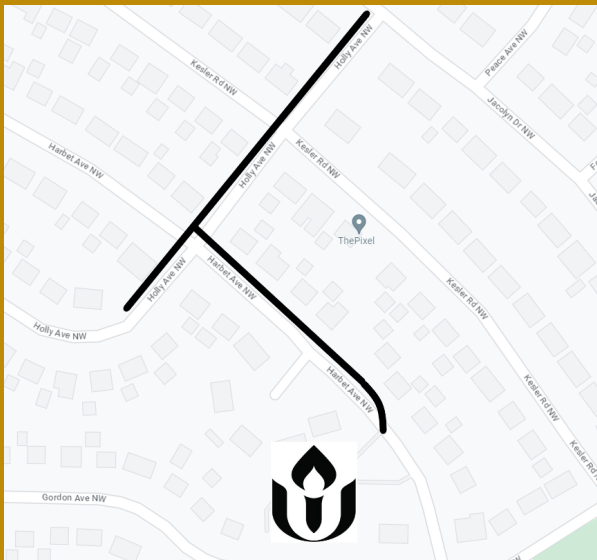


The Lea Morris Connection

Lea's song for October is dedicated to a foundational concept in the UU heritage: Peace. Listening multiple times is recommended!

A Dedication: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HX2fCcedPzc>

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



Progress continues...sidewalks being poured, the cement being scored, be patient, surely the end is coming into sight.

2024 Peoples Church Pledge Campaign



Stewardship Update as of September 26, 2023:

Total 2024 pledge goal: \$185,000

2024 dollars pledged/rate to date: \$189,697/102%*

Goal for pledge returns: 73

Household responses/rate: 73/103%*

From the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa



**INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE
OF IOWA**

“We are excited to provide a new resource designed to encourage important and meaningful conversations — particularly in faith communities — on abortion.

[Faithful Conversations on Abortion](#) is a tool to help faith communities hold open conversations regarding access to reproductive health care, including abortion.

We offer this series of videos, and the study guide that accompanies them, as conversation starters. They are available for anyone to use but are particularly focused on empowering and supporting conversations in faith communities.

[The series of videos can be found on our website.](#)

Conversations regarding abortion can be difficult and faith communities often shy away from them. We encourage communities of faith to use this resource to hold a community conversation in a thoughtful, respectful, and faithful manner.

Interfaith Alliance of Iowa & Action Fund”

Van Vechten Guild dates for the remainder of 2023

October 9, 2023 our program will be Aging with Dignity by Kathy Good. BYOB lunch in Andre Room. All are welcome.

November 13 the program is the Academy for Scholastic and Personal growth by Ruth White.

December 11 is our Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange!



Church Assistance



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.

18th Annual Peoples Church Chili Cook-off

and Costume Contest

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Starting at 12:15 p.m.



Suggested donation \$5
(children 12 and under free)

Find your best chili recipes to brew up and submit in the contest. There is no cost to enter; two entries per family. Participants can also bring bread or other food items to share. **Voting for the chili is \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets.** Trophies will be awarded to the third, second, and first-place winners!

After the chili cook-off, we will have our annual costume* parade and contest for all ages. (*Remember costumes must not be too scary.) Judges will be awarding third, second, and first-place prizes to the best costumes for infant-preschool, K-5 grades, 6-12 grades, and adults.

All proceeds will go to the mission of Peoples Church.

Equipping for Action, Oct. 6-7

All are invited to an “Equipping for Action” event happening at the Unitarian Universalist Society located in Coralville. CB Beal and Abena Imhotep will be at UUS for the weekend October 6 - 7, 2023. CB Beal will also be preaching on October 8. You can register at:

<https://forms.gle/pijqv3ujsdEBq4wN9>

OCTOBER
6TH - 8TH

CORALVILLE
IOWA

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION

FEATURING

ABENA IMHOTEP AND CB BEAL

OCTOBER 6TH: BEARING WITNESS WORKSHOP

WITH CB BEAL · 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

OCTOBER 7TH: FACILITATING FOR LIBERATION

WITH ABENA IMHOTEP · 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

OCTOBER 7TH: PREEMPTIVE RADICAL INCLUSION AND PRACTICES FOR WELCOME

WITH CB BEAL · 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

KN95 or N95 Masks Are Required

Register For Event Here:



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST 8 PRINCIPLES

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
8. Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural, Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Fall Social Justice read:

The Indians of Iowa by Lance Foster

Many different Indian tribes have lived in Iowa throughout time. Each of them existed as an independent nation, with its own history, culture, language and traditions.

The Social Justice Forums on Indigenous people **will be held on October 8 and October 15 at 9:45 am.** A video on Indigenous people in Iowa will be shown on the 8th and discussion on the book The Indians of Iowa by Lance Foster will occur on the 15th. Two copies of the book are available for loan in the Social Justice mailbox. Please leave a note in the box if you borrow one. The book is also available through the public library system and electronically. *The Zoom link will be included in the Saturday Order of Service email.*

Native Peoples of Iowa: A Discussion of Historic and Contemporary Issues



Photo Credit: Meskwaki Nation

November 4, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.



Peoples Church UU
4980 Gordon Avenue NW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405
www.peoplesuu.org

A short overview of the histories and cultures of
Native peoples in Iowa, followed by questions and open discussion.
For a Zoom link, or for more information,
email PCUUsocialjustice@gmail.org



Presented by Dr. Sebastian Braun
Director, American Indian Studies Program
Iowa State University

October Calendar

8th—Social Justice Forum 9:45am in-person and Zoom

A video on Indigenous people in Iowa will be shown and *discussion on The Indians of Iowa by Lance Foster will occur next Sunday the 15th.*

9th—Indigenous Peoples Day

10th—Van Vechten Guild brown bag luncheon

Noon in the Andre room

15th—Justice Forum 9:45am in-person and Zoom

Discussion on *The Indians of Iowa* by Lance Foster

20th—Start Up Weekend Begins! We start with a Launch tonight. Peoples Church members and friends of all ages are invited to the church @ **6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** to participate in a congregational history exercise. So that we can get a head-count for refreshments, please [RSVP by filling out this form](#). Thank you!

22nd—We close out Start Up Weekend with a worship service led by Rev. Phil Lund

29th—Chili Cookoff and Costume Contest

Following worship



Good Neighbors October 2023

Kris | 319-361-0280 | daviskris49@gmail.com

Paraministers

Sept 25-Oct 8 - Deborah Booth

Oct 9-22 Rosie Rimrodt

Oct 23-Nov 5 - Paulette Montague

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President
Steve Hershner

Board of Trustee
Members
Kris Davis
Sue Davis
Marcy Mattison
Cate Sheller
Lu Wilcox

Ex Officio
Rev. Carin Bringelson

Treasurer
Gary McGraw
(319) 373-9449

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS:

office@peoplesuu.org or
(319) 362-9827

OUR STAFF

Rev. Carin Bringelson Minister

(319) 362-9827
Please email Rev. Carin to
schedule an
appointment

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
Jordan Wylie

PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES
THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH
AND JUST ACTION.

