

THE VOICE

November 2023



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org



Minister's Musings



Thank you to everyone who participated in the LAUNCH! Start-up Weekend in late October. I learned about the generous spirit of this congregation through all of its various triumphs and tragedies. I'm so glad I get to be part of this next chapter with Peoples Church – whatever it may bring!

This church year we're exploring the [new values](#) that were drafted by the Article II Study Commission. The delegates of the 2023 General Assembly approved the draft for congregations to continue discussing and discerning. We will take another vote on the proposal next June.

For the month of November, the value and theme we're exploring is [The Gift of Generosity](#). The draft text for the proposed new Unitarian Universalist value of Generosity reads:

“We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.”

What words stand out for you in the above quote? I look forward to connecting with you about the role that generosity has played in your life – and how you might see generosity alive and well here at Peoples Church.

In Growing Faith,

Rev. Carin



Looking ahead: Christmas Eve

This year Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday. We will honor the holiday by having worship service at 4:00 p.m. that day. All of your family and friends are welcome. There will be singing, stories, and candlelight, of course. So mark your calendars for worship on **Sunday, December 24, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.**

Looking ahead: Blue Holiday

Are you feeling more blue than jolly this year? Rev. Carin is here to journey with you as you acknowledge and honor any feelings of loss, grief, anger, regret, or pain during this season. [Please contact Rev. Carin directly at: minister@peoplesuu.org](#) for the extra support this holiday season sometimes requires.

Sunday Worship

Sunday, November 5, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m. [time change Sunday!]

“The Gift of Generosity” Rev. Carin Bringelson, Minister

Religions from cultures around the world promote a spirit of generosity and giving. How might Unitarian Universalism be one of those faith communities, too?



Photo by Elaine Casap on Unsplash



Sunday, November 12, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“The Generosity of the Earth” Rev. Carin Bringelson, Minister

Religious Naturalism teaches us that no supernatural occurrences happen. Everything is part of a natural process, from evolution to death. With a worldview like this, how might we make sense of the generosity of the earth?

Sunday, November 19, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Generosity of Genders” Rev. Carin Bringelson, Minister

Transgender Day of Remembrance is commemorated every year on the 20th of November. As it draws near this year, we'll explore the topic of gender identity and expression. Given the culture wars over bodily autonomy, we'll also consider what opportunities are available for Unitarian Universalists to side with love in this day and age.



Sunday, November 26, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.



“Generosity of Spirit” Paulette Montague, PCUU member

Is Generosity just a habit we learn and practice? Or is it an innate gift of the Spirit that we receive and share? Come explore in community .

***Please join us for coffee and treats
in the lower level after worship.***



*Look for Julie
Sunday mornings!*

You can also find Julie in her office on:

Tuesdays and
Wednesdays

Please email Julie to make an appointment:

faithformation@peoplesuu.org

Welcome to our new Director of Faith Formation

Please join us in welcoming our new Director of Faith Formation, Julie Olson! She is excited to join People's Church Unitarian Universalist later this month.

With degrees in Education and Social Work, Julie brings over a decade of experience working with children and families in local schools and social service agencies. She finds great passion in collaboratively helping people of all ages and stages learn and grow.

Julie lives with her husband, two teenage children, and dog in Cedar Rapids. In her spare time, she enjoys being active by exploring new places near and far, spending time outdoors with friends and family, researching/writing, and crafting.

The Lea Morris Connection

Our worship theme for November is Generosity but we live in a time of increasing violence abroad and at home. Peace and generosity of heart just seem to need each other. This brand new song/chant/prayer by Lea is particularly timely.

Peace, Come Now <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-HBtwbrI6s>

"Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world." – Marianne Williamson

"If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nations. When there is order in the nations, there will be peace in the world." – Confucius

"We shall find peace. We shall hear angels, we shall see the sky sparkling with diamonds." – Anton Pavlovich Chekhov

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.

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



Folk choir will perform Sunday, December 3rd.

Practices will be:

Tuesday, November 14 at 6 pm

Tuesday, November 28 at 6 pm

Sunday, December 3 at 10am

Questions to pcuuchoir@gmail.com

Beginning next month, December 2023, the Voice submissions will be due each month on the 20th.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our First Sunday Plate Collection is to Great Plains Action Society

Organized and led by Indigenous People so that Indigenous voices, values and practices can be heard in Iowa and the upper Midwest. Campaigns of the group include opposing CO2 pipelines; increasing voter turnout; opposing big-ag practices that harm the land, air, and water; and Truthsgiving. The group led the efforts against the Dakota Access Pipeline and continues to fight pipelines that threatens the Missouri River and Iowa's border to the east.



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

Photo Credit: Meekwaki 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.com

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

2024 Peoples Church Pledge Campaign



Stewardship Update as of October 12, 2023:

Total 2024 pledge goal: \$185,000

2024 dollars pledged/rate to date*: \$199,797/108%

Goal for pledge returns: 72

Household responses/rate: 76*/106%

**Numbers now include all households with Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) pledges*

Finance Team Update

The Finance Team met on 10/17/23 to review financial reports and discuss financial planning for the future.

Cash flow was negative for the first three (3) quarters of 2023 (January through September):

- January through September income \$190,518
- January through September expenses \$193,020

Peoples' Pics



Dick Woodward and friends with their temporary tattoos.

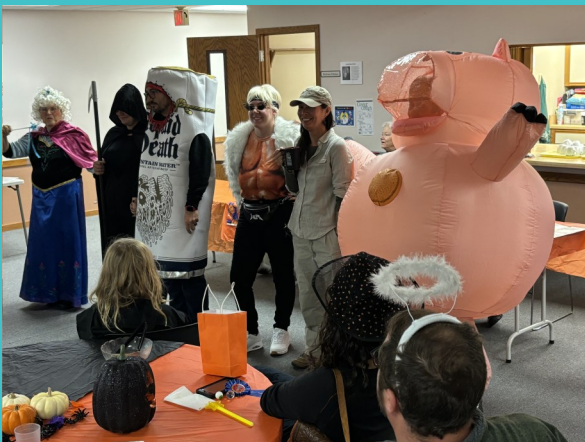
Taken on October 1, 2023 when we explored Unitarian Universalists and Temporary Tattoos.

This is the Remembrance Altar congregants made together.

Taken on October 29, 2023 when we explored Being a Good Ancestor.



Halloween Costumes



COVID-19 & Policy Update



MASKS ARE OPTIONAL



Covid Precautions Update

Peoples Church continues to care about you, your health, and the health of the congregation!

As of this writing (October 2023) hospitalizations in Linn County are low, and masking is currently optional in medical facilities. **Therefore, PCUU will continue our current policy of optional masking.**

If you are at high risk because of age or health conditions, please feel free to mask and social distance. Vaccinations are encouraged. Masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be available in the church. If you have cold symptoms or cough, please mask or better yet, stay home and join us online for worship until you have recovered.

Rev. Carin will work with nurses Paulette Montague and Kris Davis as well as the Board to update policies as needed. More information is available at:

[Iowa COVID Data](#)

[CDC Respiratory Virus Activity by State](#)

Van Vechten Guild dates for the remainder of 2023

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

December 11 is our Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange!

Yum!

Food Pantry Needs

- any canned vegetable *EXCEPT* green beans
- canned meat
- canned fruit
- canned pasta e.g. Spaghetti O's, Ravioli O's
- shelf stable juices
- peanut butter
- Jelly
- soup
- crackers
- cereal
- pancake mix
- granola and/or protein bars
- meals in a box
- potatoes e.g. instant, au grain



***As always, please check
expiration dates!***



Banned Books is a topic that has been percolating through PCUU for a couple of years, as it has grown prominent in the news cycle. PCUU youth carried Banned Book placards in the 2022 Pride Parade, resulting in the wonderful posters on display in the church, created by Marcy Mattison. Last spring Bryan Davis and Pastor David came up with the idea for a PCUU Banned Book Library and a section on Banned Books was added to PeoplesUU.org. Friend Lee Buhr, with the support of Swamp Fox Books, was inspired to hold a book sale in August to benefit our Banned Book Library.

It's now time to make it happen. Rev. Carin and Bryan Davis (two former librarians) and myself, Kris Davis, met to start planning. We already have some banned books on the Ely Room shelves, but we plan to add and label space for the Banned Book Library. Next, we want to build a Little Free Library

to be placed along Gordon Avenue, to rotate our banned books and others for community outreach. We have very experienced Little Free Library owners, C.J. Flynn and the Jones family providing guidance. The Little Free Library will be unveiled in spring of 2024.

How can you help? We're taking book donations now. Take a look in the Ely Room at what books are there. Look at banned book lists online, here's one good resource: American Library Association Frequently Challenged Books. Duplicates will help stock the Little Free Library. We're focusing on currently banned books but if you'd like to donate banned books from past years, those are welcome too. Stand by for further updates. Questions? Call or text Kris (319 361-0280) or Bryan (319 361-9280).

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.

You are (needed) invited to an envelope stuffing party!

Wednesday, November 15th

10:30am in the Ely Room

Come help us with our last mailing of the year!

RSVP to office@peoplesuu.org or 362-9827

Tea, Coffee, and something sweet will be available.



► **Annual Humanities Lecture**

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 11:15 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Ballantyne Auditorium, Kirkwood Community College

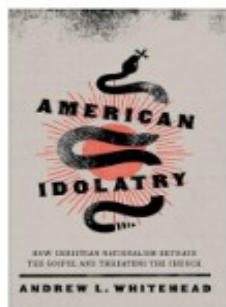
This event is free and open to the public.

THE ONGOING THREAT OF WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM TO DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

Andrew L. Whitehead is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Association of Religion Data Archives at the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis.

As one of the foremost scholars of Christian nationalism in the United States, Whitehead is a sought-after speaker and has shared his work with diverse audiences. His research has been featured across several national outlets including "The New York Times," "NPR," "The New Yorker," "The Washington Post," "CNN Today," "The Economist," "Rolling Stone," and "The Guardian".

His new book, "American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church" (Brazos Press, 2023) was published in August.



OFF CAMPUS

"American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church:"

A Conversation with Andrew L. Whitehead

Monday, Nov. 6, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 310 5th St. SE, Cedar Rapids

This event is free and open to the public

Copies of "American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church" (Brazos Press, 2023) by Andrew L. Whitehead will be available for purchase from Next Page Books at the event. Whitehead will sign all purchased books.

Annual Humanities Lecture

Kirkwood Community College does not discriminate in employment or education.
Visit www.kirkwood.edu/eeo for additional information.

Kirkwood
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Thanksgiving **MUSICAL CELEBRATION**

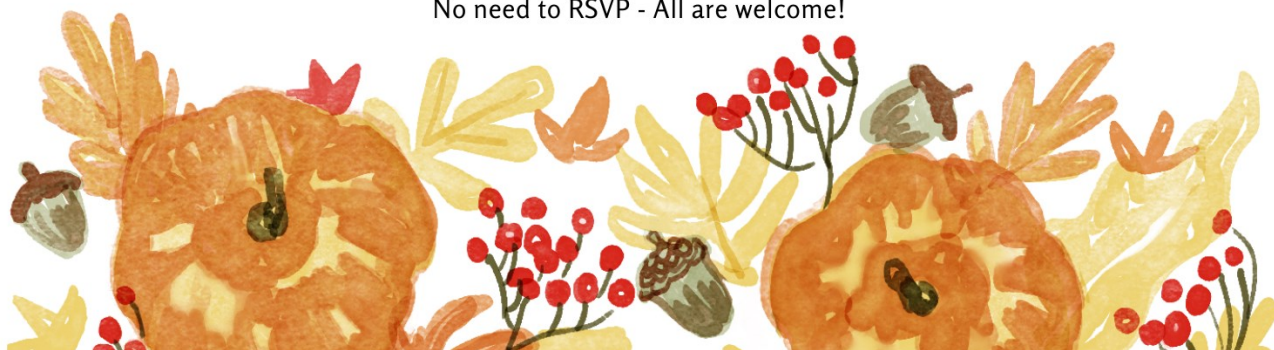
4:00pm to 6:00pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

- MUSICAL PERFORMANCES FROM DIVERSE FAITH CULTURES
- BRIEF MESSAGES OF THANKSGIVING FROM LOCAL FAITH OR CITY LEADERS
- LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND A RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

**Community of Christ Church
1500 Blairs Ferry
Hiawatha, IA 52233**

No need to RSVP - All are welcome!



About this year's Common Read

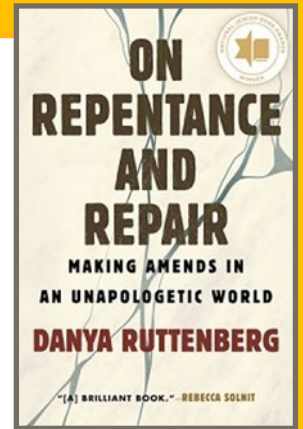
The 2023–2024 UU Common Read is *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World* by Danya Ruttenberg.

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.

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.

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>.



Seeking

Internet Outreach Technician

Do you enjoy creating videos and video production? We're looking for someone to join our team. Please help us spread the word about this position. A full description can be found here: <https://peoplesuu.org/internet-outreach-position/>





4th—1:30pm Native Peoples of Iowa—A discussion of Historic and Contemporary Issues (see flyer on page 6)

5th—Daylight Savings—turn those clocks back 1 hour!

7th—Local Election Day

10am Archives Meeting

10th—Veterans Day (observed)

13th—12pm Van Vechten Guild Brown Bag Lunch and Program

Academy for Scholastic and Personal growth by Ruth White

14th—6pm PCUU Choir Practice

15th—1pm Social Justice Meeting

23rd—Thanksgiving Day! (office closed today and the 24th)

24th —Native American Heritage Day

28th—6pm PCUU Choir Practice

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



Good Neighbors November 2023

Kathy Juba | 378-3116 or 361-2890 |
kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

Oct 23-Nov 5—Paulette Montague
Nov 6-19—Dorothy Hershner
Nov 20-Dec3—Rose Gabe

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

PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES
THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH
AND JUST ACTION.



OUR STAFF

Rev. Carin Bringelson **Minister**

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

Julie Olson
Director of Faith Formation
(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 Provider
Jordan Wylie

