

THE VOICE

September 2023

Welcome



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org



Minister's Musings

If you've ever watched or participated as a member of a track team running a relay race, you know that, in order to pass the baton from one runner to the next, the runners need to slow down. Logically speaking, it makes a lot of sense to slow down in order to attend to the handoff. It's one of the first tips my P.E. teachers mentioned when we learned about relay races.

However, if you're like me, sometimes we learn by doing rather than by listening – and I have had to learn that lesson the hard way. Sometimes out of anxiety or under the weight of expectations, I rush-Rush-RUSH and end up dropping the baton. This, in turn, leads to having to stop, pick up the baton, and start again – losing momentum and focus because of a fumbled handoff.

I know that church life isn't a race—it's a way of being in the world, creating the world we dream about—but this Slow Down lesson still feels applicable to our Peoples Church context.

As we enter into a new settled ministry together – a ministry that I'm referring to as a Shared Ministry because it's not about me, it's about WE – and as we enter the new church year, we won't be suddenly moving full steam ahead. Instead, we will be moving with intention, being sure that we're all headed in the same direction. We will be taking the time to get to know each other, sharing who we are and what brings us joy. I hope we will also be sharing what has worked in the past as well as our hopes for new experiments. By building on past successes and tapping into current



passions, we can purposefully create a congregational ethos that is life-affirming and sustainable for the long haul.

To that end, there will be a Start-up Weekend October 20 - 22, 2023. **All members and friends of Peoples Church are invited to the church on Friday, October 20 @ 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** to participate in a congregational history exercise, facilitated by the MidAmerica Region's Congregational Life Consultant, Phil Lund. (Childcare can be provided. Just contact the church office.) On Saturday that weekend, the Board will participate in further activities, and then on Sunday, Rev. Phil will lead worship.

Please mark your calendars for that exciting Start-up Weekend. Members and friends of all ages are welcome. What a great way to start our journey together!

In Growing Faith,

Rev. Carin

Sunday Worship

September 10, 2023, 11 a.m.

Welcoming Waters

Worship led by Rev. Carin Bringelson

Worship Associate – Rev. Rosie Rimrodt

In Unitarian Universalist congregations, the annual Water Communion ritual helps us welcome one another back from our far-flung summer activities as we commingle our waters from the spaces that are sacred to us — be it an adventurous destination or the proximity of indoor plumbing. As we dive into the new church year with this month's theme of [The Gift of Welcome](#), we'll also be welcoming the spiritual lessons that water has been teaching us recently. All are invited to bring water from anywhere — or use the water that will be provided.



September 17, 2023, 11 a.m.

Begin Again in Love

Worship led by Rev. Carin Bringelson

Worship Associate – Laura McGraw

The Jewish High Holy Days come around every autumn. They offer time to reflect and re-orient in preparation for a new year. During this time we get to ask ourselves: For what do we lament? For what do we seek at-one-ment? What would it take to make amends? And how might contemporary Unitarian Universalists find meaning in these ancient rituals and practices?



Photo copyright Zak Kolar/CC BY
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September 24, 2023, 11 a.m.

Snipping Fresh Mint: The Art of Radical Hospitality

Worship led by Rev. Carin Bringelson

Worship Associate – Cate Sheller

In these days of divisive politics and fear-filled campaigns, how do we welcome the strangers within, among, and beyond us who seek a safe-and-brave place to call their own? What might be required of “us” if we were to truly welcome all? How might radical hospitality change our hearts and lives?



Photo by Eleanor Chen on Unsplash

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

The Lea Morris Connection

Watch Lea rock out on her song, [ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!](#)

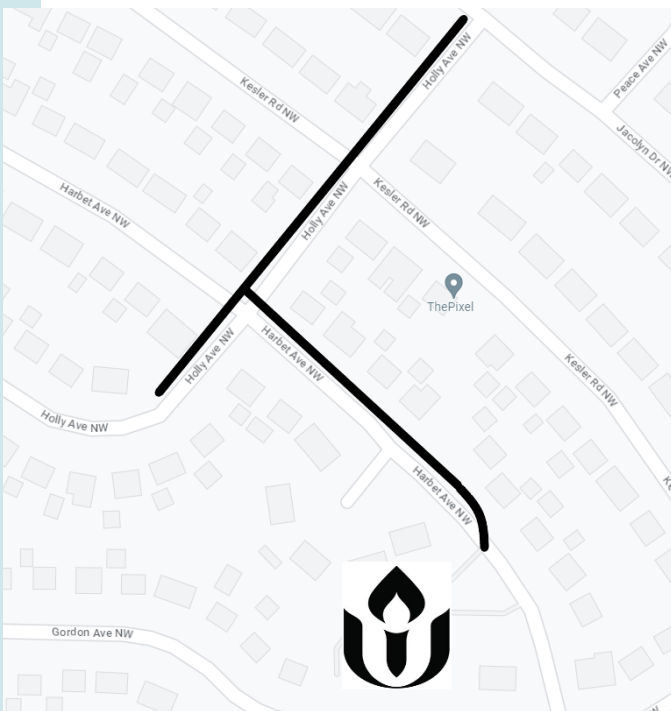
September's song from Lea Morris speaks the theme of Welcome and is really special because she chose to share it for the first time with Peoples Church. It's simple, so sing along and keep it in your heart all month. Be sure to watch it all the way to the end.

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

My sincere thanks to the many volunteers who assisted Pastor David, Rev. Carin, and the congregants of PCUU in my absence. I thank you very much for taking on a lot of my workload during a time of important PCUU activity, including the annual meeting, the Stewardship Campaign and the change in ministers. PCUU really IS the best! *Christine, Congregational Administrator*

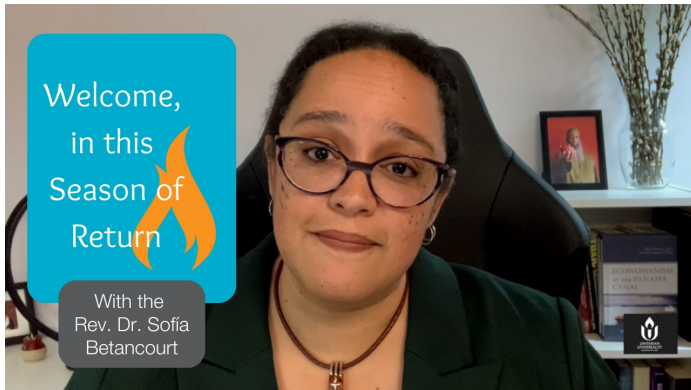
Good news! The cement has been poured on Gordon Avenue. We do not have a timeline for when the road will open, but this is a significant step forward.

Please continue to come by your new route.



THE SECURITY CODE FOR THE WEST (RED) DOOR
IS BEING CHANGED.
IF YOU NEED THE NEW CODE PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.

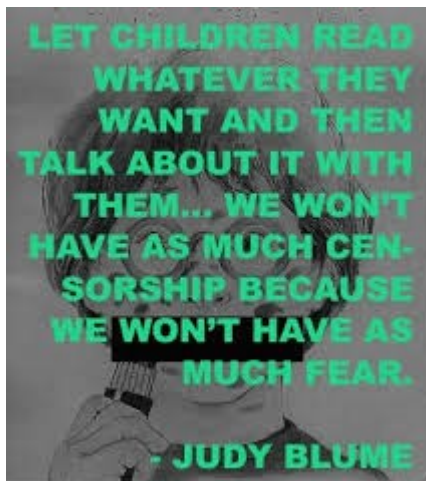
WELCOME, IN THIS SEASON OF RETURN



The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, elected UUA President at General Assembly in June 2023, offers a message of welcome at the start of a new congregational year for Unitarian Universalists. Rev. Dr. Betancourt also invites all UUs into a shared ministry together to reimagine the workings and expressions of Unitarian Universalist faith, while holding on to the traditions, theology, and commitments that have

made us who we are. Watch on the UUA's [YouTube page](#).

Banned Books



Donating a book to our new library is a great way to impact our community and to live our Principles! If you are interested in donating please [contact our office](#) or call (319) 362-9827.

Banning and challenging books are all the rage for certain groups of people these days. In order to help combat that and to provide a service to members and the community we are starting a BANNED BOOK LIBRARY!

We want to create a library of books that are being criticized simply because their message doesn't coincide with the highly partisan message of others. We are forming a book selection task force. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Bryan (319)361-9280 or Kris Davis (319)361-0280

2024 Peoples Church Pledge Campaign



Stewardship Update as of September 4, 2023:

Total 2024 pledge goal: \$185,000

2024 dollars pledged/rate to date*: \$175,297/95%

Goal for pledge returns: 72

Household responses/rate: 58*/81%

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

Please let us know your pledge intentions for calendar year 2024 as soon as you can. No time for forms? Contact Charlie Cizio at PCUU.pledge.treasurer@gmail.com or 319-360-2852 directly with your information and he will do the paperwork. Thank you for your generous and timely response!

We offer our condolences to Deborah Dakin and Bob Yeats whose son, Alan, died very unexpectedly on August 27. Deborah has been one of our special musicians for many years and we're saddened that this tragedy has come to her and Bob. Condolences can left at this link: <https://roseberrys.com/obituary/alan-thomas-yeats/>

CHURCH ASSISTANCE

Peoples is looking for a new Director of Faith Formation!

If you know anyone who might be a good fit, please encourage them to [view the job posting](#) on our site.



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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

First (actually Second!) Sunday Plate Collection:

Refugee and Immigrant Association of Linn County

Former refugees assist newly arrived refugees offering assistance such as transportation, basic living necessities, and interpretation support at appointments. Programs of the Association include; Refugee Women Empowerment, Academic Improvement for refugee youth and young adults whose schooling has been interrupted, transportation to school with an Association owned van and a Refugee and Immigrant Newspaper in languages such as French, Arabic, Swahili and English.

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.

*****CHANGE of Date for Forums*****

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. More information on the video to follow. There will **not** be a Forum on October 1.

MOSAIC

A newsletter of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, the only statewide, non-partisan, progressive voice for people of faith and no faith protecting religious freedom, ensuring religion is not misused to discriminate, championing individual rights, and uniting diverse voices to challenge extremism.

To read the Mosaic or to subscribe, click [HERE](#)

To learn more about The InterFaith Alliance of Iowa, [click HERE](#)

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.

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.

September Calendar

19th—Finance

7 pm on Zoom

20th—Social Justice Team

1-2 pm on Zoom

21st—Board of Trustees Meeting

7-8:30 pm

23rd—PCUU CUUPS Group

6-9 pm

Peoples Pagans CUUPS group is hosting a Mabon Ritual and Pot Luck in the Ely room. This holiday marks the fall equinox and the fruit harvest. All are welcome to join us in our celebration. Please bring a dish to share and a personal beverage.

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 September 2023

September Kathy | 319-378-3116 | 319-361-2890
kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

August 28 - Sept 10 - Rose Gabe
Sept 11-24 - Jan Federer
Sept 25-Oct 8 - Deborah Booth

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
Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Thursday usually 10am-
3pm or
by 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.

