

THE VOICE

January 2024

Liberating Love

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org

 YouTube



Minister's Musings



As the new year begins, some of us take an assessment of our lives and get our bearings. At moments like this, it's good to identify and articulate our deeply held values.

Over the past few years, the Unitarian Universalist Association has been doing just that – re-articulating its values – by updating its bylaws. Specifically, the Article II Study Commission has proposed that we Unitarian Universalists envision LOVE as one of seven [Shared UU Values](#).

In fact, by visually placing LOVE at the center of our faith (as seen in the image to the right) we are reminded once again that, for example, centering LOVE is very different from using threats of eternal damnation. Out of LOVE, our other values grow.

The proposed bylaws changes that reference LOVE include these juicy nuggets:

- The Unitarian Universalist Association will actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through **liberating Love**.
- We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, **building on the foundation of love**.
- **Love** is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values.

- We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of **Love**.

Given this month's theme of "The Gift of Liberating Love," I'm curious to hear from you: Is LOVE one of *your* deeply held values? What in your moral compass helps you find your way when you're feeling lost? What's at *your* center – your core?

May 2024 call you ever into new growth, reminding you of the blessed center already within you. A blessed center of Love.

In Growing Faith,
Rev. Carin



Sunday Worship



Photo by David Cadenas on Unsplash

Sunday, January 7, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.

“God is...” Cate Sheller, PCUU member

What do we have faith in? In a world of constant change, what can we count on?

Sunday, January 14, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.

“T-Shirt Theologies” Rev. Carin Bringelson, Minister

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s theology helped ground his work in the world. Congregational Mission Statements help guide the shared ministry of a church. Our own personal and communal theologies (or mission statements) have the power to shape our actions. Everyone is invited to wear their favorite t-shirt to worship today so we can reflect on the messages that they share with the wider world.



Sunday, January 21, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.

“30 Days of Love: Imagining an Interdependent Future” Rev. Carin Bringelson, Minister

Every year, the Side With Love public advocacy campaign organizes a “[30 Days of Love](https://sidewithlove.org)” celebration which runs from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day through Valentine’s Day.

How might we harness love’s power in order to stop oppression? Come explore what it might mean to embody the Liberating Love of our core values.

Sunday, January 28, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.

“The Both/And of Liberating Love” Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck

The theme for January is The Gift of Liberating Love, with the associated imagery of chains breaking, birds flying out of cages, and puppies running across fields. Whether giving or receiving, gifts can be tricky. Love can be tricky, both as a feeling and as a practice. And is love really a gift? So many conundrums, what’s a UU to do? [Spoiler alert: I don’t know, either.] Let’s explore.



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

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation 9:45-10:45AM January: LIBERATING LOVE

January 7th

Love Pulls Us

January 14th

Love Pulls Us Upstream

January 21st

Love Pulls Us Back To the Table

January 28th

Love Pulls Us Toward Beauty



Youth Co-Op

January 14th

Winter Games & Epiphany
4:30-6:30PM at St. Mark's

January 21st

Chinese New Year
4:30-6:30PM at St. Mark's

Coming of Age

January 7th

Service Project- Little Free Library
After Service in the Andre Room

January 21st

Spring Break Planning Meeting
After Service in the FF Room

SNACK DRIVE

Faith Formation is hosting a snack drive the first week of January to help supply the ongoing snack needs of our Faith Formation children, youth, and volunteers. Please consider the incredibly loving, simple act of donating individually packaged snack items such as crackers, pretzels, cookies, fruit snacks, string cheese, popcorn, etc. to stock the program cabinets!

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Faith Formation is also in need of volunteers to be classroom assistants in the littles classroom and in the nursery. If this has been a previous interest of yours that has fallen by the wayside due to busy schedules, please see Julie to discuss manageable, meaningful, and impactful engagement with the Faith Formation Program. We need and appreciate all the help each person has to offer!

Office Help is Needed

We need a volunteer(s) to fill the following two time slots:

January 10th and January 11th

1 person each day for a 3-4 hour period mid-morning to early afternoon.

What will we need? Answering phones, miscellaneous office work to support Rev. Carin. *(Note: Christine will be working Monday and Tuesday to get the eWeekly, OoS, and slides as complete as possible.)*

Please contact the office and let us know if you can help us out.

Hey everyone,

The January 11th eWeekly submissions *must be in to the office by noon Tuesday January 9th.*

The Lea Morris Connection

Love Looks Like:

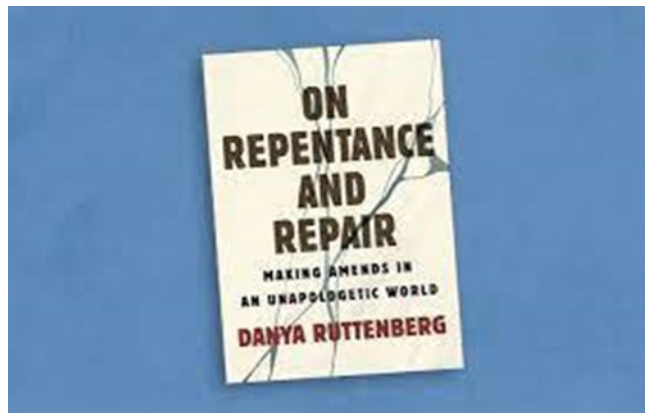
<https://youtu.be/Y69IsRyaROo?si=X7vAFeUjCWpztREb>



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

SAVE THE DATE!

GET YOUR BOOK NOW !



Join us on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, for a common read zoom discussion led by Rev. Carin Bringelson on Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's book On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World (Beacon Press, 2022).

Here are some ways to get the UUA's Common Read book:

Purchase a paperback edition from the InSpirit Bookstore by going to:
<https://www.uuabookstore.org/On-Repentance-and-Repair-P19765.aspx>

Check it out from your local public library at:
<https://crpl.na.iiivega.com/search/card?id=917f9960-531f-5195-boe3-1683cob32383&entityType=FormatGroup>

Borrow it from the Peoples Church library. See Judy Price (ccandjp@imonmail.com or 319-360-9860) with questions.

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

See you there!

**UPLIFT monthly gatherings for trans, nonbinary, and
other not-entirely-or-at-all-cis UUs and friends of UUism**

Fourth Tuesdays, December through June

1.5 hours starting at 8pm Eastern Time / 7pm Central Time

Join us to connect with other trans/nonbinary+ UUs and co-create support and community across our faith. All you need to bring is yourself (and other trans/nonbinary friends, if you'd like)! Non-UUs are welcome if they are OK with being in a UU-focused community that won't proselytize. If you are interested in this space, and you aren't (entirely or at all) cisgender, it is a space for you.

What do we do? Gatherings are a cozy community space where we connect with each other with games and breakout groups, share ideas and stories on all kinds of topics, listen to music and poetry (often by trans/nonbinary+ creators), and much more!

This is a drop-in space, where folks can come and go as works best for them, and where people can join us at any time. You can be a regular or someone new, someone who's been curious for a while but hasn't yet checked us out, somebody who is rejoining after time away, and all other ways of relating to this space! You are welcome here, and you are loved.

To attend a gathering, [REGISTER TODAY](#)

**Your Opportunity to Make Peoples
a Warmer, More Welcoming Place!**

Do you enjoy talking with people? Do you feel we need to make sure all feel welcome at Peoples? Would you like to volunteer at Peoples for a job that is very flexible and can last for only a short time or as long as you'd like? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, YOU are a candidate for becoming a greeter at Sunday services at Peoples and are invited to our **Greeter Training** on Saturday, January 24th from 9:30 am until noon. Please come. You will be glad you did. (Please call 319-362-9827 or email office@peoplesuu.org to indicate you'd like to attend so we can best plan for how many are attending.)

Mark your calendar: Sat., Jan. 24 from 9:30 am to noon at Peoples.

Please welcome our additional Internet Outreach Technician, Matthew Wilde!

Matthew Wilde is a born and raised Cedar Rapiidian. He grew up in the Methodist Church as a young person, attending Shueyville United Methodist Church until high school. He has a deep and varied interest and respect for religion and spirituality — and the Community that faiths of all kinds provide. Matt believes that no matter one's beliefs, we are all part of this great human experiment, and we should try our best to be there for each while we are here.

Matt attended the University of Northern Iowa graduating with a BA in Electronic Media. He has worked many jobs in local news and marketing — and is now working on finding his next career path and is open to where that leads him. Matt is married to his wife Erin and has three kids — Lucy, Molly, and Henry. In his free time, Matt enjoys taking his three dogs on walks, reading, and listening to podcasts.



Coffee Hours

Jill Jones is taking a break from our coffee hours in January and February 2024. This creates an opportunity for someone (or two) to fill this important role. Our coffee hour is, for some, the only time they can catch up with one another in-person and in a relaxed and friendly setting. It is also a place where we welcome visitors and new members and make them feel at home.

Please consider signing up to help on the link below.

[Sign up here to help set up coffee hour before Sunday worship.](#)



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our First Sunday Plate Collection is to

One Iowa

One Iowa works to preserve and advance the rights of LGBTQ+ Iowans through grassroots organizing, voter education and advocacy. Works to promote laws and policies that protect the civil rights, health and safety of LGBTQ+ Iowans.

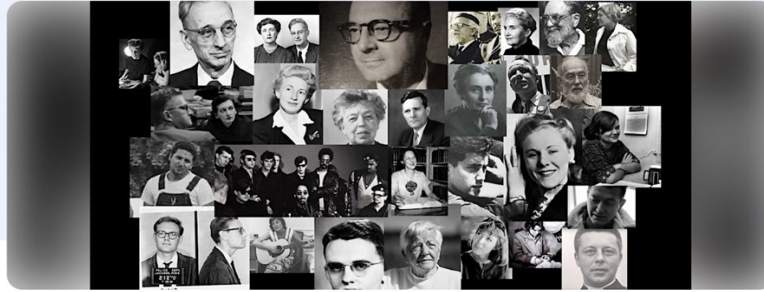
In 2024 our congregation's social justice actions will be in the areas of LGBTQ+, Native American, and reproductive rights. In addition, we will be further supporting the Linn County Immigration & Refugee Association by collecting and donating items greatly needed by new members of our community who are arriving from other countries. Items needed are clothing, especially for the winter and household goods such as pots & pans, bed sheets, towels, etc. Please keep this in mind as you do your winter and spring cleaning. Items can be brought to the church where they will be picked up by a member of the Social Justice team.

The Fetal Heartbeat Law is currently under review by the Iowa Supreme Court as to its constitutionality. In the meantime, the Iowa Board of Medicine is preparing rules to implement the law. A public hearing on its proposed rules to ban abortion after about 6 weeks will be held on Jan 4, 2024. The proposed rules can be found at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/aco/arc/7170C.pdf>.

To submit public comments online, email Chrissy Greco (Chrissy.Greco@iowa.gov) at the Iowa Board of Medicine.

If the law stands, these rules will go into effect. Iowans will then face the same dire situations as we have been seeing in Texas and other states.

More on page 10...



**White Antiracist Spirituality:
Grounding Ourselves in the
Historical Legacy**

Looking to deepen your White antiracist practice? Start your New Year off with a month of inspiration and grounding, by exploring powerful examples of White antiracist spirituality in U.S. history. You don't need to be a religious person to learn from and be inspired by these histories: This is for anyone seeking to embody a deeper, richer level of White antiracist practice that will sustain your spirit and provide guidance for the long haul!

During the month of January, we'll meet each week to explore lessons to be learned from White antiracists throughout history, whose spirituality-in-action strongly embodied the following themes. While these themes may seem simple, each could be explored for a lifetime:

- Week 1: Building antiracist community.
- Week 2: Using our voice.
- Week 3: The wide tapestry of action.
- Week 4: Supporting Black & Brown led efforts.

Everyone who signs up here on Eventbrite will be emailed Zoom links and readings for each session.

To participate, click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/white-antiracist-spirituality-grounding-ourselves-in-the-historical-legacy-tickets-760713222727?aff=oddtcreator>

Facilitated by Lynn Burnett, creator of *CrossCulturalSolidarity.com* and *The White Antiracist Ancestry Project*. Lynn also hosts the monthly discussion group *Black Movement Thought*.

Update on Amy Bostwick

Jude has sent in the following update:

“I am writing in hopes of people from Peoples sending cards or letters to my wife Amy Bostwick. She is in the final months of this life... it’s a very frightening time for the both of us and I’m sure she would love to hear from all her friends at Peoples.

Our address is:

1732 Sun Glow Drive apt 3315

Arlington, TX 76006”

Sadly Amy is no longer able to communicate by telephone, so cards/letters will be much appreciated.

General Assembly Registration is Now Open!

GA registration is now open! Adult registration is \$280, and includes access to General Assembly 2024 in the Whova event app, as well as on-demand programming, featured speakers, and major worships. Register through February 29 with a down payment of \$50 by selecting the Early Bird Payment Plan at checkout. Voting delegates who wish to participate only in General Sessions may also register with the business-only option - this option is no-cost, but a donation is suggested. Registration rates increase March 1.

GA Registration



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.



Sign up here to bring flowers for a Sunday worship service.

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

Food Pantry

Thanks to your generosity
our pantry is well
stocked!



January Events

1—New Years Day — Welcome 2024!

1—8 Rev. Carin is out of the office

7—Worship 11am

8—Van Vechten Guild 12pm Brown Bag Lunch

Choir Practice 6-7:30pm

9—Archives 10am

eWeekly content for January 11 issue due by noon

10—12 Christine is out of the office

14—Worship 11am

15—Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

Choir Practice 6-7:30pm

17—Social Justice Team Meeting 1-2pm

Board Meeting 7-8:30

20—***Voice submissions for February issue are due***

21—Choir Practice 10am / Worship 11am

Worship 11am

27—Greeter Training 9:30am-12pm

28—Worship 11am

31—Julie Olson is out of the office



Good Neighbors January 2024

Kathy Juba | 378-3116 (h) 361-2890 (c)
kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

Jan 1—14 Rosie Rimrodt
Jan 15—28 Paulette Montague
Jan 29—Feb 11 Dorothy Hershner

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

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

Matthew Wilde
Internet Outreach Technician

Judy Mitschelen
Pianist

Walter Robidoux
Custodian

Jordan Wylie
Childcare Provider

PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES
THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH
AND JUST ACTION.

