

THE VOICE

February 2024



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org



Minister's Musings



This month our theme is the “Gifts of Justice and Equity”—appropriate topics as we celebrate Black History Month. These topics are a lot to cover considering February is the shortest month of the year!

The Article II Study Commission proposes that we Unitarian Universalists envision Justice and Equity as two of the seven [Shared UU Values](#). Here’s what is said about these values:

Justice

We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

Equity

We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

Justice and Equity are what brought me into Unitarian Universalism, and our ongoing efforts are what keep me engaged in the promise that this faith movement offers. I look forward to learning what brought you here – and what keeps you engaged!

In Growing Faith,
Rev. Carin



Sunday Worship

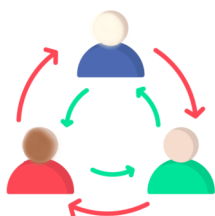
Sunday, February 4, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“To Thrive and to Flourish” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister

On this Boy Scout Sunday, let’s explore the many ways that youth are supported so that communities can thrive and flourish. How do the programs we invest our time in strive to embody practices of justice and equity that Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote?



Photo by Maël Balland on Unsplash



Sunday, February 11, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“All That Has Breath” Sabrina Trupia, guest preacher

What do we mean when we say 'all of us'? Can 'us' encompass all of existence, including our neighbor with whom we don't get along? Join us as we reflect on the meaning of interdependence, connection and community.

Sunday, February 18, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Hope and Commitment” Rev. Rosie Rimrodt, PCUU member

Human history is a balance between what we hope for and our willingness to act on our commitments to contribute to a community we hope to live in.



Image by Nina Luong on Unsplash.

Sunday, February 25, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Seed Catalogs” Rev. Carin Bringelson

Planting a garden requires intention, forethought, and planning. We don’t always know what the harvest will reap, but we do know that for a garden to flourish in the fall requires some work during the previous winter. As Peoples Church prepares to have conversations about next priorities, let’s worship together as we imagine what this next church phase will be. What do we need to weed, cultivate, and fertilize in order to make our “garden flourish?”

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



BOARD PRESIDENT

We're several weeks into the new year and a distinct change to colder, snowier weather in early January has helped us gain valuable experience with our updated inclement weather policy. I hope that our communications concerning the move to having faith formation classes and worship service be Online-Only on January 14th reached you in time -- and that you were able to participate as much as possible.

For those of you who were able to attend the congregational meeting on December 3rd -- you might remember that I mentioned plans for congregation input/Board listening sessions to discuss priorities over the next few years.

With a new settled minister in place (Rev. Carin) and strong financial resources it is a good time to reflect on where this PCUU congregation wants to devote our time and energy over the next several years. To facilitate this reflection, we are scheduling listening sessions that we are calling "Priorities for PCUU" and 5 meeting dates are planned in March and early April to receive input from congregational members on what matters should be our focus.

These meetings will be a mixture of in-person and Zoom sessions at various times and days of week to hopefully give everyone in the congregation the opportunity to share their input. If none of these dates work for you, please consider sharing your thoughts in an email to me or any other Board member, or drop a note into my mail slot (Board President) adjacent to the copier outside the church office.

Please note these dates on your calendar, and we hope to hear from you at one of these sessions:

Sunday, March 3rd, 12:15 -1:45 pm (In-person, Andre Room, after service)

Tuesday, March 12th, 7:00 – 8:15 pm (Zoom)

Sunday, March 17th, 9:30 – 10:45 am (In-person, Ely Room, before service)

Saturday, March 23rd, 10:00 – 11:15 am (In-person, Ely Room)

Wednesday, April 3rd, 10:00 – 11:15 am (In-person, Ely Room)

There will be more details on these sessions as we get closer to the actual dates.

Steve Hershner, Board President

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation 9:45-10:45AM
February: The Gifts of Justice & Equity

February 4th What is Equality, Equity, and Justice?

February 11th The Gift of Building Better Relationships

February 18th The Gift of Building a Better World

February 25th The Gift of Joy and Beloved Community



YOUTH CO-OP

February 4th
 Service Project
 Lovely Lane UMC
 4-6PM

February 11th
 Superbowl
 Viewing
 St. Paul's UMC
 5pm-??

February 18th
 Ice Skating
 ImOn Arena
 1:30-3:30 PM

Coming of Age

Wednesday,
 February 7th
 6:30pm on
 Zoom

MARCH 9-12 Spring Break Service Trip to Louisville

Muse

"In the flush of love's light, we dare be brave. And suddenly we see that love costs all we are, and will ever be. Yet it is only love which sets us free." – Maya Angelou

In January we had the opportunity to get a taste of Liberating Love. But we still have some questions!

Many people talk about God's love, or the nature of the Universe being love. Do you experience a sense of love that is bigger than any of us, and all-encompassing? What does the saying, "love your neighbor," mean to you?

REMINDERS

SNACK DRIVE: Faith Formation remains in need of snacks! Anyone who has the financial and time capacity to pick up even a small box of nonperishable snack goods to help us build our selection would be GREAT! There is a bin near the Welcome Table for donations to be placed.

Common Read Book Discussion March 6th



Join us for a Common Read book discussion about Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's book *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World* (Beacon Press, 2022)!

Rev. Carin Bringelson will facilitate the discussion via Zoom on:

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Please register to receive the Zoom link by emailing office@peoplesuu.org.

Interested in the discussion but haven't had time to read -- or finish -- the book?

- View this 14-minute homily by Rev. Alison Miller: <https://vimeo.com/839314767>
- View this 30-minute interview with Rabbi Danya conducted by the Wisconsin Council of Churches: <https://facebook.com/wichurches/videos/709679510637533>

To get a copy of the book, call Judy Price at (319) 360-9860.
Please leave a voice mail message, and she will get back to you.

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



The Lea Morris Connection

Lea's February offering is a cover of **Let Justice Roll Down** by Eileen Vance.

<https://youtu.be/pgyPJ41yDZY?si=IzhrHW2r7K7vvor8>

RSVP by March 25!



Join us in celebrating the Installation of
Reverend Carin M. Bringelson at
Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.



Click here!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our First Sunday Plate Collection is to

One Iowa

One Iowa works to preserve and advance the rights of LGBTQ+ Iowans through grass-roots 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 Legislature continues its attack on LGBTQ+ Iowans.

SF2037. A bill that would prohibit cities and counties from banning conversion therapy.

SF2055. A bill prohibiting persons from entering public restrooms or changing areas that do not correspond with the person's biological sex.

SSB3084. A bill that would mandate transgender people in correctional facilities be placed and use facilities that align with their gender assigned at birth.

The Legislature continues to erode Iowans reproductive rights.

HF2057. A bill relating to more options for maternal support programs. These programs use taxpayer dollars to support pregnant women but no guardrails are placed to prohibit the imposition of religious beliefs on pregnant persons.

House Switchboard: 515-281-3221

Senate Switchboard: 515-281-3371

Your state representatives and senators need to hear from you on how you stand on these issues. You can find your state representative or senator here:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>.

Legislature emails: FIRSTname.LASTname@legis.iowa.gov.





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](#)



It's Girl Scout Cookie time!

This year we have THREE friendly Girl Scouts at People's Church to take care of all of your cookie needs. You can visit [Izzy's](#), [Geerta's](#) or [Aida's](#) websites to order online or stop one of them in church to order the old fashioned way with paper and pencil. They will also be offering a cookie booth on Sunday March 3rd after service. Thank you for supporting your local Scouts!

Thank you!

Thank you to our decorators!

Decorating for the December holidays around the Peoples Church building didn't happen by magical elves. It was actual Peoples Church **people** who pitched in to help put decorations up and take them down. Please be sure to share your thanks with the following:

- * Jan Federer (coordinator)
- * Aida Jones
- * Milo Jones
- * Kathleen Mavity
- * Ace Ogle
- * Rev. Rosie Rimrodt



Thank you!

The Ecumenical Community Center and Margaret Bock Housing extend their deep appreciation for all our contributions of miscellaneous personal care and cleaning items, plus the knitted caps and large assortment of clothing especially needed at this cold time of the year.

Our gifts to ECC made it easier for their staff to provide extra emergency rent funds, plus utility, gas, and ID financial assistance to their walk-in clients.

Being neighborly is a verb, and these non-profits cannot neighbor as well without people like us. This period for our donations concluded December 31.

Jim Federer

Finance Team Update

The Finance Team met on 1/18/24 to review financial reports and plans.

Cash flow for both December and 2023 was positive due to higher giving and lower expenses than expected:

- December income \$28,451
- December expenses \$17,343
- Calendar Year 2023 income \$243,902
- Calendar Year 2023 expenses \$240,844

*Needed:
A Forum Coordinator*

*To serve as a resource to
schedule and manage Sunday
Forums.*

*For more information please
contact the office.*



A graphic featuring a horizontal bar at the top composed of small, multi-colored squares. Below this, several hands of different colors (pink, blue, green, yellow, purple) are shown overlapping each other in a circular arrangement. The text "MidAmerica Region UUA" is positioned above the hands, and "Regional Assembly 2024" is written in large, bold letters across the center of the hands.

MidAmerica Region UUA Regional Assembly 2024

The MidAmerica Region is coming together - both online and at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 of 2024 for a multiplatform Regional Assembly!

Our Keynote address will be given by the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, and Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

There will be workshops, the Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica Region, and opportunities to meet many UU Leaders from across our faith tradition.

For those who are in person, there will even be opportunities to tour this historic church designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

But most importantly, it is a time for us to come together as Unitarian Universalists from across the MidAmerica Region.

Please join us, online and in-person for our first-ever multi-platform [MidAmerica Regional Assembly!](#)

REGISTER NOW



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



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

Engagement Opportunities



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.

Thank you to those who have signed up to Greet and set up Coffee Hour this week!

Food Pantry

Thanks to your generosity our pantry is well stocked!



February Events

1 Thursday

All day—First Day of Black History Month

2– 3pm Stewardship Meeting

4 Sunday

9:45–10:45am Faith Formation

11am–12pm Worship

5 Monday

6–7:30pm Choir Practice

11 Sunday

9:45–10:45am Faith Formation

11am–12pm Worship

12 Monday

12–1pm Van Vechten Guild Speaker & Brown Bag Lunch

6–7:30pm Choir Practice

13 Tuesday

10–11am Archives Committee

15 Thursday

7–8:30pm PCUU Monthly Board Meeting

18 Sunday

9:45–10:45am Faith Formation

10am–10:45am Choir Practice

11am–12pm Worship

20 Tuesday

Voice items for next month due

7:30– 8:30pm Finance meeting

21 Wednesday

1–2pm Social Justice Team meeting

25 Sunday

9:45–10:45am Faith Formation

11am–12pm Worship



Good Neighbors February 2024

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

Paraministers

Jan 29-Feb 11 Dorothy Hershner

Feb 12-25 Rose Gabe

Feb 26-March 10 Jan Federer

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steve Hershner, President

Kris Davis

Sue Davis

Marcy Mattison

Cate Sheller

Lu Wilcox

Ex Officio

Rev. Carin Bringelson

Gary McGraw, Treasurer

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.

