

# THE VOICE

March 2024

## Transformation



**Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist**

**4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405**

[www.peoplesuu.org](http://www.peoplesuu.org)



# Minister's Musings



This month's theme is the "Gift of Transformation."

When I first started seminary, the professors promised that my life would be transformed through the process of attending divinity school. Frankly, I resisted that notion at first: I didn't really want a major makeover for my life. I thought I was OK as I was – I just needed a few credits, a degree, and I'd be good to go.

I soon realized that transformation in seminary wasn't something I could choose to avoid. Transformation was a requirement if I was going to live fully into calling, into my ministry. I'm so glad I finally released my urge to remain the same. I'm so glad I finally surrendered to the changes that were leading me into an even more authentic version of myself – a version which continues to unfold. What a gift transformation has been in my life!

**Do you have a story from your life when transformation has been a gift?**

The Article II Study Commission proposes that we Unitarian Universalists envision Transformation as one of the seven [Shared UU Values](#). Here's what is said about this value:

## ***Transformation***

*We adapt to the changing world.*

*We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.*



**How have you adapted to the changing world? What has inspired you to grow spiritually and ethically?** Tell me your story by sending an email to [minister@peoplesuu.org](mailto:minister@peoplesuu.org) – or share it with me next time we run into each other.

In Growing Faith,

Rev. Carin



# Sunday Worship

**Sunday, March 3, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.**

**“Open and Willing” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister**

Holly Near’s song “I Am Willing” ends with the refrain, “Lift me up to the light of Change.” Today we’ll explore the gift of transformation as we consider the changes in our lives. What is required of us if we are to be open to change – and willing to transform?

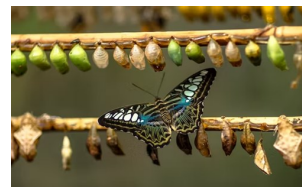
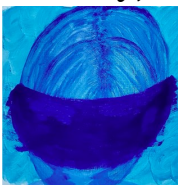


Photo by Håkon Grimstad on Unsplash

**Sunday, March 10, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.**



**“Embrace Your Shadow Side” Emily Hoselton, PCUU member**

Everyone has parts of themselves that they dislike. Questionable personality traits, intrusive thoughts, morbid curiosities that we try to hide away and ignore. The more we repress our shadow, the more it resists and pours out from the cracks in the wall.

**Sunday, March 17, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.**

**“Food and Faith: Embodied Transformation” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister**

From eating kosher to fasting during Ramadan to taking communion, many faith traditions create rituals to encourage their followers to remember the relationship between food and bodies. How might food impact the transformation available to us as Unitarian Universalists?

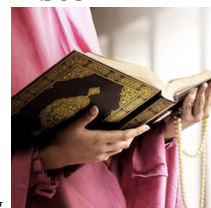


Photo by leolintang

**Sunday, March 24, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.**



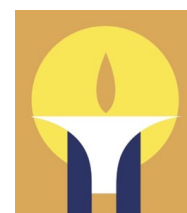
**“100 Ways to Kneel: Is Prayer Possible?” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister**

Unitarian Universalism is known as a creedless faith. That is, we don’t have a common belief system – though we do agree to embrace shared values centered around Love. Without a shared theology, how in the world can we even pray together? Whatever your relationship to prayer, come reflect on the transformative gifts that Unitarian Universalism offers when it comes to this ancient spiritual practice.

**Sunday, March 31, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.**

**“Love Transforms” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister**

What might Easter Sunday – celebrated by Christians around the world – share in common with International Transgender Day of Visibility? Together we’ll explore both ancient and contemporary stories of transformation. Today’s worship service will be immediately followed by an all-ages Easter Egg Hunt.



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

## The Board of Trustees and Minister Working Together

### (part 1 of 2)

Recently, the Board of Trustees and Rev. Carin jointly clarified her priorities. The following four areas of congregational life will receive Rev. Carin's attention and intention for the foreseeable future:

**Preaching.** This area includes worship services and others and rites of passage but is not limited to the sermon alone. Also, it can be education, for if Rev. Carin teaches a class on a subject, she is preaching that the subject matters.

**Pastoring.** This includes being there in tough times, offering appropriate pastoral care, and visiting with members/friends in need.

**Personnel.** This area involves Rev. Carin working with staff, usually supervising. Though such work often goes unnoticed, it's vital for smooth operations. It's also related to governance work and other general administration (which Rev. Carin calls "ad-ministry.")

**Promoter of Congregational Life.** In this role, Rev. Carin helps get people engaged and involved within the congregation, encouraging participation at Peoples Church. This includes getting people excited about stewardship in its multitude of meanings to our faith.

Some Unitarian Universalist consultants suggest that a congregation would be lucky to get a minister who is *good* at 2 of the "P's of Ministry," and *reasonable* at another one. In a shared ministry model, Rev. Carin approaches these priorities in collaboration with lay leaders.

*Next month: learn more about the joint [covenant](#) between the Board and Rev. Carin.*





## Circle of Life Updates

Here's how you can support three members of Peoples Church in the coming days:

**Rev. Rosie Rimrodt** is currently recovering from knee surgery. You can sign up to bring her an evening meal for 2 by going to her Meal Train at: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/no7rlo>

**Shirley Alexander** has been moved to Arbor Place within the Meth-Wick facility. Her family is in the process of moving her things to Minnesota so Shirley can be near one of her sons. If anyone wants to see Shirley, visitors are welcome. She will be moving on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Rev. Carin to get her room number.

The **Rev. Dr. Jeremy Brigham** and his wife Selma welcome your ongoing thoughts and prayers as Jeremy undergoes rehab following a fall. You can send "thinking of you" cards to his home address:

**3550 Stone Creek Cir SW Apt. 307  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-1244**

Any further questions can be directed to Rev. Carin.



## **DON'T TAKE THE BAIT**

Members know they should ask the office, not other members, for contact information. Don't respond to emails asking for member contacts. If you're ever suspicious about a message in your inbox, it's best to avoid sending a response. By responding, you're letting the scammer know that they're dealing with an active email address. This can prompt them to continue trying to scam you in the future.



## **Office Help is Needed — *next week!***

We need a volunteer to help for a 3-4 hour period mid-morning to early afternoon on **March 6th.**

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.

***Registration ends at 12:00pm  
on Wednesday March 6th!***

## Common Read Book Discussion March 6<sup>th</sup>



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](mailto: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.

# PRIORITIES FOR PCUU

## JOIN OUR MEETINGS



In the follow up to our December meeting, it is time to reflect on where this PCUU congregation wants to devote our time and energy over the next several years.

To facilitate this, we have scheduled listening sessions called “Priorities for PCUU” to receive input from congregational members on what matters should be our focus.

We hope everyone in the congregation can share their input. If none of these dates work for you, please consider sharing your thoughts in an email to the Board President or any other Board member or drop a note into the Board President’s mailbox adjacent to the copier outside the church office.

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

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

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)



319-362-9827



[office@peoplesuu.org](mailto:office@peoplesuu.org)



**This is the last month to RSVP for the installation. Please let us know if you will be attending.**

*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!**

### Finance Team Update

The Finance Team met on 2/20/24 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for January was positive due in part to prepaid pledges and scheduled endowment disbursement:

- January income \$56,384
- January expenses \$16,282



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



## The Lea Morris Connection

The theme of Transformation becomes personal in this song, Becoming Me, offered especially for all trans/queer people struggling especially hard these days.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z34t2GdlNos>



Please join us for a Vegetarian/Vegan Potluck

Friday, March 22, 5:30 p.m.  
in the Andre Room of Peoples Church

Bring a potluck item to share and include the recipe or a listing of ingredients for those who wish to avoid certain food items.

We look forward to sharing delicious meatless food and great conversation!

For more information contact Sheryl Ochs, 319-551-8533 or  
Jill Jones, 319-431-9815.

# FAITH FORMATION

## Faith Formation 9:45-10:45AM March: Transformation

**March 3: Transformation**

**March 10: Ramadan**

**March 17: Spring Equinox**

**March 24: Holi**

**March 31: Easter**

\* March 10<sup>th</sup> there is no COA, please let Julie know if you plan to attend Faith Formation

### YOUTH CO-OP

**March 3:**

Improv Class/Show  
St. Paul's UMC  
4-6pm

**March 17:**

St Patrick's Day Parade  
Meeting location TBD  
1-3PM

**March 24:**

TBD  
Volunteer adult needed

### Coming of Age

*MARCH 9-12  
Spring Break  
Service Trip to  
Louisville*

NO COA 3/10

TBD 3/17

### EASTER EGG HUNT FOR ALL AGES:

3/31/24      Jacolyn Park; After Worship

"I AM NO LONGER  
ACCEPTING THE  
THINGS I CANNOT  
CHANGE. I AM  
CHANGING THE  
THINGS I CANNOT  
ACCEPT." -Angela Davis

### Muse

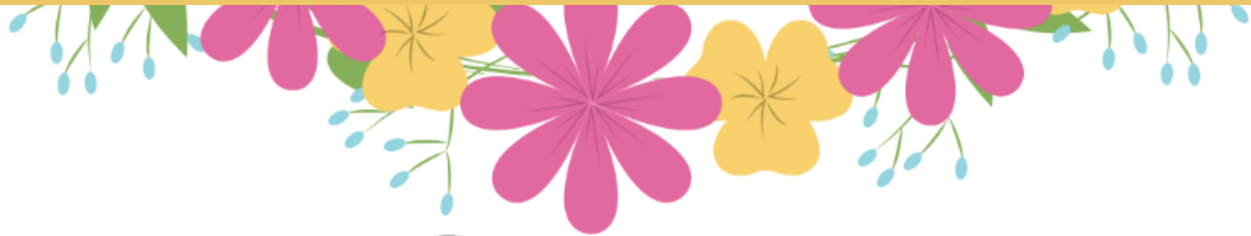
In February we had the opportunity to BEGIN to explore Justice and Equity. This is such an important topic with endless conversation opportunities.

Has anyone seen the new Lindale Mall Policy for kids and teens? What do YOU think?

### IMPORTANT!! URGENT!!

**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. **VOLUNTEER**

**NEEDS:** We are still in need of volunteers to help with Faith Formation classrooms and the nursery. If you are able to help regularly, occasionally, or intermittently please email Julie [faithformation@peoplesuu.org](mailto:faithformation@peoplesuu.org). Faith Formation appreciates your help!



# Spring CLEANING

Saturday, April 13, 2024

3:00 p.m. to around 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy some food and fellowship after!

Supplies Provided



**PEOPLES CHURCH**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



— Voice of Christ Ministries International —

# 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

SF2095 has passed out of the Senate and is in the House. The bill will allow anyone to use their religious beliefs as justification to discriminate. No person should be allowed to use their faith to impose it on another person or to take away their rights. Contact your state house Representative today.

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

***Fourth Tuesdays, 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](#)**





## Food Pantry

Thanks to your generosity, our food pantry is well used! Here is a list of items we could use to fully restock:

- canned vegetables
- canned tuna
- canned fruit
- canned pasta
- shelf stable juices
- peanut butter
- jelly
- soups
- crackers
- pancake mix
- granola and/or protein bars
- meals in a box
- potatoes

*As always, please check those expiration dates!*



## 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. Thank you for supporting your local Scouts!

## PEACE IN OUR WORLD

SUNDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

4:00 to 5:00 pm

Sinclair Auditorium – Coe College

In these times of uncertainty, let's come together as a community to embrace the values of peace, understanding, and compassion. This service will be a testament to our shared commitment to fostering harmony among people of all backgrounds. We invite you to join us in spreading a message of peace that transcends boundaries and brings us closer together. Let's build a world where love and understanding prevail!



INTER-RELIGIOUS  
COUNCIL of LINN COUNTY



# 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!**

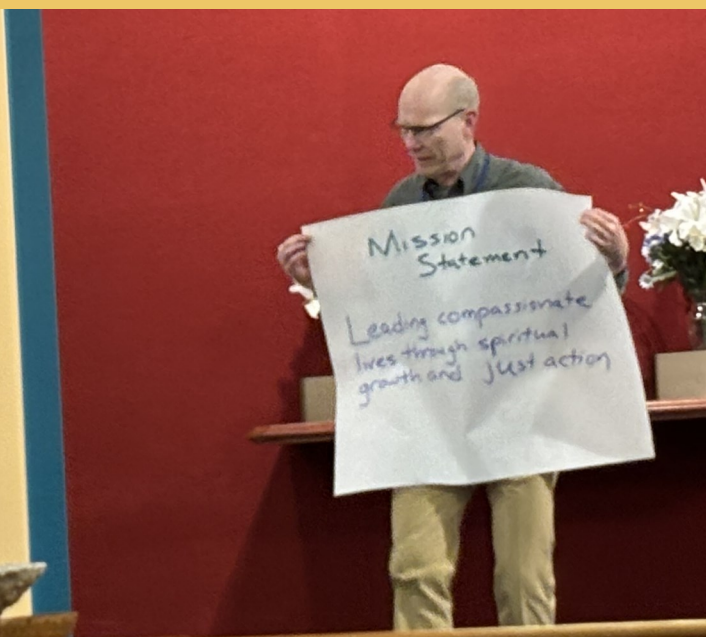
GA registration is now open! Adult registration is \$280, and includes access to General Assembly 2024 in the Whova event app, as well as on-demand programming, featured speakers, and major worships. Register through February 29 with a down payment of \$50 by selecting the Early Bird Payment Plan at check-out. 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 15.**

**GA Registration**



2024 has  
gotten off to  
a great  
start!







# 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.*

***Please keep checking these links to see where your engagement opportunity awaits!***

## 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



# March Events

- 1 Friday  
First Day of Women's History Month
- 3 Sunday  
9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes  
11am – 12pm Worship  
12:15 – 1:45pm **Priorities for PCUU Andre room**
- 4 Monday  
6 – 7:30pm Choir Practice
- 6 Wednesday  
Christine is out March 6-10  
7 – 8:30pm **Book discussion of ON REPENTANCE AND REPAIR** On Zoom. Register by noon today.
- 9 Saturday  
8am **Coming of Age Trip! March 9th-12th**
- 10 Sunday  
9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes  
11am – 12pm Worship
- 11 Monday  
12 – 1pm Van Vechten Guild Speaker & Brown Bag Lunch  
6 – 7:30pm Choir Practice
- 12 Tuesday  
10 – 11am Archives Committee  
7 – 8:15pm **Priorities for PCUU Zoom Only**
- 17 Sunday  
St. Patrick's Day  
9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes  
9:45 – 10:45am **Priorities for PCUU Ely room**  
10am Choir Practice / Worship service  
11am – 12pm Worship
- 20 Wednesday  
***Voice items for next month due***  
1 – 2pm Social Justice Team Meeting
- 22 Friday  
5:30 – 8pm **PCUU Vegetarian/Vegan Potluck** sponsored by our Membership/Social Committee Andre Room
- 23 Saturday  
Purim Eve  
10 – 11:15am **Priorities for PCUU Ely room**
- 24 Sunday  
Palm Sunday  
Purim  
9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes  
11am – 12pm Worship



## Easter Week:

- 25 Monday  
Shushan Purim
- 28 Thursday  
7 – 8:30pm PCUU Monthly Board Meeting
- 29 Friday  
Good Friday
- 31 Sunday  
Easter Sunday  
11am – 12pm Worship



### Good Neighbors March 2024

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

*SUBSTITUTE for March 7-14 only*

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

### Paraministers

Feb 26-March 10 Jan Federer  
March 11-24 Paulette Montegue  
March 25-April 7 Rosie Rimrodt

### **QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS:**

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

### **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

### **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.**

