

THE VOICE

April 2024



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org



Minister's Musings



“In a real sense all life is inter-related. All [people] are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be...This is the inter-related structure of reality.” – Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail (1963)

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision of an inescapable network of mutuality stands in stark contrast to the isolationism and authoritarianism found in politics these days. How do we resist the false claims that we are safer when we’re independent? How do we lean into the interdependent web of all existence which holds us all? Given the very real climate crisis, how do we act together to benefit all?

Our Unitarian Universalist values can help guide us as we explore such questions. This month’s theme is the “Gift of Interdependence.” The Article II Study Commission proposes that we Unitarian Universalists envision Interdependence as one of the seven Shared UU Values. Here’s what is said about this value:

Interdependence

We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.



We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Interdependence is an apt theme this month when we are celebrating our [Installation](#) and making our shared ministry official. May Peoples Church – which itself is an inescapable network of mutuality – encourage us all to be what we ought to be!

Grounding in Love,

Rev. Carin

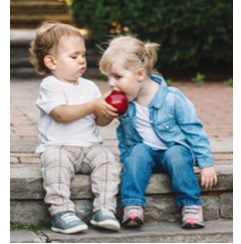


Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 7, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Original Goodness - The Cynic’s Worst Nightmare” Bryan Davis, PCUU member

Headlines scream of injustice and atrocity every day and we are advised to avoid the news for our own mental health. Is human nature really selfishness and violence lurking beneath a thin veneer of civilization? Are we truly creatures of original sin? Hmmmm... Let’s take a closer look. Today’s First Sunday Plate Collection will go to the LGBTQ+ Youth Center, run by Tanager <https://tanagerplace.org/prevention/lgbtq-center/>



Sunday, April 14, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Belonging to the Web of Life” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister

The interdependent web of all existence is simultaneously profound in its grandeur and overwhelming in its scope. We will explore what it means to belong to such a web, and consider what is asked of us in such times.



Sunday, April 21, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Letters for Mother Earth” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister

On this Sunday before Earth Day, we’ll hear from a variety of voices sharing how their relationship with the earth impacts the way they strive to live their lives. During worship we will welcome new members. After worship, we will plant a tree on Gordon Avenue in memory of former PCUU Board President Mike Meshak and in honor of our upcoming installation of Rev. Carin.



Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

Saturday, April 27, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.

“Grounding in this Day, in This Place” Rev. Jullan Stoneberg, guest preacher



This afternoon’s installation worship service will honor the covenant of shared ministry between Peoples Church and Rev. Carin Bringelson, celebrating the joy that both feel in having found each other. All are invited to join in this time of individual and communal transformation. Rev. Jullan Stoneberg (she/her) currently serves as interim minister to UU Church West, just outside of Milwaukee, WI.

Sunday, April 28, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Interdependently Yours” Rev. Wendy Williams, guest preacher

A beloved colleague signs most of his church correspondence with those two words with a comma followed by his name. What does that mean? How might that be just the guidance we need to help us embody the gift of interdependence? After worship, we will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on Gordon Avenue for the Banned Books Little Free Library.



Photo by Daniel Corneschi on Unsplash

Rev. Wendy Williams (she/her) currently serves as the Senior Minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, CO. Her ministry is devoted to nurturing religious community.

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

The Board of Trustees and Minister Working Together

(part 2 of 2)

After the Board of Trustees and Rev. Carin jointly clarified their shared ministry priorities (as outlined in the March 2024 Voice), they affirmed a [joint covenant](#) between them. It reads as follows:

As we work to implement the PCUU mission – *Leading compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action.* – we do covenant with one another to the following:

1. We value shared ministry and power sharing, so we covenant to invite all members to engage in the work of the congregation and the ongoing gift of co-creating Beloved Community.
2. We value lifelong learning, so we covenant to take risks, learn from our experiences, and practice appreciating everyone’s efforts and work.
3. We value transparency, so we covenant to communicate directly and with compassion. Only when appropriate will we hold sensitive information in confidence.
4. We value a diversity of perspectives, so we covenant to approach one another with openness and curiosity, finding ways to increase understanding and deepen connections.
5. We value humility and honesty, so we covenant to repair any harm we have caused when the impact of our communications and actions are hurtful.
6. We value callings (“sacred yeses”), so we covenant to express and maintain clear personal and professional boundaries while also respecting the boundaries of others.
7. We value sustainability, so we covenant to create realistic plans based on the resources available.



Installation Month



An installation occurs when a congregation (in this case, Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist) acts to formally enter into shared ministry with their professional minister (in this case, Rev. Carin Bringelson).

**All are invited to our installation on
Saturday, April 27, 2024
2:00 p.m. @ Peoples Church**

Want to help?

- Come to the Spring Cleaning on Saturday, April 13, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. We'll be sprucing up the building and grounds with congregants from the Voice of Christ congregation (who rent the building on Sunday afternoons).
- Sing in the choir. Rehearsals are Monday evenings. Contact pcuu-choir@gmail.com
- Help prepare for or clean after the big celebration. Contact Installation 2024 Team Chair Laura McGraw at lauramcgraw57@gmail.com
- Donate to the "Grounding In Love" Installation Fund at: <https://peoplesuu.org/donate/>
- Learn the hymn (with actions!) that we'll be singing together, "My Roots Grow Down": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1VZ9_DxZhk
- Learn more at: <https://peoplesuu.org/installation/>

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation 9:45-10:45AM
April: Interdependence

April 7: Interdependence

April 14: The Web of Community

April 21: Caring for the Web of Creation

April 28: How the Web of Creation Cares for Us

YOUTH CO-OP

April 7: Prairie Woods Service Project

April 21: Earth Day @St. Paul's 4-6

Each of us is a unique strand in the intricate web of life and here to make a contribution.

— Deepak Chopra

Muse

In March we had the opportunity to think about the joys of transformation. How are you enjoying the outdoor transformation with the daffodils popping up, the trees budding, and the grass turning green?

IMPORTANT!! URGENT!! 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 it would be appreciated.



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



PRIORITIES FOR PCUU

JOIN OUR MEETINGS



LAST SESSION!

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.

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



319-362-9827



office@peoplesuu.org

Peoples Church

Little Free Banned Books Library

Everyone is invited to attend the grand opening of the Peoples Little Free Banned Books Library that will take place Sunday April 28 after worship. Located in the church yard near the Gordon Avenue entrance, the library will reach out to the community by making books available supporting the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, particularly for children and youth.

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Pictured are several of the youth who decorated the Little Free Banned Books Library.

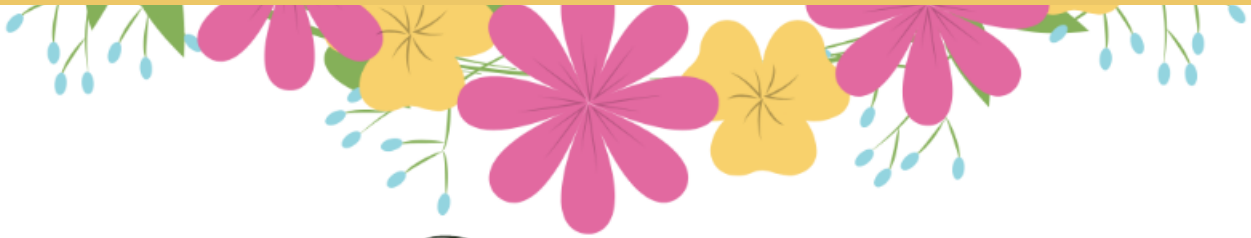
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Circle of Life



Rev. Frederick Turner Koyle

Rev. Carin learned recently that the Rev. Frederick Turner Koyle died on Friday, March 15, 2024, at the age of 79. Rev. Rick had been the minister of Peoples Church 20 years ago, from 2004-2006. A graveside service was held Monday, March 25, 2024 in St Paul, MN. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing. Notes of condolences can be written here: <https://www.muellermemorial.com/obituaries/frederick-koyle>. If you want to talk with Rev. Carin about the feelings that come up for you around his death, please contact her by phone or email: minister@peoplesuu.org



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

[The LGBTQ+ Youth Center of Tanager Place](#)

Our 2nd quarter First Sunday Plate Collection will be donated to The LGBTQ+ Youth Center of Tanager Place. The Center provides a safe and confidential environment for LGBTQ+ youth, families, and allies. Programs include support groups, special art offerings, mentoring, Pride Cafe, health initiative classes, parent workshops, financial literacy, tutoring and career exploration.



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.



**INTER-RELIGIOUS
COUNCIL** of LINN COUNTY

The Inter-religious Council of Linn County (IRCLC) is seeking a Unitarian Universalist to serve on their Board. The IRCLC meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. If you have an interest in or experience with inter-religious initiatives and want to promote a caring community in which honesty, respect, and responsibility are celebrated, please contact Rev. Carin (minister@peoplesuu.org) to indicate your interest in serving on the IRCLC Board.

Please Join Us

a conversation with Father Michael Lapsley

Social justice activist, Fr. Michael Lapsley, South African Anglican priest, will be in Cedar Rapids in April to introduce the power of healing through the sharing of stories. Lapsley's own personal story as an anti-apartheid leader in South Africa is riveting. In 1990, three months after ANC leader Nelson Mandela's release from prison, Lapsley was sent a letter bomb by the apartheid regime. He was blinded in one eye and lost both hands when he opened the package.

After a long recovery from the bombing, Father Lapsley chose to dedicate his life to helping victims of emotional, psychological, and spiritual wounds inflicted by war, human rights abuses and other traumatic circumstances. He founded the Institute for Healing of Memories in South Africa in 1998. The institute's mission is to facilitate the healing process of individuals, communities, and nations.

April 15, 2024
7:30 PM

Coe College
Sinclair Auditorium
1220 First Avenue

Free & Open to the Public



The Lea Morris Connection

Life Will Find a Way

https://youtu.be/5Q7PMQbr6A4?si=oH_g-yU-ZOHTSbNp

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

Fourth Tuesdays, through June

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](#)

Threads That Connect • Stories That Inspire



MidAmerica Region UUA

Regional Assembly 2024

Registration Closes April 12!

A multi-day conference centered on connecting across individuals, congregations, and regions. Friday, April 19 - Saturday, April 20th. Registration for in person attendance closes on Friday, April 12, 2024. Come for a short visit or for the entire weekend.

REGISTER TODAY!



PRAIRIEWOODS

A Place of Peace and Transformation

You are invited to join us in a Prayer Walk for Peace on the grounds of Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center. The world is aching for peace: peace in our world, our community, our relationships and ourselves. **Join us on a Prayer Walk for Peace on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 2.** (Choose from a sunrise walk from 6:15–7 a.m., a midday walk from 12:15–1 p.m. or an after-work walk from 5:15–6 p.m.)

Please wear tennis shoes or other appropriate footwear. Everyone is welcome, and registration is not necessary.

Please help spread the word to others who might be interested! Feel free to add this information to your church bulletin, forward this email to friends or share the Facebook event.



Register for UUA General Assembly

Will you join us for this year's virtual GA featuring prominent speakers, dynamic worship, and exclusive access to on-demand programming? Whether you are a seasoned attendee or a first-timer, this is your opportunity to be a part of an extraordinary gathering. Register today and join us at General Assembly 2024.

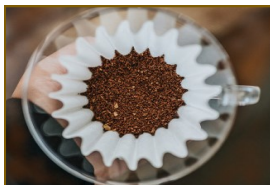


[GA Registration](#)

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

3 Wednesday

10 – 11:15am Priorities for PCUU Ely room—*Last listening session*

7 Sunday

9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes

11am – 12pm Worship

12:30 – 2:00pm Exploring Membership in Cherry Room

Youth Co-op Prairie Woods Service Project

8 Monday

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

6 – 7:30pm Choir Practice

9 Tuesday

10 – 11am Archives Committee

11 Thursday

2:30 – 3:30pm Stewardship Meeting

13 Saturday

3 – 5pm PCUU Spring Cleaning Day with Voices of Christ

14 Sunday

9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes

11am – 12pm Worship

15 Monday

6 – 7:30pm Choir Practice

17 Wednesday

1 – 2pm Social Justice

7pm Board Meeting

19 Friday

Midwest Regional Assembly (Day 1)

20 Saturday

Midwest Regional Assembly (Day 2)

May Voice Submissions Due

21 Sunday

9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes

10am Choir Practice

10:00 New Members Meet in Ely Room

11am – 12pm Worship

12pm Tentative—Tree Planting

4-6pm Youth Co-op Earth Day St. Paul's

27 Saturday

2pm Rev. Carin Bringelson's Installation!

28 Sunday

9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes

11am – 12pm Worship

12pm Ribbon Cutting for Little Free Banned Books Library

April Events



OUR STAFF

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

Matthew Wilde
 Internet Outreach Technician

Judy Mitschelen
 Pianist

Walter Robidoux
 Custodian

Jordan Wylie
 Childcare Provider

Good Neighbors April 2024

Kris Davis | 361-0280
 daviskris49@gmail.com

Paraministers

March 25-April 7 Rosie Rimrodt
 April 8-21 Deborah Booth
 April 22-May 5 Dorothy Hershner

**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

**PEOPLES CHURCH
 MISSION STATEMENT**

**LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES
 THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH
 AND JUST ACTION.**

