

# THE VOICE

June 2024

# Renewal

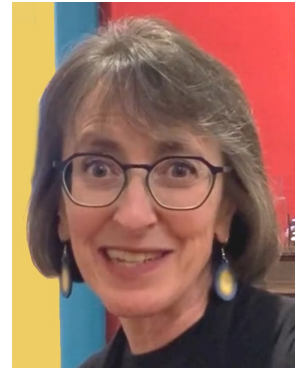
**Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist**

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

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



# Minister's Musings



Our final theme for this church year is “The Gift of Renewal.” Frankly, I need some renewal myself. Given my dad’s physical and mental decline in the last few months, and his eventual death on May 4th, I’m feeling depleted, exhausted, and overwhelmed at times.

I am aware that many of you have experiences with death and grieving, too. There is a comfort in remembering we are not alone in the ups and downs that life throws our way. Please know that I’m getting the support I need from outside the church so I can continue to be a companion with you all on the journeys that life brings you. Please reach out to me if you’d like to talk.

Given this theme of renewal, I invite you to consider how the following poem by Wendell Berry might call you to receive the gifts that renewal has to offer us:

## “The Peace of Wild Things”

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

May you and yours rest in the grace of the world, finding renewal in this moment, and in the next moments to come.

Grounding in Love,  
Rev. Carin





# Sunday Worship

## Sunday, June 2, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

### **“What's a Sabbath For?” with Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister**

Religions around the world have long practiced some form of Sabbath time — a time set aside to listen closely to the stirrings of one’s heart. When’s the last time *you* stopped “doing” and started “being?” What might rest and renewal open in you? Come explore these ancient questions in a contemporary context. We will joyously share our First Sunday Plate Collection with the [LGBTQ+ Youth Center of Tanager Place](#).



## Sunday, June 9, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

### **“Exfoliating Your Faith” with Kathleen Mavity, PCUU member**

“To exfoliate” means “to remove the surface of something in small scales.” It's simple to exfoliate your face, but how do you exfoliate your faith? And why would you want to? Those are the questions we’ll be exploring in this Sunday service.

## Sunday, June 16, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

### **“Renewing our Commitment to Community” with Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister**

On this Sunday before Juneteenth – which celebrates the end of legalized chattel slavery in the United States – we’ll explore the role of community in building the world we dream about. How might we renew our commitment to collective liberation? To community care?

Photo by John Cameron on Unsplash



## Sunday, June 23, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

### **“Weaving Our Lives: General Assembly 2024” with Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister**



We are all tangled up together in a great web of life that is woven with beauty and hardship, love and loss, thriving and struggle. How do we tend well to the weaving so that all of us are held in care? The Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, MO will lead this special worship service as part of General Assembly 2024, and Peoples Church will watch it together.

## Sunday, June 30, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

### **“Pronouns: The Trouble with Them” with Cate Sheller, PCUU member**

Today we ponder the difficulties and rewards of making language work for all of us. Languages are living and evolving; we, too, can change.

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

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



## Interested in serving as a Worship Associate?

Have you ever wanted to dig more deeply into the monthly themes and share your reflections with the gathered community? Are you curious about bringing your non-anxious presence to Sunday mornings in order to help make the space sacred for all participants? Do you consider yourself comfortable with public speaking – or at least interested in trying it out?



If you want to learn more about serving as a Worship Associate, contact Rev. Carin by June 30, 2024 at [minister@peoplesuu.org](mailto:minister@peoplesuu.org). We will be planning next church year's worship services over the summer, and we want to include various voices and identities.

You can also learn more about co-creating worship by reading this article: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/liturgy-people>

**"Worship leadership deepens my faith, my sense of community, and my sense of responsibility to community."**



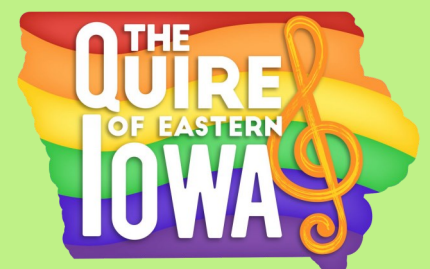
**PRIDE**  
*affirming*  
**SERVICE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15**  
**2:30PM**

**DOWNTOWN CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**BEEMS A & B**  
Questions contact [susan@crprideia.com](mailto:susan@crprideia.com)



Peoples people are cordially invited to hear the Quire sing on Sunday, June 9th at 4 PM in Ballantyne Auditorium on the Kirkwood Community College campus. The concert will include a four-part song cycle commissioned by the Quire as well as favorites from 25 years of singing together and a mix of new pieces. Admission is free; a freewill donation is always appreciated. This is a great way to kick off Pride Month, and a rare opportunity to see the Quire in Cedar Rapids.





*Circle of Life*



*Ron McGraw*

A celebration of Ron's life will be held at the Cedar Memorial Chapel of Memories on Saturday, June 1, at 2 pm, with a reception following at the Cedar Memorial Family Center and Library.



The UUA General Assembly is All-Virtual in 2024. Here's How to Participate.

The theme for the Unitarian Universalist Association's 2024 General Assembly is Love Unites, Stories Ignite. Such a theme resonates deeply with the substance of human connection and our interdependent community. And yet, perhaps befitting of a meeting that will be held entirely online this year, the theme was generated with the help of artificial intelligence, or AI.

**GA itself, set for June 20–23**, will heavily leverage technology, including expanding opportunities for people to connect virtually and by offering an online library of on-demand workshops, lectures, and more. Planners are building off lessons learned from previous virtual and multiplatform General Assemblies, refining how to use technology—and creativity—to present the best possible experience.

The annual General Assembly is where Unitarian Universalists conduct the business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of the faith, and create and build relationships. It includes inspirational worship services, informative workshops and lectures, and social events.

**Most notably, this year's GA will include a final vote on proposed changes to Article II, the section of the UUA bylaws that includes its Principles, Purposes, and Sources.** (Read the proposed language at: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>.)

Read more about General Assembly at: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/what-to-know-uua-ga-224-dates-registration-whova-app-unitarian-universalist>

# Be Alert for Scams!

Other Midwest UU churches are currently seeing new scams, and now, we are too!  
As a reminder:

- **No One at PCUU will ever email, text, or call you asking for you to buy gift cards, or send money, directly to them!**
- Please, **if you have a PDF, an excel form, or a printed copy of our directory, do not share this!** This is another way our private information is obtained.
- **Always double check email addresses and text names/numbers** before giving any private information away by these means. Scammers will change these by only 1 character/digit making it easy for us to miss the fact that it is not a legitimate communication.
- **If you have any doubts about communications from PCUU or staff, please call us immediately at 319-362-9827.**
- **Do not be embarrassed if you are scammed!** The Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) February 2024 data shows that consumers reported losing more than \$10 billion to fraud in 2023, marking the first time that fraud losses have reached that benchmark. This marks a 14% increase over reported losses in 2022. [The amount is likely higher due to the number of people who do not report having been a victim.]

If you are a victim, contact the FTC at <https://www.occ.treas.gov/topics/consumers-and-communities/consumer-protection/fraud-resources/index-fraud-resources.html>.



The **USPS** has valuable information: <https://faq.usps.com/s/article/Scams-Scheme-Alerts>

## **Former President's June Voice Column – Steve Hershner**

If you weren't able to attend the Annual Meeting on May 19th, you might be interested to know the outcome from this spring's PCUU Listening Sessions.

As you can see from the information provided below that was presented at the meeting, PCUU congregants have strong thoughts on what's working and what could be leading priorities as we look to our future together.

Thank you for your participation and interest in this process, and stay tuned for additional opportunities to engage in our next steps!

### **PCUU Priorities Listening Sessions Summary (Examples of What's Working)**

- Settled Minister
- Strong Financial Stewardship
- Connecting options thru Technology
- Variety of Music Programming
- Solar Panels

### **PCUU Leading Priorities (From All 5 Listening Sessions)**

Three General Categories (with examples of topics mentioned):

- 1.Looking Outwards - Social Justice, Zoom Classes, Neighborhood Contact
- 2.Exploring Faith - Faith Formation, Adult Ed, Forums
- 3.Building & Grounds - Accessibility, Safety

### **Next Steps In PCUU Priorities Discernment**

- Summary data scoring and placement in the three general categories is based on a very high level evaluation of the input received
- Listening Sessions were first step in a long walk
- The next Board will be reviewing the information received during the listening sessions and one next step could be updating our ends statements to better reflect current congregation sentiment
- In any and all next steps, the congregation will be hearing about additional opportunities to comment and provide input

Thank you again for sharing your comments so far through this listening process!



## Staffing Update re: Jackie Wedeking

Please join PCUU in thanking Jackie Wedeking for her years of service running the streaming technology for the Peoples Church worship services. Her last day in the role will be Sunday, June 9th.

In Jackie's own words:

"After having the pleasure of working as the Digital Media Specialist for nearly 3 years, I am ready to resign from this position and transition back to solely participating in the church community as a congregant.

I'm proud to have been able to set up the vMix system and help many people enjoy the services remotely, and I'm incredibly grateful to have had many rewarding church relationships during this time. (As for my responsibilities with social media, I will fill the role until a new person is identified and hired.)

The timing to leave is a bit of a leap of faith. Our family is about to have some very big changes as my husband is about to take on a new work role, and I would like to focus more of my energy during this change on my family.

I do want to emphasize that my family is not leaving the congregation, but I look forward to being able to participate in future years as a congregant, perhaps through the choir, faith formation, and/or as a worship associate.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve the Peoples Church community."

Jackie



*Circle of Life*



Please keep warm wishes in your hearts for Jane Shuttleworth (who grew up in Peoples Church) as she grieves the death of her husband, Hank Miguel. After voluntarily choosing to stop eating and drinking, Hank died May 22. Per his wishes, a private ceremony was held in Okoboji, IA. Cards of condolence can be sent to:

Jane Shuttleworth  
10 Ridgewood Lane  
Iowa City, IA 52245

*Hank Miguel*

Memorials in Hank's honor can be made to organizations which reflect his passion for reproductive justice, LGBTQIA+ rights, and end-of-life choices.

# 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.



This is the [video](#) played at the Social Justice Forum on May 5 on *Sexuality in Native America: What is Meant by Two-Spirit?*

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.

## 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

# 2nd Annual Congregational Campout!!

July 26-28

Everyone is invited to Pleasant Creek State Recreation area for fun, snacks, and appreciation of nature. The park has numerous hiking and bike trails, a swimming beach, and places to launch canoes and kayaks.



4530 McClintock Rd

Palo, IA 52324

*Join us for the whole weekend  
or at the North Shelter for  
Saturday afternoon!*

*RSVP - so we have enough  
marshmallows for s'mores!*

Lu Wilcox

(573)356-5722

**Please note - the group campsite is  
tent camping only. If you would like  
to reserve a cabin or electric site  
please do so at:**

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/>







PRAIRIEWOODS

A Place of Peace and Transformation



PRAIRIEWOODS

*garden party*

GROWING OUR ROOTS

**Saturday, June 8**  
5–8 p.m.  
at Prairiewoods

Purchase tickets  
by June 5 at

[www.Prairiewoods.org/Garden-Party](http://www.Prairiewoods.org/Garden-Party)



# Engagement Opportunities



*Sign up here to be a greeter before Sunday*



*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.*

## The Lea Morris Connection

Renewal is exactly what this song is about.

In My Bones:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GEPNR7BzE8>

# June Events

1 Saturday

***First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month***

2 Sunday

11am – 12pm Worship

8 Saturday

1pm Pride Parade

9 Sunday

11am – 12pm Worship

11 Tuesday

10am Archives

15 Saturday

10am Peoples Juneteenth Booth opens

2pm Pride Worship at Downtown Public Library

16 Sunday

Fathers Day

11am – 12pm Worship

19 Wednesday

Juneteenth

1pm Social Justice

2pm Paraministers

20 Thursday

*Voice Content for July is Due*

General Assembly starts

23 Sunday

General Assembly ends

11am—12pm Worship

25 Tuesday

7pm Finance Meeting

27 Thursday

7pm Board Meeting

30 Sunday

11am—12pm Worship







**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 June 2024**

Kris Davis | 361-0280  
 daviskris49@gmail.com

**Paraministers**

May 19-June 2—Jan Federer  
 June 3-16—Paulette Montague  
 June 17-30—Rosie Rimrodt

**QUESTIONS,  
 COMMENTS,  
 SUGGESTIONS:**

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

**Our Board  
 of  
 Trustees**

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Bob Butikofer  
 Sue Davis  
 Steve Hershner  
 Marcy Mattison  
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 Rev. Carin Bringelson  
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PEOPLES CHURCH  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES  
 THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH  
 AND JUST ACTION.

