

THE VOICE

April 2024

Pluralism



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org



Minister's Musings

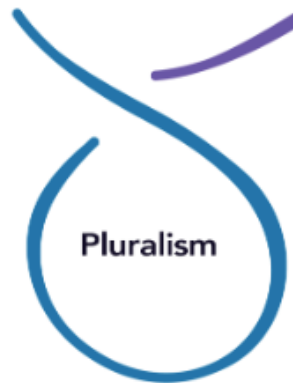
Last month I had the opportunity to chat with people interested in becoming members of Peoples Church. We explored many aspects of Unitarian Universalism — including that PCUU members don't all have to embrace the same theology, believe the same thing, or agree to the same creed. In our small group alone, we came with backgrounds shaped by Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and the natural world – and all of us were accepted.

This month's theme of “The Gift of Pluralism” encourages us Unitarian Universalists to explore what it means to [welcome people with many beliefs](#). The Article II Study Commission proposes that we envision “**Pluralism**” as one of the seven [Shared UU Values](#). Here's what is said about this value of Pluralism:

We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.



Where do you see pluralism influencing your own individual life? What signs of pluralism do you see at Peoples Church? How might you strive to embrace your fellow beings with Love, curiosity, and respect – as you learn from those who are both different and similar to you? I look forward to exploring these questions with you this month.

Grounding in Love,
Rev. Carin



Sunday Worship

Sunday, May 5, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“The Spiritual Soundtrack of Our Lives” Angie Pierce Jennings, Bryan Davis, and Judy Mitschelen

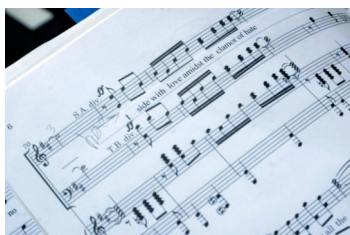


Photo © NANCY PIERCE/

Have you ever considered what a musical soundtrack to your life might sound like? And which songs might you add to this compilation when specifically considering your spiritual life? Three Peoples people will consider the music found in our Unitarian Universalist hymnals as they reflect on such questions. Also, today’s First Sunday Plate Collection will go to the LGBTQ+ Youth Center, run by Tanager.

Sunday, May 12, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“One Journey, Many Paths” Youth of Peoples Church

This school year, a group of five youth gathered to journey through a Coming of Age Program, which included a meaningful trip to Louisville, KY. During the worship service, they will share reflections about their experience as well as their faith statements. We will also recognize with gratitude all of the volunteers who helped make this year’s Faith Formation program possible.



Sunday, May 19, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.



“Flower Power: Generosity of Beauty” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister

The first Flower Ceremony was led by Rev. Norbert Čapek in Prague over a century ago. For decades, this beloved tradition and its powerful history have provided meaning to hundreds of UU congregations. This ritual celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community.

For this morning’s service, **please bring a cut flower to give away** to a fellow congregant. (Don’t worry if you can’t bring one – there will be enough to go around!) The Annual Meeting will take place shortly after worship service, both in the sanctuary and on Zoom. All book-signed members are eligible to vote.

Sunday, May 26, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Holding Multiple Faiths” Deb Booth, PCUU Member

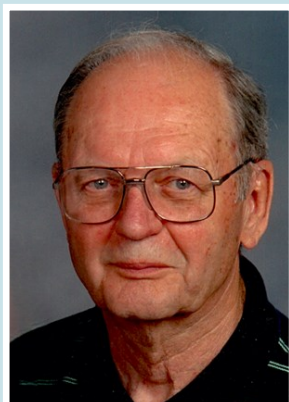
Deborah Maynard Booth is a Unitarian Universalist, an ordained Pagan Priestess, and a First Degree Cabot Witch. Another person in our church is a Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Humanist. Still others in our congregation are UU Christians, UU Muslims, and UU Atheists. How do we reconcile these different faiths? Let’s have that discussion.



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



A Celebration of Life service for **Amy Jo Bostwick** will take place at Peoples Church on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Jude Johnson, Amy's wife and PCUU member, invites you to attend. Visitation begins at 10:00 a.m. and a luncheon will be served immediately after the service. In lieu of flowers, donations in her honor can be made to the Peoples Church endowment fund at <https://peoplesuu.org/donate/>.



We send our deepest condolences to Gary and Laura McGraw and the rest of their family. Ron McGraw (Gary's father and a long-time member of Peoples Church) died on Friday, April 19, 2024. A Memorial Service will be on Saturday, June 1, 2024. You can find memorial and service information at [Cedar Memorial](#).

FAITH FORMATION

There are only two sessions left in the Faith Formation calendar this school year:

- May 5th will be our last regular class lesson, the elementary aged kids will be talking about imagination and sharing their gifts through art projects.
- The Coming of Age Youth will be finalizing their Credo statements and running through the plan for next week's service.
- May 12th is our end of the year PIZZA PARTY! Party will be held during normal class time (9:45am-10:45am) and is a family event, so please plan to stay with your child(ren). We will enjoy pizza fellowship, dream about the future, and play games or go to the park.

Mark your calendars for the Coming of Age service on May 12!

This year, five youth have diligently worked through a Coming of Age Program, broadening their understanding of themselves, their community and their faith. They also had a meaningful pilgrimage to Louisville, Kentucky, where they met other UU congregations. During this worship service, they will share reflections on their experiences as well as their faith statements. We will also recognize with gratitude all the volunteers who helped to make this year's Faith Formation program possible.

Congregational Summer Campout Coming Soon! The Faith Formation team is planning another congregational summer campout! Please keep an eye out in the eWeeklies and June's newsletter for dates and details.



MAY
19
SUNDAY

THE ANNUAL CHURCH *Meeting*

Immediately following Worship

Look for required meeting information early this month - most members will be receiving the required notice and agenda via email and some by regular mail. Items on the agenda will include a number of reports from the Minister, Treasurer, Board, and some committees. In addition, there will be elections for Board positions, President, and Nominating Committee members. The current nominating committee has been hard at work over the past several months and has found a number of willing and experienced candidates for these essential lay leadership positions at PCUU. We hope you will be able to participate.

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



Banned Books Library Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting

When? Sunday May 12 after church

Where? The church yard near the Gordon Avenue entrance

Everyone is invited to attend the grand opening of the Peoples Little Free Banned Books Library that will take place Sunday April 28 after the church service. 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.

The Lea Morris Connection

It would be hard to find a better example diverse people, ages, and voices coming together to create something spontaneously amazing than this improvisation Lea did with Bobby McFerrin and Motion.

In This Place: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bojmGnsPNUc>

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.

May 5-Social Justice Forum at 9:45 am. Sexuality in Native America: What is Meant by Two-Spirit? Join the Social Justice team with a video and discussion on understanding Two-Spirit Indigenous peoples. This Forum will be in-person only in the Ely Room.

Peoples Church will again host a booth at our community's **celebration of Juneteenth on Saturday, June 15 at the NewBo Market**. *We are looking for volunteers to set-up and take down our canopy and banners and to man the booth in two hour shifts during the day.* Please email us at pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com to volunteer. We need your help in outreaching to our neighbors and celebrating our friendships.

Please Save The Date: **Saturday, July 6 for CRPride** to *help with our Peoples booth as we celebrate LGBTQ+ people and life in our area.*

Bur Oak Planting

When Rev. Rebecca Hinds was installed, our congregation planted two hazelnuts in her honor on Arbor Day. This year, to honor Rev. Carin Bringelson's installation and as a memorial to former Board president Mike Meshak, we planted a bur oak on Sunday April 21, 2024 to replace our ash tree felled by the derecho. The timing of our planting coincided with the celebrations of Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Bur oaks are slow growing, sturdy, gorgeous trees that produce sweet acorns eagerly eaten by wildlife and people. They are native to three states where Rev. Carin has lived: Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Iowa. She's a native of the Cornhusker State where Arbor Day was created.

Rich Patterson organized the planting. Funding for the tree came from donations to Mike's memorial, as well as our installation fund, with special thanks going out to Kris and Bryan Davis and Marcy Mattison.



THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF REV. CARIN BRINGELSON





Thanks for everyone who helped make our Installation so meaningful and memorable!

See more pictures from that momentous occasion at:

<https://mykaelleighphotography.pixieset.com/theinstallationceremonyof-revcarinbringelson/>



April Finance Team Summary

The Finance Team met on 4/23/24 to review bookkeeper reports and related items.

Cash flow for the first quarter (January, February, and March) was positive due to a number of prepaid pledges:

Jan – March income \$119,495

Jan – March expenses \$67,460

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](#)



[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.](#)



**AFRICAN
AMERICAN
MUSEUM
OF IOWA**

Contact: LaNisha Cassell
lcassell@blackiowa.org

African American Museum of Iowa Grand Reopening May 11

Cedar Rapids, IA – After the African American Museum of Iowa's (AAMI) recent ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of its multi-million-dollar renovation project, the highly anticipated grand reopening will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Open to the public, we will mark this milestone occasion with a \$1 day admission from 10:00AM – 4:00PM

This family-friendly day will include self-guided exhibit tours through the Museum's permanent exhibit, *Endless Possibilities*, as well as of the Museum's brand-new temporary exhibit, *Thirty Years of the AAMI*, an exploration of the Museum's thirty year history and exhibits. Families can plan to engage in exciting activities with community organizations in the Museum parking lot, new expanded lobby, and Aldeen Davis Celebration Hall throughout the day.

In addition, patrons will have opportunities to shop at the Museum's merchandise counter for t-shirts, mugs, books, and other branded items. Opportunities to renew existing membership or become a new member will also be available. Delicious food will be in the Museum parking lot with options from Hatchett's BBQ and Catering as well as Jays Water Ice food trucks.

Renovations to the building include a modern and welcoming new entrance, expanded lobby, new roof, and sprinkler system, as well as updated features throughout. The major renovation to the Museum has been in the works since late 2019, brought about by the ongoing implementation of the City's flood control system. Contributions toward the campaign can be made on-site via QR code and at <https://blackiowa.org/support/vip/>.

UPLIFT monthly gatherings for trans, nonbinary, and

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](#)

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**](#)

5 Sunday

9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes

9:45 – 10:45am SJ Forum Sexuality in Native America: What is Meant by Two-Spirit?

11am – 12pm Worship

6 Monday

6 – 7:30pm Choir Practice

11 Saturday

10am - Amy Bostwick Visitation

11am - Amy Bostwick Celebration of Life

12pm - Luncheon following Amy Bostwick Celebration of Life

12 Sunday

Mother's Day

9:45 – 10:45am Faith Formation Classes and Pizza Party!

11am - 12pm Worship - Coming of Age Youth

12pm - Rescheduled Ribbon Cutting for Little Free Banned Books Library

13 Monday

12pm - Van Vechten Guild Brown Bag Lunch and Speaker

6pm - Choir Practice

14 Tuesday

10am - Archives

15 Wednesday

1pm - Social Justice

16 Thursday

7pm - Board Meeting

19 Sunday

10am - Choir Practice

11am - 12pm Flower Communion Worship - Choir performs

12pm - Annual Meeting

20 Monday

Voice items due today for June

26 Sunday

11am – 12pm Worship

27 Monday

Memorial Day

28 Tuesday

7pm - Finance Meeting via Zoom

May Events



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.**



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