



# THE VOICE

August 2024

**Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist**

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

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



# Minister's Musings



This summer we are exploring the theme of PLAY.

Last month I invited you to consider ***“Why ‘PLAY’ is a spiritual theme that is important for Unitarian Universalists to explore.”***

Some of you shared reflections, including that PLAY...

- Is restorative and relaxing
- Opens our mind and senses to the world
- Allows us to try new things as well as new ways of doing things
- Is an expression of joy – it raises our spirits
- Enables us to model joy, inviting others to join in both playing and experiencing joy
- Reminds us of “plays,” novels, and movies that we are writing and dreaming of
- Greases the intuitive wheels, helping us to access the Mystery and Sacred Inspiration

As I’ve been reflecting on PLAY and its spiritual dimensions, here’s what I’ve come to re-remember:

1. *Play* is often correlated with *recreation*
2. When you break down that word, it looks like *re-creation*
3. To *re-create* is to be part of a creative process
4. A creative process is a one that brought us into being (from the Big Bang to conception) – and we are invited to continue being creative
5. By continuing to create, we are honoring the Divine Creative Spark within

Thank you to Judy Price, Kathleen Mavity, and RC Eichacker – and Tolstoy – for playing with me and sharing your reflections! (You can come to my office to receive your prizes.)

I hope you make some time to play this summer month!

Grounding in Love,  
Rev. Carin

---

## The Installation Celebration Continues

Thanks to the generosity of Peoples people and the visitors who attended our installation in April, Peoples Church was able to donate \$2,213 to [The Living Tradition Fund](#). Thank you for your generosity!



Also, be sure to take a look at the plaque hanging outside the sanctuary! It includes the



names of the ministers who have served Peoples Church since 1869. Rev. Carin’s name was recently added, thanks to the work of Marcy Mattison and the Archives Team – with help from Rev. Rosie Rimrodt!



# Sunday Worship

**Sunday, August 4, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.**

**“Playing with Words” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister**

What do puns, stories, and poetry have in common? There are all ways people play with words! Today we will invite everyone to play with words together. Bring your playful self and a willingness to explore.



**Sunday, August 11, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.**

**“Upping it Mix” Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister**



Today we will play with the order of the worship service, exploring the purpose behind each liturgical element. This participatory service will be sure to intrigue and delight – while also helping us learn more about the newly articulated Unitarian Universalist values.

**Sunday, August 18, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.**

**“Unitarian Universalist Jeopardy” with Kathleen Mavity and Emily Hoselton, PCUU members**

You won't want to miss this UU-style game show!

**Sunday, August 25, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.**

### **“Camp Unistar Fun” with Jim Federer, PCUU member**



Camp UniStar is a place of natural beauty and serenity nestled amidst the pine forests of northern Minnesota. Since 1961, Unitarian Universalists have gathered to relax and regenerate through star-gazing, water activities, crafting, playing games, and more! Families and individuals come seeking personal growth, community, and friendship as well as a deeper connection to nature. They leave with changed lives, new friends, and lifelong memories of a magical place.



***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.*



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

## Practicing Liberating Love

### Our 2024-25 Themes!

September: Invitation  
October: Deep Listening  
November: Repair  
December: Presence  
January: Story  
February: Inclusion  
March: Trust  
April: Joy  
May: Imagination  
June: Freedom



## Are You Curious about What Worship Artists Do?

When you join the Worship Arts Team, you get to...

- Dig more deeply into the monthly [themes](#)
- Bring your grounded presence to Sunday mornings, helping make everyone feel welcome
- Practice public speaking in a loving and accepting environment
- Share your reflections with the PCUU community



To learn more about the Worship Arts Team and [co-creating worship](#), contact Rev. Carin by Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at [minister@peoplesuu.org](mailto:minister@peoplesuu.org).



## 2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN • PEOPLES CHURCH

### Feed the Seeds!

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign is underway! We are asking for your participation to help in planning our budget for 2025. In this "do it yourself" phase of the campaign, we ask for you to **please return the form that was mailed to you early last month or make your financial commitment [online](#)**. If we have not heard from you by mid-August, you will be contacted by someone from the Stewardship Team.

Our goal is 3% more than last year's total pledges, so if you are able to give more, please do! **It is important to hear from everyone**, and remember, whatever amount you can give will be appreciated. Together, we can nourish those seeds of compassionate community, social justice, and spiritual growth and see them grow and flourish.

I would like to thank the following for already committing to feeding the seeds:

Charles Cizio and Judy Price, Brenda Meshak, Renate and Neil Bernstein, Bob Butikofer, Kathy Juba, Bev Hannon, R.C. Eichacker, Kathleen Mavity, and ten anonymous.

Thank You!!

Brenda Meshak, Stewardship Team Chair

7/27/24

Total Dollars 2025 Financial Commitment Goal	\$205,000
Dollars/Percentage Committed to Date	\$87,752 / 43%
Number of Households Asked for Financial Commitment	88
Number/Percentage of Household Responses	29 / 33%

# Coming Soon!

# Kick Off Weekend

Next month our church year will be back in full swing!

**Mark your calendar** for these exciting kick-off events:

- **Saturday, September 7th** for an Ice Cream Social from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, September 8th:** Faith Formation classes start for the fall @ 9:45 a.m.
- At the worship service on Sunday, September 8th, we will do a [Blessing of the Backpacks](#) and [Water Communion](#)\*. So bring your backpacks and water!

\* You're invited to bring a small amount of water from a place that is special to you. During the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources. We will bless it as a congregation and then Rev. Carin will boil it so we can use it for special ceremonies throughout the year ahead.







# chill out with us! ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Indulge in a delightful experience of flavors, fun, and frozen treats at our outdoor Ice Cream Social event!



*Saturday, September 7th 4-6pm*

**PeoplesUU rain location: Andre Room**



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



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Our First Sunday Plate Collection is to

We will be supporting the Meskwaki Settlement School Musical Band program in the third quarter of this year. We will joyously share our First Sunday Plate Collection with the Meskwaki Settlement School on August 4, and September 8. The school is located in the Meskwaki Nation (4 miles west of Tama, Iowa) and is a property of the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa. As the only federally recognized Indian tribe in Iowa, the school is committed to ensuring that their students have the same academic curriculum and opportunities as students in all public schools. At the same time, the school is committed to respecting and teaching the unique cultural and linguistic needs of the Meskwaki Tribe. The school is working toward becoming a full Meskwaki language immersion school with the end goal of producing second language speakers and teachers for the next generation.

In addition to our monetary donations the school is accepting gently used musical instruments. If you have instruments you would like to donate, please send us an email at [pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com).



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.

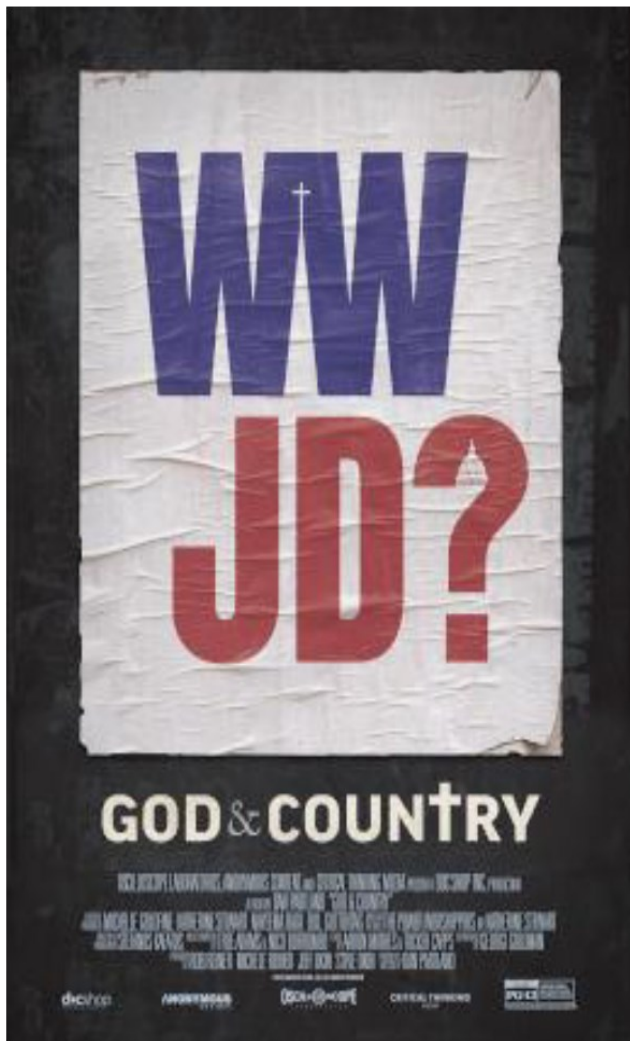


The Peoples trip to the Meskwaki PowWow will be on Friday, August 9, starting at 11am (the Powwow begins at 1pm). Please email the Social Justice Council at [pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com) to let us know if you wish to attend and how many. We will arrange carpools leaving from the church at **11 am**. [updated time]

Please go to [www.meskwakipowwow.com/powwow-etiquette](http://www.meskwakipowwow.com/powwow-etiquette) to learn more about how to show respect and support at the PowWow.



The historic Bethel AME Church has invited Peoples Church to its 153rd anniversary celebration from August 23 to 25. Events will include food, fellowship, and worship and praise music. More information will follow in a few weeks.



**Please Join Us for this Important Event**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Cedar Rapids) will host a showing of the 90-minute documentary, *God & Country* on Wednesday, August 14.

This documentary looks at the implications of Christian Nationalism and how it distorts not only the constitutional republic, but Christianity itself.

Following the documentary, Connie Ryan, Executive Director of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, will lead us in a discussion about the rise in Christian nationalism and its impact on our nation and communities.

**When:** Wednesday, August 14 at 6:00 – 8:30 pm

**Where:** St. Stephen's Lutheran, 610 31<sup>st</sup> Street SE,  
Cedar Rapids, IA    No RSVP needed.

Please invite others!

**Co-Hosted by:** St. Stephen's Church and Christ Episcopal Church

# CANASTA NIGHT!

**ALL ARE WELCOME  
COME AND LEARN HOW TO PLAY CANASTA!**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2024**

**7-10 PM IN THE PCUU ELY ROOM**

**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL AGES  
COME ALONE OR BRING ALONG YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**

**SPONSORED BY THE PCUU MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

## Update from General Assembly

The 2024 General Assembly (GA) of Congregations is now complete – and there's lots to know about what happened!

You can learn more about what decisions were made by the delegates at GA – simply explore the following links:

- Amendments were discussed, and then [this version of Article II of the UUA Bylaws](#) was passed.
- This Revision to UUA Bylaw Section 7.13 on [Religious Education Credentialing Committee](#) was passed.
- This Business Resolution, "[Affirming Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Diverse People as a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values](#)," was passed.

These three Actions of Immediate Witness were passed:

- "[World on Fire: Humanitarian Work and Climate Change](#)"
- "[Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19](#)"
- "[Solidarity with Palestinians](#)"
- A Responsive Resolution, "[UUA General Assembly Support for October 7 Hostages](#)," passed.

You are also welcome to [view the sessions that were open to the public](#), including Sunday worship.

The [2025 General Assembly](#) will be a multiplatform event next June 19-22, and the in-person activities will be in Baltimore, Maryland!

U

U

A

NEWS

## 2nd Annual Congregational Campout!! July 26-28



Peoples' people enjoyed fantastic weather and fun at Pleasant Creek this year! Our 2nd Annual Camp Out included wonderful company and a serendipitous discovery of black raspberries!





# 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 Play

A cover of a Sesame Street classic by Joe Reposo. Lea recorded this fun song for the Washington Ethical Society.

[https://youtu.be/b4W7KZBMfrY?si=sxLRX4UI2Z58\\_zFd](https://youtu.be/b4W7KZBMfrY?si=sxLRX4UI2Z58_zFd)

- 4 Sunday  
Worship 11am
- 9 Friday  
Peoples trip to the Meskwaki PowWow  
Car Pool leaving 11am; PowWow starts 1pm

- 10 Saturday  
Board retreat

- 11 Sunday  
Worship 11am

- 13 Tuesday  
Archives 10am

- 15 Thursday  
Worship Arts Team 4-5:30pm  
Faith Formation Council 6pm

- 18 Sunday  
Worship 11am

- 20 Tuesday  
*Voice Submissions Due*  
Finance Meeting 7-8pm

- 21 Wednesday  
Social Justice 1-2pm  
Board Meeting 6-8pm

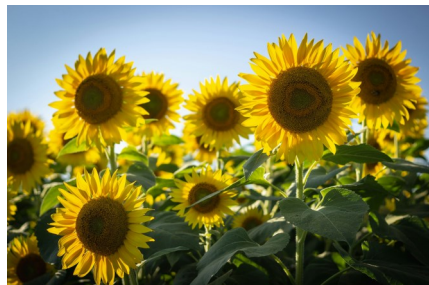
- 25 Sunday  
Worship 11am

- 30 Friday 7pm

# August Events



**Playing to Learn Canasta Night!**





### Good Neighbors August 2024

Kris Davis | 361-0280  
daviskris49@gmail.com

### Paraministers

July 29-Aug. 11 Paulette Montague  
Aug 12-25 Jan Federer  
Aug 26-Sept 8 Rosie Rimrodt

### QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS:

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

### Our Board of Trustees

#### President

Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck

Bob Butikofer  
Sue Davis  
Steve Hershner  
Marcy Mattison  
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

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

Matthew Wilde  
Social Media and 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.

