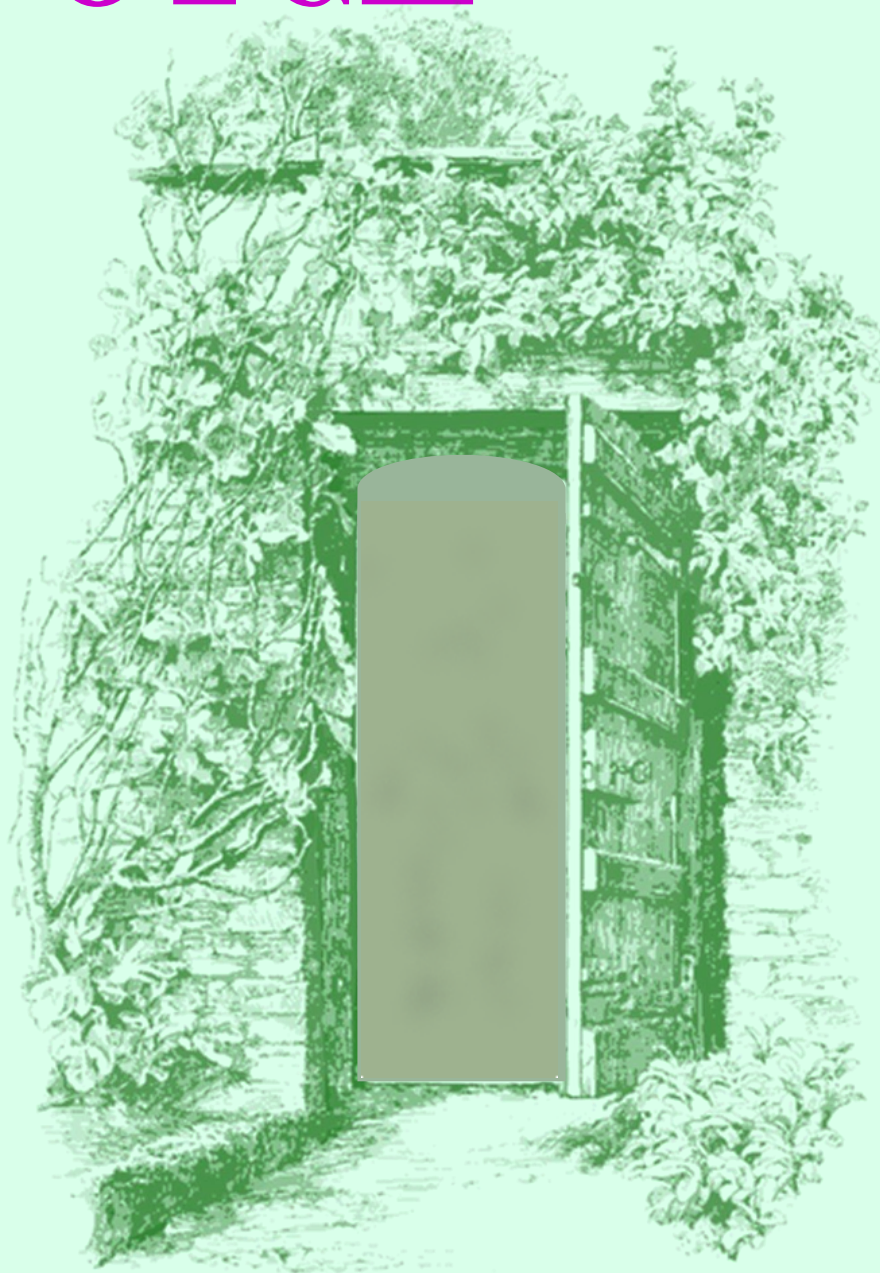


THE VOICE

August 2024



Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

www.peoplesuu.org



Minister's Musings

This church year our themes for each month will be framed by an overarching question: **How do we live out our Shared UU Values?** Because we are part of a tradition that embraces *deeds* over *creeds*, we engage in *actions* to show that we are Unitarian Universalists. What *practices* do we engage in as we lean into our values? How do we center a *Liberating Love* through our behaviors?

For this month of September as we begin the program year, the theme is “**The Practice of Invitation.**” For me, the easiest way to start practicing *invitation* is with things I already know and appreciate: “I’m inviting in laughter and time with my garden.” Sounds easy, doesn’t it?

The practice of invitation gets harder as the unknown and annoying become apparent; it requires me to adjust my intentions: “I’m inviting in personal patience and collective courage every time I see an election advertisement; may they remind me of our commitment to engage in democracy.” (Indeed, our [Shared UU Value](#) of *Justice* mentions this covenant: “We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.”)

As you find yourself in this season full of transitions and hopes, I invite you to reflect on how the practice of invitation might enrich your life. What do you need to invite in *as-is*? How might you *reframe* the harder parts of life as

invitations that offer you the spiritual sustenance you’re seeking? And also: what do these practices of invitation feel like in your body?

May we practice and ponder together.

Grounding in Love,
Rev. Carin

PS: Speaking of love, **LOVE** is a good acronym to help you remember our intentions to practice our values:

Living
Our UU
Values
Everyday



Sunday Worship

Sunday, September 1, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Peoples People at Work” with Emily Hoselton, PCUU member

This Labor Day, we want to honor and give thanks for all the work that People's People do – both in the church and in our communities.

Sunday, September 8, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Inviting Water” with Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister

The 2016 protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline reminded us bluntly: Water is Life. On this [Water Communion](#) Sunday, we'll invite water to bless our lives. **Everyone is invited to bring a small amount of water from a place that is special. Learners of all ages are also invited to bring their backpacks as we kick off the school year with a [Blessing of the Backpacks](#).** If you're participating from home, you're invited to please bring a glass of water, an empty bowl, and your backpack or other bag to the online service.



Sunday, September 15, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.



“Banned Books and UUism: The Practice of Pluralism” with Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister

Peoples Church now has a Little Free Library near our Gordon Avenue entrance that includes Banned Books. Today we'll explore what censorship has to do with Shared Unitarian Universalist Values. Does UU theology have anything to say about this contemporary issue? **Bring your favorite Banned Book to co-create a shared altar.**

Sunday, September 22, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“This is Not What I Anticipated” with Lu Wilcox, PCUU member

Invitation can lead to inclusion – to new people, to new experiences, to new areas of spirituality. But it is risky. How do we react when the invitation goes awry?

Sunday, September 29, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

“Spiritual Practices of Invitation” with Rev. Carin Bringelson, minister

How can spiritual practices help us invite the unnameable into our lives? We'll be experiencing various spiritual practices this morning. Worship participants will choose between five different practices (music, art, movement, lectio divina, and altar making) before returning to the collective group. Come prepared to move around the building and outside.



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



BOARD PRESIDENT

What colors do each of us bring to Peoples Church? And what do those colors mean?

Color plays an important role in how we interact with the world. From an early age, we're taught what colors mean in the wider culture, and we also begin forming our own preferences for what we like to have around us and on our bodies.

Color helps us communicate peace, danger, excitement, loyalties, and so much more. Think about the color scheme of a favorite sports team or an enjoyable restaurant experience, for example. While discussing *The Great Gatsby* in high school, my English teacher asked us what we thought the green light meant to *Gatsby*. One of my classmates suggested, "Go?" (We hadn't quite figured out symbolism yet.)

Color design can also lead to challenges with inclusivity, since not everyone can perceive the same colors. And pondering a box of crayons can be its own exercise in diversity and wider cultural changes. When I was young, Crayola had only one "flesh" colored crayon, which offered an option for a fair-skinned person. Now Crayola has an entire specialty box called "Colors of the World" with 24 choices!

At the Board Retreat in August, we set aside some imaginative space to think about the colors of Peoples Church. Just like in Kindergarten, we did some coloring and then we shared our work and talked about the choices we made.

Some people created stripes and straight lines, while others created shapes and curves. Some

of the pictures were uniform while others were more "outside the lines." And some of the colors and our ideas about their meaning and significance overlapped, while others presented new perspectives.

This exercise provided a concrete way for board members to see and appreciate the similarities and diversity just in our little group of eight people. We will carry forward what we learned in this exercise as we continue our work of helping to guide Peoples Church into the future.

What about you? Would you choose one or two colors? 12 colors? More? Would you create a detailed tapestry that tells a story, or put together a patchwork quilt? And then how would you incorporate elements from everyone else's vision and experience to create a larger whole?

Start a conversation about color the next time you're hanging out with Peoples people, so we can all get to know the colors of our faith community. Together.

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



Month Hymn of the



This year we're experimenting with having a "Hymn of the Month" that is based on the month's theme. We will learn it together and sing it at each worship service. Hopefully, the harder songs will become easier and the easy songs will become familiar.

This month of September, for the "Practice of Invitation" theme, the hymn is #1022 "Open the Window." Listen to it (and sing/clap along!) at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKHDGP7vuM8>



2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN • PEOPLES CHURCH

Feed the Seeds Stewardship Campaign is still underway! We are now in the phase of the campaign where members of the stewardship team will be contacting those we have not heard from, so please return your 2025 financial commitment forms. If you misplaced your form you can print another one from our website.

I would like to thank the following for feeding the seeds: 11 anonymous, Alida & Danny Anderson, Bev Buhr, Jim & Jan Federer, Bobbie Foy, Dorothy Hershner, Steve & Marta Hershner, Kathy Keltz, Clarice Krippner, Marcy Mattison, Brenda McDole, Gary & Laura McGraw, Sheryl Ochs, Rosie Rimrodt, Marcia Swift, Jo & Jim Wasta, Lu & Mark Wilcox and Joye Winey. THANK YOU for your financial support.

Mark your calendar for the first Sunday in October where we will share the results and celebrate after the worship service.

Thank You!!

Brenda Meshak, Stewardship Team Chair

CANASTA NIGHT!

ALL ARE WELCOME
COME AND LEARN HOW TO PLAY CANASTA!

TOMORROW!

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

Thank you, Peoples People!

Join us in thanking the following people who help Peoples Church in these unique ways:

- Thank you, **Bob Butikofer**, for emptying the dehumidifiers every week!
- Thank you, **Bryan Davis** and **Kris Davis**, for managing the Little Free Library of [Banned Books](#) now installed on the Gordon Ave. side of our building!
- Thank you, **Rich Patterson**, for watering and protecting the bur oak tree planted this spring in honor of the Installation and in memory of Mike Meshak!
- Thank you, **Melissa Rucker, Ann Woodward, and Jan Federer**, for watering and weeding to help our memorial garden and pollinator garden look great!
- Thank you, **Rosie Rimrodt and greeters**, for putting pens and paper into the pew racks – and removing them after service.

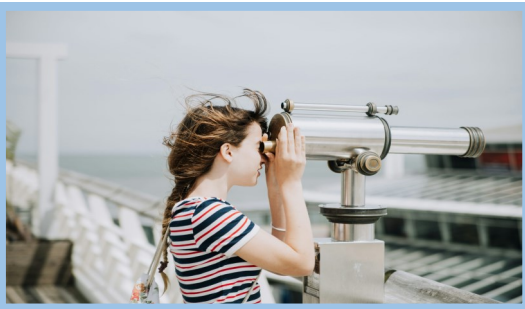
Do you have someone to thank? Let Rev. Carin know!



The Finance Team met on 8/20/24 to review financial reports and discuss plans for the 2025 budget.

Cash flow for July was positive:

- July income \$26,813
- July expenses \$14,397



Looking ahead...

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- ♦ Canasta Fun: Friday, August 30th @ 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- ♦ Ice Cream Social: Saturday, September 7th @ 4:00 pm. - 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ Water Communion and Backpack Blessing: Sunday, September 8th
- ♦ Costume Contest: Sunday, October 27th
- ♦ Chili Cook-off: Sunday, November 3rd
- ♦ Post-Election Reflection Vespers: Wednesday, November 6th @ 6:00 p.m.

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



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Our new Director of Faith Formation!

My name is Celeste and I am very excited to be joining the People's Church staff as the Director of Faith Formation! I grew up attending Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado. I was very involved in my youth group throughout middle and high school. This included being on the planning teams and staff for all the district youth cons and summer camps. I also got involved with my home church, working in the nursery for over 10 years.

My husband Simon and I moved here with our dog Murphy from Colorado in 2022, and in the spring of 2023 we welcomed our daughter Penelope. In 2023 we moved to Marion and purchased our first home! We enjoy hosting friends and family for barbeques, potlucks, and game nights.

In my free time I like to read, craft, and spend time outside. I participate in many different book clubs, so I'm usually reading more than one book at a time! As a crafter, I enjoy crochet, painting, and recently I am learning how to quilt. Although the hiking in Iowa is very different from what I am used to in Colorado, I really enjoy exploring the parks and trails it has to offer!

I'm so excited to be on board, and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.



September

- September 8: Color War and Tie dye party
- September 22: Service Project

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our First Sunday Plate Collection is to

Peoples Church is joyously sharing our First Sunday Plate Collection with the Meskwaki Settlement School so that they can continue to build up their music program. In addition to financial support, they are open to receiving gently used musical instruments. For more information, please contact Marcia Swift, chair of the Social Justice Team, at pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com.

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.



Postcard Project Sponsored by the Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness & Advocacy Network

Beginning September 8 and continuing through October 13 the Social Justice Team will lead a postcard writing project in the Andre Room following Sunday Services. Our postcards will be sent to registered voters in Wisconsin who have identified as environmentalists and vote at lower-than-expected-rates. Our neighboring state of Wisconsin is a purple swing state and will be important in the November election. Our message will be a simple one of urging people to vote.

In 2022 Peoples identified saving democracy as one of its priorities. This project is in support of that issue. The stamps for the postcards will be paid for out of the church's social justice budget.

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.

UUA's Common Read

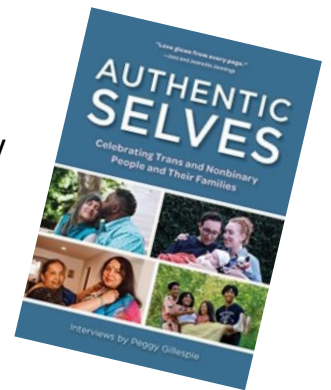
The 2024-25 UU Common Read is [*Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*](#) (Skinner House, 2023).

Through interviews and photo portraits, the subjects of this book invite readers into their real lives – their revelations, challenges, joys, and networks of support. This Common Read invites UU groups to explore the nature of living authentically and the ways connections among us help us thrive.

As the book ends, Peggy Gillespie, who conducted the interviews, writes, **"...the journey of self-discovery continues for the participants and for you, the readers. Whether you are trans and/or nonbinary, questioning your identity, have trans and nonbinary loved ones, or perhaps all of the above, please remember always that you are not alone. In every moment of your lives there are opportunities to strengthen your pride and acceptance of all people, including yourselves."**

[Purchase a copy of the book](#) or borrow one from Peoples Church. Stay tuned for information about an upcoming small group discussion. Questions? Email the Social Justice Team at:

pcuusocialjustice@gmail.com



Prairiewoods [Micro-Retreat on Forgiveness](#) (in person)

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 5:30–8 p.m.

Whether you carry little hurts or have experienced significant trauma, forgiveness can be a powerful tool in your healing journey. Interestingly, we often aren't skilled at forgiveness. It's something we assume we know how to do! Join facilitator Leslie Schwarting as we explore the power of forgiveness. While in the community of others, we will learn different tools and practices of forgiveness to take with us on our life journeys.

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.*

Food Pantry

Thank you for your past generosity. Here is a list of items we need:

- canned vegetables, *except beans of any kind*
- canned tuna and chicken
- canned mixed fruit
- pasta sauce
- shelf stable juices
- box potatoes
- peanut butter
- jelly
- soup
- crackers
- granola and/or protein bars
- meals in a box
- potatoes



- 1 Sunday
Worship 11am
- 2 Monday
Labor Day
- 7 Saturday
Ice Cream Social 4-6pm
- 8 Sunday
Choir Practice and Service 9:45am
Faith Formation 9:45am
Worship 11am
- 9 Monday
Van Vechten Guild 12pm
Choir Practice 6-7:30pm
- 10 Tuesday
Archives 10am
- 15 Sunday
First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month
Faith Formation 9:45am
Worship 11am
- 16 Monday
Choir Practice 6-7:30pm
- 18 Wednesday
Social Justice 1-2pm
Paraminister 2-3pm
Board Meeting 6-8pm
- 19 Thursday
Worship Arts 5:30-6:30pm
Faith Formation Council 6-7pm
- 20 Friday
Voice content due today
- 22 Sunday
Faith Formation 9:45am
Worship 11am
- 23 Monday
Choir Practice 6-7:30pm
- 29 Sunday
Choir Practice and Service 9:45am
Faith Formation 9:45am
Worship 11am
- 30 Monday
Choir Practice 6-7:30pm



September Events





Good Neighbors September 2024

Kathy Juba | 378-3116 (H) or 361-2890 (C)
kathywilson@imonmail.com

Paraministers

Aug 26-Sept 8 Rosie Rimrodt
Sept 9-22 Deb Booth
Sept 23-Oct 6 Rose Gabe

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

Celeste Downs

Director of Faith Formation

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

PEOPLES CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

LEADING COMPASSIONATE LIVES
THROUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH
AND JUST ACTION.

