

March 2025

THE VOICE

Trust

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
4980 Gordon Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

Minister Musings

Long ago, when Bev's and my kid was 10 years old, I made a big mistake by scaring Bri on purpose. It all started when we were sneaking into a bedroom together and peeking into a closet. I don't remember exactly what we were supposedly looking for, but as I opened the closet door, I suddenly jerked it towards us, yelling "BOO!"

I thought I was being playful and funny. Turns out, Bri was NOT pleased by my behavior. I had broken their trust by intentionally scaring them. Back then, I was new to being a step-in-parent. I understand now that I was in "sister mode" – I was playing with Bri the way I played with my older sisters. However, in this situation, Bri was a child, and I was an adult. I had misused my relational power.



Upon witnessing Bri's reaction of alarm quickly followed by tears, I suddenly saw the error of my ways. I immediately apologized and vowed to never intentionally scare Bri again. If I did, I promised to pay them \$1,000.

Author and social justice activist Adrienne Maree Brown invites us to "[move at the speed of trust](#)." When working with other people, we can prioritize building trust and respect for each other – over and above any other goal. The trust itself forms the foundation from which the work can grow.

In this month when our theme is [Living Love through the Practice of Trust](#), I invite you to consider where trust has been broken in your life – and what it has taken to rebuild that trust. What does it take for you to move at the speed of trust? In what ways have our [Shared UU Values](#) played a role in how (and why) you practice trust? I'd be happy to learn your stories and musings. Email me at: minister@peoplesuu.org.

For the record, I've kept my promise to Bri – and I've never had to pay them \$1,000. I've learned at least one lesson: trust is easy to break. May my continual practice of striving to be trustworthy help to form a foundation from which our Love can grow.

Growing in Faith,

Rev. Carin

Rev. Carin



Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

“99 Names for Trust” led by Rev. Carin Bringelson

In the Muslim tradition, it is sometimes said that there are 99 names for Allah. As the Holy Month of Ramadan begins, we'll use this opportunity to reflect on ways in which Unitarian Universalists trust their own spiritual relationships.

Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

“Are You Feeling Brave Enough to Trust?” led by Kathleen Mavity, PCUU Member

All of us have had our trust betrayed in some way. It might be something as relatively minor as being ghosted on social media, or it might be something as damaging as losing a job due to someone's unethical treatment of you. Depending on the situation, some people may very well fear to trust again. We face so many questions and challenges around the issue of trust in the best of times – and we're certainly not living in those “best times” right now. In this service, we'll explore how to trust in a way that honors other people and ourselves.

Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

“Trusting The Balance” led by Rev. Carin Bringelson

As the Spring Equinox approaches, we will explore lessons about balance and equanimity. In a world of upheaval, violence, and injustice, how might the more-than-human world offer us guidance?

Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

“Trusting Generosity as a Spiritual Value” led by Rev. Carin Bringelson

The words “In God We Trust” are all over our money. Just imagine if, instead, the phrase was “Trust in Gratitude and Hope.” Today we'll explore what the Shared UU Value of Generosity has to say about the practice of trust.

Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

“Trusting Joy” led by Rev. Carin Bringelson

For 15 years, the International Trans Day of Visibility has taken place on March 31st. As anti-trans legislation and hate-filled rhetoric rise, we'll tap into how joy might be an antidote during these trying times.

Board President

Greetings Peoples People! This month's theme is **Practices of Trust** and it is not lost on me that as your Board President, you place immense trust in me to bring action and momentum to our priorities.

As always, the Board of Trustees has been hard at work. Here's a snapshot of what we've been talking about this month:

- Secretary Marcy Mattison is also working with David Kind on two exciting projects:
 - ✓ First, they are developing a banner to use at this year's General Assembly in Baltimore, Maryland. This involves exploring how we might evolve Peoples Church branding and bring that into our sanctuary and shared visual spaces.
 - ✓ Second, they are planning a congregational engagement project for the bulletin board outside the sanctuary that is based on the e. e. cummings quote, "Ever the beautiful answer that asks an even more beautiful question." What a wonderful way to nurture our curiosity!
- Our communications are getting a refresh! Together with the Office Advisory Team (OATs), David Kind will soon announce upgrades to our website, eWeekly, social media, and The Voice. He'll be leading a forum on **March 30th at 9:45 a.m.** to discuss the details of this work and to answer your questions.
- As we move forward, the Board is exploring how to more closely align the spiritual aspects of our church with our chosen social justice initiatives. In particular, we're hoping to better describe *specific* and *actionable* ways that our social justice work can educate the public about who we are and what we do as a faith community.
- Financial planning is important but that doesn't mean we can plan for *everything*. In this month's Board meeting, we discussed the need to update the Board's process for approving special expenses.
- Treasurer Gary McGraw is also working with David Kind to renew our property/casualty insurance and reduce our monthly technology costs.



Warmly,

Robyn

Faith Formation

This Sunday:

- The kids in PreK-5 will be exploring this month's theme of Practices of Trust by *practicing* trusting themselves! They will hear a story of perseverance that reiterates they can do hard things, find their inner superhero and play games that reinforce their amazing superpowers!
- The youth in the middle- and high school room will be *trusting* their inner artists through *creating* sculptures! Air-dry clay will be available for sculpting in addition to other art and craft items. They have been working hard on preparing for Game Night (tomorrow!). It's time for a well-earning, relaxing Sunday morning creating together.
- **Reminder:** Faith Formation will not be meeting over spring break—March 16th-23rd.

Spring Cleaning:

- There are a number of furniture items that we are trying to re-home. Please take a look at the items marked 'Go' in the Iowa Sisterhood (Green) room.

Youth Co-Op

- March 9th — Service Project @ Lovely Lane UMC: 2:00—4:00p.m.
- March 9th — Summer Trip Information and Registration Meeting @ Lovely Lane UMC: 4:00 p.m.
- March 21st — Special Mini-Trip! Go see the Okee Dokee Brothers w/ Ryan and Will
- March 23rd — Bob Ross Painting Activity: 2:00—4:00 p.m.



Brought to you by Peoples Church
Membership and Faith Formation

Game Night

TOMORROW!

Friday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m.

All ages welcome! Bring your friends! Bring games you would like to share — or learn to play Canasta! Play Bingo in a large group to kick off the night. Free will donations accepted. The “purchase” of your Bingo card and \$1 concessions will go to benefit Iowa Safe Schools. Come enjoy some multigenerational fun!



WE ARE HIRING !

Do you know people who might be interested in joining the Peoples Church team?

If so, send them these links to our job postings for...

[Director of Faith Formation](#) (15-20 hours/week)

[Nursery Attendant](#) (Weekends, and as needed)

[Custodian](#) (6-8 hours/week)





Peoples Church UU
Care Team

Be the Umbrella in a Storm

People at Peoples Church work together to offer a metaphorical umbrella when the storms of life leave congregants feeling drenched.

That “umbrella” is now called the [Care Team](#). This newly-designed group is open to anyone at Peoples Church who would like to offer support and assistance as needed (*and when volunteers are able) in the following areas:

Card Writing

Visiting

Phone Calling

Providing Meals

Providing Rides

Helping with Household Tasks

Heavy Lifting

Sign up to serve with the [Care Team](#) by simply [filling out this short form](#).

Questions? Email the Care Team Coordinators at: pcuucareteam@gmail.com

Peoples Choir

The Peoples Choir is excited to be back in full swing. If you're toying with the idea of joining us, come on down! We practice this month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays: March 5th, 12th, and 19th.

Music of the Month

March's Hymn of the Month is #1052, "The Oneness of Everything."

[Listen to and watch "The Oneness of Everything"](#)



Our exclusively curated song from Lea Morris for March's theme is a song about trust called "Lead the Way."

[Listen to and watch "Lead the Way"](#)



Social Justice

This month for our 2nd Sunday offering, funds will benefit Iowa Safe Schools: Provides support, victim services, resources and events for LGBTQ+ and allied youth in Iowa schools. Provides education and support to school personnel. Programs include the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) Network which empowers students to create safe spaces in their school and community.



Finance Update

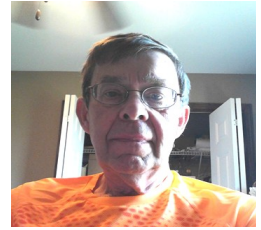
The **Finance Team** met on 2/18/25 to review financial reports and continue financial planning.

Cash flow for January was positive due to prepaid pledges:

- January income \$49,225.00
- January expenses \$36,630.00

Cares of the Congregation

- Rev. Dr. Jeremy Brigham is now living in a long-term care facility. If you'd like to visit him—he'd love to see you! Please contact the Church Office at (319) 362-9827 to receive details on how to arrange a good time to visit.



- Marion Patterson had back surgery in late February. [Please join the Meal Train for Marion and Rich Patterson.](#) There are only a few spots left! While the Pattersons do *not* need any more flowers or plants, they *would* appreciate short notes of encouragement via email or snail mail.



Marion "Manny" Patterson — marion.patterson@gmail.com
1080 30th Street Dr. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 524034-1506

- Susan Elliot-Bryan has been in the hospital and recently moved to rehab. All are invited to send get well cards and notes of encouragement to:

Susan Elliott-Bryan
1801 Blake Blvd SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-2229

Circle of Life

We are sad to share that former members of Peoples Church UU have passed away recently. Please keep their families in your heart and minds.

- **Patty Ankrum** died on Sunday, February 9, 2025. Here obituary is at:
<https://www.thegazette.com/obituaries/patty-ankrum/>
- **Dave Leavitt** died on Monday, February 17, 2025. His obituary is at:
<https://www.cedarmemorial.com/Obituary/2025/Feb/David-R-Leavitt/>

Explore PCUU Membership

Membership into, and within, Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist is a journey! Join us for these dates to learn about each other, our UU faith movement, and our congregation.

- **Sunday, April 27, 2025 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Build community during lunch.

On your own schedule, review videos and resources

→ www.peoplesuu.org/Exploring-Membership

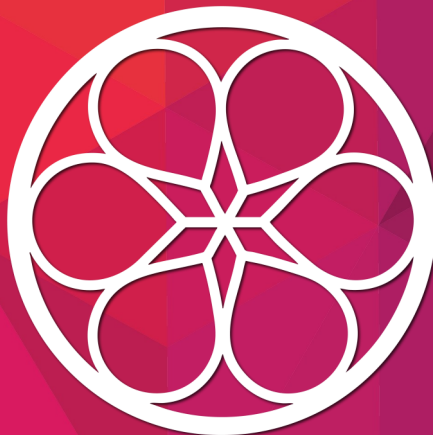
- **Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Gather via Zoom to explore your questions.

- **Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

Share how you envision yourself engaging with Peoples Church and get ready for the New Member Ceremony happening during worship.

Attending? Email Membership Team contact, Megan Murphy Salyer, at lilmurph@gmail.com by April 5, 2025.





**Peoples
Church**

Flatbread Festival

**Friday, March 28, 2025
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**





UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

General Assembly is just a few months away—and we encourage everyone to participate, whether it be in person or online. This is the annual meeting of Unitarian Universalist Association, where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. [Click here to learn more.](#)

And this year, we'll also be celebrating a bit of good news: The Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association recently voted to grant our minister, Rev. Carin Bringelson, Full Fellowship.



Rev. Carin shares her accomplishment with everyone here at Peoples Church. "Full Fellowship was made possible with all of your support and our shared ministry. Together we share our gifts with each other and the wider community. Thank you, Peoples people, for being on this journey with me!"

This Fellowship process is a multiyear one that supports UU ministers in their professional development and faith formation. This helps ensure that Unitarian Universalist congregations can call credentialed ministers.

Learn more about the process at: <https://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/support/renewal-process>

This accomplishment will be celebrated at the [General Assembly 2025](#) taking place in Baltimore, MD this June.

March



- 2 Faith Formation at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.
- 5 Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Care Team at 4:00 p.m.
Faith Formation Council at 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Faith Formation at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.
- 10 Van Vechten Guild Brown Bag at 12:00 p.m.
- 11 Archives Committee at 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Shared Ministry Team at 10:00 a.m.
Social Justice Team at 1:00 p.m.
Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Forum: [On Tyranny](#) at 9:45 a.m.
Faith Formation at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.
CUUPS at 12:20 p.m.
- 18 Finance Team at 7:00 p.m.
- 19 PCUU Monthly Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Choir Practice at 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Content Due for The Voice at 12:00 p.m.
Worship Arts Team at 5:30 p.m.
- 22 Journey Circle at 10:00 a.m.
- 23 Choir Practice at 9:45 a.m.
Faith Formation at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.
- 25 Membership Team at 5:30 p.m.
- 28 **Flatbread Festival at 5:00 p.m.**
- 30 Faith Formation at 9:45 a.m.
Forum: Communications Refresh at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.

PEOPLES CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

“Leading compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action.”

Our Staff

Minister

Rev. Carin Bringelson
minister@peoplesuu.org

Congregational Administrator

David Kind
office@peoplesuu.org

Office Hours

Tuesday—Thursday
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Director of Faith Formation

Open Position

Social Media / IT Outreach Technician

Matthew Wilde
pcuutech@peoplesuu.org

Worship Accompanist

Judy Mitschelen

Choir Accompanist

Andrew Stoneking

Custodian

Open Position

Nursery Attendant

Open Position

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

