

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

April 2, 2019.

New Associate Pastor Called

Dear Friends and Family of Cedar Falls United Church of Christ,

Our sympathy is extended to Chris Merz at the loss of his father (March 27th). Please keep Chris and his family in our prayers.

We have called Erika Elizabeth Breddin as Associate Minister of Outreach, Media, and Social Justice on March 31st. Erika joins me in leading our congregation into the future. She will primarily working with me and the leadership of the congregation, in order that we reach into the community and communicate with the surrounding community on social justice issues. On Face book we will be more visible due to the efforts of Erika.



As a church it is clear that we are moving forward, but we need to do so intentionally. Our congregation is seeking to set goals and be intentional about addressing these goals. We will be dividing them up into goals we

can accomplish this year or in two years time. This will give us an indication whether we can sustain full time ministry or need to look at other options. We are not only needing to do strategic planning, but we also need to be implementing our action plan. It takes us all.

As a first step, we are asking all our members and friends to sign 3 separate documents to affirm and own that these statements are what each individual agrees with, affirms, or is committed to regarding what it means to be Cedar Falls United Church of Christ. The three separate documents are our Statement of Values, Our Vision statement and its meaning, and our Mission statement. A smaller strategic planning group needs to know if we all are on the same page. From there we will launch more specific plans and goals.

In order to move forward together we will be as clear and transparent as we can. We are in this together. It is my hope we can have a small group do some initial planning and time frame for their implementation. This we would bring to the congregation and hopefully have enough congregational buy in to achieve those goals. We are disciples of Christ seeking to live out our faith in clear ways in this community that invites others into our community of faith.

God bless you! God is awesome! God loves you!

In Christ we serve,
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



United Fellowship

United Fellowship will be meeting April 4th leaving the church at 11:30 a.m. and will be getting our food at the new restaurant Raising Cane – corner of Hwy. 58 and Viking Road in Cedar Falls. (Menu items are chicken.)

Building and Grounds

All Hands on Deck

Building and Grounds needs your help with spring cleaning. There are a lot of leaves, branches, window washing, and other items that need to be done. The days will be April 13th and 20th from 9 a.m. to Noon, weather pending. Bring rakes, bush trimmers, gloves, etc. If you have any questions, talk to Colleen.

We had our furnace quit again. This time it was the capacitor that went bad. It has been fixed.

The last few months we have had a lot of building expenses.

Expenses

Major expenses were occurred and had to be paid in March some anticipated and some not – the boiler pump ... amount for snow

removal ... added a financial burden to our church budget. If there is anything extra you can help us out with, please consider it. Thanks.

Cedar Falls UCC Foster Children's Closet (Kaden's Kloset)

Kaden's Kloset will be open on Wednesdays 2 – 5 p.m. and on the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. We will want volunteers to work our Saturdays. Thanks.

Theological Forums

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays

4.3.19 – Anxiety (tools to cope)

4.10.19 – Fear (tools to cope)

4.17.19 – No meeting (Holy Week)

4.24.19 – New Life – what gives us new life?

Workshops

Apr. 13 The Easter Story

We will explore the story of Jesus' last week. What do the four gospels say? How do they differ? What does it mean to say Jesus died for us? How do we understand resurrection? We will also share some of the abundant music, poetry and art that this story has inspired.

Community Events

Seder Story program explains the Jewish holiday, Passover. The Seder plate holds symbolic foods which tell the story of the Israelites' bondage in ancient Egypt and how the Prophet Moses, guided by Hashem (the Almighty), took the Jewish people from slavery to freedom. Learn the Seder Story, which explains the beautiful holiday of Passover, at Sons of Jacob Synagogue, 411 E. Mitchell Ave., Waterloo, IA on Sunday, April 7th, 4-6pm.

Rabbi Rebecca Kushner will explain the Seder plate and Passover while participants sample symbolic foods. There are several enjoyable activities for visiting children: a Passover coloring book designed just for this event, singing, and the opportunity to act in an impromptu play, The Ten Plagues. The play will be cast and directed by Samantha Mensinger, a museum educator who has a strong, community theater background. Light refreshments including coconut macaroons, a traditional Passover sweet, will be served.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday – Worship 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – 18th- 6 p.m. Seder meal at the church and service

Ecumenical Good Friday Service

Procession of the Cross is our ecumenical service for Good Friday. We meet at noon across from City Hall Cedar Falls.

Easter – 10:15 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. - Easter egg hunt for children

Women of Faith

An Interfaith Gathering of Women met here at UCC on March 26th.

40 or so women enjoyed a vegetarian potluck and program led by Rev. Janice Springer on her new book, I Know All are Welcome at the Table, but Do I have to Sit Next to You?



Our next meeting begins at 6 p.m. with a vegetarian potluck and visiting with each other will be held on April 30rd at First Presbyterian Church downtown Cedar Falls.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Cedar Falls United Church of Christ on **4/22/2019**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which

can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit

<http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle> or text the word circle to 797979

First Christian Church has a food pantry 4 -6 p.m. on Thursdays. If you are able to donate food directly to them, then please do so. If you know someone who needs this resource please let people know.

St Patrick has a food pantry that is open Monday's from 9 a.m. to Noon and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please contact Jackie, our community outreach coordinator for assistance at 319-266-3523. No food boxes will be given out without prior authorization.

First United Methodist Church hosts the Community Meal every Tuesday.

St. Timothy's United Methodist Church helps with Food on the 3rd Friday, 1-4 p.m. by appointment.

The Mennonites give out Hy-Vee Gift cards at the beginning of the month, 1st come 1st served.

Upcoming Dates to Save

April 3rd – Anxiety (helpful tools to deal with anxiety)

April 10th – Fear (helpful tools to cope with fear)

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May 18 **A Respectful Introduction to**

Islam We will learn some basics about our cousins in the faith , explore their scripture a bit, see how they understand Jesus, and talk with a Muslim in our community.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation
“Listening to God with open minds.
Welcoming all with open arms.”
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