

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ June 21, 2016.

Pet Blessing June 26th

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

We wished Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father type people in our lives. We gave God thanks for different characteristics or qualities our fathers have given us. What quality are you thankful for in your father or someone who was a father type figure in your life?

This Sunday we will have an outdoor service and will be blessing pets. If you have a pet that wouldn't enjoy this experience, bring a picture and we will bless them in absentia. We will give God thanks for how pets can be a blessing to our lives. Hope to see you there and meet your pets. Marilyn Melick will be moving to Arkansas to live near one of her sons and his family. We will bless her and send her off that day too.

Summer is a busy time. Lots of traveling and for some getting to spend some time with family. Please hold people in prayer that are traveling and those who struggle with the heat and humidity.

Our prayers continue for family members and friends of the 49 victims in Orlando and the additional wounded as they heal from their injuries. In the midst of the violence in our society, we long for people to not add to the hatred, the blaming, the anger that is generated from such horrible acts. "Will listen With love" was launched in response to the devastating killings in Orlando. It is a national support network comprised of pastors, therapists, or trained listeners. I may not be needed but I have signed up to be a listener.

We have opened our church doors to a support group for families who struggle with caring for

mentally ill family members. We will be meeting Thursday evenings. Please hold us in prayer.

There is a sign up sheet for 2 Friday nights in July, the 15th or 29th to go to a baseball game together. We can plan on sharing an evening of baseball and fireworks!

Peace Camp in July. I will be leading 4 different days and 4 different day camps in July with a Peace theme for each of them. Each child may register for all the days or pick and choose which day fits for your schedule. ONLY 10 children will be able to attend on any one day. The first day of Peace Camp is July 19th from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with lunch and snacks provided. The second day is July 21st, third day is July 25th and the fourth day is July 27th. If you have any interest in helping me on any of these days, please let me know and I will sign you up. I will be sending out a letter specifically with what I will may need help wise and supply wise for those days.

I won't be in the office the week of the 27th. I will be available by my cell phone 319-265-7884. Please feel free to call me if you need me.

Greg is having surgery, Wed. June 22nd please pray that he heals completely and that his recovery goes smoothly. We lift up Marlys and Bart McAninch, Marjorie Shaffer, Eleanor Crownfield, Cleo Cross, and Dale and Janeen Danielsen and Marge McKinley. Anytime someone pops into your thoughts please pray for them. So we pray that God's love may be felt and God's light shine in and around them. God knows what they need and perhaps what we need better than any of us.

There are many things that happen in the background of every day life of the church. Today I had a visitor from Arizona who used to be from a small town near by. She is back in Iowa visiting family and wanted to talk with a pastor “who would not judge her family.” It seems her grandchild was recently kicked out of their family’s Baptist church and is now being shunned by them. Her grandchild is in transition and this gender change has brought rejection and judgment and this grandmother wanted to find a church who would not judge. I said they would find acceptance here. These kinds of experiences are sadly not unique. Thanks be to God for Cedar Falls UCC and others who live and breathe the Gospel of Jesus and are loving and don’t judge.

Lacy Oudekerk gave her dad a gift of dance for Father’s Day. She is learning to worship God through movement. As she continues to learn and grow, please encourage her.

I am starting a confirmation class. If we have 12 year old and older students who want to be a part of this class, please let me know. Lexi Oudekerk and I will begin classes in July but will add anyone else who is interested.

We were contacted by NE Iowa Food Bank who is asking for personal hygiene items to be given out. We will be a drop off location starting in July. If you have food items for the food bank or personal hygiene items please drop them off at church.

We are making a difference where we can and how we can. You can make the church stronger. Invite and bring friends to worship. Let us know how we can reach into the community. God bless you! God is awesome! God loves you!

In Christ we serve,
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

“Strengthen the Church” offering was taken. We raised \$80. I stated that this offering used to be “Blanket and Tools” special offering and I have sense been corrected. (Thank you for correcting me.) Strengthen the Church special offering came out of the God is Still Speaking program. It is to help begin new churches and gives grants to churches that could be revitalized. Church World Service sponsored the Blanket and Tools Sunday. I apologize. Church World Service still has a programs: C W Tools and another C W blankets. You can check out their web page: www.cwsglobal.org Thank you for the correction. And thank you to those of you who have participated in giving to “Strengthen the Church.”

INTERESTED IN LEARNING LITTLE (YET BIG IN IMPACT) WAYS TO HELP US OUT – Bill and Colleen Kelly will teach us to turn on the heat and air conditioning for the church. They would love to have new people who will learn how to turn on and even run the sound system. Please let them know if you would be willing to learn these tasks! The church thanks them both for their faithfulness and understands their desire to be able to travel together without leaving the church hanging without air or heat. ☺

Other Opportunities to Serve!

Our church is in need of some awesome people to come forward and serve coffee and cookies. If you’re the type of person that likes to bake but not to do the fellowship or vice versa we can find people to do one or the other. Please call the office and let Lesley know what week you can show your hospitality! Call no later than Thursday morning to let us know, 266-9686.

For Council we still need a Vice President. We also are looking for a Financial Secretary. For committees the Worship Committee is looking for someone. The Children’s Education committee is looking for one more person.

If you have any questions or need to discuss the positions mentioned above, please contact the church secretary, Lesley 266-9686 or Colleen Kelly 319-290-2131.

Donations Welcomed for our Church

Organ

The organ has been tuned. When they sent us the bill they noted that many pipes were falling over under their own weight. The organ has an estimated value of almost \$500,000. The estimate to fix everything is almost \$14,000. Some of these repairs are essential and need to be completed as soon as possible. If you can find it in your heart to give any amount of money toward these repairs, it would be greatly appreciated. Please write a check to the church and put in the memo line: organ repair. A special account is being set up just for this purpose. Council knows this is a lot. Please do what you can. Thank you.

Phone Number Change

Mary Henry's phone number was wrong in the new directory. It ends in 2160, not 2166. Thank you.

Pilgrim Heights

Pilgrim Heights information and registration forms are located in the church office and on the kiosk in the main entry way. There are sessions for all ages. More information to come in the next VOICE.

Calendar

6/23 THUR	6:30PM Support Group
+6/26 SUN	9:15AM Choir Rehearsal 10:15AM Outdoor Worship/Pet Blessings
6/30 THUR	6:30PM Support Group
+7/3 SUN	9:15AM Choir Rehearsal 10:15AM Worship
7/4 MON	9:00AM VOICE Deadline

Upcoming Events

7/15/16 FRI	7:00PM Baseball Game
7/19/16 TUE	9:00AM-3:00PM Peace Camp
7/21/16 THUR	9:00AM-3:00PM Peace Camp
7/25/16 MON	9:00AM-3:00PM Peace Camp
7/27/16 WED	9:00AM-3:00PM Peace Camp
7/29/16 FRI	7:00PM Baseball Game

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(319) 266-9686
9204 University Avenue
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
New Website: www.cedarfallsucc.org
Open and Affirming
"Listening to God with open minds.
Welcoming all with open arms."
NEW CHURCH email address:
cedarfallsucc@gmail.com

