

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ August 2, 2016.

“To Boldly Go Where No One Has Gone Before” ...

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Many of you know that I am a Star Trek fan. This in essence was the opening line to each episode. This saying suggests that we not be afraid of the future but be willing to go forward to explore the possibilities. **On September 18th we will have a Fireside Chat after worship to talk about what direction we need to head in for our ministry together.** A goal of keeping our doors open is understandable but will not sustain us. What ministry can be vital for the life of this community? What difference can we make in the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area that isn't being done by another church?

This summer I offered Peace Camp. I had some success with it in Jackson MI and wanted to offer it here to see how it would work in this community. Though we ended up having 11 registered only 5 different children actually came and participated. I think the idea of Peace Camp is important and necessary in this day and age. I also think that the program can grow when it is regular and the community learns to trust what is being taught and the difference it can make to the children involved. As a follow up from

this summer, I am going to do a quarterly peace day camp on a Saturday throughout the school year. Our focus on each of those Saturday's will be on a specific skill that brings peace. “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matt. 5:9)

A special note of thanks to: Aloha and Lexi Oudekerk, Colleen and Melissa Kelly, Isaac (a new person from Texas that has been coming to church), Veronique Conrad, Cynthia Youde, and my grandson Joshua Shannon for helping me with peace camp. Also thank you to Sheltered Reality (youth drum group) for working with our youth on the first day of camp.

On July 29th we had another Waterloo Bucks baseball game outing. It was fun even though we lost to the other team. The fireworks were nice also.

Check out our new web site: cedarfallsucc.org I have already posted some peace camp pictures.

We are collecting personal hygiene items for the NE Iowa food bank until mid August. Here are the items most needed: toilet paper,

soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, tissue, laundry items.

Ministry to those who have mental illness and their families continues to be a great need in this community. We opened our church doors to a support group for families who struggle with caring for mentally ill family members, but haven't had the attendance. We will be meeting the first two Thursday evenings of August and then changing to once a month. Please hold us in prayer.

The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa organization is meeting here August 16th. I will be planning on participating in the local Interfaith Alliance group this fall as well. I also hope be involved with the local ministerial association when they resume meeting.

We are looking into what it will take for our church to house "Kaden's Kloset". There was an article in the Courier on June 29th about the founder of this ministry. Your feedback and interest in this ministry was helpful in making the decision to go forward. Thank you for sharing your thoughts on this new ministry. When we know more, we will pass it on. We are getting details now.

On August 27th our church will be sponsoring a table at the Pride Festival. Though the festival begins at noon and goes until midnight, we will set up at 11 a.m. and have our booth open from noon until 5 p.m., if you can give some of your time on that day to sit at our booth, give temporary tattoos or hand out water, please contact me or Georgia Henry. Thanks.

We continue 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.

I have started a confirmation class. Lexi Oudekerk is our only student at the moment. Please keep her in your prayers as we explore our journey of faith. This spiritual process is an opportunity for the congregation to renew ourselves and our faith journey.

I will be on vacation and gone from the pulpit on September 4th. Karen Newcomb will be sharing a message with the church that Sunday. Thank you Karen.

We are hosting this fall the NE Iowa Association meeting on October 9th. That is also our next Gospel Brunch and CROP Walk. A full and meaningful day so please mark your calendar's now. ☺

On a personal note, July was a difficult month of personal loss. While in Montana with Janice, our dog Luka was injured and a few days later died. Our cat Winston was 16 years old and we knew he was dying, and he did die on July 30th. I appreciate so much your understanding my sadness and tears. Our pets are part of our families. My heart is still sad. Thank you for caring.

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!



Pastoral Relations Committee has been formed: Chris Mertz, Carol Smith, and Gary Hesse. We will meet at least once every quarter and more if needed. Our first meeting, August 1st was to get organized and lay out our responsibilities. We will report in the voice when we meet and generally what was discussed. Because some of what is shared is confidential, these things won't be shared, however we will not hold secrets. Secrets tend to harm churches and trust. The more open we can be in conversation the healthier we will be.

Sunday School Kick off Sunday will be September 11th. So our regular Sunday schedule will resume: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Choir practice and 10:15 a.m. Worship and at 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time

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. Thank you.

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. Council voted in July's meeting to transfer funds from the Fullbright, Porter, and Harold and Rosa Kienzle Memorial Funds to the Organ Repair account.

NAMI Class

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free 12-week class for family members who have relatives with mental illness. It includes current research about mental illness; information about medications, effective treatments to promote recovery, problem solving and communication techniques, coping with worry and stress, and emotional overload. The class will run every Thursday from 6:00PM-8:30PM starting September 1st and ending November 17th. It will be held at the First Congregational Church in Waterloo at 608 W. 4th St. Call the NAMI office at 319-235-5263 if you have any questions or want to register for

the class. **The deadline for registering is Wednesday, August 17th.**

Stone Soul Picnic

The annual Stone Soul Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 11th at Gateway Park in Cedar Falls from 1:00PM-5:00PM. This picnic helps to raise money for the North East Iowa Food Bank. Monetary and canned food donations accepted.

Crop Walk

The recruiter rally for the Crop Walk this year will take place on August 21, 2016 at 4:00PM at the First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls. October 9, 2016 registration is at 1:30PM and the walk starts at 2:00PM. If you are interested, please contact the church secretary from 8:00AM-12:00PM, Monday, Tuesday, or Thursdays.

Release and Remember

You are invited to join the staff, volunteers, families and friends of Cedar Valley Hospice for this memorable event. Sunday, August 28, 2016 from 1:00-3:00PM at the Waterloo Riverloop Amphitheatre, 225 Commercial St. The afternoon will include a picnic lunch, activities, musical entertainment by the Cedar Valley Big Band, a short program and the release of 1,000 butterflies near the bank of the Cedar River. We encourage you to take part in this unique expression of love by supporting and dedicating one or a number of butterflies as a celebration of someone special. To do so, please contact the Cedar Valley Hospice at (319) 272-2002 or 1-800-617-1972 or visit their website at www.cvhospice.org. **Names need to be given by August 15, 2016.** T-shirts commemorating this event will be available for sale for \$10 at the Waterloo office and at the event. (Cedar Valley Hospice, P.O. Box 2880, Waterloo, IA 50704). For each memorial or honorary gift of \$25 one butterfly will be released at the event, one keepsake certificate will be included with your acknowledgement for you to personalize and keep. You may include one name to be celebrated. Tribute name will be displayed at the event.

Calendar

8/4/16 THUR	6:30PM Support Group
+8/7/16 SUN	9:15AM Choir Rehearsal 10:15AM Worship
8/11/16 THUR	6:30PM Support Group
+8/14/16 SUN	10:15AM Worship
8/15/16 MON	9:00AM VOICE Deadline
+8/21/16 SUN	9:15AM Choir Rehearsal 10:15AM Worship (Backpack Blessings) 4:00 PM Crop Walk Recruiter Rally

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

