

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ August 15, 2016.

“New Ministry being launched” ...

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Council approved our launching a clothes closet for foster children. Though we don't have all the official details of how to give out the items, we will start taking donations. We would appreciate items for all children and teenagers. Thanks.

Sunday we are celebrating the children going back to school with a blessing of the backpacks and a **potluck** following worship. Bring a backpack ... we will also do some reflecting of what we want to carry around. For our children it is items needed for school, but what (at this point in your life) do you want to carry around?

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. I am working on a new church brochure and some flyers we can hand out.

August 30th, the 5th Tuesday our church is helping with the community meals. If you can help, please let Larry Buchholz know.

On August 31st we will hand out additional items at UNI called the Rainbow reception. I will be on vacation but if you can help with this let us know at the office.

The support group for families with a child diagnosed with mental illness now only meets once a month. We will be providing this support group 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is September 8th and then October 13th.

On September 11th we will resume Sunday School for our children's education. Class begins at 9:30 a.m. Becoming peacemakers is our theme.

Many of you know that I am a Star Trek fan: “To boldly go where no one has gone before...” 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?

On September 25th we will have a bike blessing and bike ride. Plan on a picnic style lunch.

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matt. 5:9)
Our next peace camp is November 12th.

Check out our new web site: cedarfallsucc.org I have been adding pictures or information each week.

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.

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!



United Fellowship

All are invited to the first fall adventure of United Fellowship on Sunday Sept. 11. Pack a sack lunch and bring it with you and after church, we will go to a park with a scenic outlook on our way to Iowa Falls. In Iowa Falls we will board the Scenic City Empress, a double deck river boat with the lower level enclosed and the upper deck open. We board the boat at 2 pm and the ride is about 1 1/2 hour long. (cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.)

After our scenic ride we will go to the Princess Café for treats before heading back home to the church. PS :Iowa Falls is my hometown and I have taken and enjoyed this trip many times so if you have questions, see me. Our October date is Thursday Oct. 6 with the destination of Balltown for lunch. Barb Kuhlman

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 next meeting, will be on November 7th.

Sunday School Kick off Sunday will be September 11th. So our regular Sunday schedule will resume:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Choir practice
10:15 a.m. Worship and following worship or at 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time.

Adult Education Opportunities

October 1 – 9:30-3:30 p.m. Reframing Illness and Wellness: Seeking a Broader Perspective led by Rev. Janice Springer
November 5 – 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. I Know We're All Welcome at the Table, but Do I Have to Sit Next to You? Led by Rev Janice Springer

Date and Time yet to be determined: We will have a "Bible Retreat" – "How to Read the Bible" & "Why are there no more prophets? Or are there?" and "What exactly is the Bible?" and much more

We will have Forums to deal with:
Christian perspectives on homosexuality
Heaven
War – is it inherently un-Christian
Atonement – What is it?
Other Theological issues

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.

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 Rosie Kienzle Memorial Funds to the Organ Repair account.

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.

Calendar

+8/21/16 SUN 9:15AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:15AM Worship
 (Backpack Blessings)
 4:00 PM Crop Walk Recruiter Rally

8/22/16 MON 6:30PM Council

8/27/16 SAT 11:00AM-5:00PM Pride Fest

+8/28/16 SUN 9:30AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:15AM Worship
 1:00PM-3:00PM Butterfly Release
 (Riverloop Amphitheatre)

8/29/16 MON 9:00AM VOICE Deadline

8/30/16 TUE 4:00PM Community Meals

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

