

# The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ October 11, 2016.

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## Extravagant Welcome

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

What would it take for you to feel welcomed? What do you do to welcome others? Sometimes we get so caught up in our own lives and busyness we don't welcome the "new" into our lives. What are some ways you can open your life to extravagant welcome?

Thank you Celeste and Greg and Cedar Falls UCC Choir for blessing us Sunday at the Gospel Brunch. Thank you to all who brought and shared food. It was terrific!

A huge thank you to all those who supported the CROP walk this year. Thanks Ken for organizing it. It benefitted the NE Iowa Food Bank.

We hosted the NE Iowa Association last Sunday. We extended extravagant hospitality. A special thank you to Eileen and Colleen and Larry for helping make the day go well. We extend a special note of thanks to Rev. Janice Springer for leading us in worship at this event.

**Cedar Falls UCC Foster Children's Closet** (Kadens Kloset) has been successfully launched. Thank you for your support. We have been receiving donations and already had families utilize our closet. We are still developing the closet. We will be specializing in helping the young adults who are "aging out" of foster care.

We are living our vision. Our vision is about creating a safe place where all who come into our midst are accepted, welcomed, and brought into our community with love. Our love is extended to these foster families.

We already have stepped into our vision when we gather for worship on Sundays and welcome not only one another, but the stranger in our midst. Join us on November 5<sup>th</sup> for a workshop, "I know we're all welcome at the table, but do I have to sit next to you?" We need to have at least 8 people registered or we'll be cancelling the workshop. Sign up now.

We step into our vision when we encourage one another, pray for one another, and avoid gossiping. Edward Everett Hale said, "I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." I have seen you provide a place of refuge for each other in spite of the hurts of the past. You have stepped into our vision. What can you do to step into our vision? George Barna in the Power of Vision writes, "You might define vision as foresight with insight based on hindsight." I really like that. So, with all the insight you can muster from all the hindsight you can use, what foresight do you have for this Church?

There are those who pray for us and believe in our vision and our mission. We can make a difference in this community. We can be the church who extravagantly welcomes and creates safe place

for all ages to gather together in God's love and peace. Where do you see yourself fitting in? How can you extend yourself in this faith community strengthening the church to make a difference here and now?

Our vision statement: The Cedar Falls UCC will be a sanctuary for persons that need a safe place to worship. In figuring out what that means I found the following in a brochure. So I invite all to step into the vision and live our vision.

If you are searching for God and not sure what you believe, you will be safe here.

Whether you are a student or a senior citizen, you will be safe here.

If you are struggling with addictions, you will be safe here.

Whether you are married or living together, single, divorced, or widowed, you will be safe here.

If you bring your children, they will be safe here. (All leaders have background checks.)

Whether you are a couple, single parent, or grandparent you will be safe here.

If you are grieving, you will be safe here.

Whether you are gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgendered or heterosexual you will be safe here.

If you have been abused by someone, or even by a church, you will be safe here.

Whether you are democrat, republican, libertarian, or independent, you will be safe here.

If you are hurting, lonely or scared, you will be safe here.

Whether you are from Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, Australia or Antarctica; you will be safe here.

If you are a sinner like us, you will be safe here.

We currently do not have any Sunday School Teachers. Any ideas? Do you know anyone that might like to teach Sunday School? We pay \$25 a Sunday for Sunday School and time during church.

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 October 13th.

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." (Matt. 5:9) Our next peace camp is November 12th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. We will be focusing on affirming one another. If you can help us out on this day, let me know.

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!**



## **Theological Forums**

6:30PM - 8:00PM

October 12 – God Questions

October 19 – Jesus Questions

October 26 – Atonement – What is it?

November 2 – Views of Heaven and Hell

November 9 – Views of Peace and War

November 16 – Understanding the Holy Spirit

## **Donations Welcomed for our Church Organ**

We are still receiving donations to help repair the organ. Thank you to all the people who have given us help.

## 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.

## Present From Pastor Clark

Our former Interim Pastor, Clark Kilgard gave our church a special gift. It's a book of poetry by James Hearst, called The Complete Poetry of James Hearst. If you would like to read it, the book will be in the library.

**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.

## Aging Out Items Needed

For our Foster Children's Closet we will be focusing on "Aging Out" boxes. These will be items for children aging out of the foster care system. These items include: luggage, toiletry items (shampoo, soaps, hand soaps, toilet paper), pillows and sheets, towels, hand towels and dishwashing towels, dish soap, dishes including drinking cups, Tupperware, hand mixers, toasters, can openers, silverware, pots and pans, hangers, alarm clocks, shower curtains with hooks, bathmats, bedding, welcome mats. If you have any of these items you could donate, all donations will be accepted. Please make sure they are gently used or new. All help and donations are welcome! Thank you!

## Calendar

- 10/13/16 6:30PM Support Group for persons who have mental illness in family
- +10/16/16 SUN 9:30AM Choir Rehearsal  
9:30AM Sunday School  
10:15AM Worship
- 10/17/16 MON 5:30PM Worship Board  
6:30PM Mem. And Endowments
- 10/19/16 WED 6:30-8:00PM Theological Forum
- 10/20/16 THUR 9:30AM Morning Circle
- +10/23/16 SUN 9:30AM Choir Rehearsal  
9:30AM Sunday School  
10:15AM Worship
- 10/24/16 MON 9:00AM VOICE Deadline  
6:30PM Council
- 10/26/16 WED 6:30-8:00PM Theological Forum

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/5/16 SAT 9:30 – 3:30 I Know We're all welcome at the table but do I need to sit next to you?
- 11/12/16 SAT Peace Camp 10AM – 2PM
- 11/13/16 SUN Pastor Sue's Installation 3PM
- 11/29/16 TUES 4PM Community Meals @UMC

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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9204 University Avenue  
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New Website: [www.cedarfallsucc.org](http://www.cedarfallsucc.org)  
Open and Affirming  
"Listening to God with open minds.  
Welcoming all with open arms."  
NEW CHURCH email address:  
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