

# The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ November 8, 2016.

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## Installation November 20<sup>th</sup>

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

The Cedar Valley Interfaith Council invites people of all faiths to "A Season of Prayer for Our Leaders" at an Interfaith Prayer Service on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at the YWCA of Black Hawk County 425 Lafayette St. Waterloo Iowa. Refreshments will follow the service.

November 20<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. we will celebrate our ministry together. The Rev. Janice Springer will be preaching. Many of you have said you will be gone and miss the service, but whether here or away, we are all in this together so we can celebrate God's presence in this shared ministry. Following the installation will be a potluck meal. We are providing the food for our guests out of town and from other churches in our area. A Council member asked me to let you know that there will be a sign up sheet after worship on Sunday to let us know what you can bring that day.

Currently I am involved with a Church Social Media Summit. I am learning a lot. If you are on Facebook, please like our church page. It would really be nice if you would also like and comment on the different posts, and if you are willing and find a particular post meaningful, please share it. It is an inexpensive way of getting the word out on what is happening here at church. According to the experts, it is more effective than any other marketing tool if used correctly. If you are already on social media this is a big way you can

help the church out. If you need help learning how to share, let me know and I can show you. Thanks for helping us out in this way!

If you are willing to donate some time in the office, let me know. Being able to talk to a person rather than a machine is more welcoming. We have some tasks besides answering the phone for those who are able and there are always little extras that can be done. Thanks. Thanks to Carol for her help in getting the Voice mailed and sending invitations out to the local churches for the installation.

We have a church wide mailing to go out next week. Would you be willing to help with that? Give the office a call, 266- 9686, and let us know.

In the sanctuary, you may notice that there are now 3 prayer shawls. When you come to worship, please feel free to wrap one around you. We invite you to especially pray for Marlys and Bart. We miss them. They have moved to be near a daughter. We also pray for Shirley Connelly recovering from surgery. Kay has been by her side, so extra prayers for Kay as well. It is important to keep one another in prayer. Please pray for the church. Again continue to pray for all those you know that are in need of healing. It takes all of us inviting to build up this Body of Christ! Others will know we are Christians by our love....

“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!**



## **THANK YOU**

A big thank you to Rev Janice Springer for her workshop, “All are welcome at the table, but do I have to sit next to you?” We had 6 participants. (3 people from church and 3 from out of town.)

## **Theological Forums**

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

November 9 – Views of Peace and War

November 16 – Understanding the Holy Spirit

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

Our organ has been tuned and some major repair work is needed. We will have more specifics later. In the meantime, we are still receiving donations to help repair the organ. Thank you to all the people who have given us help.

## **President’s Message**

The focus of my message in the Voice is the stewardship ministry for the upcoming year. The goal of any stewardship ministry is to give members the opportunity to make a financial commitment to the work of the congregation. Making a financial commitment is essential to church membership and growing in giving is part of our faith journey.

Please give thoughtful consideration to your pledge for 2017. This past year we have leaned heavily on our endowment fund to sustain the budget. That will continue, however, we can have a positive impact on that with our pledges. Following is the stewardship schedule for this year:

Planning Calendar – 2017 Budget

October – Assemble preliminary budget

November 13 – Pledge cards available on Sunday

Week of November 13<sup>th</sup> – Remaining pledge cards in the mail

December 11<sup>th</sup> – Pledge cards returned to the Church Council

Early January – Council prepares tentative final budget

January 8 – Tentative final budget available for review and comment

Late January – Congregation’s Annual Meeting – Final Budget approved

In the past year we have maintained many of the church activities from the past and have been able to begin new ones. We continue for example United Fellowship, Morning Circle, serving and participating in the ministry of the community meal on the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. We are also doing some nice things to create more exposure for the Cedar Falls UCC. We have a new Web site and are increasing our presence on Facebook.

Pastor Sue has been facilitating Theological Forums on Wednesday evenings. Pastor Janice is providing a variety of workshops. Last Saturday was: All are Welcome at the Table, but Do I have to sit next to you? There is a workshop scheduled for January and another one in February. We launched a clothes closet ministry for foster children. A goal is for us to continue to increase our exposure throughout the community in 2017.

We will be available to review and discuss the anticipated budget after church on Sundays.

### **Support Group for Families**

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 November 10.

### **Other Opportunities to Serve!**

We are dividing the responsibilities up again on Sunday morning. The team idea was a good one, but we seem to be having problems getting enough teams. So if you are willing to be a greeter in 2017 please sign up. If you are willing to be ushers, please sign up. If you are willing to be hosts for fellowship time following church, let us know. Just call the office: 266-9686. Thank you. We appreciate your help.

**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 were asked to give a \$200 donation to cover

start up expenses. Council has covered that expense but if you feel so moved to help with that please do so. It is a way to connect to this new ministry. 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.

### **United Fellowship**

Any one interested in joining us for our next event, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, meet us at the church to ride together to "Wild Carrot" in Waverly at 11:15 a.m. or meet us there.

### **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!

### **Our Church Vision**

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.

## Calendar

11/9/16 WED 6:30 p.m. Theological Forum  
War and Peace – Is War ever justified?

11/10/16 THURS. 6:30 p.m. Support Group

11/12/16 SAT Peace Camp 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

11/13/16 SUN A Season of Prayer for Our Leaders  
Interfaith Prayer Service 3 p.m. at YWCA of Black Hawk County

11/16/16 WED 6:30 p.m. Theological Forum – Holy Spirit questions, thoughts

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**11/12/16 SAT Peace Camp 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**11/20/16 3 p.m. Pastor Sue's installation  
Potluck following**

**11/21/16 Voice Deadline**

**11/29/16 TUES 4 p.m. Serving the  
Community Meal @UMC**

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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