

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ December 20, 2016.

Merry Christmas!

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Merry Christmas! We are having Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. If you want me to take family pictures by the tree afterwards, let me know and I would be glad to take them and pass it on.

This holy season of celebrating God's action through a baby named Jesus is both joyful and for some a difficult time. Sunday (the 18th) due to extreme cold, we had to cancel church and our Christmas party. Not everyone got the word about both church and the Christmas party at our house. I am very sorry. Normally it would have been ok, we would have been home, but around 11 a.m. Janice took me to the emergency room. I was having sciatic pain. 3 hours and 3 shots later, I was being discharged. The rest of the day was pain free. It was such a relief. It reminded me though that for some people this holiday season has moments of great joy and times of pain.

As you share time with your family, your friends, or have moments to your self, please keep all those who are in pain in your prayers. Especially remember those whose pain you may not see: those suffering from depression, loss of a loved one, or anxiety. Celebrate Christ's birth with smiles and acts of kindnesses and acts of love.

My birthday was the 19th of Dec. Thank you to all who wished me a Happy Birthday. Birthdays are special in our family. I am indeed blessed. Most

of the day I was pain free, and spent it quietly. I got a new game for my birthday that I got to play. Nice day! Have you ever played Ticket to Ride? I enjoy it. What is your favorite board game? Have you played recently?

Our Cedar Falls UCC Clothes Closet (Kaden's Kloset) is going well. As I am writing this, we had someone stop by with a donation. We have someone else coming tomorrow with another donation. We do have a request for women's size 11 boots. If anyone has some and can bring them in we will give the family a call and let them know they are in. We also need a high chair.

The word is getting out, but to help things along, we will have an open house for our Closet on January 21st to give foster parents an opportunity to shop, bring items they don't need anymore and share with each other. If you can make goodies to share, be present at the church to welcome people, let Colleen or Pastor Sue know and we will schedule you a time. We want to be open from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. OK I know a couple of you told me you could do this, but I failed to get it written down so please sign up at church on the sign up sheets. We'll have them out the first of the year. Sorry and Thanks!

Morning Circle did an outstanding job of putting together Christmas care packages. I was privileged to help deliver them. Barb Kuhlman organized and drove to most of our drop offs. It really is a gift to be with our folk giving cheer!

President's Message

Thank you so much for my Christmas gift. A box full of goodies including: An Idiot's Guide for German Shepherds, a Prayer Journal, and many goodies, thank you so much. Very thoughtful.

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!



Sad News

Evelyn Fullbright passed away Sunday December 18, 2016. She was a lifetime member of the church and her obituary will be in the paper December 25th. More information www.DahlFuneralHome.com

Prayers for her daughters Carmen and Madeleine and son Mark and families.

Theological Forums

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights will resume in January. Our first class will begin January 11, 2017 talking about Baptism. We are going to explore the topic of Racism on the 18th and on the 25th talk about whether Jesus was white and if that matters to us as Christians.

Thank you to all of you who have pledged or responded to the pledge request. In early January, we will be trying to finalize a budget. We have set the date for Annual Reports for the 11th of January. The Annual meeting will be January 22nd.

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 Our love is extended to foster families. Open House January 21st, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

WORKSHOP

January 7th - More Grace: The Art of Letting Go workshop: Life is a continual process of letting go: letting go of loved ones, of dreams, of youth and ultimately of life itself: letting go of fears, expectations, of control, of our ideas about God. How do we live with grace in the letting go times? How can we understand letting go as a spiritual practice?

Sign up Now. You can download the full description from our web page.

Thank You Note

Many thanks to the "UCC Family" for a package of special items that included candy, sweets, assorted fruits, a Christmas decoration of measuring spoons with painted snowman faces, and some "Fully Rely on God" soap. All this was packed in a delightfully decorated box (which may have held shoes in another life) delivered to my apartment (#1) at Windridge by two attractive ladies (Barb and Pastor Sue). The gift was much appreciated and enjoyed on arrival December 15.

Merry Christmas!!!
Dick (Douglas)

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 22nd – Clergy Cluster meeting

We are having a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. Christmas Day we won't be having our own service, but inviting our families to join others in worship.

We will have worship on New Year's Day though!

Saturday January 7th, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. "More Grace: The Art of Letting Go"

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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