

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ January 3, 2017.

Happy New Year!

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

January 1, 2017 and every new year provides a cultural reminder that new beginnings are actually possible and will be happening whether we are prepared or not. I used to do 2 things every January first: I updated my will and I made at least 2 resolutions of what I wanted to do in that year and at least 2 resolutions of what I didn't want to do. It has been a few years since I stopped this tradition. I still haven't unpacked my journal with these things recorded in it. This year we had worship on January 1st. Celebrating God in our midst together is a great way to bring in the new year.

At the end of our worship service I announced that I would like to have "good news" be announced before closing our time together for that week. Let's make 2017 the year of good news. Our culture seems to focus on that which is wrong with the world, division, and so much negativity. We as a church will say "no" to participating in that focus. We will invite every week someone to share a "good news" story they have read, experienced, or heard about.

There are many worthwhile resolutions we could make in 2017. Here are some possibilities: *to say yes more often to God; *to stop worrying about what hasn't happened; *to laugh at least twice a day; *to do more of the things I like to do; *to do less of the things I don't like; *to ask forgiveness for my sins, but never for my being;

*to stop fantasizing about what I'd do if I won the lottery; *to listen to my soul. Well if you choose to make some from this list or have some of your own, blessings on living your resolutions.

Thank you for the delightful Christmas package. Janice and I enjoyed the delightful assortment of goodies. The books are great and the goodies almost gone. Thank you.

Our Cedar Falls UCC Clothes Closet (Kaden's Kloset) is going well. We are going to have an open house so the families can shop and share and we can demonstrate our hospitality. There is great potential for a vibrant ministry with this closet. We have sign up sheets to bring goodies and to help host that day. We will be open from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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!

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 of our giving people, thank you.

My dog's name is Dobby. I have been enjoying having a dog again. He is a black German Shepherd. We begin our puppy classes this week. He is doing well, but is very high-spirited.

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 notes

What a magical event! Two angels recently appeared on my door step bearing a gift of good cheer. Special thanks to those two who were named Kuhlman and Weier! – from Linda and Lathon Jernigan

Dear Pastor Sue and UCC Congregation, My family is most grateful for your correspondence with Mom and Dad and willingness to keep them up-to-date with the church newsletter. ... thank you again for allowing us to use the fellowship hall in June of 2015 to celebrate their 90th Birthdays. Blessings to all, Melinda (McAninch) Grimm and Jay, David, and Kurt McAninch

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)

United Fellowship
11:30 a.m. meeting at Whiskey Road in Cedar Falls

Morning Circle
9:30 a.m. – January 19th

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.

Evelyn M. Fullbright, 84, of Cedar Falls, died at her home on Sunday, December 18, 2016. She was born January 16, 1932 in Norridgewock, Maine, the daughter of Benedict Bryon & Maud Alice (Shores) Yeaton. Evelyn married Russell Fullbright November 29, 1953 in Cedar Falls. He preceded her in death June 22, 2004. Evelyn was a secretary at the University of Northern Iowa Men's Athletic Department, a cord board operator at Northwestern Bell and retired from customer service Younkers Department Store. Survivors include her son, Mark (Monica) Fullbright of Edina, Minnesota; her daughter,

Carmen Fullbright of Cedar Falls; her granddaughter, Madeleine Fullbright of Edina, Minnesota; one brother, Richard (Joan) Yeaton of Norridgewock, Maine; one sister, Lucile Koester of Florissant, Missouri and many nieces and nephews.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents, Benedict Bryon Yeaton & Maud Alice (Shores) Yeaton; her husband, Russell Fullbright; two sons, Scott Fullbright and Jay Fullbright; two brothers, Roland Yeaton and Dean Yeaton; her sister, Georgia Greene and a brother-in-law, Andy Koester.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for spring of 2017. In lieu of flowers, share a memory or condolence at www.DahlFuneralHome.com or send to the family at 1603 Franklin Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Dahl-Van Hove-Schoof Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Prayers for her daughters Carmen and Madeleine and son Mark and families. Cards may be sent to Evelyn's home address.

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.

President's Message

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. Our proposed budget will be available January 8th. We have set the date for Annual Reports for the 11th of January. The Annual meeting will be January 22nd. Council will be January 23rd.

ORDINATION OF PATRICIA GEADELMANN

Pat did an internship at the Cedar Falls UCC during 2002 and 2004 under the supervision of Jim Altenbaumer. She is now serving part-time as Minister of Care and Visitation at First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo. She would like to invite us to her ordination. Date: Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church 505 Franklin St. Waterloo, IA.

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.

Tai Chi Class

Veronique Conrad has let me know that anyone interested in taking a Tai Chi class next semester (Jan. 2017), is welcome to join in a beginning class at New Aldaya. For information the best is to e-mail Lindsay Wolff: lwolff@newaldaya.org

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Open House 9 am – 3 pm
January 21st for our Clothes Closet

Cedar Falls United Church of Christ will hold our Annual Meeting on January 22nd.

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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