

# The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ January 31, 2017.

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## Community Meal Tonight

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Our Cedar Falls UCC Clothes Closet (Kaden's Kloset) had an open house Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup>. I give a big thanks to Colleen for coordinating the helpers and getting the closet ready for this event. We both want to thank all our volunteers for their help. The families that came in the morning had a nice opportunity to visit with each other. They all seemed interested in our opening our church up once a quarter or more often so they don't have to call ahead.

A couple of extra special blessings happened at our C.F.U.C.C. Clothes Closet open house. First the UNI student I mentioned in the last voice, Shannon, came at 9 a.m. and stayed until early afternoon. She is delightful. Second was a 10 year old (who had her birthday since the open house so is now 11) shared with us her project. She has a goal to provide a birthday celebration for children in foster care. She calls it birthday blessings. It includes a container about shoe box size with small plates, cups, napkins, balloons, party hats, blowers, candy, small birthday gifts (in a theme). Her 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will be making up more boxes in February. She has (on her own) completed and is now distributing 21 of them. We now can share with foster families, birthday blessings.

Social Media is important to get the word out about our church and this ministry. So please like us on Facebook. We have a Kaden's Kloset Cedar Fall's page and a church page also. Help

us get the word out that this closet is available for any foster families. And get the word out that we are welcome to all at church.

A challenge for all of us in 2017 is to look for the good news. People are working for a better world and we don't seem to be hearing about it in our regular news. We had a couple people share on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January. They shared about the awesomeness of our country's changing leadership non-violently on Friday and then our freedom of speech with the women's march on Saturday that also was millions of people gathering all over the world non-violently. Are you looking for the Good News? Bring it and share it with us on Sundays.

As a church, we are asking difficult questions. We are small and wanting to grow. One of the questions we need to be in agreement about is for what purpose are we a church in this time and in this place. What in the world are we doing here? Who are we today? The prophet Micah says why we are here: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. All three together reflect our relationship with God and our purpose in being. Who we are today will be reflected in how we live this out in our life together.

Peace Camp for 5 year old to 12 year old youth is February 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We will focus on Communication. Children in the community are welcome.

We are making a difference where we can and how we can. You can make the church stronger. Invite and bring friends to worship. God bless you! God is awesome! God loves you!

In Christ we serve,  
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



### **President's Message**

I have a few short things to comment on. As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting this upcoming year is really an important year for us in terms of growth. Many of us have not been good at keeping in touch with past active members that have drifted away. We can all communicate with past friends that are out there. Even if they don't necessarily come back as active members that should be part of our community outreach (and a few may even reactivate).

A follow up item from this Annual Meeting is our church financial report. We utilized a \$76,000 endowment fund transfer last year. The endowment fund total only dropped from \$438,000 to \$414,000. We had a good return on investment for the year which really helped.

We have tentatively scheduled another Fireside Chat for after the service on February 26. We will have a fairly open agenda, but generally I'd like to again discuss opportunities for growth and any other thoughts the congregation may have.

It's always easy to look at the negatives, but look around at our church and church activities and we have a lot of very positive activities and events at our church. We also have a great congregation.

- Larry Buchholz-

### **Annual Meeting News**

Annual Meeting was held January 22, 2017. We had 22 or 23 members present. We got a picture of where we are financially. We added to the agenda election of officers. We are still looking for someone who would be willing to be financial secretary and someone else who would fill the office of Vice-President. If you feel like either of these jobs may be something you would be willing to do, please let us know.

I apologize to Karen Newcomb for forgetting her report. We have made copies and if you already took home your packet of annual reports, copies of her report are available at church. We also decided to publish it here. Here it is:

### **Worship Committee Annual Report – January 2017**

#### **Members of the 2016 Worship Committee:**

- Karen Newcomb
- Shirley Connelly

#### **Worship committee continued to serve in the capacity of helping coordinate a variety of items for worship services:**

- Organized communion servers/teams for the year – thank you to all who served in this capacity
- Ensured a steady supply of bread, wine, and grape juice for communion

- Regularly changed the banner and the color of the paraments in the sanctuary to reflect the current church season
- Discussed ideas with Pastor Sue for thematic worship services revolving around secular holidays (Mother's Day, Father's Day, Halloween, etc.) and religious holidays (Easter, Christmas, and all other seasons of the church), as well as other themes such as gospel brunches, a pet service, blessing of the backpacks, Peace Sunday, and more. There was also a special Memorial Service held the first weekend of June.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Newcomb

### Church Community News

Birth Announcement: Charles Dean Henry (grandson of Georgia and Randy Henry) arrived at 9:37 am January 14, 2017. He weighed 11 lb. 4 oz and was 22 in long. Congratulations! And our love to the parents and grandparents.

### **Obituary for James (Bart) McAninch**

James Barton McAninch, 91 of Cedar Falls died peacefully on January 14, 2017. James ("Bart") was the son of Bertha Elizabeth (Overholser) and Ebon Merritt McAninch. He graduated from Mount Ayr (Iowa) High School and joined the [US Navy](#) in May, 1943. He received an honorable medical discharge, and enrolled at Iowa State University and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in forestry in 1948. On August 8, 1948 he married Marlys Blume. His working career was spent entirely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; specifically with the US Forest Service in Washington and the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa. He retired in 1980.

He was a member of United Church of Christ-Cedar Falls, American Forestry Association, Prairie Rapids Audubon Society, Hartman Reserve Nature Center, and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

He is survived by his wife, Marlys; one daughter, Melinda (Gene) Grimm of Indianola, IA; three sons, Jay (Janet) of Centreville, VA; David (Kristine) of Green Bay, WI; Kurt (Ruth) of Pleasanton, CA; ten grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren; one brother, Carroll Dean (Helen), of Lakewood, CO; several cousins, and nieces/nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Betty Jo, brother-in-law, Donald Barker of Las Vegas, NV and his parents.

Celebrate Life Iowa is in charge of cremation. A memorial service will be held in Cedar Falls at a future date. Condolences and memorials may be sent to M. Grimm, P.O. Box 718, Indianola, IA 50125. Memorials will be directed to either UNI's Botanical Center (the Greenhouse) or Hartman Reserve Nature Center of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board in Bart's name.

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Our prayers continue for Marlys. We sent a card from the church but if you want to let her know you are thinking about her, jot her a note too.

Our prayers continue for Evie Waack and family at the loss of her parents. Their service was held on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. Dale and Evie go to Waterloo UCC but used to belong here.

### **Invitation from Community**

Our church has been invited to sing in a Spring (April 30<sup>th</sup>) concert @ First Presbyterian in Waterloo. If you are interested in singing, let Celeste know. If you are interested in attending, save Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. and join with others at First Presbyterian in Waterloo in enjoying this concert.

## Thank You notes

Thank you to all those who donated food for our open house. Thank you to all those who came and volunteered to be hosts on that day as well. Thank you all for your prayers and support of this ministry. -Colleen Kelly and Pastor Sue

Thank you to Georgia Henry for volunteering to be in the office a couple days a week. She has cleaned, organized, and recycled. Thank you for your help!

### Morning Circle

9:30 a.m. – February 16

They are making new banners. Want to join them and help out, you don't have to commit to come all the time just give them a morning now and again.

### United Fellowship

February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 11:45 a.m. @ Hong Kong Rest. 6306 Univ. Ave. Cedar Falls

### Theological Forums

(6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Wed. nights)

February 1<sup>st</sup> – Dreams is our topic.

February 8<sup>th</sup> – Healing

February 15 – Angels

February 22 – Rituals

What are you interested in talking about? What are the issues you are dealing with? How can your faith help you? Would you like to talk about Pro-Choice/Pro-Life? Would you like to wrestle with the issues of death with dignity? Who chooses? We want to talk about things you are interested in and would be willing to come talk about, so after Easter, we will resume the theological forums.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be no forum but rather a worship service for Ash Wednesday. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be discussing writings that didn't make it into our Protestant Bible, such as the Gospel of Mary, the Gospel of Thomas, and others throughout the season of Lent.

## Social Justice Action Request

We have received several e-mail requests asking for our help to respond to different concerns. I will relay two of the requests from 2 different organizations that we have supported in the past. The first request is from Bread for the World. Here is that letter:

Dear Friend,

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush said "Immigration is not just a link to America's past, it's also a bridge to America's future." In 2017, that bridge is very much in danger.

**Please Call 800-826-3688 and tell your U.S. representative and your U.S. senators to co-sponsor the BRIDGE Act (H.R. 496/S.128).**

The BRIDGE Act would provide temporary relief from deportation to undocumented youth who qualify for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. These individuals were brought to the United States as children, and it is the only home they have ever known. They contribute to our community as valuable employees, veterans and students.

The BRIDGE Act would allow nearly 1 million undocumented young adults to continue to legally work and study in the U.S. while Congress debates legislation to fix our broken immigration system.

People without documentation are among the most vulnerable to poverty and hunger in our country. Scripture calls us to welcome the immigrant. Part of welcoming our brothers and sisters requires advocating for their well-being and dignity.

Please call your U.S. Representative and your U.S. Senators today! Urge your U.S. Representative and your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor the BRIDGE Act (H.R. 496/S.128). Thank you,  
Eric Mitchell

A request from NAMI:

Please call congress now to protect mental health care: Call 202-224-3121, press #2 and enter your zip code. Say something like: "As a constituent, I would like the Representative to protect people with mental illness who can't afford to lose health coverage. Please preserve Medicaid and insurance safeguards that help people get mental health care. Thank you."

If you could also call our Senators with the same message, 202-224-3121, press #1 and enter your zip code, this would be helpful too. Are you affected by health insurance issues and potential changes that may be coming? What about pre-existing conditions? Do you have someone this affects?

Congressional hearings are this week and the discussion of pros and cons about Medicaid and the health insurance marketplaces. Nearly 1 out of 3 people covered by Medicaid expansion live with a mental health or substance use condition. And people with marketplace insurance plans have fair and equal mental health coverage. With this coverage, people have access to mental health services that support recovery. Email and let our members of Congress know how these plans help.

### **Educational Opportunity**

It is really nice to respond with local good news too. "Economic Inequality: How can People of Faith and Good Will Respond?" interfaith workshops exploring economic inequality are being offered on January 29, **March 5**, and April

2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. @ Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists, 3912 Cedar Heights Dr. Cedar Falls, 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.

### **ORDINATION OF PATRICIA GEADELMANN**

Congratulations to Pat Geadelmann. She was ordained on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church 505 Franklin St. Waterloo, IA. For those of you who were around, 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.

### **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](mailto:lwolff@newaldaya.org)

### **WORKSHOP**

**Led by Rev. Janice Springer**

**"Here Be Dragons"** Saturday, February 4, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. When ancient mapmakers drew a map of the known world, they would get to the edge of the page and

the edge of what had so far been discovered, and they would print along the borders of the map *Here Be Dragons*. Beyond this point, they were saying, we have not yet explored and you are on your own, no guarantees. Sounds like life, doesn't it? You're invited to join us for a look at one of the dragons of our lives: fear. Where does it come from? What impact does fear have on the community, on our society? What is the relationship between fear and faith? How do we cope with the awful fears that threaten to paralyze us, that suck the joy from our lives? Sometimes we need to learn how to live without fear. Sometimes we need to learn how to live with fear. Join us as we discover together the tools that can help us.

**Cedar Falls UCC Foster Children's Closet** Our love is extended to foster families. Our church will have an open time where families can come and drop things off or get things from the closet that they need. Right now we have it by appointment.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4 – Workshop “Here Be Dragons”  
Feb. 11 – Peace Camp – Communication  
Feb. 17 – 6:30 p.m. movie night  
February 19 – Gospel Brunch  
Feb. 26 – Fireside Chat following worship  
Feb. 27- 3:30 p.m. Council Meeting  
  
March 1<sup>st</sup> – Ash Wednesday – beginning of Lent – 5:30 P.M. service

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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