

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ February 14, 2017.

Gospel Brunch Sunday

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Sunday, February 19th, we will have our next Gospel Brunch. We didn't do a sign up list so please bring plenty of food and we will trust we have a nice variety. Invite others to come with you. This will be a good service to invite friends to join you for the day. We will have lots of music and time around our tables to share with each other.

This Friday night, 6:30 p.m. we will have **movie night** at the church. We will provide popcorn and ask that you bring your own beverage. It is for all ages. So mark your calendars, Friday, Feb. 17th and join us.

On Monday, the 20th at 3:30 p.m. we will have our Council Meeting. This is a change from our usual time. There are some of you who are interested in getting our council minutes. They used to be sent out to everyone, but now we are going to have a sign up sheet in the office.

Lent begins Wednesday March 1st with an Ash Wednesday service at 5:30 p.m. The church will be open afterwards for those who would like to have quiet time, prayer time, or conversation with Pastor Sue. Beginning on March 5th (the 1st Sunday of Lent) we will have a prayer station set up for anyone who would like to have one on one prayer. If you need healing (physical,

emotional, or spiritual) and can't make it to church, let me know and I will join with one other person to specifically pray for you. Prayer is important to me personally, but also to the life of the church.

Peace Camp went well Feb. 11th. We discovered how easy it is to have misunderstandings. We worked on becoming better listeners and discovering ways to say what we mean in a way that invites rather than attacks another person. Even as an adult, I find I need to keep these skills tuned and continue to refine them. Our next Peace Camp is May 6th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Our theme that day is cooperation. I would like it to be a day of experiences in cooperation – games, activities, and interactions. If you would like to be a part of this event, let me know.

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 answers what God requires of us and could be 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.

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).

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.

FYI – I have prostate cancer and am scheduled for surgery at Mayo Clinic on February 28th. It is early and all tests indicate it has not spread. I have great faith that it will be cured and I will have a full, healthy life.

- Larry Buchholz-

Church Community News

Let us lift up in prayer, Larry as he goes through surgery on the 28th of Feb.

We have included Bart's obituary in earlier Voice's. We will run it again this month, but then we will just do updates when we know when his celebration of life will be.

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.

Invitations from our Larger Community

February 26, 2017, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – A Celebration of Motown Sound, Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, main lobby, University of Northern Iowa – live performances – historical videos, dancing

Sunday, February 26th, 7:00 p.m. **The Canterbury Forum** at St. Luke's Episcopal Church 2410 Melrose Drive, Cedar Falls is Caring for the Air: Lutheran Perspectives on Stewardship of Our Atmospheric Environment presented by Alan Czarnetzki, Professor of Meteorology, UNI

Student Connection Comedy Night-Featuring: Taylor Mason Christian Comedian/ Ventriloquist performing at Aplington-Parkersburg High School Auditorium, Sat. March 4th, 7 p.m. All ticket sales will benefit student connection ministries \$15 in advance, \$20 at door

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

join with others at First Presbyterian in Waterloo in enjoying this concert.

Thank You notes

We extend a special note of thanks to Rev. Janice Springer for her leadership. Her workshops brought people from near and far to our church. The workshops were timely and were meaningful and helpful. She has agreed to offer a few more workshops in the fall again. We would like to see even more of our people participate in these opportunities. Thank you Janice!

We wish to thank all of you: Thank you for giving to the church. Thank you for giving extra to have our pipe organ repaired. Thank you.

Organ Repair

We have now raised enough money to do the next step in making our organ repairs. Levsen Organ Company has given us a list of 8 repairs that are very important for us to make and we are within a couple hundred dollars of being able to do all of them. Thank you for giving and helping make this possible. We have some more repairs after these but this is a great start. Thanks to Greg Meyer, our organist, for working with Levsen and the Church Council to protect, care for, and know how to be good stewards of this instrument.

Morning Circle

Meeting tomorrow. 2.15.17 late morning.

This is a change from the usual. 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

March 2nd – meet at 11:15 a.m. at the church if you want to ride together. We are going

to Hwy. 63 diner 3030 Marnie, just off Ridgeway and Hwy. 63.

Theological Forums

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

February 15 – Rituals

February 22 – Angels

On March 1st, there will be no forum but rather a worship service for Ash Wednesday. On March 8th, 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

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. They are requesting that we call, write, or email our members of Congress. "Urge them to invest in programs that have proven to make a difference in the lives of hungry people – including international poverty focused development assistance, SNAP, and WIC. Sustaining and strengthening these programs is essential for achieving the international goal of ending hunger by 2030. For sample letters and other information, visit www.bread.org."

Educational Opportunity in the Community

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 2nd 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.

A special offering request:

Funding Future Leadership is an Iowa Conference program that a young pastor brought to the Conference. He brought it to the attention of many that the debt load of young ministers graduating from seminary is great. So with the help and permission of the Conference, we want to invite anyone interested in giving to please put on the memo line Funding Future Leadership. These scholarships will be distributed to our current students in school. Thanks for your consideration.

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

(Kaden'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 on Wednesday 2-5 p.m.. We also will have it by appointment. We are going to ask people willing to be at the church for other designated times. Currently we have requests for a double stroller, snow boots (size 7 and 1/2-8) and snow boots and pants (women's/juniors 5-6). If you know of anyone who has any of these items please let us

know. Once a month we would also like to have the Closet open, but would like to have others willing to sit at the church and welcome any family. If there is a Saturday in March that you would be willing to give a couple of hours please let us know and we will go through what you need to know. Thanks.

March 1st – 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.”
(319) 266-9686
9204 University Avenue
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Website: www.cedarfallsucc.org

NEW CHURCH email address:
cedarfallsucc@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 17 – 6:30 p.m. movie night
February 19 – Gospel Brunch
Feb. 20- 3:30 p.m. Council Meeting
Feb. 26 – Fireside Chat following worship