

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ February 28, 2017.

Lent Begins March 1st Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 p.m.

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

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. Do you have time in each day set aside for prayer? A lot of times prayer has been about our speaking to God saying what we want or need and even sometimes how we want it or feel we need it. Prayer is also listening. How do you listen to God?

During this Lenten Season, I invite you to focus on your own spiritual life. What needs your attention? Have you been ignoring an old hurt that has now festered or still causes you pain? Are you holding onto anger or hurt? What is draining you of energy? What keeps you from listening to God or to a loved one? What holds you back from the gift of today that life is giving? Do experience peace within? We have more pulls today that move us away from inner peace than we did when I was young. We have gotten good at making excuses and complaining. With

God's help we can make a change and be healthier in our spiritual lives. Since we are all connected that means we will be healthier as a community of faith also.

As a church, we are asking difficult questions. We are small and wanting to grow. What is keeping us from growing? There have been a couple of you who have been asking people you know that used to come here to come back. One response that has been given is that they are attending another church. A few responses have indicated that they still have strong feelings about what happened a few years back. Do you have any thoughts about what we could do to help the people that still have those hurt feelings? Would they be willing to have me visit with them with you? They may choose never to return to our church community, but perhaps we could bring healing to their life.

I would encourage any of you that may have reservations about seeing someone who used to go here to pray for healing of that relationship and talk about it. These things will prevent us from growing as a church as well as hinder individual's finding inner peace. We are a church. Do we believe in God's power to heal? Do we believe in God's love? Do we act on that love by forgiving others? By forgiving ourselves? Are we willing to listen to another's pain? Are we able to not judge? Are we truly ready to be the "new creation" that God is inviting us to be?

What does this look like? What are we willing to risk? What are we willing to let go of?

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? I don't think we are of one mind about this. For some this is the church they have known and been a part of all their life or much of their life. These persons want it to continue as it did. For some this is the place they have friends and they just want to enjoy them. What is it for you?

You have a vision statement and a mission statement. Do you know what they say? How are we living them? How are we not living them?

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!



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. The repairs will be scheduled this spring.

President's Message

(Larry is having surgery today as he mentioned at the end of his last Voice article two weeks ago. We are re-running it with a additional notes by Pastor Sue in parenthesis.)

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 had one member in particular who acted on Larry's comments and gave us feedback at the Fireside Chat. Her experience is reflected in my article above.)*

We have tentatively scheduled another Fireside Chat for after the service on February 26. *(We held this chat and we had 10-12 people stay.)* 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. *(We talked about church growth and what we hoped each person would do to help with that – Invite, invite, invite. We also mentioned that we can and are beginning to explore other possibilities. Conversations regarding sharing our building with another church and therefore sharing expenses, merging with another congregation and of course that means making a list and approaching these other small congregations to see whether it is possible or not in their minds too. If you have strong feelings about any of these and other options please don't keep them to yourselves. Share them with the church.)*

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. *(Please hold Larry in your prayers today. When I hear anything, I will send out another e-mail and let you know how everything went for him.)*

- Larry Buchholz-

Cedar Falls UCC Foster Children's Closet (Kaden's Kloset)

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. We will then post them on our Kaden's Kloset Face book Page. If you haven't liked it yet, please do.

March 18th – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. the closet will be open for people to drop stuff off at the church or shop and get clothes for their foster children.

Currently we have requests for a double stroller, snow boots (size 7 and 1/2-8) and snow pants (women's/juniors 5-6). If you know of anyone who has any of these items please let us know.

Church Community News

Let us lift up in prayer, Larry as he goes through surgery today 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.
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Invitations from our Larger Community

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.

Peace Camp

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.

Morning Circle

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. Call Barb Kuhlman 319-277-1510

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)
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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

In 2016, the United Church of Christ received over \$2.2 million for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Every dollar was used to help people and communities living in critical situations worldwide. We have offering envelopes at the church and will include them in our mailing. Please consider giving to this special offering. We will collect this special offering in March and send it on before Easter.

Social Justice Action Request

We are getting many requests for action. More than I ever remember getting in my 36 years of ministry. I am making a judgment call about which ones to include in our church news and which ones to act on or not for myself. If they are for the poor and oppressed of our world, I pretty much pass them on. If they tend to be partisan in

nature, I don't. Please give me (Pastor Sue) your feedback about this item in the Voice.

Educational Opportunity in the Community

"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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1st – Ash Wednesday – beginning of Lent – 5:30 P.M. service

March 17 – Movie Night – 6:30 p.m. a family appropriate movie will be chosen to share in fellowship time together. We will provide popcorn but invite you to bring your own drinks.

March 18 – Kaden's Klostet Open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

April 13th – Maundy Thursday – we will be having a 6 p.m. Christian Seder Meal at the church (a sign-up sheet saying you will be attending is in the office). This is a full meal with the ritual.

April 14th – A Community Good Friday Service downtown Cedar Falls

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

CHURCH email address:
cedarfallsucc@gmail.com