

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ April 11, 2017.

Happy Easter

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

What is church? They came bearing casseroles and cakes. They gathered around the kitchen table, on the lawn, and in the living room. The unexpected death left the family confused and devastated. Comfort came through all the people who gathered telling stories, some of which brought tears and others made everyone laugh. That is church.

What is church? I was a young minister and remembered the time I saw church members surround a devastated middle-age lady. Her son was arrested for murder. I had visited the young man after his arrest numerous times. I listened each time to this lost soul. I had taken a message from his mother that she loved him no matter what happened. He wasn't eating or sleeping. I listened as he finally cried and confessed to me that he was guilty and didn't understand or even remember how it happened. He couldn't undo his actions and he just wanted not to hurt the families any more than his actions already had. I held him accountable for his actions and said he was still loved. He plead guilty and the church members gathered around his mother and prayed for everyone involved. That is church.

What is church? On a Sunday morning during worship, a mentally ill woman who had been drinking stumbled into worship. She took a seat toward the back of the church. She fumbled to

find the hymn we were singing and I watched two people go to her and sit on each side of her holding their hymnal open for her to share with them. That is church.

What is church? A phone call was taken and in the brevity of a few words it was learned that a teenager had committed suicide and that it was believed that two others had made a pack to do the same. They identified themselves as gay in a community that said they were better off dead than to be gay. The UCC minister stepped in, rallied her church to do something, and they organized safe space for teen-agers to gather and talk to each other about their orientation. They brought into their church and organized a local chapter of PFLAG – parents and friends of lesbian and gay people. They have now expanded to include transgender, transsexual, and bi-sexual. The church opened their doors to the family members of the teenager who had committed suicide (because their church refused to do the service). The other two teen-agers who had made the pack with that teenager got counseling through a UCC youth director in a neighboring community. That is church.

Church can be incorrigible and narrow-minded. Church can be selfish and self-centered. Church can be political and even shortsighted. Church can be frustrating and disappointing. Church can be obstinate and demanding. Church can be just like our families (even just like me sometimes) and sometimes we feel like giving up.

Sometimes we leave the church or we never become a part of it in the first place. I understand, I really do. I have had times of wanting to storm out from time to time too. In those times I remember that Jesus was quite frustrated with his religious community too. Yet he kept going, kept worshiping alongside men and women, and kept challenging others to a higher way of knowing, living, and behaving. Jesus engaged the community of faith – Pharisees and Gentiles; Scribes and “nobodies”; righteous and sinners with the unyielding hope that together, in community, it is important to love one another, love the neighbor, and love God...Together.

I don't need perfect people always saying and doing the right things. I do need people to love and be loved by and a place and a people to find community. I need a place and people who will hold me accountable as we seek to live out God's purpose and mission for this world. I need a place and a people to practice the faith in the community and in the world. Together we are the church.

May God's love bring us together and may God's grace hold us together. Have a blessed Holy week.

On Maundy Thursday, April 13th at 6 p.m., we will share an experience of a Christian Seder. The food will be prepared that day and if anyone wants to help we will share prayer over the food as we prepare the feast. I will be serving the traditional foods and the main course will be a lamb stew. Even if you aren't sure you will like it please join us and experience this special meal and service. You may sign up on a sheet by the kitchen counter or call and let me know.

On Good Friday, the 14th there will be an ecumenical service. We begin at noon meeting at Overman Park across from City Hall. It is

called the Procession of the Cross Event and we will be walking to different stops. We finish between Washington and 8th by St Pat's and First UMC. This will be the first year I have participated in this service.

Easter Sunday – “Sound of Joy” – What are the sounds you associate with joy? We have special music to celebrate Easter. Join us, won't you? After service we will have an Easter egg hunt.

On April 23rd, there will be special earth day celebration. God has blessed us with creation.

On April 30th we will have a JAZZ Brunch! We are thankful for Chris Mertz and “The Hands of Time”.

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!



Holy Week Schedule

- April 13 – Maundy Thursday
6:00 p.m. Seder Meal
- April 14 – Good Friday
Noon – Procession of the Cross
- April 15 – Easter
Sunrise Service – check with Celeste
11:15 a.m. Worship with extra
instrumental music

Thank You Note

To fellow UCC folks at CF: Wow!! What an especially great birthday celebration it was that I received on March 26. Lots of good wishes and a card filled with more. Then there came the treats – and we all know how folks here really appreciate “treats”. Food included a pound cake (courtesy of Celeste’s friend) plus brownies, strawberries, and cream (YUM!). My thanks to all of you for your thoughtfulness as I seek to get ready for the next 90 years or so. I am blessed for all of you!!! Dick

Sad Notice

Eleanor Crownfield died on April 2nd. A memorial service will be held in May.

Obituary

Eleanor Bostwick Crownfield (1929-2017) CEDAR FALLS – Eleanor Bostwick Crownfield, 87, of Cedar Falls died Sunday, April 2, 2017 at the Western Home Communities’ Elizabeth E. Martin Center, Cedar Falls.

She was born May 4, 1929 in New Haven, Connecticut, daughter of Wallace and Eunice Clapp Bostwick. She married David Crownfield and they later divorced. She earned her B.A. degree in English from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and her M.S. in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston. She was a Cataloger at the Rod Library, University of Northern Iowa.

Survived by: three daughters, Elizabeth (John) Edminster of Richmond, IN, Anne “Nonie” Rider of Marion, and Eleanor Ray of Iowa City; a grandson, David Ray; two step-grandchildren, Molly and Zachary Edminster of New York City; and a brother, Richard (Tema Hecht) Bostwick of New York City.

Preceded in death by: a brother, George Bostwick; and a sister, Anne Bostwick. Memorial Services: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 20th at the Cedar Falls

United Church of Christ. Richardson Funeral Service is assisting the family. Memorials may be directed to the Cedar Falls Public Library or the Rod Library (UNI). Condolences may be left at www.richardsonfuneralservice.com.

Spring Clean-up Day

Spring is finally here and I need help. So I’ve decided to have a clean-up day for April 22nd from 9 a.m. – Noon. I will have a list of areas that need to be cleaned. Bring rakes, gloves, trimmers, etc. I will provide lunch. – Colleen Kelly

Devotional Material

The devotional “These Days” is available in our church lobby. We have received already April, May, June. If you want to devotional materials on line then consider going to our national church’s web page: www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

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

April 6th is our next gathering. We will meet at 11:15 a.m. at the church. For this gathering we are going to Waterloo to Newton’s Café. Hopefully in May we can venture farther away.

Theological Forums

(6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Wed. nights)
April 12 – No Class or forum
April 19 – resurrection/reincarnation
April 26 – Topic to be determined

Organ Repair

We have scheduled the organ repair for April 19th. Thank you all for helping make this happen.

President's Message

We will be scheduling another Fireside Chat the end of May first part of June.

- Larry Buchholz-

Cedar Falls UCC Foster Children's Closet

(Kaden's Kloset)

Last week we were able to help 5 families from Kaden's Kloset. We are trying to reach families that can benefit from this ministry and we are beginning to do just that. Any families that have foster children are welcome to receive what we have and we even send out requests for items we don't have. We are also receiving regular donations.

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.

April 22nd – 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. Can you give of your time on this day?

Church Community News

Bart McAninch's celebration of life or memorial service has been set. The **Celebration of Life for James Barton McAninch**, 91 of Cedar Falls will be held Saturday May 27th, probably at 1 p.m.

Our prayers continue for Donna Moon on the death of her husband Charlie.

When there is something going on in the community that you would like to go together as a church, please let me know so we can publicize it in the Voice.

Invitations from our Larger Community

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.

Pilgrim Heights Schedule

Men's Spring Work Weekend: March 31-April 1

Spring Work Weekend: April 21-23

Day of Discovery: May 7

Counselor in Training Camp for Youth 15 and older is June 25th – June 30th

Grandparent(s) and Me – Plus!: K-4th grade (refers to grade completed)

July 9th – July 11th

July 12th – July 14th

July 19th – July 21st

July 23rd – July 25th

July 30th – August 1st

Explorer Camp: K – 2nd graders

June 28 – June 30th

July 5 – July 7th

July 16th – July 18th

Discoverer Camp: 3rd – 5th graders AND

Voyager Camp 6th – 8th graders

Held each of these weeks also

July 2nd – July 7th

July 9th – July 14th

July 16th – July 21st

July 30th – August 4th

Adventurer Camp: 9th – 12th graders

July 2nd – July 7th

July 23rd – July 28th

Family Camp: All Ages
July 28th – July 30th

Grown Up Getaway: Adults 21 and older
August 13th – August 18th

UCC Confirmation Retreat: August 25-26th

Family Camp – Last Hurrah of Summer:
All Ages September 1st – September 4th

Men's Fall Retreat: October 27th-28th

Women's Retreat: Nov. 17th – 18th

Registration Information is available in the church office. If you want to go, we also have some scholarships available.

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

We have received \$227 for One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you so much for your contributions.

Social Justice Action Request

We have been invited to participate in rally's to let our representatives and senators know our views on various issues. Sometimes we are given enough notice to pass it on quickly.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 16th – EASTER Celebration
Easter egg hunt

April 21st – 6:30 p.m. movie night at the church

April 22nd – Kaden's Kloset is open

April 23rd – Earth Day Service

April 30th – JAZZ Brunch

2:30 p.m. NE Association Spring Mtg. 2:30 p.m. Congregational UCC
4 E Court St New Hampton, IA 50659
to register email or call:

nhiucc@iowatelecom.net or 641-394-2247

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