

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ April 25, 2017.

Jazz Brunch April 30th and Peace Camp May 6th

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Spring is all around us. New life blossoming and giving us hope of better days, at least that is the affect on me. There is something renewing about sunlight and new growth all around me. What renews your spirit?

Scott Peck opens his book, The Road Less Traveled, with these words: “Life is difficult.” This is so true. I appreciate what I understand to be essential to Buddhists. They are challenged to wake up to the pains of life and become enlightened in how to deal with it, a worthy mission for any person. Suffering is something we all have in common. How we deal with it is influenced by our faith.

I want to examine 4 truths of Buddhism that tend to be universal truths. First, pain is inevitable. Life is full of heartache at every age. Second, suffering is a result of clinging. While pain is inevitable, suffering is optional. We suffer because we cling to things, to people, and to life. Suffering is what happens when we struggle with our experiences because of our inability to accept them. (C.S. Lewis once said that, if you never want to be hurt, never love anyone or anything, not even your dog. To love is to subject ourselves to pain. The more we love, the more we hurt.) Buddhism

says, “If I didn’t cling, nothing would frighten me, because there would be nothing I would be afraid to lose, and nothing I would need to be happy.” Third, liberation is possible. In Buddhism, the road to liberation is detachment. Selfishness can be overcome. Freedom comes when we stop complaining about the hand life deals you. You decide how to live and unhappiness is a choice. The fourth truth is that enlightenment comes from following the eight-fold path: 1. Right understanding 2. Right aspiration 3. Right action 4. Right speech 5. Right livelihood 6. Right effort 7. Right concentration 8. Right mindfulness. (Paul says in Philippians 4:8, “Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think on these things.”)

Henri Nouwen once said, “Many people do not think they are loved or feel safe and so when suffering comes, they see it as an affirmation of their worthlessness. The great challenge of the spiritual life is to learn to live our brokenness under the blessing and not the curse.”

Whatever challenge you are facing, you are not alone. You are part of a community of faith that cares about you and will hold you in prayer. Let us know how to best encourage and support you.

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

On April 30th we will have a JAZZ Brunch! We are thankful for Chris Mertz and "The Hands of Time". We have a sign up list for food. Our theme is "A Love Supreme".

On May 6th we have a Peace Camp on Cooperation. If you can help, let me know.

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!



Thank You Notes

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

We extend a special thanks to Chris Merz and the Hands of Time for sharing their musical gifts at the Jazz Brunch. Thank you!

UCC Church Family,
Thanks for the sympathy card with your thoughts and prayers regarding my Dad's passing. He enjoyed being a part of the UCC family and doing things for the church as he was able. Especially want to thank Pastor Sue for being so helpful to our family as we remember and plan Dad's memorial service. Thanks again for your thoughts and prayers. –Dave McAninch for the family of J. B. McAninch –

Sad Notice

Eleanor Crownfield died on April 2nd. A memorial service will be held on May 20th at 2 p.m.



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

Thank you to Colleen Kelly and Bill and Melissa and Georgia Henry. They worked on our yard making it look good. A great big THANK YOU to them all.

Church World Service

This organization is responsible for organizing and distributing school kits, hygiene kits, emergency cleanup buckets. Many received these items when we had the 2008 flooding. Do you have any interest in putting these kits together? Morning Circle has this information.

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

April 26th at Noon is the scheduled work day for the banners.

United Fellowship

May 4th is our next gathering. We will meet at 10:45 a.m. at the church. For this gathering we are going to the Taj Mahol in Cedar Rapids on Center Point Road. They have a buffet.

Theological Forums

(6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Wed. nights)
April 26 – The Bethlehem Star – Astrology, Astronomy, and the Bible

May 3rd – Science and God
May 10th – Sin and Scripture
May 17th – Power of God and Problem of Evil
May 24th - Social Gospel in Today’s Age
May 31st - Wisdom of World Religions

We won’t be continuing in the summer. We will resume this in the fall. We will revisit some topics because of the interest and timing. If you have a topic to put on the schedule, please let Pastor Sue know so scheduling will work for you.

Organ Repair

Our pipe organ is being repaired. Some of the pipes had caved in upon themselves and have to be fixed. Other parts are being repaired as well. Thank you for keeping this instrument in good repair.

Poems by Chris Vallecillo read in church on April 23rd. Easter Morn and He is Alive! Thanks Chris for sharing them.

Easter Morn

Today we celebrate that first Easter morn,
When the stone rolled away and the veil was torn!

This was the day God set us free.
The day HE raised Christ out of hell and misery!

Christ bore our sins,
He bore our pain.

Because of His great sacrifice
We are forever changed!

Thank you Lord God above;
For this most gracious gift of love!
So let Jesus' life be the example to us;
That in God alone we must put our trust!

He is Alive!

He is alive!
He has risen!
My heart leaps with joy;
For I am forgiven!

The greatest sacrifice ever made.
Through HIM all debts have been paid!
Let us rejoice and be glad that Christ has overcome
the grave.
Announce the Good News – whoever follows HIM
shall be saved!

So Celebrate this most Holy Day;
Giving God the Glory,
Thanks and Praise!

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.

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, at 1 p.m.

Eleanor Crownfield's celebration of life or memorial service is set for May 20th at 2 p.m.

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.

Our Northeast Association Meeting is April 30th in New Hampton at 2:30 p.m. If you want to go and stay for dinner (\$5), then let Pastor Sue know.

President's Message

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

- Larry Buchholz-

Pilgrim Heights Schedule

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.

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 30th – JAZZ Brunch

2:30 p.m. NE Association Spring Mtg. 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