

# The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ August 1, 2017.

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## W.A.M. or W.A.Y.

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Did the title initials spark an interest as to what they mean? Vacation was relaxing and I found myself wanting to continue to be playful. In an old devotional article I had taken the story of a kindergarten class teacher that helped her children stop misbehaving by saying to them not to be a W.A.M. kind of person. The kids seemed to correct their behavior almost immediately. Why was being a WAM so bad? The teacher explained that she was empowering the children to be less self-centered. WAM stands for "What about me?" Instead of asking "What about me?" she encouraged the children to be about a WAY, "What about You?". In today's age, we seem to be having a lot of people only thinking about one's self and not having compassion for others. Bullying behavior is an example. Perhaps encouraging children to learn compassion and ask how our own behavior, our own words affect another will move us to choosing the WAY of peace. (This story is from, Daily Guideposts, 1998, Arthur Gordon.)

The WAY of compassion isn't always easy when there is so much "me-ism". As Christians, we seek to follow the teachings of Jesus, the Christ. Jesus' teachings are full of examples of not judging, working for peace, justice, and showing compassion. We are a small congregation that continues to reach out into our community to do what we can to make life better for others.

Peace camp will be August 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to provide snacks that week, please let me know. It is taking time to build this program. If we are able to help one child be a peacemaker then we are investing in the future. "Blessed are the Peacemakers for you shall be called the children of God." We have the Interfaith Peace Tree for a couple of months. If you are willing to sign it, it will be at our church until mid to late August. We will also hang it up for display.

We have been sharing our favorite hymns for special music this summer. Celeste is scheduling those hymns so if you know you are going to be gone on a given Sunday let her know so we don't choose your hymn when you'll be gone.

Celeste's Birthday is August 5<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday Celeste! Thank you for being a part of our church family.

We have a pastoral relations meeting Monday August 7<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has anything for us to share or talk about, then please tell Gary Hesse, or Chris Mertz, or Carol Smith.

May God's love bring us together and may God's grace hold us 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!



**NEXT GOSPEL BRUNCH**  
**AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>**

### **Thank You Notes**

Thank you Mike Gorton for planning and leading worship July 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who joined Mike in participating in the worship!

A special note of thanks to Erik Breddin for using one of his vacation Sunday to share a message with our congregation on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you Erik.

Thank you to Craig Henderson for offering pastoral care while I was gone too. We appreciate your care and willingness to take care of our church community.

A special note of thanks to our organist, Greg Meyer for sharing his faith journey with us on July 30<sup>th</sup>. We enjoy having you be a part of our church family. Thank you.

Your story is a gift you give to others. In his book, Story Journey, Thomas Boomershine says "if the adventures of the Gospel are learned deeply, our stories are woven together with Jesus' story." Have you ever written a spiritual autobiography? There is an incredible power of sharing spiritual stories. It is my hope that you will be willing to share your story.

### **President's Message** **"RAISE THE ROOF"**

We mentioned in last month's VOICE that there are leaking problems with our flat rubber membrane roof. The rubber membrane roof is well approximately 25 years old. It has gradually shrunk and is beginning to pull loose from the flashing around the edges and at an expansion joint. Generally the material is good in condition except at the expansion joints.

Service Roofing Company has provided estimates for repair and full replacement. The repair involves refastening the existing rubber membrane and installing new membrane flashing. The cost of the repair option is based on time and materials with a not to exceed price of \$5400. The full replacement option is estimated at approximately \$70,000.

The Council has approved proceeding with the repair option. This should provide us with another 5 – 10 years of serviceable life. The full replacement cost provides us with a budget number for planning purposes.

Obviously, we have not budgeted for an expense of this magnitude. We will have to take an additional amount from the Endowment fund. As we have done in the past for large capital projects we are asking for contributions from the membership to cover as much as possible. Please give strong consideration to donating for this necessary repair.

If you have any questions, please contact me. We appreciate your consideration of this matter and our fund raising for the roof has begun.

Sincerely,  
Larry

- Larry Bucholz, Council President-

### **Morning Circle**

We will resume meeting in September.

### **United Fellowship**

We will resume meeting in September.

### **Peace Camp**

Our next Peace Camp is August 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. We will open our Camp to the community. This camp is for 5 year old to 12 year old children. "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called the Children of God. If you have a child, grandchild, neighbor..., please call the office and register the child for Peace Camp. Help us make it successful.



**We celebrated the life of Marlys McAninch on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Thank you good and faithful servant.**

Thanks to Colleen Kelly for handling our sound that day and the food afterwards. Thanks to Bill Kelly for video taping the service for those who couldn't be there.

### **Cedar Falls UCC Foster Children's Closet**

(Kaden's Closet)

Our love is extended to foster families. We will have donations and shoppers by appointment in August. We have been averaging 3 people a week that either is donating or shopping in our closet.

We need a list of people willing to come in and help sort and organize donations when needed. If you are able to do this, please give your name to Colleen.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

The last big storm brought a tree down that had to be cleaned up. This is second time this year that we have had to clear a tree from the creek. Let's hope for no more big storms.

### **Church Community News**

"August Ensembles Concert Series"  
Tuesdays, 7:00 – August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
Let's go together as a church group on the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, be at the church at 6:30 p.m. to ride together and sit together at the concert. Bring your lawn chair.

### **Rummage Sale**

#### **First United Methodist Church**

**718 Clay Street, Cedar Falls**

Thursday, August 3, 5 – 8 p.m.

Friday, August 4, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, August 5, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Half price day and bag sale Saturday)

### **Pride Festival**

This event is August 26<sup>th</sup>. We give out free water and temporary tattoos. If you could donate water, please leave it at the church before August 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## Pilgrim Heights Schedule

Grandparent(s) and Me – Plus!: K-4<sup>th</sup> grade  
(refers to grade completed)  
July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>

Discoverer Camp: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders AND  
Voyager Camp 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders  
Held each of these weeks also  
July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup>

Adventurer Camp: 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders

Family Camp: All Ages  
July 28<sup>th</sup> – July 30<sup>th</sup>

Grown Up Getaway: Adults 21 and older  
August 13<sup>th</sup> – August 18<sup>th</sup>

UCC Confirmation Retreat: August 25-26<sup>th</sup>  
Family Camp – Last Hurrah of Summer:  
All Ages September 1<sup>st</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>

Men's Fall Retreat: October 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>  
Women's Retreat: Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

August 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations  
Meeting  
August 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. meet at church for  
concert  
August 18<sup>th</sup> NE Iowa Clergy summer picnic  
August 26<sup>th</sup> Pride Fest  
August 27<sup>th</sup> – Gospel Brunch  
August 28<sup>th</sup> – 3:30 p.m. Council  
August 30<sup>th</sup> – Rainbow Room UNI

September 9<sup>th</sup> – Prayers of Hand and Heart  
Workshop 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. led by  
Rev Janice Springer

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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