

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ August 29, 2017.

Prayers of Hand and Heart

CHURCH PICNIC
September 17TH

Community Meal
August 29th – 4 p.m.

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

The educational opportunities for adults brochure is out and available for those interested. We will kick off the fall with a workshop led by Rev. Janice Springer called Prayers of Hand and Heart. September 9th beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. Then our first discussion group on Wednesday night is September 13th. We begin at 6:30 p.m.

I will be teaching Sunday School beginning September 10th at 9:30 a.m. Join us on this adventure of growing in faith!

On September 14th I begin a program to be certified as a pastoral care specialist. Our first topic is depression. I would like to pass on the information I gain at these once a month meetings with different topics every month to anyone interested. If you have interest in talking about these different topics, let me know and we'll find a time that works for us. We'll see who all may be interested.

In a daily devotional that I read, Richard Rohr reflects on how God "realigns reality inside the only absolute there is: *the eternal love of God*."

Pope Francis is the first pope I am aware of who has had the insight and courage to say that Divine Love is the only absolute, not law, Scripture, church, or moral behavior." Do you have an absolute? What is it? How has that affected your decisions?

Last Sunday at the Gospel Brunch (not counting our guest musicians) we had 8 visitors. Celeste brought 3 of them, 2 were at the Pride Festival and picked up the flyer, and 2 knew people who used to go here though now they either moved away or died. One person has become a friend of this church and joins us for special Sundays. It gives us energy to have visitors.

We are looking for new ways to reach out and invite people to share worship experiences with us. Our next Jazz brunch will be December 10th and we might want to think about handing out flyers to some of the bars, restaurants, and other places the Hands of Time play. Some of you have shared that Gospel Brunches and Jazz brunches just aren't your kind of thing. No problem. Share what is ... maybe we can think together how include what is meaningful to you into a special service that you would want to invite family and friends to.

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!



**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 Buccholz, Council President-

United Fellowship

September 7, 2017 fall trip to NE Iowa for United Fellowship. Please be at the church by 9:30 a.m. Picket Fence Café, Guttenburg IA. Please join us, we will be gone most of the day. Open to all.

Morning Circle

First meeting of Morning Circle September 21st, starts at 9:30 a.m. with refreshments and visiting. We will discuss Job 38:1-40 from the United Church of Christ, Daily Devotional for small group discussion. Be thinking about the following questions: 1. Do you believe people get wiser as they grow older? 2. What are you less sure about today than you were when you were ten, twenty, or thirty years younger? We will also be discussing our program year. I would love to hear your thoughts to the discussion questions even if you can not attend our meeting. – Barbara Kuhlman

Sad News



Obituary for Earl M. Easley
Earl M. Easley, 65, of Cedar Falls, died Saturday, August 5, 2017, at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo. He was born July 22, 1952 in Little Rock, Arkansas, the son of Delbert and Carolyn (Dunn) Easley.

Earl married Roxanne Shaffer on February 3, 1973 in Waterloo. He earned his Associates Degree from Modesto Junior College in Modesto, California and was a semi truck driver for 14 years, retiring in 2014 from First Fleet, Inc. **Earl** was a member of the Auto Club of America and loved classic cars, especially Fords. He also loved old movies and music. He is survived by his wife, Roxanne Easley, of Cedar Falls; his daughter, Jenna (Joel) Dutcher, of Ogden, Iowa; three grandchildren,

Amber Braniff, Ella and Malia Dutcher, all of Ogden; his sister, Carolyn Rae (Jack) Himebook, of Zeeland, Michigan; his mother-in-law, Marjorie Shaffer, of Cedar Falls, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, David Easley, and his father-in-law, Ray Shaffer.

Services were held at 1:30 pm August 10, 2017, at Dahl-Van Hove-Schoof Funeral Home in Cedar Falls, with burial at Hitesville Cemetery near Aplington. Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society or Cedar Valley Hospice.

Our thoughts go out to Donald Gray's family as well:

Donald William Gray, 88, of Cedar Falls died Sunday, August 20, 2017 at Lakeview Landing in Waterloo. He was born November 15, 1928 in Elk River, MN, the oldest son of eleven children of Glen M. Gray and Helen Beck Gray. He graduated from Elk River High School in 1946 and from Asbury College in Kentucky in 1950. He then enrolled in the seminary at Emory University in Atlanta and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He was a Methodist minister serving in small towns in Minnesota.

He resigned from the ministry and enrolled in the University of Minnesota's Library Science program. He was appointed Director of the library when the University of Minnesota established a branch of the University in Morris, Minnesota. He accepted a position as Assistant Director of the UNI Library in 1967, retiring in 1990. He worked [part time](#) for the UNI Foundation during the fund drive for the Gallagher-Bluedorn [Performing Arts Center](#).

He married Vivian Blasjo in Barnum, MN in 1953. They were later divorced. He married Barbara Porter Waterloo in 1985.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; a son, Kelly (Marcella) of Kensington, MD; two daughters, Joni (Johann) Gray of Minneapolis and Karen Beal (James) of Des Moines, and three step-children, William Porter (Deann) of Lansing MI, Marsha Porter of St Paul, MN, and Diane Porter of [West Fargo](#) ND.

There are eight grandchildren: Brad, Ben, Anne, Will, Jane, Ellie, John, Frankie; eight great-grandchildren: Belle, Zeke, Kirsten, June, Avery, Sawyer, Caitlin, and Evelyn. He is survived by brothers, George, David, Lloyd, and Mark, and sisters, Eleanor and Harriet. He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, two brothers, Stan and Robert, and two sisters, Ruth and Crystal.

Don was an avid reader of history, biography, fiction, and non-fiction. But best of all, he loved reading to grandchildren piled three-deep on his lap. He was also an avid bicyclist and did challenging rides such as Ironman in Minnesota and Ragbrai

several times. He spent many hours doing 20-mile rides on trails and blacktop roads nearby. He kept a record of every ride in notebooks.

He loved classical music, John Phillip Sousa marches, cheeseburgers, and Minnesota hot dish liberally sprinkled with [Tabasco sauce](#).

Memorial gathering will be at a later date. Memorials may be directed to UNI Foundation or Hospice.



Peace Camp

Thank you to all those who donated snacks. Thank you Colleen and Aloha!

Thanks to the children who also worked each day to pull weeds around the church. Even though they pulled weeds each day, there is many more to pull.



We are going to continue having quarterly peace camp. The children asked for it. ☺

Wanted

Would you be willing to be an office volunteer? If you have some mornings free, would you be willing to come to the church and sit in the office? It is so much nicer if a real person rather than a machine answers our phone. We are more welcoming. Let Pastor Sue know if you are willing.

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

Our love is extended to foster families. We will have donations and shoppers by appointment in September, but also starting on the 13th, we will have 2 – 5 p.m. open for anyone who wants to drop by and shop or donate.

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. So far Cynthia and Colleen are the only ones on the list.

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

Community Meal

Our church is helping serve again the community meal on October 31st at the First United Methodist Church Cedar Falls. We try and be there at 4 p.m.

Cedar Valley Hospice Release and Remember

A poster is hanging in our foyer.

Sunday, September 10, food, family, fun, and music: 1-3 p.m.

Program at 2:30 p.m.

Butterfly Release at 2:45 p.m.

Downtown Waterloo Riverloop

Amphitheatre 225 Commercial St.

Pilgrim Heights Schedule

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 9th – **Prayers of Hand and Heart Workshop** - 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. led by Rev Janice Springer We will experience a variety of prayer styles which will help you whether you are new at prayer or seasoned, and whether you sit in silent contemplative prayer each day, or most of your prayer is on the run. We'll explore prayers from Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christian traditions, and also prayers from other world religions. We'll also work with some of the questions, experiences and problems that prayer has raised for us, and we'll explore ways to make our prayer life deeper and more meaningful.

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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