

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ September 12, 2017.

Church Picnic this Sunday

CHURCH PICNIC this Sunday! Bring your own meat to grill. We will provide coffee, tea, and water for drinks. We will also provide other picnic items to eat – potato chips, potato salad, and coleslaw. We will have some yard games for those interested, if the weather is clear. Church picnic begins just after the Fireside Chat on Sunday September 17TH

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Hope you had a good summer. September is here and we are already half way through the month. I understand so much better when my elders would say that it felt to them that time was flying by. If I am blessed and able to live a long life, then I still have lived more than I have years left. I am not writing this as a downer, but a realistic truth. What about the church? Have we out-lived our call to serve in this community?

Recently I received an interesting comment from a long time community person but not a church member. She said that she hoped our church would survive for the future because we were the only Christian progressive voice in the area. We as a church declare that all are welcome here. We had a visitor Sunday who said our statement on our web page is why he visited us.

It feels like this past year has been a whole lot of inviting and not a whole lot of receiving. Maybe that is our calling right now. Invite, invite, and invite and be the voice that says all are welcome here and then be that place where we do welcome all people wherever they are on life's journey. It is also to share with each other not just concerns but joys of life, to enjoy who we are as a community, and to include whoever shows up. Are you o.k. with our purpose of staying open as a church, to show God's love to all people wherever they are on life's journey and to be that progressive voice in the community?

I believe the Gospel message is a message of hope. My experiences of this world include the need for more not less HOPE. I have been looking at my purpose and the meaning of my existence to be a messenger of hope.

What is the deep reason for Cedar Falls United Church of Christ to exist? This is the why question? This is our purpose for being. Then how do we communicate that purpose? It is a question we answer as a community though and not individually. It isn't something ever accomplished but lived or striving to live day in and day out. What is the purpose of Cedar Falls UCC?

This Sunday we are having a fireside chat. As a community, let us affirm and share what our purpose is and take a look at how

we are living that out. Most of the church growth materials encourage us not to just start new programs or do new things but to communicate more effectively our purpose. People will want to be a part of that which holds meaning for them as do we.

This Sunday we are continuing to hear the faith stories of our faith family and friends. Rev Janice Springer will be sharing a part of her faith story. Each of us have a story and sharing it blesses the listener. If you aren't comfortable sharing it on Sunday, then would you consider sharing it with us on video? Let me know if you are willing so that we can set up a time.

The educational opportunities brochure is out and available for those interested. Our first discussion group is on Wednesday night September 13th. We begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. We have a video provided by Barb Kuhlman called, Consider the Conversation: a documentary on a taboo subject.

Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. Join us on this adventure of growing in faith! I am teaching. I will be scheduling a Peace day Camp in November that other churches will be invited to help with as well. Please save November 11th to participate or help with Peace day camp.

On September 14th I begin a program to be certified as a pastoral care specialist. I thought our first topic was depression but I just received an e-mail saying the topic is now: Pastoral Care for the Caregiver. 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.

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!



Special Request

Celeste would like our congregation to consider donations for Hurricane Harvey Relief to two Waterloo natives raised at Antioch Baptist church who are now living in Houston. Dionne and Consuela and their families sent a list and that list has been forwarded to us: Gift Cards: Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart, Ross, JC Penny, Sam's

Club, At Home Store The store bought items they need include: Cleaning Supplies, Bleach, Rags/towels, box fans, basic kitchen items, bedding, blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, bottle water, non-perishables, diapers, baby wipes, feminine products, shoes, clothing soap, laundry detergent, and plates. If you could bring this to church on Sunday September 24th, Celeste will get them to Antioch Baptist church. Thank you for your consideration.

Side note: gift cards are the most useful so that people can get what they need after the initial shock and work of getting things back together.

Workshop Re-scheduled

The workshop, Prayers of Hand and Heart, was changed from September 9th to October 14th. We need at least 5 people signed up for each workshop in order to hold them. Look over our brochure and sign up and invite friends to join you in exploring these different topics.

Prayers of Hand and Heart

10.14.17 from 9:30am—2:00pm

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.

Sign up by calling the office or in the office: 319-266-9686. Remember we need at least 5 people willing to come.

President's Message "RAISE THE ROOF"

We are continuing to raise funds to repair our church roof. The job will be done toward the end of this month.

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.

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 Bucholz, Council President-

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

United Fellowship

September 7, 2017 we took our fall trip to NE Iowa for United Fellowship. Picket Fence Café, Guttenburg IA. Here is a view.



A Volunteer Wanted for the Office

Would you be willing to be an office volunteer? Put items on the calendar that is going on. 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.

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 Falls UCC Foster Children's Closet

(Kaden's Kloset)

Our love is extended to foster families. We will have donations and shoppers by appointment in September, but also starting on the Sept. 13th, we will have 2 – 5 p.m. open for anyone who wants to drop by and shop or donate. We also are open the 16th of Sep. from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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.

Church Community News

CROP WALK for Hunger Relief

Sunday, October 1, 2017 1:30 p.m.

Registration Walk begins at 2 p.m. If you have interest in walking or donating toward CROP Walk let Pastor Sue know. 25% of the total donations will fight hunger locally through the NE IA Food Bank. The remaining 75% of the donations will be used for world hunger relief by Church World Service. Donors may also designate their gift to one of 19 hunger relief agencies.

A new support group for transgender/ gender nonconforming has meetings in the Waterloo and Charles City areas. For more information go to: www.transcend.lgbt or e-mail someone at: contact@transcend.lgbt or phone: 319-359-7774

“Doctors and Nurses as Rescuers in Humanitarian Crisis”: A Traveling Exhibit

Thursday, September 14, 2017

6:30 p.m. Program: 7:00 p.m.

Allen College Campus, 1990 Heath Street, McBride Auditorium

This will be on exhibit from Sept. 14th – November 14th 2017.

We have been invited by Cedar

Terrace Church of Christ to their

Gospel Meeting with Evangelist Brett Hickey of *Let the Bible Speak* September 20-24. Wednesday – Saturday @ 7:00 p.m. and Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (2543 Cedar Terrace Drive, Waterloo, Iowa 50702)

We have also been invited by

Kimball Ave. UMC 1207 Kimball Ave Waterloo, IA to their **Annual Salad Luncheon and Craft Sale** on

Tuesday, September 26, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Adults: \$8 children under 5 and under: \$1 (drive thru available)

Kimball Ave UMC also invites us to their **Garage Sale!** 10.6.17 – 4:00 p.m. – 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10.7.17 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

“Religious Conflict in Medieval Christianity” - The Canterbury Forum 7 p.m. Sunday, September 24th, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 2410 Melrose Drive Cedar Falls Iowa

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.

Official Notice

Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference United Church of Christ on Saturday, October 7, 2017 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. The walk begins and ends at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

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.

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](#).

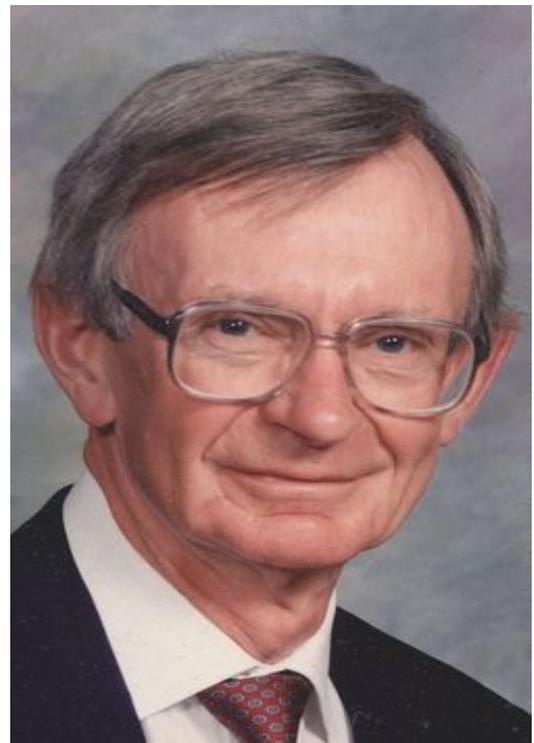
There are eight grandchildren: Brad, Ben, Anne, Will, Jane, Ellie, John, Frankie; eight great-grand children: Belle, Zeke, Kirsten,

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.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday – Group Discussion –
Exploring End of Life Issues 6:30
p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Saturday – Kaden’s Kloset open on
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sunday – Fireside Chat and Church Picnic

September 21 – Morning Circle 9:30 a.m.

October 11 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fresh and Faithful Resources for Advent and Christmas
Worship

This workshop, a resource for those who plan or lead worship, will look at liturgy (prayer, litanies, poetry, story, reader’s theatre), sermons and children’s messages for use during Advent and Christmas, and we will learn how to use them effectively. The resources presented work well in either traditional or contemporary worship settings. People of all ages and theological positions respond powerfully to them. You will go home with a packet of tools and resources ready to use this year in your church.

October 14th – **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.