

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ October 24, 2017.

Celebrating Life

Good News First



Gary and Mary Ann Hesse's son Jason and Rachelle Nolan were married on August 12, 2017 at the Cedar Valley Arboritum in Waterloo, Iowa. The couple and their children reside in Jesup, Iowa. Jason is employed at Dan Deery Toyota in Cedar Falls and Rachelle at Partners in OB/GYN in Waterloo. Our congratulations to the couple and their family!

We celebrate the many joys in the life of our church family. These major events are precious and give us new life. If you have an event you want to share with the rest of our church family, please send it to:

cedarfallsucc@gmail.com

Eileen Daley's son, Colin Ashwood and Maria Wagenhofer were married on September 30, 2017 at the Kimball Avenue United Methodist Church in Waterloo Iowa. The couple reside in Arlington, VA where Colin is employed with the Governmental Accountability Office and Maria is employed with Grant Thornton Consulting, LLC. Congratulations Collin and Maria!



Congratulations Eileen! Share a note with Colin and Maria or Eileen! Celebrate the presence of love.

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Praise God! Today my heart is full of thank-ful-ness for this community. We are having meaningful conversations on Wednesday night on a variety of topics. Rev Janice Springer has led another useful and insightful workshop on Prayers of Hands and Heart (October 14th). Thank you Janice. Thank you Dick Douglas for sharing your faith story on Sunday October 15th. I appreciated what Dick said and if you weren't able to be in worship but would like to listen...see him share, I made a DVD of his sharing. I have now available all those who have shared a part of their faith story on DVD. Celeste, Greg, myself, Janice and Dick sharing is now available.

On "Spirit" Day – a day to show support of the LGBTQ folk – I was asked to be on a panel at Wartburg to field any faith/religion questions the audience might have for the panel. So on October 19th, at 6:30 p.m. I joined 5 other panel members and the Transcend founder as moderator. The evening started with a presentation about what different terms mean around Transgender issues. 75 – 100 different audience members were present. Because people were free to come and go, I'm not sure how many people actually came to the event. It was an opportunity to let those there that I believe that we are all God's children and are called to accept people wherever they are on life's journey and encourage one another to grow on our relationship with the divine. By the responses I got (mostly after the event) people were appreciative that there were churches who would welcome them or their families.

The United Church of Christ has launched a new partnership invitation to all our churches. At the last General Synod they began the "3 Great Loves" initiative –an initiative that focuses on

Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation. "...And the greatest of these is love." (–a quote from 1 Corinthians 13:13) There may be no greater calling in today's ministry than the call to love. 3 Great Loves is a denomination-wide effort that about engaging the UCC to take action and to show the impact of the UCC, working together as one church, with one voice and one vision – a vision of A Just World for All.

Our General Minister and President, John C. Dorhauer, invites us to consider supporting the 3 Great Loves initiative over the next 2 years by planning activities around the following time line for each of the Loves: 1. NOW through the Spring of 2018 – Love of Neighbor: whether it is a neighbor in need who lives next door or on the other side of the world, many are faced with the need for protection, shelter, and support. 2. Summer 2018 – Winter 2019 – Love of Children: children in many families and neighborhoods need school supplies to overcome inequalities in our education systems. 3. Spring of 2019 – Love of Creation: taking care of our environment is one of the most important responsibilities we have as the Church.

You can learn more about 3 Great Loves at www.3greatloves.org. Do you have any activities you would like to see happen that might be focused on in these 3 time suggestions?

Greg Meyer is hosting a Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day at his home church, Unity Presbyterian in Waterloo. If you want to join him and others that day, then contact Greg and let him know.

On November 5th in worship, we will be celebrating the lives of many of our members and some friends or former members who are now with God. We will be remembering Evelyn Fullbright, James "Bart" McAninch, "Charlie" Moon, Eleanor

Crownfield, Marlys McAninch, Earl Easley, Donald Gray, and Evelyn Church. If I have missed anyone please call me by November 2nd so they may be included. This celebration of remembrance is held each November for "All Saints' Day".

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!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Dick Douglas for sharing a part of his faith journey on October 15th.

THANK YOU!

We extend a big note of thanks to all of you who have donated to our roof repair. The roof has been repaired. Thanks so much.

THANK YOU NOTE

We want to share a special thank you to Colleen for all the work she has done and continues to do with Kaden's Kloset. Sunday we had a special help day with Kaden's Kloset: Celeste, Cynthia, Cris, Aloha, Bill, Melissa and Pastor Sue all gave of their time to change from summer clothes

to winter clothes. Thank you all for giving of your time.

President's Message

The "Raise the Roof" campaign is completed with over \$4000 raised which really helps our budget. A final tabulation will be noted in a future Voice.

I apologize for canceling the October 29th fireside chat. There was a family issue which came up on the 29th which forced me to cancel it. We have rescheduled it for November 5th. At this time I have 2 topics which I plan to discuss and seek your input for. First, is a task force for Outreach. The purpose is to reach out to present and past members as well as follow up with visitors to assure that we keep in touch with the folks we should be serving. Second, will be a review and conversation of our present budget and endowment fund status. We will have an open and frank discussion of our financial status at the Annual Meeting in January and this will begin the preparation for that meeting topic. Feel free to give me suggestions of other ideas for the Fireside Chat.

The Church Council will be putting together the 2018 budget for the church and a pledge drive for that budget in November. Please be giving thought to your upcoming pledge. The Council will approve a preliminary budget at our November 27th Council meeting and a final budget at the December 18th Council meeting. The final budget will be based on pledges received and presented to the congregation at the January Annual Meeting.
Sincerely,
Larry Bucholz, Council President-

United Fellowship

Next meeting will be **November 2nd, 2017**

If you want to join us, then meet at the church to join us for our outing. We will depart at 10:30 a.m. At 1:00 p.m. we will go to Matchstick Marvels in Gladbrook. There is a five dollar admission charge for this museum where master craftsman, Patrick Acton, turns ordinary wooden matchsticks into incredible works of art. Millions of matchsticks have been painstakingly glued together to represent models of planes, trains, ships, buildings. Patrick is a lifelong resident of Iowa who has lived in Gladbrook for over 25 years. Many of his pieces have been featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not museums.

Our trip to Strawberry Point was really nice and our trip to Back Bone State Park made it a nice outing.



Special Offering Neighbors in Need

A United Church of Christ Offering

This offering supports grants for our neighbors all over the world. I served a church that did a community shower for families that just had a baby or were about to have a baby in that year. The grant money they received allowed them to buy cases of diapers to give out. 70 – 100 families were helped at that shower. This church had as its neighborhood 47% of the children living in poverty. This community shower helped so many children every year. Please consider giving to this special offering.

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.

Morning Circle

Next meeting is November 16th.

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

What a vital ministry we are providing for foster families in the Cedar Falls/ Waterloo area! We have even been reaching out to families as far north as Mason City. We have received donations from individuals and other churches for this ministry. This is a visible community outreach that is making a positive impression in the community, but even more importantly it is helping foster families and a few other families get clothes, shoes, coats, and personal items that are badly needed for the children.

We will be helping young adults as they age out of the foster care system, but right now we haven't had a lot of need for this service. We have been getting a lot of use for small children. Please keep all the children in your prayers.

Church Community News

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

Cedar Valley Family STEM Festival, November 7th, 4 – 7:30 p.m. at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo. (70+ free and fun activities at this hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics event.)

Waterloo Writing Project

The Waterloo Writing Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting student writing skills and communication. It is a place for students to write, publish, and perform. To come together to create new bonds and friendships. Youth from all around and from all ages K – 12 gather to collaborate and grow as writers and communicators. They meet on Sundays from 4 – 6 p.m. at 800 Broadway, Waterloo, IA. Visit their website to check their schedule: <http://www.waterloowritingproject.com>

Peace Camp November 11, 2017 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

We will be playing cooperative games, sharing stories, helping one another, and develop some problem solving skills. All are welcome. Here at United Church of Christ 9204 University Ave Cedar Falls Iowa!

THREE IN A-CHORD

Presents

“Finding Happiness in Unitopia”
(a musical quest for fulfillment)

Saturday, November 11th, at 6:30 p.m.
\$10 (includes desserts) call the Unity Presbyterian church 1149 Hammond St. Waterloo, IA 50702 @ 319-234-4291

The Listening Tour 2017 Interfaith Alliance of Iowa

Interfaith Alliance of Iowa wants to talk to Iowans, especially those who **aren't** closely connected to our work. Could that be you? The Listening Tour will be in Cedar Falls on Thursday, November 16th, Noble Oak Restaurant 314 Main St., Cedar Falls IA All gatherings are from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. (it is totally fine if you need to arrive late or leave early). Appetizers and soda are on us.

Pilgrim Heights Schedule

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.

On-going and UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday – Group Discussion –
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

October 31 – next Community Meal
we serve

November 8, 2017 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.

November 11 Peace Camp
10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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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