

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ November 21, 2017.

Happy Thanksgiving

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Thanks be to God for this church! God has blessed us so much with love, life, and laughter. We are blessed so that we might be a blessing to others. Thank you God.

A couple of weeks ago, when I was preparing a sermon, I came across the Jewish tradition that counts 100 blessings a day. I decided to take up that challenge and have consciously counted blessings every day and I aim for 100. I lose count sometimes, but it is helping me live more thankfully. It helps me focus on what I have rather than on what I don't have. It also reminds me to live thankfully rather than begrudgingly. I am reminded to experience the now and what is present here and now rather than what might have been or what was in the past.

How are you blessed? How are you called to be a blessing?

Greg Meyer is hosting a Thanksgiving meal at Unity Presbyterian Church in Waterloo. Thanks Greg for bringing people together and sharing food. You are a blessing to us here at CFUCC and we appreciate your playing and your enjoyment of the pipe organ. Thanks for blessing us with your time and talent.

Our biblical stories encourage us to remember who we are and whose we are as a community of faith. A lot of times I can focus on the personal vs. communal. Perhaps you do too sometimes. Focusing on the communal, I think of how this church can be a blessing to this Cedar Falls/Waterloo area. Here is what I came up with:

*We can show all that they are:
ACCEPTED by God
BELOVED by God
CHOSEN by God!

We can live knowing we are:
Delivered by God
Enlightened by God
Forgiven by God.

As a community of faith we have:
the GRACE of God
HOPE for the future
an INHERITANCE from God
JOY in Christ
KNOWLEDGE of God
LOVE, LOVE, LOVE

We have the:
MERCY of God
NEARNESS of God
ONENESS with God
PEACE
QUIETNESS OF SPIRIT

We are:
Redeemed
Sealed with the Spirit

Treasured by God
United with other believers
Validated as an authentic child of God

We have a/an:
Wisdom from God
Xenophobia absent – we welcome the stranger
Yearning for God
Zeal for Justice

*(inspired by /adapted from Anne Graham Lotz in “Just Give Me Jesus”)

We will be sending out the voice again next week with a calendar for December. If you have anything for December news wise, please get it to me by next Tuesday. Thanks.

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 NOTES

Thank you to all those who are faithfully coming to church. Your presence is a gift you give!

Thank you to Colleen Kelly for her organizing and on-going gift of time as she worked in Kaden’s Kloset to get the winter clothes available to families.

President’s Message

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-

*Pledge Cards coming
*Budget for 2018

United Fellowship

First Thursday of the month meeting date, time varies according to location. We will be going to Barn Happy near Cedar Falls for our Dec. outing. We will need to make a reservation so please let Barb Kuhlman know if you will be able to join us by Monday Dec. 5. The group had a fun time in Nov. in Gladbrook. We drove around Union Grove State Park, ate a good meal at Spankys, which had been an old movie theatre, and then saw the works of skilled craftsman, Patrick Acton, at the Matchstick Museum. If you are available on the first Thursday of the month, join us in our food and fellowship adventures.

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.

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

In November we have helped around 20 families. 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 need diapers all sizes.

On-going and UPCOMING EVENTS

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?

JAZZ Brunch
December 10th 10:15 a.m.
Featuring

“The Hands of Time”
We will be celebrating Christmas music in Jazz style.

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

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