

# The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ November 28, 2017.

---

## Friday Night is Movie Night

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Friday Night, December 1, 2017 will be movie night. We will begin with making our own pizza at 5:30 p.m. and then playing *The Tangerine Bear: Home in Time for Christmas!* (48 minutes) We will have a break and then at 7 p.m. our feature presentation will be: *The Shack*. Come for it all or choose what you are up for.

**Saturday, December 2nd at 10 a.m. we will be decorating the church for the Advent, Christmas season. We will be having coffee, juice, and treats available. Join us to make the church festive for the beginning of advent.**

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. Celeste has arranged for 9 students to come and play instruments for us to enjoy.

Kirk Smalley, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 will be at Hawkeye Community College Tama Hall Auditorium (Free Admission). Cedar Valley Stand for the Silent Alive and Running and Hawkeye Community College M\*A\*P\*S Club are sponsoring this talk to help STOP BULLYING. The Stand For the Silent (SFTS) program addresses the issues of youth suicide and school bullying. If you would like a sample of what he does go to You Tube and see how this family has tried

to make some good come out of their son's tragic death. He has 2 presentations that day. The first is at 9:30 a.m. The second one is at 6:30 p.m.

His message is one that says that we can treat each other with love and respect even if they don't like each other. We can learn how to get along even disagreeing with one another.

On December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., December 10<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m. December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** is playing in Waterloo at the Arts Museum theater.

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> is our JAZZ brunch with the Hands of Time (Chris Merz's band). We need people to sign up to bring food because we are advertising on face book and promoting it in the paper. We also want to have a good turn out to celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. Our focus will be on Christmas music jazz style!

We are meeting at the church on December 15<sup>th</sup> (Friday) to go Christmas Caroling. If you are interested, then please meet at the church at 5 p.m. If you don't want to go singing but would be willing to make hot chocolate, help with refreshments, join us at

the church at 6 p.m. We will enjoy some soup and sandwiches together.

On December 17<sup>th</sup> Janice and I will be hosting an open house that we would enjoy you dropping by from 2 – 5 p.m. No gifts please. We just would enjoy your company so let your presence be the present!

On December 24<sup>th</sup> we are having 2 worship services. At 10:15 a.m. we will have our 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Celebration and that evening at 7 p.m. we will celebrate the birth of Christ.

We are so blessed to have a God who loves us and sent Jesus to dwell among us. May this season be a celebration of life and love. For some people the Christmas season is difficult. Let's remember to pay attention to each other with extra kindness and patience. Let's remember to listen to one another.

On December 19<sup>th</sup> I turn 60 years old. Wow! I am excited. What is it about decades and marking our time line?

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.

Thank you to Rev Janice Springer for leading a workshop on the book of Psalm. Thank you for leading a workshop on November 8<sup>th</sup> as well. We appreciate your gift of time and knowledge.

### **President's Message**

The Church Council met on November 27 and put together a preliminary budget for 2018. The next step is a pledge drive which will commence this next Sunday. We'll be handing out pledge cards to all members in church this Sunday, December 3. All members not in church will receive their cards in the mail next week. Please return your pledges to us by December 17, that's 2 weeks. The Council meets again on December 18<sup>th</sup> and will finalize the budget then for presentation to the congregation in January. Please consider a small increase in your pledge. Even a 5% increase in each pledge from last year's pledges would amount to \$1800, a significant amount in our budget.

The church owns seven cemetery spaces. We have 2 spaces at Garden of Memories and 5 spaces (4 of them together and one by itself) at Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens. We are seeking input into what to do with them. We are considering selling them. Sincerely,  
Larry Bucholz, Council President-

**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 The Christmas Fund  
A United Church of Christ Offering**

This special offering is taken at Christmas time to benefit the servants of God. So many clergy have spent their life serving churches and are now retired or disabled and living in poverty or encountering expenses that they can't pay.

**Morning Circle**

Next meeting is December 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Morning Circle meets at 9:30 a.m.  
on the Third Thursday

We will be filling and delivering our cheer boxes. Thank You.

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

In November we were able to help around 25 families. "Thank you" to all those who have made this ministry possible.

**Church Community News**

December 10<sup>th</sup> - "A Bluegrass Christmas" 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. @1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian in sanctuary

Free-will Offering

\*\*\*\*\*

December 10<sup>th</sup> - 7 p.m. Annual Hand Bell concert @1<sup>st</sup> UMC – free

.....  
December 21<sup>st</sup> 7 p.m. Longest Night Service @ Cedar Falls Mennonite Church

\*\*\*\*\*

**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](http://www.transcend.lgbt) or e-mail someone at: [contact@transcend.lgbt](mailto:contact@transcend.lgbt) or phone: 319-359-7774

**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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.cedarfallsucc.org)

CHURCH email address:  
[cedarfallsucc@gmail.com](mailto:cedarfallsucc@gmail.com)