

# The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ December 20, 2017.

## Merry Christmas from Cedar Falls United Church of Christ!



Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Merry Christmas! This December has been full of times of sharing: movie night, caroling, open house! The Christmas Caroling brought 11 singers out and I made them soup and sandwiches for when they returned. They went to 5 places and one car/van sang in between the places. What

joy these singers brought to so many lives. Thank you!

We had 20 guests at our open house on Sunday. I'll be putting some pictures on the web page. We are enjoying our home and want to share time with you in our home. Thank you for making this season special.



Mark and David have been joining us for worship. They came to our open house. They are witnesses to our living our vision. They are inviting friends and others who they meet to join us for worship on Sundays. Their experience is one of acceptance and welcome. Thank you CFUCC!

My birthday celebration was so fun. Dobby got me up around 5:30 a.m. He was ready for my birthday celebrating to begin. I had a wonderful day. I had family come and join with me mid day to play board games. I had a wonderful time reading all the cards, face book posts, and e-mails. Thank you. Turning 60 has been grand.

May you have a blessed Christmas. God bless you all.

We will be sending January's calendar and letter from Larry Buccholz our Council President next week (just in time for the New Year). We pray for those traveling to be safe.

We are thankful to God and all those praying for Jamison (a small child). Celeste sent me an update letting me know that he was diagnosed with a rare disease that is treatable. He is already responding wonderfully to the treatment and though he isn't up and running yet, his parents are hopeful that he will be soon. They sent out

a thank you to all who prayed for him. Thank you church family for your prayers. We continue to lift up and place into God's hands all that we can. Thank you.

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

We say, "Thank you" to all those who are faithfully coming to church. Your presence is a gift you give! Please continue to keep this little but faithful congregation in your prayers. We seek to live our vision and do God's mission.

Thank you to the musicians that have provided special music through out Advent. We thank the trombones our first Sunday of Advent. Hands of Time our Jazz brunch musicians, thank you. Our choir was awesome last Sunday and we say a special note of thanks to Ava and Lacey for joining them!



touched my heart. Moving forward with love in my heart for you all.

### **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.

That night we are invited to a service at the Mennonite church of The Longest Night.

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

In December, we have had a lot of traffic through Kaden's Closet. Some weeks we have had someone donate or come by to shop almost every day and one Weds. we had around 10 families. There are organizations that are choosing Kaden's Closet to donate goods to.

### **Church Community News**

December 21<sup>st</sup> 7 p.m. Longest Night Service @ Cedar Falls Mennonite Church  
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Thank you for all your birthday wishes! I had been feeling a bit low from all the losses this past year of people I have loved and continue to love. Your cards made me smile and

## 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?

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.”

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