

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ January 9, 2018.

2018

The Adventure Continues!

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Congratulations to Brittany and Cam Argotsinger on the birth of their daughter December 30, 2017. Claire Noelle was born healthy and we celebrate her arrival! Her grandfather, Larry Buchholz, was proud to announce her birth on Sunday. She is a delightful joy to all!



The New Year is underway and here at the church we are preparing our annual reports for our congregational meeting January 21st. We will have them available Sunday the 14th for your reading ahead of time.

We have had cold temperatures. I know you don't need reminding of it, but I mention it to say that the plumbing on the outside N wall in the kitchen froze again. The plumber was able to get it flowing again, but we need to remember to leave that door open so that heat can get in the cupboard so it doesn't freeze when we are competing with Antarctica for the coldest temperatures.

We have had irregular office hours through the holidays. This week (the 10th) we resume our theological forums (discussion groups). We will begin our time together with resolutions. Who makes them or don't and why. Is there value in making them? All are welcome to join us. We enjoy being with each other even when we don't stay on subject. 😊

I will be taking 1-2 hours each week to sit in a restaurant at a listening post for anyone to come and talk with me. I have learned that the number 2 cause of death for kids age 10 - 24 years old is suicide. This is appalling to me. I also discovered that many adults have an actual plan to end their life. Please hold

in prayer all these concerns and issues. We want to encourage all to value all lives and to know that they/we are not alone.

I saw this on a post and share it with you here: People don't always need advice. Sometimes all they really need is a hand to hold, an ear to listen, and a heart to understand them. Please hold in prayer all those who are needing a listening ear.

Frederick Buechner, theologian and author, encouraged us to live and work at the intersection "where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." I was thinking about this in terms of our church. Our deep gladness is loving God and the world's deep hunger is experiencing unconditional love. Of course, this is my opinion. What do you think?

We are helping out Kaden's Kloset mother organization with donations from our closet going to Zimbabwe. They are wanting to donate 3 barrels of items to the ministry there. We will have them go through our closet and pick some items that they know they can use. We continue to make a difference in the lives of those who are using our closet. In December we helped a family provide Christmas presents for their toddler both with clothes and toys. Thank you for your on-going support of this ministry.

If you have news for the church, let me know. We want to include what is going on in your life. We give congratulations to the Newcomb family, Elijah announced that he was going to be a big brother. We look forward to meeting his new brother or sister in June. Congratulations Joe and Karen and Elijah, we are excited for you all.

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!



The Work of Christmas

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.**

The Work of Christmas, by Howard Thurman, from the book entitled *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*.

We will be inviting anyone who wants to come a bit early on Wednesday to join us in praying together. We will be praying for things that have been mentioned in worship and anything new.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,

I was surprised to find a Christmas gift from you...but how nice! Thank you! I like the beautiful blue on the Children's Christmas Plate, and the picture of the children around the lighted tree is lovely. I have kept a record of our family Christmases for about 50 years, and on the page for 2017 I recorded that gift as an addition to our Christmas, a gift from all of you. The nicest gift that you have given me, though, is your warm welcome to me, your friendship, and the opportunity for me to be part of a loving community. God bless you all.

Janice

Thank you to Mary Henry and Randy Henry for the poinsettias that decorated our sanctuary. It sure added to our festivities. Thank you both! From your church family

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the Birthday cards! I had a great 60th birthday.

I also want to thank Morning Circle and the church for the Christmas box and gifts. I appreciate you all and your thoughtfulness.

Thank you.
Pastor Sue

Morning Circle

Next meeting is in February.
Morning Circle meets at 9:30 a.m.
on the Third Thursday

United Fellowship

January's United Fellowship went to Cedar Falls' Freshii's for lunch. 5 of us enjoyed the food and time together. Thanks Barb Kuhlman for organizing us.



United Fellowship will be meeting at Sub City 111 Main Street at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday February 1st. A menu is available for viewing in advance, just see Barb Kuhlman and she can show it to you. They have choices of a wide variety of subs and soups.

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

In December, we have had a lot of traffic through Kaden's Kloset. 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 Kloset to donate goods to. We have had several children choose to have their friends donate something in honor of their birthdays. We have had a few of the families that are students at UNI or Hawkeye that have used our closet as well. We had one foster family that brought back items they had gotten from us that their child outgrew and they picked out clothes that will now fit. This is a blessing that our closet provides for those families and our community. If

you know of anyone who needs this closet please send them to us. If you have children's clothes, pass them along. Thanks for your ongoing support. We can always use diapers so if you are able to find a good deal, these are always welcomed.

Church Community News

Community Meal on Tuesdays at First United Methodist Church. Our turn to serve is January 30th at 4 p.m.

Folk singer Rachel Bearinger is providing a concert this Sunday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. This will be held at First Presbyterian Church 902 Main Street, Cedar Falls. A freewill offering will be received for the performer.

Community Forum

Community Forum Presentations are held at COR, the Waterloo parishes' downtown hospitality center at 220 East 4th Street.

Monday, January 22, 2018

6:30-7:30pm

Returning to Church After the Death of a Loved One

The Program

Many people discover that one of the hardest things to do after the death of a loved one is to return to church. At first glance, this seems odd and disorienting but there are actually very good reasons

why returning to church is difficult in these circumstances. In this Community Forum we will discuss why church attendance is a special challenge for those who are grieving the death of a spouse or loved one and how individuals might cope with this particular aspect of the grieving process.

Free and open to the public.

The Facilitators

Toni Pint-Burke is on the staff of St. Edward Parish in Waterloo. Dave Cushing is director of adult faith formation for the Catholic Parishes in Waterloo.

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