

# The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ April 24, 2018.

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## Love Shows Up

### Food for Thought

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April our theme for that Sunday was: “Love Means Showing Up, and Those who show up – Love.” After Jesus had risen, he invited the disciples to go forth into the world sharing the Gospel – God loves them and we are to love others. Words about God are not enough, sometimes we need God to show up and sometimes we experience God through one another.

No one **then** and no one **now** really knows how to “explain” the Resurrection, so the disciples long ago – and we, in our own day – can only try to describe a personal experience of it. When we read the story of the two disciples whose eyes kept them from recognizing him on the road to Emmaus (even though their hearts were mysteriously burning as he spoke), followed by this picture of a growing little community of questioning, wondering believers, we’re reading about ourselves, too.

After Jesus convincingly ate of a broiled fish in their presence, he deliberately talked to them about what had happened. He explained that this is what he had been telling them all along while he was with

them. They didn’t understand. How true this is for many of us. Words about God are not enough, sometimes we need God to show up.

This week’s passage speaks of an offer of peace, a request for food, a blessing and a commissioning. What the disciples experienced was that Jesus’ presence was mysterious and real. Love showed up where the disciples were at, hidden frightened, down. These earliest Christians do the same thing that we do: journeying, questioning, fearing, but also feeding and being fed, listening for receiving God’s call.

**That call is that when love is needed, just show up.**

I have seen you love that way, by showing up. I’ve seen you show up for Lacy’s gymnastic meet. I’ve heard how meaningful it was for some of our folks when you carolers showed up at their house and sang the season to them. You show up to help serve and clean up at the Community meal. You show up at the Pride festival. You show up at UNI’s

Rainbow room. You show up to drive people to church when they need a ride, to the grocery store, or other appointments. You show up to provide Kaden's Kloset also an important ministry.

Love means showing up  
And I see you doing that.

**Love means showing up and whoever shows up, we LOVE.**

Parker Palmer has remarked that the church speaks often about "community," but it is often an idealized community. Palmer offers this definition of community: "Community is that place where the person you least want to live with always lives. And when that person moves away, someone else arises to take his or her place." (The Company of Strangers, Parker J. Palmer, NY: Crossroad 1981 pp 124-125)

There was a neighborhood grocery store in a fairly affluent town that is visited each morning by the same street person. She enters the grocery store about 11 a.m. every day and makes her way through the aisles. Ruth steals food. Each morning she gathers enough for her lunch, poking pieces of fruit, loaves of bread, wedges of cheese, or a can of meat under her torn and stained coat. She then glides out the door. She isn't subtle about it. Everyone at the store can see what she does. The stockroom crew know she is taking food; the butcher sees her activity; the checkout

clerks are aware of her pilfering; the owner and the manager knows what she does also. Not too long ago, this grocery store moved several blocks away to a larger building. The week they moved to the new location, the store owner called a downtown pastor. "I don't want to embarrass Ruth," he began, "so would you please find her and tell her where we've moved. I want to make sure she can find us."

This is an example of whoever shows up, love. Love at work in the community, a grocery owner reaching out to a homeless woman...both showing up

I've seen you do that too – whoever shows up, you love! You are good at it and getting even better.

Take this home with you... Tape it on your bathroom mirror. Hang it on your refrigerator!

Love means showing up  
And whoever shows up we Love.

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

The road construction on University in front of our church continues. There is a driveway off of Erickson's drive. We are easily reached. Check it out.

For our discussions on Wednesdays starting April 11<sup>th</sup> – May 30<sup>th</sup>, we will be showing excerpts of movies, T.V. series, or shows that show a specific issue we will then talk about. We are starting with episodes of West Wing. We will have a few episodes from M\*A\*S\*H and then

from "Friends" and "The Big Bang Theory". Join us for you will be welcomed and it is a highlight of many of our weeks. 😊

With God's help we can work together to create a congregation that follows Jesus and makes a difference in Cedar Falls. God bless this congregation as we seek to follow Jesus.

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!



## Spring Work Day

Finally, Spring is here! I need help getting the church cleaned up, so we will have a work day on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. -12 p.m.. If it gets rained out the alternative date will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have rakes, mowers/ mulchers, bush trimmers, brooms, etc. please bring them. If you don't, then don't worry, I will have some of these tools for you to use. Any questions contact Colleen Kelly.

**Our Workshops are done until fall.  
Thank you Janice for your leadership.  
By the request of those who participated  
in the workshop Poetry as Prayer, a  
morning has been scheduled for us to host  
Poetry as Prayer ....Part 2.**



## **POETRY AS PRAYER.....PART 2.**

Recently we had a workshop on Poetry as Prayer. We enjoyed it so much that the participants asked that we do it again. So we will gather at church from **9:30 to noon on Saturday, April 28.** We will not serve lunch, but we'll have snacks, and the coffee pot will be on.

You are welcome to join us even if you weren't at the original workshop.

You're invited to bring and read to us poems that are meaningful to you, including poems you have written. After hearing the poem, we will talk about what it means, how it speaks to our lives, what the poem stirs in us.

If you don't have poems to share, come anyway and listen.

We will organize the reading of poems according to the same themes we used before:

Being Present  
Recognizing Love in All Its Disguises  
Grief and Loss  
Holding Fast to What Sustains Us  
Revolution  
Abundance and Grace

**We hope you will join us!**

## THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to Chris Merz and band for playing for our Jazz Brunch! It was an empowering and inspiring worship experience. Thank you! And a special note of thanks is extended to all who brought food. It was delicious.



## President's Message

Spring has sprung, slowly. Like most people I am tired of winter and am ready for spring and summer.

Although we have talked about outreach and growth we have not followed up on it. This spring and summer we need to move ahead. Last year the Council encouraged Pastor Sue to work with a consultant, Church Fuel, to empower us to grow as a church. We so far have not followed up on their recommendations and training. We have been given numerous suggestions for small churches in which the council will be considering the next few months. Stay tuned for more information in the Voice and possibly some Fireside chats after church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Buchholz

## United Fellowship

United Fellowship will be having lunch on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Peppercorn Pantry in Aplington. We will meet at church at 11:20 a.m. This will be United Fellowships last luncheon until September. Location is 911 Parrot St. in Aplington. – Barb Kuhlman

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

Our closet continues to be used each week, some weeks more than others. I receive many comments of appreciation for this ministry.

## Community Events

**The Songbook Trio** (Steph, Tom and Al) will be presenting music by Harold Arlen on Thursday May 10 at 7:00 pm at the Hearst Center (304 W Seerly Blvd. Cedar Falls) The event is free and vocalist is our former choir director, Stephanie A. This is the last concert these season each featuring a different jazz artist.

**Waterloo Mother's Chorus** presented Sentimental Journey Celebrating 80 years. Sunday, April 8th, 2018, 2 p.m. the Mother's Chorus performed here at UCC. They sang many tunes and I am sure our April Snow Shower affected their attendance. Those of us who were here, were blessed.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of NE Iowa is inviting our church to participate in their fund raising drive. One of the ways to help out is to participate in a Bowl-a-thon. They are encouraging each member of the team to raise \$100 each. Big challenge. Are you interested? Contact Pastor Sue. The dates are: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> at Cadillac Lanes in Waterloo.

### Confirmation

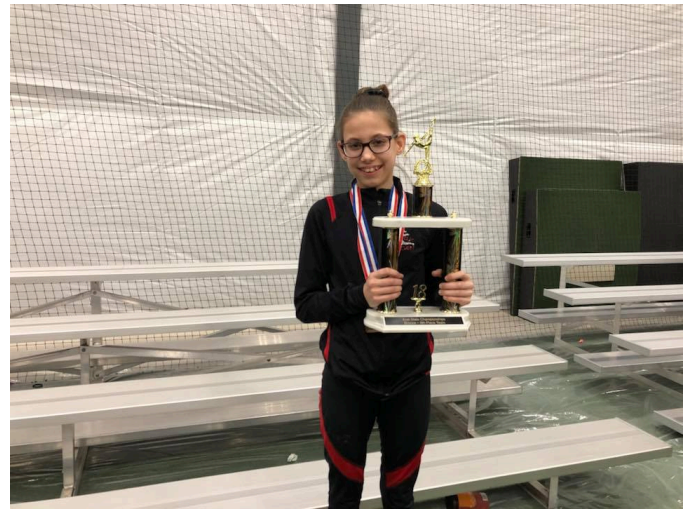
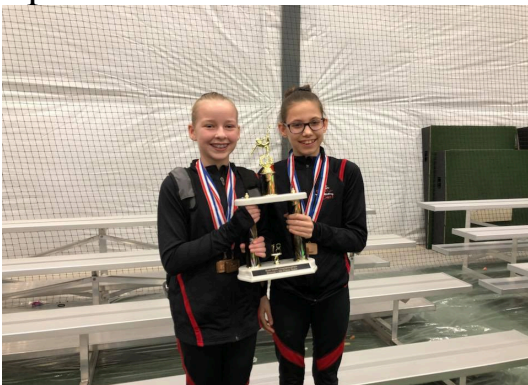
Lexi Oudekerk is in confirmation. We also are working with Lacy and Ava for pre-confirmation. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they explore their faith.

### **Prayer Retreat – May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**

On May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. adults and children will meet together to have a shared time together. We will be doing a couple of activities together related to prayer and explore prayer in our life. Please join us.

### **Congratulations Lacy**

Lacy qualified at State competition to go to Regionals in gymnastics. Keep her in your prayers, she competes April 20 – 22<sup>nd</sup>.



### **Congratulations Lexi!**

**In the first trapshooting meet of the season, Lexi got third place in singles with a 45/50 score. She also got third place in doubles!**



## Joys and Concerns

Lorna Heronimus had her 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday on April 20<sup>th</sup>. She had some time with family and is enjoying the weather finally being nice.

Lorna and Wilbur Heronimus are celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on May 29<sup>th</sup>! They have invited us to an anniversary celebration on the 19<sup>th</sup> (more details coming later.)

Prayers for the Jernigan family as they struggle with health issues.

## Sad News

We are saddened by the death of Roger Heise. We hold Alice and their family in prayer. May their memories of times shared bring comfort.



### Obituary for Roger Heise

Roger Ernest Heise, 82, of Cedar Falls, formerly of Clarksville, died Thursday, March 8, 2018, at his home. He was born February 11, 1936 in Waterloo, Iowa, the son of Arthur and Lillie (Nordmeyer) Heise. Roger married Alice Harken on September 2, 1956 at Pleasant Valley

Church in Clarksville. He was a 1954 graduate of Clarksville High School and attended Iowa State University. Roger was a farmer and worked at the John Deere Product Engineering Center for over 40 years. He was a volunteer Boy Scout leader for 30 years, as a Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, and Wrangler President for Camp Ingawanis, and was recipient of the Silver Beaver Award. He loved tractors and tractorcading and was a member of the Antique Collectors Club. He also loved flying RC model airplanes and was an active member of the Blackhawk R/C Pilots Club. Roger also was a member of the Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society.

He is survived by his wife, Alice Heise; his daughter, Susan Burgstrum; two sons James (Kim) Heise and John (Beth) Heise; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Norma Heise.

Services will be 2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 24, 2018, at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls, with private burial at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Clarksville. Visitation will be one hour before service at the church. Memorials may be directed to the Boy Scouts Camp Ingawanis Adventure Base or First United Methodist Church.

## UCC Beyond our Local Church

West Central R/Y/E

### Regional Youth Event 2018

When: June 19-22, 2018

Where: Grinnell College

Learn more by going to: [rye2018.org](http://rye2018.org)

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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