

# The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

JULY 24, 2018.

---

## Civility

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Several organizations, including Cedar Valley Interfaith, has named the problem facing our community/country is civility or the lack of it. A Community Conversation was held at Hawkeye Tech to develop strategies for civil discourse in communities.

Have you ever experienced incivility in the community? On-line? In your life experience?

Have you ever lost your civility? If so, when? What was going on inside of you?

We can be intentional about our behavior and how we relate to those who disagree with us. Think about a person in your life with whom you disagree and intentionally make a commitment to connect with that person not to change their mind about what you disagree about, but to relate respectfully to them.

One of the tools for conversations that are not “confrontational” but “care-frontational” is to listen. Listen and attack the problem, not the person. Seek to care more to get it right than to be right. Speak up sooner and more consistently rather than delaying and deferring little things until they become big things. This means being respectful to ideas, people and the process even if it is moving you out of your comfort zone. Assume best intentions on the part of the other person.

What stops us from speaking up? My experience is that fear is a huge. We fear the reaction of the other, or what they might think of us, or \_\_\_\_\_.

When expressing our thoughts, feelings, or points of view, the use of “I” statements rather than “You” statements are most useful. This is a skill that takes practice especially if we have strong feelings surging through our bodies.

Another tool for creating care-frontation is seeking a win-win situation. Finding a balance between our needs and best interests with their needs and best interests.

Are you able to own your own mistakes and missteps? Relationships are not smooth and perfect. It helps to be ready to apologize, make up, and move on. My personality tends to be as a problem solver. I am still working at listening and not jumping in with solutions. It is so important for individuals to come up with what they find useful and encourage them to fix their own problems.

How many people have you engaged in conversation without intending to try and change their mind about issues but to truly get to know the other person? How do you get to know someone else? I think of the prayer of St. Francis but I will uplift the part that seeks to understand even more than being understood. I have found that both are needed.

Civility is needed in these days of division and so much negativity in social media, politics, and in our communities and families. How do you hold yourself accountable for the civility of your actions?

I am planning a couple of worship services that will be led during a time other than Sunday morning. One of those services will be a pet blessing. I am hoping to plan these services with one or more churches here in Cedar Falls.

Topics for our Wednesday evening discussions are being planned this summer as well. We would like to include them in a brochure that comes out in August before PRIDE rally and the Rainbow room at UNI.

Rev Janice Springer has a new book out, "All are Welcome at the Table, but do I have to sit next to you?" We will plan on a book signing at the church sometime this fall as well. We also are in the process of scheduling workshops that she will be leading this next school year.

I am missing Bible Study. If at least two or three others would be interested in joining me for a Bible Study, I would like to begin one this fall. Since I have been preaching on the lectionary. I would like to study those passages each week. Let me know.

God bless you! God is awesome! God loves you!

In Christ we serve,  
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



Please pray for our young people attending peace camp this week.

## Sharing Life Together

We celebrate with Joseph and Kyrie Youde at the birth of their daughter, Maeve. Congratulations to them and their family.



We celebrate with Andy and Britney Youde on the birth of their daughter July 19<sup>th</sup>. Welcome to this world Sloan Alexandria.

Dale and Janeen Danielson celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 26<sup>th</sup>. That is also Janeen's birthday. If you want to send them a card, send it to: 31667 150<sup>th</sup> St. Dike IA 50624

Lathon Jernigan is still recovering and trying to gain strength. Please keep him in your prayers. He is at home.

Please pray for Cris Vallecio. She has been struggling with shingles and a migraine headache. Thanks.

Pray for Randy Henry (medical tests) this week.

Let's pray for Chris Merz and his father as his father transitions from this life to the next.

Let's remember to keep each other in our prayers. We all need God's hand upon us. Thanks.

### **Good News**

First Christian Church has a new pastor, Rev. Bryce Bowers. We welcome him to the community. He began the first of June.

First Congregational UCC Waterloo Iowa has called a new senior pastor as well, Rev. Scott Spence.

Rev Janice Jean Springer's book, "I Know We're all Welcome at the Table but do I have to sit Next to You?" has been published. It costs \$15 a book. If you are interested in getting a book let Pastor Sue know and we can do one order and get free shipping.

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

We have been getting quite a few families using Kaden's Klostet. Thank you Colleen for staying on top of it.

Summer hours will be by appointment. If you have donations or want to shop, give the church a call and we will get back to you as soon as we are able.

### **Community Events**

July 31<sup>st</sup> is the next community meal that we will be serving. If you can help out, join us at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church Cedar Falls.

First Christian Church has a food pantry 4 -6 p.m. on Thursdays. If you are able to donate food directly to them, then please do so. If you know someone who needs this resource please let people know.

Greg Meyer is organizing a John Deere Tractor Works Tour 10:00 a.m. Thursday, August 9, 2018. If you would like to go, sign up at church or give us a call and leave a message on the machine.

### **Thank you**

Peace camp is underway. Thank you to Colleen and Melissa Kelly for doing crafts. Thank you to Karen Newcomb for providing snacks and Georgia Henry, Barb Kuhlman, and Mary Ann Hesse. Thank you to Larry Buchholz for helping with lunch Tuesday. Thank you to Aloha Oudekerk for fixing lunch on Thursday. Thanks to Cynthia for helping with the music. Thank you to all who donated items or money to help us provide for Peace Camp. Thank you!

### **Pet Blessing**

August 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 p.m. we will be having a shared pet blessing service with First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We will be providing finger foods for the children and adults, dog and cat treats for some of our pets. Other kind of pets may need to bring their own treats. ☺

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)