

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

August 7, 2018.

Celebration

Congratulations

We extend our congratulations and we celebrate two births. We celebrate with Joe and Karen Newcomb and brother Elijah on the birth of their daughter Anna on August 3rd.



We celebrate with Matt and Ashley Adams on the birth of their son on August 4th. Matt and Ashley, I would love to share a picture of your son. Please e-mail one or ask Grandma Lori to. 😊

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

August 12th @ 2:05 the Waterloo Bucks last home game of the season begins. We are going as a church group. We will be sitting in section G or H. Everyone will get your own ticket that day. Every game I have been to there won't be an issue of being able to sit together.

It has come to my attention that a couple people have had trouble reading the Voice. I put it in pdf format so that it can be read using most any computer. If you are having trouble opening The Voice, please let me know so I can send it to you again or try another way.

In the last Voice, I talked about civility in this community and beyond. In this Voice, I want to talk about this congregation in this community. We have had a witness and presence in this community for a very long time and at this location since 1962. The UCC has proclaimed that God is Still Speaking and that we need to not only grow in faith as disciples of Christ, but we need to be about social justice in the world. The last 10 years has brought many changes that has led us to wonder whether or not we will continue as a church. When I joined Cedar Falls UCC, I brought a commitment to do what I could to provide meaningful worship, to be a loving and accepting voice to all who came into our midst, and to be a progressive voice to the community. I experienced a community that was struggling to heal and move on. I also have experienced

people making choices to leave (at least physically) and our gatherings became smaller. The trouble with that is that those left behind end up discouraged and wondering how long we can continue as a church.

We will need to engage in serious conversation this fall because at the end of this year, we will not be able to afford a full time pastor. I have known that this might happen if we were unable to turn around the trend and begin to grow. Unfortunately this community is taking some time to break into and have people open to us. It is happening, but slowly. We need more time. We will discuss this more at special meetings this fall.

For me, I hope we are all open to thinking out of the box and are willing to work together not only for what is best for the church but what will work for Janice and me as well. I know some of you have expressed concern for me and what is fair and unfair to me. I thank you for your love and concern but I want you all to know that I make offers to the church because I believe in the importance of this church continuing and being a Voice for this community that there is a place where all truly are welcomed and loved "no matter where they are on lives journey." I will be as honest in these conversations as I can and hope that you will be too. I am open to us teaming up with other UCC churches or even serving as an interim again somewhere else while covering worship here until being part time works for us both.... The point is that we may have to think out of the box until the ministries we have begun can grow.

Now I will address August and this fall. We will be having an extra worship service (pet blessing) on April 19th @ 5:30 p.m. We have invited First Christian Church to join us.

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. If you have some ideas, please let me know this week. Thanks.

Rev Janice Springer has a new book out, "I know that 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. The cost of the book is \$15 a piece. We will host a workshop this fall for the conference and have the books available then. We will host a book signing as well. These dates have yet to be determined.

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

In Christ we serve,
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



Sharing Life Together

As I have already mentioned we celebrate the arrival of Anna Newcomb and baby boy Adams. We continue to celebrate with Andy and Britney Youde on the birth of their daughter July 19th. Welcome to this world Sloan Alexandria.

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

Happy Birthday to Wilbur Heronimus! He celebrated his 91st birthday on August 4th.

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 head-ache. Thanks.

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 Kloset)

We have been getting quite a few families using Kaden's Kloset. 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

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.

Blessed Sacrament is having a rummage sale this Thursday 4 – 8 p.m. and Friday 9 – 2 p.m. On Saturday from 9 – 12 they offer all non-profits to come and pick out anything they may need or want. Blessed Sacrament is at 650 Stephan Avenue Waterloo, IA.

Pride Festival all day August 25th. We will have a table from morning until 4 or 5. Waterloo

"Depictions of Religion in Popular Culture" presented by Rev. Nate Nims (Pastor of Waterloo First United Methodist Church) hosted by The Canterbury Forum, August 26th at St Luke's Episcopal Church @ 7 p.m.

Sons of Jacob Synagogue is inviting the public to observe with them High Holiday Services on September 10th, 18th, and 19th. Rabbi Ora Simon Schnitzer officiates, she is the daughter of a former Rabbi who served them and this community in the 60's I think.

Thank you

Thank you to all who donated items or money or treats for Peace Camp. Thank you! We had a great time. Pictures are available on our web page. Website: www.cedarfallsucc.org

Pet Blessing

August 19th @ 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.”
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