

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

August 21, 2018.

Church Community

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

We want to invite people to join us in community who believe in the value of all people because he or she is a child of God. We want to be the community that welcomes, loves, invites all who wants to live this out. We want people to be a part of this church because they believe in God and want to join with us in giving God's love to others.

Being small in number is our weakness and our strength is welcoming all who come into our midst. In a Goal Cast video, Jonathan Mooney shares his story of how he overcame several learning disorders and countless numbers of people who said he couldn't, to graduate from college, author 2 books and share how important it is to teach our children to build on our strengths and compensate for our weaknesses.

Why are we a church? We are people who have faith in God who gather to worship God. We are a church because we believe that all people are loved by God and that we want to be a voice in this community that proclaims God's love to all people. In this world of disconnect, we seek to connect with God in an environment of love and welcome.

We are one of the few if not only church/s that offers a voice, a place for people to gather without judgment. I'm not saying that we would allow hate groups to meet here. I am saying that

we go across the political spectrum and other divides to say that we can meet in this place giving God's love and welcoming people into our midst even when we disagree.

I believe that God wants our voice to be heard here in Cedar Falls/Waterloo area. A voice that says we will honor our heritage and not be bound by our past. We will reach to be a new church that is present with, ministering to, and welcoming all who God brings into our midst. I believe that where two or three are gathered together, Christ is present. We have a witness to make as a church community.

This is the "why" it is important to me that we remain a church community. In the last Voice, I mentioned several options about how we might continue. I mentioned what I personally needed to continue in ministry. This fall (September 16th), we will have a congregational meeting where we need to discuss this clearly and openly and make decisions based on where God is leading us as a congregation.

In the last Voice, I did not bring up us "giving up" and closing our doors. I know that is an option also. It may have been unfair of me to say what I wanted and not lay out objectively all the possible choices our members could make. I am a member here. I chose intentionally to invest in this community and particularly this church because of the "whys" I mentioned earlier. With that said, I will honor our decision as a

congregation and I will do my best to lovingly move forward no matter the decision.

Love is at the center of my life and I hope that my decisions flow from that center. I know that I can at times be bossy and I like being right more than is probably healthy. I know many of my flaws. Some of those flaws I am working to improve, for I find the more I love the easier it is to challenge my flaws. I need community. I want my community to be Cedar Falls United Church of Christ. How about you?

We have so much to celebrate in life. In so many ways we are truly blessed. I have been reading many uplifting stories to continue to lift up my own story. I find focusing on stories that lift up my values are important, especially if I am having a down day. What lifts you up?

Topics for our Wednesday evening discussions are loosely listed in a brochure. The workshops we are offering have been laid out.

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!



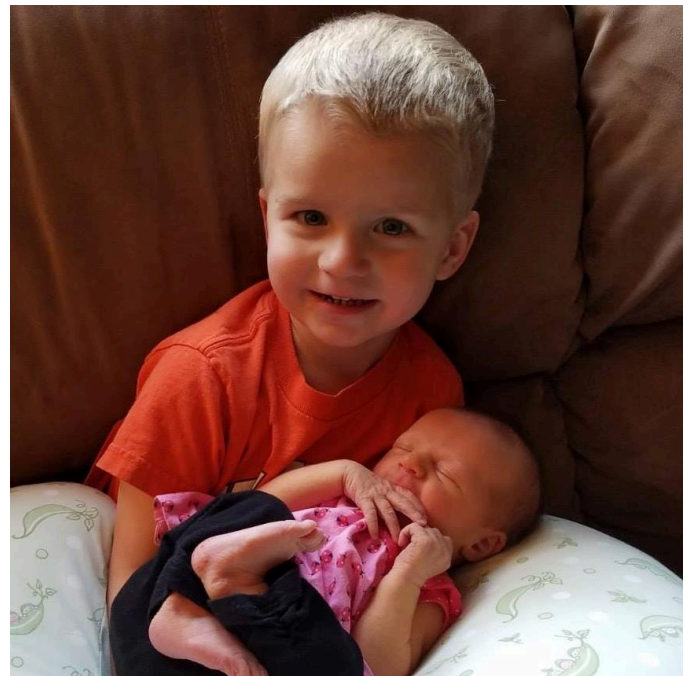
Sharing Life Together

Canoe Trip on September 8th

We are canoeing on the Upper Iowa. Sign up at church or give the church a call. Bring a sack lunch. The cost is estimated at \$15 a person.

Congratulations

We celebrate with Joe and Karen Newcomb and brother Elijah on the birth of their daughter/sister Anna on August 3rd.



Anna's baptism will be on September 9th! Join us for worship and welcome her into our community!

We celebrate with Matt and Ashley Adams on the birth of their son on August 4th. Congratulations Matt and Ashley! Welcome to this world Gabriel (Gabe) Gordon Adams!

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

Lathon Jernigan is at home. He continues to gain strength.

Please pray for Cris Vallecio. She is still in need of prayer.

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

United Fellowship

Due to road construction we are going west for our next United Fellowship and doing breakfast instead of lunch while it is nice out, so meet at the church on September 6th and be ready to depart at 8:30 a.m. Destination is Todd's Neighborhood Grill, a family-owned and operated restaurant. Location is 207 3rd St. Parkersburg, Iowa. There is a sign-up sheet at church or let Barb or Greg know you are coming. Love to have you join us.

Good News

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Cedar Falls United Church of Christ will have a congregational meeting at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, September 16th. On the agenda is 2019 Budget and options for the future of this congregation.

Celeste Bembry's mission trip to Kenya was a wonderful experience. The children are orphans who live together. Celeste played and experienced their exuberance. We give blessings to these children and Celeste. She shared with us some pictures to include on our web page and I include one here:



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.

September – December Kaden's Kloset will be open on Wednesdays 2 – 5 p.m. and on the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. We will want volunteers to work our Saturdays. Thanks.

Community Events

August 26th, 7 p.m. The Canterbury Forum "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.

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.

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

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

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
We found this picture from 10 years ago:



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



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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