

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

September 18, 2018.

Being Church

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

May we give thanks to God for this community of faith and our decision to choose “life”. We are choosing life and continue as a church even if we are feeling shaky. In a book called, “Real Good Church”, author Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette said there are plenty of churches out there for people “who want things to stay exactly the same, for people who hate disruption and innovation, for people who are committed to the idea of God-approved homophobia, among other things.”

Church growth experts have been telling me the past couple of years that we (as a church) need to know 1st why we think God wants us to be a church – in other words, can we agree that we have a God blessed ministry to offer this community? If we say yes, then what can we offer that is unique and needed in this community?

Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette states that “there aren’t enough ... churches that are open, welcoming, flexible, playful, and forward-moving.” A couple of years ago, we put together a brochure and a web page and began focusing on being a “welcoming” congregation. We want to be a safe haven for people who want to explore their faith and we do pretty well at accepting people wherever they are in life.

A question I have for us to ponder at the moment is this: We want to survive, but do we truly want to grow as a church? Are we o.k. with what it will take to grow – change, flexibility, doing things differently and perhaps out of our comfort zone?

In October, we will be having two Halloween parties. On Friday night the 26th of October will be for our children mainly. We will open it for children under 5 from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. The older children will help host a costume contest and have activities for these children and then after they leave the older children continue with activities and their costume contest. This will go until 9 p.m. If you want to help by donating prizes (age appropriate) or candy or decorations, we will appreciate it. Our second Halloween party is specifically an outreach party for our LGBTQ youth and allies. This will be October 27th, Saturday evening: 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. This too will include a costume party, food, games and opportunities for this community to socialize and experience a welcome that doesn’t judge them, but accepts them where they are. This is an outreach into our community.

We cannot compete with larger churches to offer the kind of programming that attracts young families. That doesn’t mean we don’t have something to offer. It does mean that we have a job to do to know what we have

to offer and begin offering it with persistence and as effectively as possible. The door hangers was one of many inexpensive ideas that a church growth consultant suggested for churches with limited resources. It needs to have a simple message that will appeal to our strength – “we welcome people wherever they are on life’s journey.”

Together we give God’s love to others.
Together we welcome and invite others to acknowledge that all people have worth and are children of God.
Together we live out God’s love for us.
Together we love God, serve Christ, and are empowered by God’s Spirit to reach out to others.
Together we are the church.

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

In Christ we serve,
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



ALERT **Fireplace Chimney**

Our fireplace chimney has been deteriorating for the past 20 years and has had no permanent repairs to it. At this time it needs to be reconstructed from the roof line up. The estimate is \$6213 which includes removal and disposal of the existing material, laying new brick to same height as the

old, forming and pouring a new chimney cap. This needs to be done this fall or we’ll not be able to use the fireplace this winter.

As in the past we are asking for special donations from our members and friends to cover the cost. Please consider giving to this worthwhile feature of our fellowship room.

Here is a fun way to collect and give some extra to this project. Set aside a container and each night take your loose change and drop it in the container. In a month bring it to church and we can see how much we raised collectively just from our loose change.

Sharing Life Together

Anna Karen Newcomb was baptized on September 9th during worship. We welcomed her to our church community and agreed as a church to so live God’s love that she would experience it as she grows.



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!



Prayers

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

Ana Kaznia – struggling teen-ager

Lathon and Linda Jernigan

Cris Vallecillo

Dale and Janeen Danielsen

Wilbur and Lorna Heronimus

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

Just got word that John Higby had a massive stroke and is in Iowa City. Please hold his family in prayer. (John died 9.19.18.)

Good News

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:



Real Faith for Real Life

Confirmation Retreat for youth

Where: Pilgrim Heights Retreat Center

When: September 28, 5:00 p.m. –

September 29th 3:00 p.m.

We are providing the cost of this retreat from our fund for youth. So Pray for our youth and invite and encourage them to go to this event. We have 4 youth going.

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.

Theological Forums

September 19th – Living Authentically
September 26th – Loss and Grief

United Fellowship

October 4th is the next outing for United Fellowship. Anyone interested in joining the group, sign-up or let Barb Kuhlman know. We are meeting at the church at 9:45 a.m. and heading to Decorah.

Movie Night

October 19th we will be sharing a movie time. We will have popcorn and other snacks. Movie begins at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us. If our youth doesn't like my choice we can have a second movie going in the youth room.

Community Events

Cedar Falls Clergy meet on Thursday the 20th at 1:30 p.m. I have been hosting this meeting to give it some stability. I also have been sending e-mails to remind clergy we are meeting.

Wartburg College (Waverly Iowa) is offering a class: Women and Religion: Three Faith Perspectives, Dema Kazkaz, president of the Masjid-Al-Noor Islamic Center in Waterloo; Erin Maidan Paige, a Jewish lay leader in Waterloo; and Ruth Ratliff, a deacon at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Cedar Falls, will explore what three faiths say about women, to women, through women. This class is on Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., September 6, 13, 20, and 27th. Pre-registration is not required. Cost is \$35. If you would like more information contact the Wartburg College Alumni and Parent Relations Office, 319-352-8491 or alumni@wartburg.edu.

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.

The Canterbury Forum, Sunday, September 30th is: Anti-Catholic Violence in 19th –

Upcoming Dates to Save

October 13 Workshop 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Christianity in an Inter-spiritual World

The Iowa Conference UCC has annual meeting on October 13th as well.

October 28th: NE Iowa UCC Association business and program meeting 2:30 p.m. at Faith UCC Tripoli Each church can send their pastor and 2 delegates.

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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