

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

November 13, 2018.

Happy Thanksgiving

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

On October 28th, we took in two new members: Melissa Breddin and Greg Meyer. We welcome them to our church family. They both bring a wonderful energy to our church.

For All Saint's Day Sunday on November 4th, we honored the lives of members and past members who have died in the last year. We honored the lives of:

Ronald W. "Bill" Joslyn

Sgt. Robert Jackson Greenlee III

Florence Mae Sassmann

John Pritchard Higby

We also remembered others who were no longer members of this congregation but had been. We also acknowledged other personal losses of those present. God has blessed us and remembering with love those who have been a blessing to us helped us.

Our prayers continue for these families and all those who have lost loved ones.

I am doing a series in worship on how many scriptures talk about how we are to relate to "one another." The first one I lifted up was praying for "one another." It is my hope that all of us remember to pray for "one another." I know there is a lot going on in many of your personal lives. Know I hold you in prayer and will make myself available if you just need to talk. On the

11th of November, we talked about comforting one another, bearing one another's burdens, and being hospitable with one another without complaining.

Part of the reason I am doing this series of sermons is to remind us all that the Christian walk is a shared journey. Sometimes it is helpful to remember that we do not walk alone when we are part of a Christian community. We are interrelated and interdependent. Paul shared with the early Christian communities that when one member suffers all suffer together; if one member suffers all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together (1 Corinthians 12:26).

Paul worked with the various Christian communities. The Greek word used to describe the shared life of the people of God was koinonia. Koinonia means sharing, all kinds of sharing: sharing in friendship (Acts 2:42), being partners in the Gospel (Phil.1:5), sharing material possessions (2 Cor. 8:4), having fellowship in Christ (1 Cor. 1:9), and sharing life together in the Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14).

Above all, koinonia is fellowship with God. Because we belong to Christ, we belong to each other. In koinonia we are bound to each other, to Christ, and to God. Our life is a shared life, we hear one another's burdens.

A factor crucial to living this shared life in Christ or koinonia is “Listening.” The kind of listening I’m talking about is listening to one another with our hearts. When we listen with our hearts, we convey to the one being heard that they are valued, important, and are worthy. An important aspect of our listening is how we extend an extravagant welcome to those who come in our midst.

Martin Buber, a great Jewish thinker, spent his life seeking to share with others the importance of relations between I and Thou. For the clue to this meaning he referred to the role of Spirit. “Spirit is not in the I but between the I and Thou.” This is one sentence with a world of meaning. The Spirit is known in relationship – Buber would say only in relationship. When we listen with love, the sharing moments are holy and the Spirit open doors, hearts, and effects change. When we listen to one another we don’t have to have “answers”, the Spirit moves each of us until an answer is revealed within each of us. When we are available to each other – we are available in love – bearing one another’s burdens.

We have been getting comments by our visitors that they have felt welcomed and cared about. God’s love through this congregation is shining into the community.

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

In Christ we serve,
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



Thank You! Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who donated food and decorations and candy for the Halloween Parties! You are wonderful! We are indeed a welcoming congregation! We didn’t get a very good response but seeds have been planted and I think consistent invitations and outreach will be blessed. We are living God’s call to be a welcoming congregation!

A special note of thanks to Ana and her mom Laura Kuznia for all the work they put in on the Halloween party. Thank you both.



President’s Message

A congregational meeting was held on November 4th following worship. We had a good turn out. Those present voted unanimously to sell the farm land west of the church. We also voted to list the property with Gale Bonsall for 3 months. We are also considering an offer that we have already received. The attendance and discussion was very good.

- Larry Buchholz, CFUCC President

ALERT Fireplace Chimney

Our collection of loose change added up to be \$42.43. It all helps. ☺ We

will continue to collect loose change. The work began November 12th because additional damage was happening inside. We have a little more time to try and collect the needed \$6500 before the bill is submitted and due.

Sharing Life Together Prayers

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

Georgia and Randy's son and family- a struggling time

Aloha and Larry, Lexi and Lacy Oudekerk – moving

Lathon and Linda Jernigan – Lathon now resides at the Deery Suites on Caraway Lane, Room 313 in Cedar Falls.

Dale and Janeen Danielsen

Wilbur and Lorna Heronimus and their family

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

Pastor Sue's Uncle Charlie Weier died. Please hold the family in your prayers.

Good News

We continue to have visitors come and join us for activities and worship. Join us in welcoming all! In October we had 2 young couples with a child under 5 visit us and 2 individuals who came on their own. And Lacy brought a friend too.

UNI Student Request

Landon Sivesind sent an e-mail requesting donations of canned or boxed food as well as toilet paper, paper towels, and Kleenex for a food pantry on campus. They had surveyed students and many were struggling.

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

We are in need of car seats for the Closet. If anyone knows of anyone who has one to donate, please let us know.

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

11.14.18 – Relationships

11.28.18 – Being a Village

12.5.18 – Celebrations and Rituals

12.12.18 – Star of Bethlehem Video

Movie Night

November 16th 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.

On November 1st our United Fellowship enjoyed a trip to Traer.



United Fellowship

Dec. luncheon will be held on Thursday Dec. 6 at Table 1912 on Western Home campus- 5307 Caraway Lane. Group will leave the church at 11:30. Please sign up on the sheet posted at church on the board outside the kitchen. Let us know if you are going to go straight there. We especially invite those living on the Western home campus to join us. A copy of the menu is posted at church with the sign- up sheet. Contact person for this luncheon is Greg Meyer.

Christmas cheer boxes

In the past, these boxes have been made up by the Morning Circle, however due to a lack of members we have not been meeting this year. I still plan to do this project with some adjustments this year. If you would like to help with this project about a dozen of what ever you choose or fruit or a craft contact me with your ideas. Thanks. Barbara Kuhlman

Community Events

November 15th – Cedar Falls Clergy meet at our church 1:30 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.

St Patrick has a food pantry that is open Monday's from 9 a.m. to Noon and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please contact Jackie, our community outreach coordinator for assistance at 319-266-3523. No food boxes will be given out without prior authorization.

First United Methodist Church hosts the Community Meal every Tuesday.

St. Timothy's United Methodist Church helps with Food on the 3rd Friday, 1-4 p.m. by appointment.

The Mennonites give out Hy-Vee Gift cards at the beginning of the month, 1st come 1st served.

Upcoming Dates to Save

Dec. 8, 2018 – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Workshop The Gospel of Luke led by Rev. Janice Jean Springer

Jan. 12th, 2019 – Help. Thanks. Wow. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Workshop led by Rev. Janice Jean Springer

January 26th – “I Know We’re All Welcome at the Table, But Do I Have to Sit Next to You?” Workshop led by Rev. Janice Jean Springer

Feb. 9th – The Tao Te Ching – 9 a.m.-2p.m. Workshop led by Rev. Janice Jean Springer

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An Open and Affirming Congregation
“Listening to God with open minds.
Welcoming all with open arms.”
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