

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

December 10, 2018.

Church Elves at Work And Brunch with Christmas Jazz Music Concert



Church Elves at Work Week of December 10, 2018

Church elves will be busy this week preparing for the holiday jazz brunch including a deep clean of the kitchen.

Please

- Remove any kitchen wares belonging to your household
- Remove items in the refrigerator that are outdated or $\leq 1/3$ full

Christmas Jazz Music Concert

The Hands of Time Quartet
presents a special concert on
December 16th, 2018
from
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Cedar Falls United Church of
Christ
9204 University Ave
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613



A free will offering will be taken to cover the cost of the event. Please join us to celebrate through music this special season. All are invited to a potluck beginning at 11:30 a.m. to share in a meal together. There will be plenty of food if you want to just come and eat with us.

All are welcome.

Dear Members and Friends of Cedar Falls
United Church of Christ,

1st – December 9th at the Congregational Meeting we voted to accept and proceed with the offer from Brent Dahlstrom on the land west of the church with some changes from the initial offer. We are proceeding and will be setting a closing date and moving ahead.

2nd – I want to thank all those who helped decorate the church and fellowship/fireside room. Thank you! It sure helps make the season festive.

If you haven't been able to make it to the musical "Annie", you are missing out. Cast and crew have done a great job putting it together. And our youth, Addy Breddin is playing one of the orphans. Good job ADDY!

On December 23rd we will be receiving into membership Erika Breddin. We are delighted to have the Breddin family in our midst.

We are going caroling on December 21st and afterwards coming back to the church for soup and snacks. Join us for this intergenerational activity! We meet and then leave from church at 5:30 p.m.

Because of the holiday season, I will be getting out the next Voice on the 20th and then not until January 7th.

If you haven't had a chance to fill out your giving intentions (pledge cards), please do so. We need to address this soon. Council is meeting December 17th.

We also are encouraged to write annual reports. The earlier they are in, the easier it will be for volunteers to get it together for distribution. Thanks.

Sundays during advent, I have encouraged those present to think about:

Advent 1: God gave the present of presence in Jesus. When we are Christian, Jesus lives in our hearts. How do we give the present of Jesus' presence to others?

Advent 2: God's prophets remind us of the covenant God has made with us. In Jesus, we have hope. This season is a time when we can connect/re-connect/ connect more strongly to the promises of God. We pray for the God of HOPE to come to us and calm the restless and gentle the ache of our human journey. God's never-ending faithfulness and companionship is a gift that sees us through times of difficulty, heartache, and pain.

Our third Sunday of Advent, we are lighting the Shepherds' Candle. We will celebrate how God speaks to the ordinary person inviting us all into relationship. Join us as we celebrate the presence of God through music at our Jazz Christmas Music Concert.

I will be taking off December 19th. It is my birthday and I have decided this year to have a day at home. Rest and relaxation sounds like a nice birthday.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we will be lighting the Angels' Candle. God works in mysterious ways.

On December 24th – Christmas Eve 7 p.m. our Celebration of Christ's Birthday

Merry Christmas!

I am enjoying being your pastor and want to continue sharing times with you. If you have things you like to do that you want us to create a church event around, let me know.

There will be worship on December 30th and Pastor Sue will be on vacation. We are making arrangements for a guest speaker or we will have a Sunday of Christmas carols.

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

In Christ we serve,
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



We welcome to our church family Greg Meyer who will have dual membership with Unity Presbyterian church in Waterloo. Greg has been a part of this church family for several years now, but now he is officially a member.

We have been blessed by Greg's music as our church organist. We are also blessed when he participates in our Wednesday evening theological forums. He loves to read and has diverse interests. Greg also enjoys travelling, fishing, and hosts a thanksgiving gathering each year.

Welcome Greg. You are family.



We welcome home Melissa Breddin and will soon receive her spouse Erika Breddin soon. Melissa joined our church at the same time Greg did on October 28th.



Melissa brings a delightful sense of humor and energy to our church family. She has jumped right in and helped with our Halloween parties. Her face book posts and willingness to share with others has brought us visitors. Melissa teaches at Jesup, Iowa. She is the proud mother of Addy and Jasmyn. Addy is in the production of "Annie" at the Children's Theater in Waterloo this Decemeber.

Celebrating our Fireplace Chimney has been fixed!

We haven't received the final bill but, the estimated cost is \$6500. If you have already given for the repair of the chimney, **thank you**. If you haven't been able to, please continue to hold us in prayer. If you just forgot, please pause for a moment and donate soon. Thank you.

Sharing Life Together Prayers

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

Giving thanks for Erika Breddin's safe move home

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

Aloha and Larry, Lexi and Lacy Oudekerk – moving

Lathon and Linda Jernigan

Dick Douglas

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.

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

12.12.18 – Star of Bethlehem Video

United Fellowship

There were 8 of us who met at the Western home restaurant in Dec. There are 3 of them close together we may need to make the rounds to each one. ☺

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

Movie Night

December 14th we will be sharing Part 2 of a movie we began in November. We

will have popcorn and other snacks. Movie begins at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us. In the youth room we will have a Christmas movie going for those who wish to see it.

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.

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

January 12th Workshop – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Help. Thanks. Wow.

Inspired by the book *Help. Thanks. Wow.* by Anne Lamott, we will explore prayer, and what place It has in our lives. We'll consider our questions and our doubts about prayer and also some of our holy moments in prayer. We'll look at various forms of prayer (including the three that Lamott calls essential: Help. Thanks. Wow.) Why do we pray? To whom are we praying? What do we expect to happen?

January 26th – “I Know all are welcome at the Table, but do I have to sit next to you?” Workshop

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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