

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

December 20, 2018.

Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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

Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy. It is a time to pause in wonder at how God enters into our world, our lives, our hearts.

Christmas time is a time we celebrate the birth of Jesus. How does Jesus come alive in your heart this time of year? Christmas time may give us a glimpse of the immense love of God that embraces the world. People of faith throughout the ages reflect that love in so many ways. We continue to do expressions of the wide mercy evidenced in the life of Jesus. We do our best to remember others. Sometimes God moves us to help others out. I try and remember to carry extra cash so that I can put it in the Salvation Army collection pail. I try to remember to tip a little extra for those hardworking people of service. When people are impatient in their driving, I say an extra prayer. How about you?

Holidays can be lonely. It is o.k. to reach out if you are a bit down. Rather than wait for someone to call, call someone.

Prayer: O God, thank you! Thank you for Jesus and how you show your love for

every person. Come to us as Christmas approaches and let love be born in our hearts as you were born into the world on Christmas Day. May we do what we can each day, and may all rest in Your love. Amen.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

In Christ we serve,
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



Christmas cheer boxes
On Friday, December 21st, at 1 p.m. we are putting together Christmas cheer boxes.

Christmas Caroling
Friday, December 21st at 5:30 p.m. Join us at the church to car pool to go caroling! We will meet back at the church afterwards for soup and hot chocolate. Last year we had 14 or 15

people that gathered. This year, let's try for 20.

What is your favorite Christmas Carol?

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 and Oudekerk's move to a new home
Dianne Larsen – health issues
Marilyn Melick's brother died- our prayers with her and all the family
Georgia and Randy's son and family- a struggling time
Lathon and Linda Jernigan-health issues
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.

Lathon Jernigan can be written to or seen at:
Western Home Deery Suites, Room 311,
5301 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

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

9th – Power of Story
16th – Stories from Literature
23rd – Stories from Other Cultures
30th - Stories from other Religions

**Workshop, January 12th
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Help, Thanks. Wow.
@ church**

United Fellowship

We will meet at church at 11:30 a.m. to go over to Café 1912 for lunch. We will make reservations for 11:45 a.m. so if you want to just meet us there, please do so.

Movie Night

Our January movie night will be on the 18th at 6:30 p.m. Let me know if there is any special movie you would like to see.

Top 100 Best News from 2018
This can be found on You Tube – Hashem Al-Ghailli

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting has been set for January 20th. Council would like annual reports in January 4th. They will be available to pick up ahead of time on January 13th.

Update: The sale of the field west of the church is proceeding. If all goes well the closing would be mid-January.

“Thank you”

A special note of thanks to our Christmas elves who deep cleaned the kitchen: Eileen Daley, Colleen Kelly, and Cris Vallecillo

Another big thanks to “The Hands of Time” for our Christmas Jazz Music Concert and especially Chris Merz for making this happen. Thanks to Celeste Bemby for singing with them too.



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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