

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

February 19, 2019.

Small Church, Big Heart

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

Your generosity on Souper Bowl Sunday raised \$350 for NE Iowa Food Bank. Thanks again to all who provided soup and donated money for this fund raiser.

Our adventure continued for a couple weeks regarding the boiler pump. We had to replace the old one and it took some time to come in. It is in and working. Thank you Bill and Colleen Kelly for getting some space heaters and distributing them throughout key points in the church to prevent pipe freezing.

We had to cancel church Sunday due to the snow and roads not being cleared. We would have 4 or 5 people but didn't want folk to take the chance of getting stuck.

CBE companies donated \$4051.07 to Kaden's Kloset. We are now able to provide additional things that we didn't have like car seats. We have indeed been blessed.

We had two tables for our Valentine Supper. Thank you Cynthia Youde for making supper. It was good. We played some board games afterwards and enjoyed our conversation. We were blessed with a community guest who joined us as well.

We enjoyed watching a Gregory Peck film on movie night, To Kill a Mockingbird. Next month we will have several to choose from.

Women of Faith, an Interfaith group, meet once a month. Tonight, 6 p.m., we meet at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. If you have any interest in attending this meeting, contact Pastor Sue. It is a pot luck (Vegetarian Food).

Clergy Lunch and Learn Event is on Transgender Issues, Feb. 20th. I will be attending if the weather isn't bad and it doesn't get cancelled.

Sunday February 24th at Canterbury Forum, Rev. Abraham Funchess, will be speaking on the sources of the plague of violence that afflicts much of our society today. He'll explore the roots of the violence, detail its impact on the working class and minority communities, and explore what we can do to address the problem at its source. This Forum is hosted by St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 2410 Melrose Drive, Cedar Falls beginning at 7 p.m.

Celeste has engaged the UNI School of Music brass ensemble for our Easter Service, April 21st. Come early for they will be providing our gathering music.

We have been invited to take a special offering called Future Leadership. A pastor in NE Iowa started a special scholarship fund for clergy in seminary that are coming back to Iowa to serve or are already serving in Iowa to help defer the costs of school. If you want to contribute anything to this fund, send it in to the church and on the memo line of the check write Future Leadership Fund. Scholarships are issued in March and any money that comes in past their deadline goes into next year's scholarships.

Our new confirmation class and youth group will be meeting on Sunday afternoons from 2 – 4 p.m. The youth will be picking mentors to walk with them on this journey. We will be encouraging them all along the way.

We still don't have a closing on the sale of the property. I'll include it in the Voice when we do.

We need to set some church goals and then reach for them. If you have some goals in mind and ideas to reach them, talk with Larry Buchholz or e-mail him.

Chris Merz, our new Church President, led his first council meeting in January. Though a goal of his is to have shorter meetings, the meeting went well. (The New Council met with the Old Council to help make the transition smoother.) Aloha has resigned as our treasurer. Perhaps in the future it will work out for her to accept the position again. We thank Mary Ann for continuing as treasurer until we can deal with this at our next Council meeting.

We are considering calling as a specialist, Erika Breddin. As Council talks with Erika, the congregation will be asked in a special

congregational meeting to consider this call. This will be to specifically reach out to the community to bring in new visitors.

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

In Christ we serve,

Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



United Fellowship

United Fellowship will be meeting March 7th at 11:45 a.m. and going to Maid-Rite on 2808 University Avenue Waterloo.

Prayers

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

Colleen Kelly – cataract surgery

Jerry Smith – health issues

Dianne Larsen – health issues

Lathon and Linda Jernigan-health issues

Dale and Janeen Danielsen

Wilbur and Lorna Heronimus and their family

Janice Springer – mobility issues; knee replacement surgery upcoming

Erika Breddin – starting a new job

Please hold in prayer those who are hungry. We donated to the NE Iowa Food Bank but that is only a part of what we can do, praying for all those who are helping others and sharing their food is appreciated.

Please hold the homeless in your prayers as well. This severe cold is dangerous to all, but especially the homeless.

Our hearts go out to all those who have lost loved ones. Even though they may not live in our community or attend our church, we feel the pain of loss.

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

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

20th – Emotional Healing

27th – Spiritual Healing

Movie Night

Our March movie night will be on the 15th at 6:30 p.m. Let me know if there is any special movie you would like to see.

Anniversary Celebration of being Open and Affirming

In January 2004, Cedar Falls United Church of Christ “became one of the first churches in the Cedar Valley to formally welcome everyone, regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation.” (Waterloo Courier, February 9, 2004, Metro page) Cynthia Youde brought in a article from the Waterloo Courier to share in church when we mentioned that we were celebrating 15 years as an open and affirming congregation. This morning in worship I read the article to the congregation. It is never easy to make these commitments and try and live them. We have many people to thank for encouraging the church to live like Jesus – bringing good news to the poor, standing with the outcast, and accepting others. As Ron Kuhlman was quoted in the story, “I was really proud of the

congregation for accepting the challenge of living our faith more on a day-to-day basis.”

Dr. Charles Warfield of Kalamazoo Michigan, professor at Western Michigan University, president of the local NAACP, tireless leader for human rights, a mentor for youth, a warrior for the under-served used to say: “Every morning when I get up, I look to see who is on the rung below me that I need to pull up today.” This congregation in remembering the commitment made in the open and affirming statement is trying to do just that. Help others be recognized along with us, as children of God, beloved brothers and sisters of Christ, empowered by the Spirit to work together.

Council is putting together a call agreement with Erika Breddin for the congregation to vote on March 31st. It isn't a paid position but it is an official one if the congregation votes for the acceptance of this pastor and this call. More will be coming out in the Voice as it gets developed.

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

March 6th – Ash Wednesday – Worship is at 6:30 p.m. with a discussion following on “forgiveness”

March 13th – Discussion on Sin and Grace

March 16 **Four and More**
We know the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But there were many others written at about the same time, only discovered in the 20th century. We will look at some of those, compare them to the gospels we know, and explore the images and understandings of Jesus that each offers.

March 20th – Rituals that Empower Forgiveness

March 27th – Writings on Forgiveness (poetry, sayings, stories ...)

April 3rd – Anxiety (helpful tools to deal with anxiety)

April 10th – Fear (helpful tools to cope with fear)

Apr. 13 **The Easter Story**
We will explore the story of Jesus' last week. What do the four gospels say? How do they differ? What does it mean to say Jesus died for us? How do we understand resurrection? We will also share some of the abundant music, poetry and art that this story has inspired.

May 18 **A Respectful Introduction to Islam**
We will learn some basics about our cousins in the faith, explore their scripture a bit, see how they

understand Jesus, and talk with a Muslim in our community.

Janice's workshop: I Know We're All Welcome at the Table, But Do I Have to Sit Next to You? is being rescheduled for April 27th. If you would like to attend please register early so we know we have enough people.

How do we stay in community with the cousin whose idea of God rubs us the wrong way, or the co-worker who is against everything we are for?

I Know We're All Welcome at the Table, But Do I Have to Sit Next to You?

This workshop, based on the book of that title, is shaped around the prayer “O God, bless them, change me.” It offers six specific tools to help us grow in our capacity to respect the people we encounter every day. It invites us not only to the external work of loving our neighbor and our enemy, but also to the challenging, transforming inner work that makes such love possible. Its wisdom is drawn from various disciplines, but most of all from the world's spiritual traditions. The book offers detailed guidance for sharing this information in your own setting.

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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