

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

March 5, 2019.

Ash Wednesday March 6th Farmland has sold.

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

Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30 p.m. will be a special worship service for Ash Wednesday. We will begin our Lenten journey by remembering we sin and can receive forgiveness. After the worship service we will be having a discussion about forgiveness. Consider joining us for worship and discussion.

Lent also brings our “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering. On March 31st we take in our donations for One Great Hour of Sharing of the UCC that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. Envelopes and bulletin inserts will be available at church.

The farmland has now been sold. On Monday March 4th the papers were signed and the farmland sold. This will help us financially the next 3 years, but in that time we need to be focusing on who we are, our vision, and have a strategic plan moving forward. What ministry is God calling UCC specifically to do in this community at this time in our culture?

When Clark was here I understand that you worked on the by-laws and vision statement. Does anyone remember what our vision

statement says? Though it is spelled out in a longer writing, it says: “The Cedar Falls United Church of Christ will be a sanctuary for persons that need a safe place to worship.” Our mission states: “Listening to God with open minds. Welcoming ALL with open arms.” The United Methodist Church has been getting a lot of publicity about their recent General Conference. Though it saddens me that a major Christian denomination has chosen not to be a safe place for some people to worship and not welcome all; we do and we have and yet there are many who don’t know we exist. The time has come to be more visible. Some may not be comfortable with that, please don’t just hide away or withdraw. Whatever you feel, think – please stay in relationship with this community and let’s move into the future together with understanding.

Our New Boiler Pump is getting plenty of use in this unusual bitter cold and snowy winter. We got the bill - \$6861.53. It seems like we are going from one plea to another with repair requests. If you can, anything extra to go toward this expense will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Our new confirmation class and youth group will be meeting on most 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. This program will be for 2 years, but if the youth want to take longer they can decide to go at whatever pace they want to. We hope to cover the bible, some church history, worship, and spiritual disciplines and ways to grow in our faith. We hopefully never stop growing in our relationship to God. There will be whole church wide requests to participate in events (like a bible party) now and then.

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.

As many of you know, Celeste at the beginning of the year let us know that she will be leaving sometime this year. Though no definite date has been set, God is leading her to move back to California (her home). We will be wanting to celebrate her time with us when the time to say good-bye comes. Celeste is a woman of God and a wonderful minister of music. Let us share our memories and love with her while she is still with us.

Chris Merz, our new Church President, led his first council meeting in January and his second one in February. Though a goal of his is to have shorter meetings, the meetings have gone well though over an hour. (The New Council met with the Old Council to help make the transition smoother in Jan.) 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. She has officially been appointed by the council our treasurer.

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. On March 31st in a special congregational meeting we will be voting to extend a call to Erika as Minister of Outreach, Media, and Social Justice. We have invited her to lead worship and preach before the meeting.

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

In Christ we serve,

Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



HOT TAMALE LOUIE

A true story about LEAVING HOME,
of IMMIGRANTS and CITIZENSHIP,
of LIVES and FORTUNES won and lost.

CREATED BY
John Rapsa & Daniel Gaglione

Genre-bending tale with lilting Western ballads,
gentle Mexican waltzes, folk songs and melodies
from the East, evocative tone poems
and raucous ragtime melded
together by JAZZ

Event first reported by Santa Fe Tribune in the June 7, 1916 issue of
The New York Times Magazine. Church History Archives. Reissued with permission
Proddly produced and presented by
UTAH CHURCH HISTORY

GALLAGHER BLUEDORN AUDITORIUM • UNI
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019 • 3:00 P.M.
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Women of Faith

An Interfaith Gathering of Women

UCC will be hosting the women of faith gathering on March 26th. It begins at 6 p.m. with a vegetarian potluck and visiting with each other. That night our program will be led by Rev. Janice Springer on her new book, "I Know All Are Welcome at the Table, but Do I have to Sit next to you?" All women are invited to join us.

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 – 2nd cataract surgery pending

Jerry Smith – health issues

Dianne Larsen – health issues – good report on March 1st

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; discerning God's leading regarding ministry

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.

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.

Theological Forums

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays

March 6 – Forgiveness

3.13.19 – Sin and Grace

3.20.19 – Rituals that Empower Forgiveness

3.27.19 – Writings on Forgiveness

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.

Open and Affirming is UCC language to identify congregations open to LGBTQ folk. It is my hope that the general public will come to understand its meaning and be able to pass this on to all those who would benefit from 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

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."
(319) 266-9686
9204 University Avenue
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Website: www.cedarfallsucc.org
CHURCH email address:
cedarfallsucc@gmail.com