

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

March 19, 2019.

Women of Faith (An Interfaith Group Meets at UCC)

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

The church season of Lent invites us to examine our lives and reflect on our relationship with God. Do you intentionally practice a spiritual discipline during this season? Do you intentionally give up something during this season? How do you experience God in your day to day life?

It seems that this time in several ways I am wrestling with questions, issues, and challenges to make sense of difficult experiences in life. I led the celebration of life for my 42 year old cousin who died from a blood clot going to his heart. Family and friends of Ken ask the faith questions about life, death, meaning and what does God have to do with any and all of this. I'm not sure how people without faith experience comfort but perhaps through listening, sharing, laughing and crying... a person of faith can express grief and hope, sadness and grace and by listening with compassion (no advice giving) a non faith person can experience the presence of God through us.

When I heard about more violence and terrorist acts being committed around the world (for example, Christchurch New Zealand – 2 mosques) by persons fueled by hate then proudly proclaiming white power I

was sickened. We are a world/nation divided. We are focusing on separation rather than connection. We are focusing on anger and fear rather than compassion and love. People of faith can change this trend. Putting our prayers in acts, if love and compassion is a first step.

On March 26th at 6 p.m., Women of Faith, gather here at the UCC. We honor other faith traditions by having a vegetarian pot luck and listening respectfully to each other. If you consider your self a woman of faith and want to join with me in creating a safe place for our guests to enjoy, let me know or just come and experience this time together. Janice will be presenting a couple of exercises from her book, "I Know all are Welcome at the Table, but do I have to sit next to you?"

Farmland has sold.

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? We will have a church retreat MAY 18th. We need to have a plan of action rather than drift along and then we

need to carry through on these actions. Growing to be self-sustaining is a goal, now how do we meet that goal?

Celeste shared a solo with us, “Is God a three letter word for Love” that was inspiring and timely. 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.

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!



United Fellowship

United Fellowship will be meeting April 4th leaving the church at 11:30 a.m. and will be getting our food at the new restaurant Raising Cane – corner of Hwy. 58 and Viking Road in Cedar Falls. (Menu items are chicken.)

Prayers

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

We have had some congregations in our Tri Conference area that are being affected by flooding. Please hold all affected by this flooding in our prayers.

Give God thanks for those who are receiving healing and have healed. What all do you have to be thankful for?

Lathon and Linda Jernigan
Dale and Janeen Danielsen
Wilbur and Lorna Heronimus and their family

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

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.

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

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays

3.20.19 – Rituals that Empower Forgiveness

3.27.19 – Writings on Forgiveness

Community Events

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.

Ecumenical Good Friday Service

Procession of the Cross is our ecumenical service for Good Friday.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Cedar Falls United Church of Christ on **4/22/2019**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit

<http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle> or text the word circle to 797979

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 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 This workshop will be cancelled or changed so that we can have a church retreat. **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