



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
30 319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 12, 2025
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“If we live with good givers—if we watch them succeed, fail, and persevere, if we are challenged by them or called to account by them—then we become good givers.”

Miroslav Volf

PRELUDE “Cantilena” Stanley Vann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Randee Fieselmann, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP

From the deepest places in our lives, we cry to God:

“God hear my voice, do not be far from me.”

Let us not forget God’s steadfast love and power to redeem.

We wait for God, and in God’s Word we find hope.

[Unison]

Come and worship God.

***HYMN (insert) “God of Change and Glory”**

God of change and glory, God of time and space,

When we fear the future, give to us your grace.

In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.

Refrain:

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.

In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise

One Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word

Known in many ways, hallowing our days.

For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of many colors, God of many signs,

You have made us different, blessing many kinds.

As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.

Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,

You are still creating endless love and light.

This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, you are at the heart of the world and you uphold us in our being. As we come before you, help us to consider what we are and how wonderfully you have made each of us. Give us an awareness of our gifts and abilities. Make us aware of the possibilities still unrealized. Most of all help us to discover how to make something useful and beautiful of all that we have been given and all that we contain. May we gain the even deeper knowledge that we are all made to be free, to love one another, and to contribute to the ongoing life of our world. We ask you to guide us through this life even when it is frightening or frustrating or heartbreaking. Be with us and sustain us on our way. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.

In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise

One Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word

Known in many ways, hallowing our days.

For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

ANTHEM “Sing to the Lord a New Song” Robert Lau

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Response

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Cantique” Flor Peeters

*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

[The children are dismissed to Children’s Church]

SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 14:10-18

PSALM 103:1-8

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all the benefits of the Lord,**
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**
who satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**The Lord executes righteousness and judgment
for all who are oppressed.**

To Moses were made known God’s ways
and to the children of Israel the works of the Lord.

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Philippians 2:12-13

SERMON “Shaping Our Future”

*HYMN 136 “Sovereign Lord of All Creation”

**Sovereign Lord of all creation,
ground of being, life and love;**

**Height and depth beyond description,
only life in you can prove:
You are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
Yours is every hour's existence,
Sovereign Lord of time and space.**

**Jesus Christ, the One for others
we, your people, make our prayer
help us love, as sisters, brothers
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love the world may see.**

**Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost
may your love unite our action
nevermore to speak alone;
God, in us, abolish faction
God, through us, your love make known.**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Pageant” June Nixon

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Christian Education:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

❖	Choir Rehearsal	TODAY
	Christian Education for all ages	9:00 am
	Worship Service	9:15 am
	Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	10:15 am
	Choir Rehearsal	After Worship
	AWE	11:30 am
		11:30 am

	TUESDAY
❖ Gentle Yoga	Noon
	WEDNESDAY
❖ Finance Committee	10:00 am
	THURSDAY
❖ Women's Lunch—Monica's	11:45 am
❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	SATURDAY
❖ Men's Breakfast—Waterfront Hy-Vee	8:00 am
	NEXT SUNDAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for all ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Rehearsal	After Worship
AWE	After Worship
Confirmation Class	4:00 pm

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

ADULT EDUCATION THIS SUNDAY, October 12, at 9:15 a.m. Please join Chuck Connerly for a discussion of Timothy Snyder's, *On Tyranny*, originally published in 2017. *On Tyranny* is a small 125 page book that can be read quickly. It features "20 lessons from the twentieth century," primarily from Eastern Europe and Russia about how tyranny can come to dominate a society and the ways in which people can push back and overcome it. The book's premise is that tyranny does not happen overnight, but is a process that takes place over time. This means that people and society have time to push back and resist while tyranny is emerging. Now is that time. A detailed listing of the 20 lessons can be found at Snyder's Substack posting at

<https://snyder.substack.com/p/on-tyranny>

AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE) will meet after worship starting this morning. We will gather on the Sundays that the choir meets after worship to rehearse for the Christmas Music Sunday on December 7. We will be using *Living the Questions-The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. In this study we will be meeting progressive theologians such as: Borg, Crossen, Spong, Pagels. This is a beginning class that will introduce you to Progressive Christianity. Rev. Ann Molsberry will be leading the discussions. Please purchase your own book and read the first chapter for our first session. See you after worship in the library.

OUR OFFICE MANAGER, JENN HARDEN, WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE TOMORROW, MONDAY, OCTOBER 13.

SEVENTEEN HISTORIANS, ARCHIVISTS, PROFESSORS, AUTHORS, AND DONORS WITH DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE ARE SUING THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA for haphazardly and without public input deciding to close its Iowa City research facility and archives. Our church's historical records are among those potentially affected. A member of our church, David McCartney, is among the 17 plaintiffs. Johnson County District Court has scheduled a hearing on our Motion for Temporary Injunction this coming Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 9:30 AM at the Johnson County Courthouse, 417 South Clinton St. Those interested are welcome to attend the public court hearing to show support. Thank you to all of our allies for your ongoing support and concern.

NO KINGS PROTEST this coming Saturday, October 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Iowa Avenue near the Pentacrest.

THE MISSION BOARD IS SPONSORING A DIAPER AND TP DRIVE during September and October. Items received will go to the CommUnity Crisis Center or the North Liberty Food Pantry. Please drop off diapers and training pullups, as well as toilet paper in the box in Rockwood Hall. Large boxes are acceptable, as the pantries will divide them into smaller packets. If you want to contribute cash to this effort, the Mission Board will do the shopping—just put “Diaper Drive” on your envelope or check. Let’s all get “behind” the effort and delight others with our generosity!

HELPING OTHER MEMBERS: There are times when a helping hand is needed by a member to get groceries, run an errand, get a ride to an appointment, etc. If you would like to occasionally help out in this way, please see the signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY: Our Membership Board is pursuing plans to create an “in house” photo directory to help everyone put names and faces together. If you have a photo that you would like us to use, please email it to Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org. This fall we will have opportunities for photos to be taken at the church if you would prefer that option. Please watch for more information.

THE WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION (WCD), sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Congregations, begins this afternoon. Sunday, October 12. Work will continue through the early afternoon of Saturday, October 18. Over the span of these days they will set up, accept clothing donations, sort & organize clothing, distribute the clothing, & clean up after the event. As in past years, they are looking for donations of gently used or new WARM winter wear, with an emphasis on coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots & winter shoes. Heavy sweaters & sweatshirts are also appreciated. You can drop off any clothing contributions on Sunday 10/12 1-4; Monday 10/13 9-6; Tuesday 10/14 9-6 at the Riverview Community Church, 3001 Muscatine Avenue. Use door on east side of building.

Also, there’s still a lot of room for more volunteers on the signup genius. **Volunteers will need to register using SignUpGenius at the following link:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-58487415-2025>

OPEN HEARTLAND ELVES NAVIDAD EVENT: Each year, families with children under 18 create a Navidad Wish List, sharing two gift wishes for every family member. Community members make those wishes come true by purchasing those gifts. This year, they are expecting over 400 immigrant families to participate. You can be a Navidad Elf by emailing openheartlandholiday@gmail.com. You will be matched with a local family by Oct 15, giving you plenty of time to purchase and deliver the gifts before the holiday party in early December. While the gifts themselves are much appreciated, what touches the immigrants the most is the love, care, and solidarity behind the tradition, reminding them that they are seen and valued.

SING OUT!—JOIN THE CHOIR: Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir rehearses at 9:00 a.m. and sings during the 10:15 worship service. Whether you're a long-time member or the new kid on the block, WE WANT YOU! The Congregational UCC choir is a wonderful group of people who work hard at making great music. You'll be sure to enjoy this experience. Questions? Please get in touch with our choir director Dr. Chris Nakielski at cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu.

GENTLE YOGA every Tuesday at noon! This 45-minute class is appropriate for beginners, experienced or anyone wishing to focus on body awareness, increased mobility, and relaxation. The \$10 suggested donation goes directly to the Immigrant Welcome Network. More information and sign-up are available in Rockwood Hall.

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE AT THE BIKE LIBRARY offers free e-assisted bike rides originating from the Ashton House and looping through City Park. If you or someone you know would benefit from this "ride through the park" as a passenger, see the sign-up in Rockwood Hall or talk to Hope Spragg to arrange a ride. More info available at: <https://icbikelibrary.org/cycling-without-age!>

ABOUT OUR WATER: A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Sunday, October 19, 2-4 PM
St. Thomas More Church, 3000 12th Ave, Coralville

1. What's in it? With Marty St. Clair, UI Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination. The overall quality of our water.
 2. Where does it come from? With Jennifer Breon, Iowa Food & Water Watch. Sources & effects of rising contamination.
 3. What can we do about it? With Amy Foster, City of Coralville Stormwater Coordinator; Mike Stein, I Run for Water; & Matt McAndrew, science educator, soil & water activist.
- What can we ordinary citizens do in our town & state?

CARBON OFFSET HELPS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Have you ever wanted to compensate for CO2 emissions from a flight or other carbon intensive activity? Carbon offsets are a recognized way to make an activity carbon neutral. Carbon offsets are also often viewed with skepticism due to concerns about whether the money given is truly decreasing carbon emissions and whether the action would have happened without the donation.

Those concerns can be assuaged with a donation to put solar arrays on Habitat for Humanity homes. The homeowners do not have the resources to make an upfront investment in a solar

array and once installed the system is likely to stay in place for the lifetime of the panels. In addition to reducing CO2 emissions the donor would be helping a low income Iowa family with their energy bills.

To estimate your flight emissions and send an offset to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity go to www.habitatsolar.org/. Please contact Jamie McCoy or see the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall for more information.

USED MEDICINE BOTTLES NEEDED FOR REUSE IN CLINICS: 100 Grannies, a local environmental activist group, is sending used plastic medicine bottles to Africa to assist clinics in distributing medication. Donna Hirst is in charge of this project and would be pleased to have participation from members of the congregation. If you are interested, Donna can provide a very brief orientation to bottle preparation (donna-hirst@uiowa.edu). Donna will pick up bottles on Sundays.

PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT: Several people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot on Jefferson St. If you are able, please park elsewhere so that the marked and unmarked spaces can be used by those who need them. Thanks.

SEE SOMETHING—SAY SOMETHING: If you notice something in the building that needs attention—a leaky faucet, a loose railing, etc.—please let the church office (319-337-4301) know right away. Thanks.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: There are still some opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY MORNING? This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to lead them in worship. Bill Lovin provides the material. You provide the spirit. Contact Bill if you are interested or would like more information.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.
Your giving makes a world of difference.

WE LIVE STREAM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNING.

You can join us online in real time at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. This streaming address is the same each week.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted after worship on Sunday at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.