



*The Congregational Church*  
*United Church of Christ*

*30 N Clinton St.*  
*Iowa City, IA 52245*  
*319-337-4301*

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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 18, 2026  
TWENTYFIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Welcome to Congregational UCC.  
We ask that you silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary.*

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE ASK AN USHER.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE    “Song”            Alan Ridout

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 4)

Answer us when we call, O God!

Be gracious to us, and hear our prayer.

**There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!**

**Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!”**

[Unison]

**Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 263 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (vs. 1-3)

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,**

**In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,**

**Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,**

**Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,**

**Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;**

**Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above**

**Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;**

**In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;**

**We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,**

**And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**O God, leaves fall and light diminishes; we your people fall and our powers of discernment fail. Keep us from going about with our eyes cast down and consumed by all that worries us. Lift us out of our confinement to see before us the splendor of your creation hidden in every leaf. Rouse us from our preoccupations so we can see the same splendor of your image within everyone we meet. Remind us to find within ourselves that same image we find in others even when it lies obscured by regret or failure or despair. Holy Spirit, be that light that illumines our way. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#263, vs. 4)

**Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

ANTHEM

“Go Forth into the World in Peace”

John Rutter

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 “Fughetta” Charles Burney

\*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 I Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ‘Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.’ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.’ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.’ But she said, ‘As

the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.’ Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

**\*PSALM HYMN 251                    “Your Faithfulness, O Lord Is Sure”**  
**Your faithfulness, O Lord, is sure in all your words, your gracious deeds.**  
**You gently lift all burdened souls and well provide for all our needs.**

**The eyes of all are fixed on you; by you their wants are all supplied.**  
**Your open hand is bountiful, and every soul is satisfied.**

**Lord, you are just in all your ways, and kind in everything you do.**  
**Forever near you stand to hear and help all those who call on you.**

**My mouth shall speak your praises, O Lord; my soul shall bless your holy name.**  
**Let all things living join the song of praise, from age to age the same**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON                    Philippians 4:4-9**  
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**\*HYMN (insert)                    “Living God, Your Joyful Spirit”**  
**Living God, your joyful Spirit**  
**breaks the bounds of time and space,**  
**rests in love upon your people,**  
**drawn together in this place.**  
**Here we join in glad thanksgiving,**  
**here rejoice to pray and praise:**  
**Lord of all our past traditions,**  
**Lord of all our future days.**

**As your bread may we be broken,**  
**scattered in community;**  
**we who know your greatest blessings**

called to share Christ's ministry.  
May we gently lead each other,  
share our hunger and our thirst;  
learn that only through our weakness  
shall we know the strength of Christ.

Lord, when we grow tired of giving,  
feel frustration, hurt and strain,  
by your Spirit's quiet compulsion,  
draw us back to you again.  
Guide us through the bitter searching  
when our confidence is lost;  
give us hope from desolation,  
arms outstretched upon a cross.

Living God, your power surrounds us,  
as we face the way Christ trod,  
challenge us to fresh commitment  
to the purposes of God:  
called to share a new creation,  
called to preach a living word,  
promised all the joys of heaven,  
through the grace of Christ our Lord.

SERMON     “Generosity in Sparse Times”

\*HYMN 554 “Let All Things Now Living”  
Let all things now living  
A song of thanksgiving  
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
Who fashioned and made us,  
Protected and stayed us,  
By guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us,  
Pure light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:  
Till shadows have vanished  
And darkness is banished,  
As forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces.  
The stars in their courses,  
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains,  
The rivers and fountains,  
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

**We, too, should be voicing  
Our love and rejoicing  
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:  
Till all things now living  
Unite in thanksgiving,  
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

**\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE “Toccata in Seven” John Rutter**

**COVER GRAPHIC by Congregational UCC member Robyn Hepker.**

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|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Minister:                        | The Rev. Bill Lovin |
| Director of Christian Education: | Hope Spragg         |
| Organist:                        | Bill Crouch         |
| Choir Director:                  | David Puderbaugh    |
| Children’s Choir Director:       | Rachel Burchett     |
| Office Manager:                  | Nancy LeaVesseur    |

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

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

**DAVID PUDEBAUGH IS AWAY THIS MORNING.** We are pleased to welcome back Maddie Hartleip as the guest choir director.

**TODAY**

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| ❖ Choir Rehearsal              | 9:00 am       |
| ❖ CE for Children and Adults   | 9:15 am       |
| ❖ Worship Service              | 10:15 am      |
| ❖ Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall | After Worship |
| ❖ AWE                          | After Worship |
| ❖ Choir Rehearsal              | After Worship |
| ❖ Youth Group                  | 5:00 pm       |

**TUESDAY**

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| ❖ Gentle Yoga       | 11:00 am |
| ❖ Website Committee | 11:00 am |
| ❖ Membership Board  | 5:30 pm  |

- ❖ Diaconate 7:00 pm
- ❖ Trustees 7:00 pm

#### THURSDAY

- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

#### NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- ❖ CE for Children and Adults 9:15 am
- ❖ Worship Service 10:15 am
- ❖ Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
- ❖ AWE After Worship
- ❖ Choir Rehearsal After Worship
- ❖ Youth Group 5:00 pm

**AWE 3—YES! AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE 3) WILL MEET AFTER WORSHIP TODAY.** We will be using *Living the Questions-The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. We are reading the THIRD SECTION: Transformation. Grab your coffee and meet us in the library!

**ADULT EDUCATION SESSION RECORDINGS NOW AVAILABLE:** If you were unable to attend a Sunday morning adult education gathering, you can now watch the event at your convenience. Please contact Nancy LeaVesseur in the church office (319-337-4301) and she will send you a link to the recording. Please note, the recordings are only available for four weeks after the session.

**GENEVA LECTURE SERIES FEATURES MARILYNNE ROBINSON** in conversation with Nicholas Kristof on “How Can We Hope When It All Feels Hopeless?” Monday, October 19, 7:00-8:30 p.m., MacBride Hall Auditorium. Admission is free.

**UI HOMECOMING PARADE—Friday, October 30:** Join your friends here at the church for the best viewing in town. The Mission Board will sell cookies and warm drinks during the parade. We are asking for donations of one dozen homemade cookies or bars that are \$1 (larger) size. Items do not need to be individually wrapped but please bring a display card labeling what type and if they contain peanuts or tree nuts. Baked goods may be dropped off in the kitchen between 9-1 or 5-5:45 the day of the parade. We also need volunteers to sell the cookies and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 1:** Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes “All Saints Sunday.” This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. This year we will remember Bob Stein, Bob Ashman, Richard Bloesch, Del Brown, Ann Romanowski, and a friend of our congregation, Larry Koepnick. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, we will have a jazz band leading our worship on this Sunday to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. This year the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson will again lead the music in what promises to be an inspiring event. Please plan to join us for this special time of worship.

**HOPE LODGE:** Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday November 9 at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to provide food for the dinner see the signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.

**GENTLE YOGA** every Tuesday at 11 AM! 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 entirely to the Immigrant Welcome Network. If you'd like to join us, call the office to register.

**SHARE THE HARVEST:** Members and friends are invited to bring produce and flowers from their gardens to sell after worship each Sunday. And members and friends are invited to buy the abundant harvest. All proceeds go to the Food Pantry and CommUnity Crisis Center. So far this summer we have "harvested" \$593. Last year's total was \$1300. Eat your vegetables (they're good for you) and pick up some flowers (they're good for you, too) and contribute to a great cause. Thanks!

**GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR**—Nametags help newer members and friends trying to put names and faces together. And—admit it—they help long-timers know who the new people are as well. They are available on the board outside of the sanctuary. Please wear them. And if you'd like one, please contact the church office.

**SENDING USED MEDICINE BOTTLES TO AFRICA FOR REUSE IN CLINICS—  
IMPORTANT REQUEST:**

1. Please donate only **orange** bottles; other colors should be recycled. Caps can be any color.
2. Bottles must have labels and all adhesive removed. Sticky bottles or bottles with residue should be recycled. I can't use them. If this is difficult for you, consider finding a partner who can help you prep the bottles.
3. Bottles should be washed in warm, soapy water. We don't want to inflict harm on individuals who could come into contact with foreign medicine.

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 our congregation. For more information contact [donna-hirst@uiowa.edu](mailto:donna-hirst@uiowa.edu). She will pick up bottles on Sundays. Thank you for your assistance.

**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.