



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 20, 2024
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to Congregational UCC. We are glad that you are here this morning. While we affirm that God speaks to us in many ways, we ask that you silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary. Please use the time during the prelude to quietly prepare for worship.

“Faith, while personal, is never private... The gift each person has been given is meant to be shared.”

Karen Stokes

PRELUDE “Largo” John Marsh

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Nadia Spragg, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and let us praise our maker together.

**With minds and hearts, imagination and spirit,
we come to worship God.**

Come now and let us worship together.

***HYMN (insert) “O How Glorious, Full of Wonder”**

**O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o’er all the earth,
God, who wrought creation’s splendor, bringing suns and stars to birth!
Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic ways.
Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up our hearts in praise.**

**When we see your lights above us, moon and stars, your power displayed,
Who are we that you should love us, creatures that your hand has made?
Born of earth, yet full of yearning, mixture strange of good and ill,
From your ways so often turning, yet your love does seek us still.**

**As your stewards, you have set us o’er the wonders of your hand,
As your servants, you have made us guardians over sea and land.
Soaring spire and ruined city, these our hopes and failures show.
Teach us more of human pity, that we in your image grow.**

**O how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land,
God, whose purpose shines before us toward the goal that you have planned!
Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need.
Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours, O God, indeed.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, we come into your presence today to understand our part in the world in which we find ourselves and to grasp what you ask of us. You are the ground of all that is and you uphold us in our being. As we come and sit 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 but also of the possibilities still unrealized. Most of all we seek to discover how to make something useful of all of these things and how to find a place and a purpose for them in our lives and in the lives of others. Help us to realize the even deeper knowledge that we are all made to be able 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 world even when it is frightening or frustrating or heartbreaking. Be with us and sustain us on our way. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Tune: IN BABILONE)**

**God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**

ANTHEM “The Call” David Ashley White

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 “Andante” G.H. Reichardt

*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 Romans 12:3-10

PSALM 8

O Lord our Lord,

how exalted is your name in all the world!

Out of the mouths of infants and children

your majesty is praised above the heavens.

you have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,

to quell the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

what are human beings that you should be mindful of them?

mortals that you should seek them out?

You have made them but little lower than the angels;

you adorn them with glory and honor;

you give them mastery over the works of your hands;

you put all things under their feet:

All sheep and oxen,

even the wild beasts of the field,

the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,

and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

**O Lord our Lord,
how exalted is your name in all the world!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 5:14-16

SERMON “What Are Gifts For?”

*HYMN 422 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

**God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Off'ring up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne.**

**Treasure, too, You have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.**

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Sortie” Clément Loret

Cover Graphic—designed by Congregational UCC member, Robyn Hepker, for this year’s stewardship theme, “Giving Together. Growing Together.”

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

WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

	TODAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 am
Red Cedar Chamber Music	3:00 pm

	TUESDAY
❖ Church Council	7:00 pm

	WEDNESDAY
❖ Staff Meeting	11:00 am

	THURSDAY
❖ Finance Committee	1:00 pm

	NEXT SUNDAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 am

GIVING TOGETHER. GROWING TOGETHER: The Christian life is lived together. We gather to worship, we work with each other in mission, we study in groups, we bear one another’s burdens, and we talk and laugh together over coffee. We give together. We grow together. During worship this month members of our congregation will talk about why they give to support all that we do together. We will look ahead to the coming year and new opportunities and new possibilities.

ADULT EDUCATION LOOKS AT THE ELECTION THIS SUNDAY AT 9:15 AM: UI

professor of political science and Congregational UCC member, Caroline Tolbert, will lead a discussion of the upcoming 2024 presidential elections and competitive congressional elections, including District 1 in Iowa (our district). It will discuss the battleground states and competitive House and Senate races. It will discuss public opinion polling, polling predictions (538), and money spent in the 2024 election (i.e. open secrets). It will discuss the unique challenges to this election, including misinformation and conspiracy theories, low trust in government, legal challenges, wide variation in voting laws across the states, natural disasters, and other factors. Because of the extensive use of mail voting ballots and possible election audits, it is likely the results of the election may not be known for several weeks after the November 5th election. This is an informative session presented from a nonpartisan perspective.

UI HOMECOMING FUN—OCTOBER 24 AND BEFORE: The Mission Board will sell cookies and warm drinks during the U of I Homecoming Parade Friday, October 25. Would you like to help organize our sale of hot chocolate and cider? We are also 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 Homecoming. We also need volunteers to sell the cookies and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or you can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944ACA82FA7FDC16-cookies#/>

OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER will be Monday, November 18. For those who would like to provide food there is a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall. Others are welcome to eat dinner and visit with residents. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m.

INTERGENERATIONAL MEET-UP AT THE HARVEST PRESERVE. Save the date, November 9 from 2-4. Join the CE Board for snacks at the pond house and an optional walk through the woods to the Harvest Stone Circle. And watch for more details!

OUR MISSION BOARD IS PLANNING THIS YEAR'S ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING. You will find items in Rockwood Hall on November 17, December 1 & 15. We typically offer the gifts of various farm animals through the Heifer Project, as well as donations of supplies to Church World Service, and other beautiful things created by artists and craftspeople in our congregation. John Reitz is organizing these Sundays. If you are interested in participating as a vendor and he has not yet contacted you, it is not because we don't want you to participate, but he probably does not know of your interest. Please contact John by phone or email to let him know of your interest.

SHARE THE HARVEST: Following the lead of earlier church members, John Fuller and Kathy Fait have been bringing flowers and vegetables during the growing season for over 20 years. This year Andy Bertolatus and Diane Atkins shared their cucumbers and tomatoes. In past years Bob and Gloria Hanson brought lovely apples from their Wisconsin farm, and other members shared their garden produce. A free-will donation is requested for the bouquets, apples, kale, tomatoes, basil, peppers, and other veggies. This year the donations, which reflect the

the generous giving from our congregation, will be sent to the CommUnity Food Bank. As of October 6, your efforts have raised over \$580 to fight food insecurity in our community.

THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION IS HAVING THEIR ANNUAL FRIEND AND FUND RAISER at the Unitarian Universalist Society, Nov. 20, 6:00-8:30. The church has purchased a table for 10 and a table for 7. All you need to do is tell Jenn Harden (319-337-4301) or Donna Hirst that you'd like to attend. If you would like to be a volunteer (likely serving food), let Donna know: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu. You can make an individual donation by giving a check to Bea Hicks, JCIC Treasurer.

***FUN AND FROLIC*, A NEW WORK BY CONGREGATIONAL UCC MEMBER, PETER BLOESCH**, will be the featured premiere during the Red Cedar Chamber Music concert, next Sunday, October 20, at 3:00 p.m. here in the sanctuary. Tickets are \$20. Students are free.

AGAPE CAFÉ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Agape Cafe is a pop-up style restaurant located in Old Brick Church where they serve free hot dine-in or to-go breakfasts for our neighbors every Wednesday from 7:30-9AM. Since the beginning of the academic semester, they have experienced a significant uptick in guests coming in for their services, averaging more than 105 meals served. With the higher demand, they are on the lookout for consistent volunteers who can help fulfill their mission of feeding our friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurity. If you are interested in pitching in to help prep food, serve, or with clean-up, we would love to have you. Please email agapebreakfast@gmail.com for additional information.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BY EXTENSION OFFERING in September. We received over \$400 for theological education in South Africa. If you would still like to give, please put "TEE" on your check or envelope.

FALL DIAPER DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK: The Mission Board is holding a diaper drive in **September and October** to help the Food Bank replenish its supply of diapers for families in need. The Food Bank relies on donations for non-food items such as disposable diapers. Please help babies and toddlers in our community stay dry, clean, and healthy by participating in the diaper drive. **Diaper sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the most needed as well as baby wipes.** There are two ways you can help. Buy a package of disposable diapers and wipes and bring them to Rockwood Hall. We will ensure that everything is delivered to the Food Bank. Or, if you would like to make a personal donation to support this drive, please write a check to the church with Diaper Drive on the memo line and the Mission Board will use the funds to purchase diapers. Whichever way you choose, your donation will help restock the Food Bank's diaper supply, provide free diapers for babies and toddlers in need and bring some economic relief to families.

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.