

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 25, 2026
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REFORMATION SUNDAY

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 Randee Fieselmann, Liturgist

PRELUDE "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Gerhard Krapf

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 145)
God is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in love.
God is good to all
and God's mercy rests upon all God's creatures.
God upholds those who stumble
and raises up those who are down.
God is near to all who call,
to all who call faithfully upon God.
[Unison]
Let us worship God.

*HYMN 260 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right One on our side,
the One of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

*OPENING PRAYER
O God, in the great and vast world, where there are forces larger than ourselves, we call on you to give us courage to live and to do what is right: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. Forgive us, for we find these things hard to do. In your judgment and mercy, look with compassion on all of us. Equip us with your grace to act in such ways that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may abide in our midst.

Help us recall the ways you have kept faith with us and brought us through other perilous times, generation to generation. Protect us, defend us, and strengthen us that we might be faithful in all that you would have us do. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#191, vs. 1)
God is our refuge and our strength, Our ever-present aid,
And therefore, though the earth remove, We will not be afraid.

ANTHEM "Beloved, Let Us Love One Another" Gerhard Schroth

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 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" Gerhard Krapf
*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 Jeremiah 45:1-5
The word that the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Baruch son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: You said, 'Woe is me! The Lord has added sorrow to my pain; I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.' Thus you shall say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: I am going to break down what I have built, and pluck up what I have planted—that is, the whole land. And you, do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; I am going to bring disaster upon all flesh, says the Lord; but I will give you your life as a for prize of war in every place to which you may go.'

PSALM 143:7-12
Make haste to answer me, Lord
for my spirit is failing;
do not hide your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the dead.
Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning:
for in you I have put my trust.
Show me the way I should walk in:
for to you I lift up my soul.
Deliver me Lord from my enemies:
for I have fled to you for refuge.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God:
let your good spirit lead me on an even path.

[Unison]

Keep me safe O Lord for your name's sake:
and for your righteousness' sake bring me out of trouble.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 14:8-17

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

*HYMN (insert) "We Limit Not the Truth of God"

We limit not the truth of God
to our poor reach of mind,
to notions of our day and place,
crude, partial, and confined:
No, let a new and better hope
within our hearts be stirred:
O God, grant yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.

Who dares to bind to one's own sense
the oracles of heaven,
for all the nations, tongues, and climes
and all the ages given?
That universe, how much unknown!
that ocean unexplored!
O God, grant yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.

Eternal God, incarnate Word,
Spirit of flame and dove:
enlarge, expand all living souls
to comprehend your love;
And help us all to seek your will
with wiser powers conferred:

O God, grant yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.

SERMON "We Are Not Making This Up"

*HYMN (insert) "Lead on, Eternal Sovereign"
Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;
Loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day:
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,
To carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,
For in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.

Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace;
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,
To love and serve each other for all eternity.

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Samuel Scheidt

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.

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	After Worship

TUESDAY

❖ Gentle Yoga	11:00 am

- ❖ Church Council 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

- ❖ Staff Meeting 11:00 am

THURSDAY

- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

FRIDAY

- ❖ Homecoming Parade 5:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ CE for Children and Adults 9:15 am
- ❖ All Saints Jazz Worship Service 10:15 am
- ❖ Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
- ❖ AWE After Worship
- ❖ Choir Rehearsal After Worship
- ❖ Youth Group 2:00 pm

AWE 3—YES! AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE 3) WILL MEET AFTER WORSHIP TODAY. We are 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!

YOUTH GROUP TODAY IS LUNCH & THEATRE AFTER CHURCH! It is not too late to join—we will go to lunch together and then head to City High to see *Tartuffe* at 2 PM. Students are asked to contribute $10 for lunch & the show. Pick-up will be after the play.

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 is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

RETURN TO STANDARD TIME: Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clocks back an hour before bedtime on Saturday, October 31. Get some rest and join us for Worship on November 1 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 a.m.—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

WE WILL RECEIVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING ON ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1: NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

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.

ALL SAINTS DAY: CIDER & CYCLING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2-3:30 All ages are welcome to join our youth at the Ashton House 820 Park Rd. for hot cider and trishaw rides! We will have cider & cookies (not dinner). Please sign up in Rockwood Hall for a ride slot. There will be two bikes running, one or two passengers per ride.

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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR ON NOVEMBER 22 AND DECEMBER 13: Please plan to visit Rockwood Hall after worship on November 22, and December 13th for our **Alternative Christmas Giving Fair!** There will be Heifer Project gift cards bearing Ginny Clemons' graceful calligraphy and Church World Service "ornaments". Proceeds from cards, jewelry, and gift baskets donated by artists and craftspeople in our congregation will go to local community agencies. You can trim the Mitten Tree with your new or gently used mittens, scarves, and hats for the Joan Buxton School project. And the Angel Tree will have toy request cards from the Salvation Army and envelopes for a holiday meal donation to be distributed by CommUnity. Contact John Reitz at 319-333-9588, john-reitz@uiowa.edu for information. Come have a cup of coffee and browse!

HELP AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEXT MONTH—NOVEMBER 30: When there is a fifth Monday in the month, our congregation serves at the Free Lunch Program, one of the "quiet services" in the Iowa City area that strives to do one thing well: provide a **free**, **filling** and **healthy lunch** to **anyone** who comes to us. Volunteers bring a spirit of caring and compassion to our program as the people we serve are treated as guests. We come together knowing that we're all deeply connected and dependent on one another, no matter our current circumstances.

We will serve on Monday, November 30. You can help by providing food or by serving at the site at 1105 Gilbert Court. Please sign up in Rockwood Hall. If you would like to begin to receive the signup sheet sent by email, please contact Vicki Thomae at vickithomae@gmail.com

PLEASE RETURN YOUR 2027 PLEDGE CARD: Pledge/estimate of giving cards for 2027 were sent out in early October. If you misplaced yours or did not receive one, please contact the church office—319-337-4301. If you have received a card, please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the church as soon as possible. Your deeply considered, prayerful support will help us to continue our Church's ministry and mission in the Iowa City area and around the world.

GIVE THANKS, GIVE FOOD: Youth Group Soup Drive for CommUnity. Please bring cans of soup or other shelf stable items to our collection table in Rockwood Hall through Sunday, November 22. Collected items will be delivered to CommUnity Monday, November 23.

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.

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" over $800. Our goal for this year is $1000. Eat your vegetables (they're good for you), 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. 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.