



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 26, 2025
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REFORMATION SUNDAY

“The assumption that liberal religion has run out of gas and that liberal synagogues and churches are dying is simply absurd....[T]he problems are real enough and there are plenty of trouble spots, but everywhere in America one can find liberal places of worship that are serving an example to others—congregations that are spiritually serious, religiously vibrant, communally aware, and committed to love of justice and love of God.”

Rabbi Eric Yoffie

PRELUDE “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Timothy Albrecht

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 46)

God is our refuge and our strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.
[Unison]
Come, let us worship together.

***HYMN 288 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”**

**I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God’s command,
And all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where’er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!**

**There’s not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, in the great and vast world, where there are forces larger than ourselves, we call on you to give us strength to live and to do what is right—to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. Forgive us when we find these things hard to do.

Open our minds to the movement of your Spirit so we can go forward into the unmarked times and occasions before us. Stir our imagination to grapple with all that needs reworking, all that needs repairing, and all that needs restoring. Help us recall ways you have kept faith with us and brought us through other perilous times, generation to generation. Protect us in our being and becoming and keep us faithful in all that you would have us do. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Tune: ELLACOMBE, #288)**

**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.

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.

ANTHEM “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” Carl F. Mueller

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 “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” George Miles

*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 Habakkuk 2:1-4

*PSALM HYMN 191 “God Is our Refuge and Our Strength” (Psalm 46)

**God is our refuge and our strength,
Our ever-present aid,**

**And therefore, though the earth remove,
We will not be afraid;**

**Though hills amid the seas be cast,
Though foaming waters roar,
Yea, though the mighty billows shake
The mountains on the shore.**

**Where God abides a river flows;
That city will rejoice.
But nations fear and kingdoms shake
Before God's thundering voice.**

**Since God is in the midst of it,
The city walls shall stand,
Secure and safe with God's sure help,
When trouble is at hand.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 14:12-17

SERMON “

***HYMN 420 “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

Set our feet on lofty places;
 Gird our lives that they may be
 Armored with all Christ-like graces,
 Pledged to set all captives free.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 That we fail not them nor Thee!
 That we fail not them nor Thee!

Save us from weak resignation
 to the evils we deplore;
 let the gift of your salvation
 be our glory evermore.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 serving you whom we adore,
 serving you whom we adore

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arr. Mark Hayes & Marvin Gaspard
 Rachel Burchett, piano & Bill Crouch, organ

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

TODAY

❖ 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	11:30 am
AWE	11:30 am

TUESDAY

❖ <i>Reading Genesis</i> (Oaknoll)	10:00 am
Gentle Yoga	Noon
Church Council	7:00 pm

THURSDAY

❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal	6:30 pm
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NEXT SUNDAY

❖ No Choir Rehearsal	
Christian Education for all ages	9:15 am
Jazz Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Choir Rehearsal	After Worship
AWE	After Worship
Youth Group	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.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses (propositions) on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church as an invitation to debate the sale of indulgences for forgiveness. That event was a key moment in a movement that became the Protestant Reformation. Today we mark Reformation Sunday and recognize that the church is always reforming itself and always being reformed by God.

RETURN TO STANDARD TIME: Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clock back an hour before bedtime next Saturday, November 5, get some rest, and join us for worship on Sunday, November 6 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 a.m.—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 2: 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 and friends of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. 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 in order to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin’ in. 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 as we give thanks for the lives of Deb Cobb and two friends of our congregation, Tom Kinney and Richard Wells.

THE NEXT YOUTH GROUP MEETING IS SUNDAY, NOV.2 from 4-6:30! All youth grades 3rd-12th are invited to attend. We will discuss the significance of cultural and spiritual traditions of the season and play games. Students may wear costumes and dinner is provided.

COME ENJOY AN EVENING OF GREAT MUSIC AND YOUTHFUL ENERGY in this unique opportunity to see both Ella Lewis (sophomore at North Liberty) and Nadia Spragg (junior at City High), as they perform with their show choirs at the district’s “Works in Progress” showcase. Monday, October 27 at Arganbright Auditorium, West High at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$5 at the door and the order of performances is City, Liberty, and West.

READING GENESIS: A group is forming to read and discuss together Marilynne Robinson’s *Reading Genesis*. We’ll meet at Oaknoll from 10:00-11:30 on four Tuesday mornings, October 28, November 4, 11 & 18. If you would like to be a part of this group, talk with Bill Lovin or

Chuck Dayton or sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall. If you are interested in *Reading Genesis* but would like to meet at a different time, please talk with Bill or Chuck as well.

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. You are welcome to help provide and serve dinner, and visit with the Hope Lodge residents. If you would like to contribute food, see the signup sheet in Rockwood Hall. If you have questions, see Sue Dayton.

AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE) meets today and on the Sundays that the choir meets after worship to rehearse for the Christmas Music Sunday on December 7. We are using *Living the Questions-The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. In this study we meet progressive theologians such as: Borg, Crossen, Spong, Pagels. This is a beginning class that introduces you to Progressive Christianity. Rev. Ann Molsberry is leading the discussions. See you after worship in the library.

INCOME FROM SHARE THE HARVEST HAS TOPPED \$1000! Thanks to Kathy Fait and John Fuller for leading this effort and to all who shared their harvest this summer and fall. All proceeds will go to the CommUnity Food Pantry in Iowa City.

THE MISSION BOARD IS SPONSORING A DIAPER AND TP DRIVE during 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. On November 2 & 9, John Johnson will be available to take photos after worship.

DR. JAMES ZOGBY JOINS VETERANS FOR PEACE ARMISTICE DAY

OBSERVANCE: On Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, beginning at 11 a.m., the local chapter of Veterans For Peace will hold three public events in Iowa City to re-dedicate ourselves to the work of peace. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

1) Beginning at 10:45 a.m., we will assemble at the Iowa City Ped Mall. Bells will ring at the 11th hour, 11th day, 11th month, as is tradition. Dr. James Zogby will make brief remarks. In 1985, Zogby co-founded the Arab American Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based organization which serves as the political and policy research arm of the Arab American community. He continues to serve as its president. Zogby is also Director of Zogby Research Services, a firm that has conducted groundbreaking surveys across the Middle East.

- 2) Immediately following the outdoor observance, Veterans For Peace will host a free luncheon at the Iowa City Public Library. Dr. Zogby will address the group in a longer format. His topic is “The war that didn't end all wars and instead launched a century of conflict.”
- 3) At 6:30 p.m., Veterans For Peace will sponsor a screening of the film “Earth’s Greatest Enemy,” a film by Abby Martin at Film Scene, 404 East College Street, Iowa City. This is a documentary exposé of the world's biggest—and most unaccountable—polluter: the US military. Learn the environmental cost of having a military Empire. Co-director/co-author of the film, Mike Prysner, will attend and offer brief remarks before the screening. He will host a question-and-answer period immediately afterward. Film Scene requests a free will donation to attend. This is the sole Armistice Day observance in the State of Iowa.

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!>

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.