



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 5, 2025
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“World Communion Sunday reminds us that...even as Christ invites us to this table, he does not mean for us to linger here forever. He gives us sustenance in order to send us forth, carrying a space of welcome within us, called to offer it to those we meet.”

Jan Richardson

PRELUDE “Let Us Break Bread Together” Setting by John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalms 24, 133, & 116)

The world belongs to God,
the earth and all its people.

How good and how lovely it is
to live together in unity.

What shall I return to God
for all God's bounty to me?
**I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

[Unison]
Let us worship God.

*HYMN 472 (vs. 1 & 3) "O Sing to the Lord" (Brazil)

**O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song,
O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song,
O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.**

*Cantai ao Senhor um cântico novo,
Cantai ao Senhor um cântico novo,
Cantai ao Senhor um cântico novo,,
cantai ao Sehnor, cantai ao Senhor!*

**So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets,
and sing to our God, and sing to our God.**

*Cantai ao Senhor, bendizei o seu nome,
Cantai ao Senhor, bendizei o seu nome,.
Cantai ao Senhor, bendizei o seu nome,
cantai ao Sehnor, cantai ao Senhor!*

*OPENING PRAYER

O God, our great strength, help us to fix our eyes on you, trusting in your mercy. Help us to look into the world and discover that you are there among all people. Strengthen us as we hold out open hearts and hands to the refugee, to the hungry, to the lonely, to the broken in body or spirit. Stir us with your presence, your strength, and your love. All this we ask in your name, Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (insert) "Saranam, Saranam" (vs. 1-3) (Pakistan)
*Refuge

**Refrain: Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.**

**In the midst of foes I cry to thee, from the ends of earth wherever I may be;
my strength in helplessness, O answer me: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. [Refrain]**

**In thy tent give me a dwelling place, and beneath thy wings may I find sheltering grace;
O lift on me the sunshine of thy face: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. [Refrain]**

**O that I my vows to thee may pay, and that by thy faithfulness to me each day
may live, and on thy love my burdens lay: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. [Refrain]**

ANTHEM "God is Faithful" Walter L. Pelz

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Let Us Break Bread Together” arr. Phillip Keveren

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

PSALM 96

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless the Lord's name;
tell of God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations
and the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

**Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
bring an offering, and come into God's courts.

**Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
tremble before God, all the earth.**

Say among the nations, ‘The Lord is sovereign!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

God will judge the peoples with equity.’

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.

**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, who is coming,
who is coming to judge the earth.**

[Unison]

**God will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with truth.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Galatians 6:1-10

SERMON “How the Good Grows”

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 515 “Now to Your Table Spread” (New Zealand)

**Now to your table spread
We come, each one in faith
That You alone provide the words of life and death:
In wine and bread,
On promised food
We find Your loving heart, O God.**

**Hands of the world stretch out
Your mystery to touch
In longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
To sing in joy,
To cry in grief,
To know Your meaning for our life.**

**Here is our common wealth
In sharing what is good,
As though all humankind around one table stood,
This bread to break,
This wine to taste:
One people in the name of Christ.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

**Across the world, around each table,
bread is broken and wine is poured.
We remember as we eat this bread
we become the body of Christ together
and as we drink this cup
we become branches on Christ’s life-giving vine.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the minister’s guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord’s Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Spirit of God:
By this bread connect us more closely with you,
and with our neighbors near and far.**

**By this cup remind us of the interconnectedness
of people around the world.
May this simple meal
bring us into communion with you, your people, and your world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our friend and companion. Amen.**

***HYMN (insert) “Siyahamba” (South Africa)
We are marching/singing/dancing in the light of God.**

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Fanfare” Arthur Bliss

Opening prayer from the Episcopal Church, alt.

“O Sing to the Lord/ *Cantai ao Senhor*”—Brazilian (Portuguese) folk hymn based on Psalm 98;
English translation Gerhard M. Cartford. Music: Brazilian folk hymn, arr. Joel Navarro ©2012
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“Siyahamba’—Words and Music: South African Folksong - ©2019 Hal Leonard Corporation.
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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

	TODAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Adult Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Youth Group	4:00 pm

	TUESDAY
❖ Gentle Yoga	Noon

Board of Christian Education	7:00 pm
Mission Board	7:00 pm
Stewardship Board (Zoom)	7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

- ❖ Staff Meeting 11:00 am

THURSDAY

- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

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

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

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

YOUTH GROUP TODAY FROM 4-6! 3rd grade through high school students are invited to join us for food, fellowship, and fun. Friends are welcome!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR ANNUAL TEE OFFERING last Sunday.

We received over \$700.. If you would still like to give, please put "TEE" on your check or envelope. TEE stands for the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the [United Congregational Church of South Africa](#). From its start, TEE was open to both men and women and to people of all races. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger, worked for TEE in South Africa. Please give generously—our support makes a difference.

ADULT EDUCATION THIS SUNDAY, October 5, 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 on Sunday, October 12. 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 on Sunday, October 12 in the library.

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.

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, will be from the afternoon of Sunday, 10/13, through the early afternoon of Saturday, 10/19. 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>

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.

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.

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.

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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.

