



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

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 9, 2022
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Migrating birds have an internal compass that allows them to home their way back to their nesting place each spring. For birds, home is both verb and noun—both journey and destination.”
Tom Montgomery Fate

PRELUDE “Brother James’ Air” Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 66)
Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
Sing to the glory of God’s name;
give to God glorious praise.

**Bless our God, O peoples,
let the sound of God’s praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**

***HYMN 483 "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"**

**Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love,
The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul is filled,
And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!**

**What God's almighty power hath made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might,
Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away,
But through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay,
Our peace and joy and blessing;
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!**

**Thus, all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud Thy praises
That all may hear the grateful song
My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
Both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

On this journey of life, O God, be our companion, be our guide. Make clear to us the path ahead. Wherever we are, in the journey from birth to death, grant us your peace. We thank you for each other, our companions on the journey of faith. We pray for those with whom we travel on this planet as it makes its rounds of the sun. Bring us together to a new world of peace, through Jesus Christ, who lived and died that all might be one. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#281)**

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

ANTHEM "The Lord is My Shepherd"

Howard Goodall

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 "It Is Well with My Soul" arr. Marianne Kim

Tim Strang & Bill Crouch, piano

*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

(At this time, children are dismissed to attend Children's Church.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 12:1-4a

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved,
and the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

it is the Lord who watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
**so that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
the Lord shall keep you safe.

**The Lord shall watch over your going out and your
coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 20:13-16

SERMON “P(r)aying Attention”
Tom Montgomery Fate

*HYMN 294 “Wherever I May Wander”

**Wherever I may wander,
Wherever I may be,
I'm certain of my Maker's love;
God's care is over me.
God made the great high mountains,
And made the wide blue sea;
God made the sky where airplanes fly;
God made the world, and me.**

**Throughout the whole creation
I see God's loving care
For everyone in every land,
God's children everywhere.
Wherever I may wander,
Wherever I may be,
I'm certain of my Maker's love;
God's care is over me.**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Fanfare” Eric H. Thiman

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Director of Children’s Programs:	The Rev. Ann Molsberry
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Chris Nakielski
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. We are putting the safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated in our congregation and the community first. Masks are highly recommended. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

WE WELCOME TOM MONTGOMERY FATE TO OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. Tom, the son of former Congregational UCC members, the late Russ and Dee Fate, is a graduate of the Non-Fiction Writing Program at UI and professor emeritus at the College of Dupage. Tom will read from his new book, *The Long Way Home: Detours and Discoveries* (Ice Cube Press, 2022). *The Long Way Home*, is a travel memoir that ventures from his small-town upbringing to vastly different cultures around the globe. Tom comes to define “home” not as a physical location, but as a way of belonging.”

CHILDCARE IN THE CHURCH NURSERY is provided for infants through children 4 years old from 9:15-11:30. Come enjoy adult education classes, adult choir rehearsal, and even teaching Sunday School!

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: As we continue to reopen, there are new 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.

THINKING ABOUT THE HOMECOMING PARADE YET? We are! Be a part of the Homecoming action on October 28 and join the UCC as this annual tradition returns. Bring friends. The parade starts at 5:45 but it's best to come about 5:00 -5:30 pm, as there's lots of traffic. You can decide on any or all of the following activities. Here's what's happening: Chairs and standing room are here, street side, for a vibrant view of parade as it turns the corner. As a fundraiser, the Men's Fellowship grills and sells hot dogs, brats and hamburgers. The Mission Board sells beverages.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE TEE OFFERING LAST MONTH. We received nearly \$900 to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at www.tee.co.za. **You can still give— please put “TEE” on your check or envelope.**

URGENT PLEA FROM THE JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK AND A WAY TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF CLAIRE ASHMAN. Our church received an

urgent plea from Julia Winter, Director of Development at CommUnity for assistance with food donations, as well as monetary donations to purchase food in bulk. As you can imagine, the number of households served during these difficult times has steadily increased, as the government assistance shrinks and inflation is on the upswing. Also, HACAP's supply of bulk foods to order has decreased. Monetary gifts stretch much farther, however clients are very pleased by the random food donated which helps provide variety. Every donated food item must display a nutrition label to be offered. The Mission Board will have an ongoing donation box in Rockwood Hall, with a list of suggested items. Please consider canned protein sources, pastas, cereals, rice in small bags, boxed meal items, and personal care items. The needs change weekly. Monetary donations can be contributed on the website [Donate \(builtbycommunity.org\)](https://www.builtbycommunity.org) which also includes a printable form and address to mail a check. Needs change frequently, and Jane Kinney or Paula Forest can provide suggestions if needed.

Claire Ashman was devoted many volunteer hours to the food bank, so this will be a soulful way to honor her legacy.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPOSED “RIGHT TO FIREARMS” AMENDMENT TO IOWA’S CONSTITUTION. As a follow-up to her presentation to the church on September 19, Liz O'Hara, of Moms Demand Action, encourages church members to read a short statement put out by Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety on Public Measure 1. Public Measure 1 will appear on this November's ballot in Iowa. To obtain a copy, please see Chuck Connerly after church or email him at charles-connerly@uiowa.edu.

JCIC CANDIDATE FORUM, SAT. OCT. 15, 2:00-4:00, PURPOSE PLACE (FORMERLY THE KINGDOM CENTER) 611 Southgate Ave, Iowa City

Why Attend? 9 candidates will address current hot button issues, especially issues of concern to local low income and people of color. All 4 County Supervisor candidates, Elinor Levin/Jacob Onken for Ia House District 89, Janice Weiner for Ia Senate District 45, and Christina Bohannon for US House District 1 will attend and speak. Miller Meeks declined to attend.

Each candidate will offer prepared comments during the first hour, and from 3:00-4:00 attendees can have one-on-one discussions with the candidates. By attending you will learn about the candidates, but also support our communities of color in identifying candidates who will work to address their concerns.

Why Volunteer? Because Donna Hirst, Bea Hicks, Sally Strang, and Jane Kinney need assistance with this important event. Because it's a great way to work side by side with other members of JCIC congregations. It's a way to demonstrate solidarity with our South District and low-income communities. We're looking for folks to:

Set up 10:30-12:00 (Jane Kinney in charge)

Welcome 1:45-2:30 (then stay and listen to the candidates)

Children's activities (Bea Hicks is in charge)

Door prize table (sign people up, assist with announcing winners, listen to the candidates)

Parking assistance

Food: we're serving take home bags (after the candidates speak)

Sally Strang is enlisting volunteers to bake cookies.

Contact Donna Hirst, donna-hirst@uiowa.edu about volunteering, and contact Sally about cookies, sallystrang@mchsi.com.

THE CONSULTATION OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL WARM WINTER WEAR DISTRIBUTION (WWWD) on October 16-22. This event will be held in the new winter shelter at the far east end of the Guide Link Center, 340 Southgate Ave, Iowa City. We are looking for donations of new or gently used outerwear for children and adults. Please begin collecting clean items and keep them at their homes until further notice. Our highest priority is: winter coats & jackets of all sizes, and other outerwear (snow pants, hats, gloves / mittens, winter scarves, warm socks & winter boots / shoes). We will also gladly accept sweaters, sweatshirts & sweatpants. Please begin collecting needed items. **Carefully presort donated items, removing anything not listed here.**

We'd appreciate donations of a box or two of large, strong lawn and leaf bags that can hold several coats for the shoppers. **We also need to borrow a dozen sturdy coat racks.**

And save the week of October 16 - 22 for volunteer opportunities as follows:

- October 16 – set up & begin receiving donations (Sunday, noon - 4 p.m.)
- October 17 & 18 – continue to receive donations, sort items & set up (Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
- October 19–21 – distribution of clothing (Wednesday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 6:p.m.).
- October 22 – distribution of clothing (Saturday, 9 a.m. – noon); Clean-up, noon to 4 p.m.

Like last year, we will be requiring both volunteers and shoppers to sign up via Sign-up Genius. **For more detailed instructions and to access the Sign-up Genius for Volunteers click on:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-warm1> For further questions, contact John Barr at BarrJohnO@sau.edu.

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/154m7852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.