



"Celebration" by John August Swanson

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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2025
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

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.

"For me to be a saint means to be myself."
Thomas Merton

PRELUDE "The Old Rugged Cross"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marsha Lowe Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP

During times of crisis,
in moments of doubt,
during periods of isolation,
through seasons of uncertainty...

we seek to place our trust the living God.

Let us open our hearts to God.
In communion with the saints,
and united with all people of good will,

we come to worship God.

*HYMN 210 “Our God, Our Help in Age Past”

**Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:**

**Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.**

**Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.**

* OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, you hold all times and places in your care. We look to you as autumn tells us of bounty and beauty, of endings and of harvest. Into the greatness of your presence, we bring our unsettled lives. Grant us your peace and calm as we struggle in our daily journeys. Give us strength as we pray, as we study, as we work, as we dare to risk, and as we take steps forward each new day. Be with us in our sorrow and in our joy. Surround us

with the sense of all those who came before us who found the courage to continue and to persevere. Refresh our faith, restore our confidence, and lead us in your ways. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#466, Tune: AZMON)

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God's grace!**

**Jesus, the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
is music in the sinners' ears,
is life, and health, and peace.**

**Glory to God, and praise and love
be ever, ever given
by all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven.**

ANTHEM “This Little Light of Mine”

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Offertory” George Patterson

*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

(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 8:18-25

PSALM 90:1-12

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream;

we fade away suddenly like the grass.

**In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

For we are consumed away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty;**

yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

**Who regards the power of your wrath?
who rightly fears your indignation?**

[Unison]

**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Hebrews 12:1-3

SERMON “Held in God’s Love”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 513 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

**Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)**

**Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

REMEMBRANCE

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit, signs of your life-giving love.
May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
hope for your realm among us.**

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 pastor’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

**Gracious God,
in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people,
we offer our energy, intelligence, and love.
Ask much of us; expect much from us; encourage many through us.
Number us among your saints, O God,
and join us with the faithful of every age.**

*HYMN 526 “For All the Saints” (vs. 1-3)

*BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**And when the task is hard, the labor long,
Steals on the ear the distant harvest song,
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE “When the Saints Go Marchin’ In”

Cover Art: John August Swanson. “Celebration,” from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56538> [retrieved October 31, 2025]. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

Congregational Response after the Benediction: W. W. Howe, alt. by Allan Happe.

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

❖ Christian Education for all ages	9:15 am
Jazz Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Youth Group	4:00 pm

TUESDAY

❖ <i>Reading Genesis</i> (Oaknoll)	10:00 am
Gentle Yoga	Noon
Board of Christian Education	6:00 pm
Mission Board	7:00 pm
Stewardship Board (Zoom)	7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

❖ Staff Meeting	11:00 pm
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THURSDAY

❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal	6:30 pm
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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
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.

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 THIS AFTERNOON 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.

READING GENESIS: A group is reading and discussing together Marilynne Robinson's *Reading Genesis*. We'll meet at Oaknoll from 10:00-11:30 on Tuesday mornings, 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.

MISSION BOARD FOOD DRIVE IN NOVEMBER: As many of you know, the government shutdown is resulting in a suspension of SNAP benefits starting Nov 1. This will lead to significant problems for those depending on these benefits to purchase food. In addition, food banks have been very stressed as the price of food has risen considerably. The Mission Board is sponsoring a food drive in November to respond to this crisis. Please bring stable shelf items to the church on the Sundays in November and the MB will deliver to the local food banks. If you prefer a monetary gift, just place it in the offering plate and it will be sent. As you consider the items to donate, be aware that many boxed items require additional ingredients such as butter and milk for mac and cheese boxes, and meat for hamburger helper. If those items are not available, the food is not useful. Protein sources, such as tuna, canned chicken and peanut butter are often requested.

AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE) is taking today off and will meet next Sunday and on the Sundays that the choir meets after worship to rehearse for the Christmas Music Sunday on December 7.

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.

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 ucccadmin@uccic.org. On November 2 & 9, John Johnson will be available to take photos after worship.

PLEASE PLAN TO VISIT Rockwood Hall after worship on November 23, and December 14th 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!

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.