

"Girl with Lamp of Wisdom" by Nathan David

The Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

30 N Clinton St.
Iowa City, IA 52245
319-337-4301

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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IOWA CITY, IA 52245
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WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2026
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 Cassie Elsberg, Liturgist

PRELUDE "Aria" Simon Clark

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP
People of God, rejoice.
The realm of God is all around us.
We gather to encourage one another
to keep awake and to watch.
For the realm of God is near.
[Unison]
Let us worship God.

*HYMN 455 "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vs. 1-4)
All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest us both warmth and light,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fertile earth, that day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them God's glory also show!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*OPENING PRAYER
God our creator, in you we live and move and have our being. We thank you for this life and for the beauty and wonder of these days. As we live surrounded by your grace and mercy, may we love others as we have been loved. Help us to be slow to judge and quick in showing compassion. Help us to live in the freedom of Christ and strengthen us for the work of reconciliation. Put a new spirit within us that we might be fully alive to your goodness and more readily love our neighbors. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#455)
And everyone of tender heart
Forgiving others, take your part.
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and cast on God your care.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
To God all thanks and praise belong!
Join in the everlasting song:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Questions for the parents and the congregation
Prayer
The baptism of Sylvie Magdalena Peters Tann

ANTHEM "Keep Your Lamps!" Andre Thomas

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 "Chorale" Alan Ridout
*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 Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

PSALM 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name
and your word above all things.
When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
The Lord is high, yet the Lord cares for the lowly
and perceives the haughty from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
[Unison]
O Lord, you will make good your purpose for me;
O Lord, your love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:1-13
'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

*HYMN 152 "Earth's Scattered Isles and Contoured Hills" (vs. 1, 2, & 4)
Earth's scattered isles and contoured hills
Which part the seas and mold the land,
And vistas newly seen from space
That show a world awesome and grand,
All wondrously unite to sing:
Take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!

God's judgment passed on social ills
That thwart awhile divine intent,
The flagging dreams of weary folk
Whose brave new world lies torn and rent,
In painful form their message bring:
Take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!

The light which shines through noble acts,
The quest for truth dispelling lies,
The grace of Christ renewed in us
So love lives on and discord dies,
All blend their song, good news to bring:

Take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!

SERMON "Tend Your Light"

*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 "Allegro" Rosalie Bonighton

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 5:00 pm

TUESDAY

- Gentle Yoga 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY

- Staff Meeting 11:00 am

THURSDAY

- Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

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THIS MORNING WE BAPTIZE Sylvie Magdalena Peters Tann, the daughter of Torie Tann and Nathan Peters.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO OUR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING LAST SUNDAY. We received over $1,700 for this special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. If you would still like to give, please write "NIN" on your check or envelope or in the memo of the online giving. 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.

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!

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be tomorrow, 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.

Our congregation occasionally provides an evening meal for the residents of Hope Lodge. The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge houses cancer patients (and their caregivers) who are receiving treatment at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The address of Hope Lodge is 750 Hawkins Drive (near the Ronald McDonald House). If you have questions about this project, contact Sue Dayton, cdayton7@mchsi.com or 351-5886.

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 THIS 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.

WE HAVE A PEW CUSHION that needs a couple of buttons sewn onto it. If you can help with this, please talk with Shirley Woolums.

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.

IOWA'S ONLY ARMISTICE DAY OBSERVANCE will take place this Wednesday, November 11, in Downtown Iowa City. There will be two public events:
Ped Mall, north side of Graduate Hotel:10:45 "Assembly" by VFP bugler Ross Porch
11:00 Bells announce the Armistice (11th month, 11th day, 11th hour.) Brief remarks by Patrick Kearns, president of ASGE #2547, representing workers at the Iowa City VA Health Care System. Iowa City Public Library: (about 11:45)Immediately following the outdoor observance, a FREE LUNCH is provided by Veterans For Peace. Patrick Kearns will speak, along with local peace makers. Stand with Veterans For Peace Chapter #161 to remember all victims of war and to dedicate ourselves to the work of peace.

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 year 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.