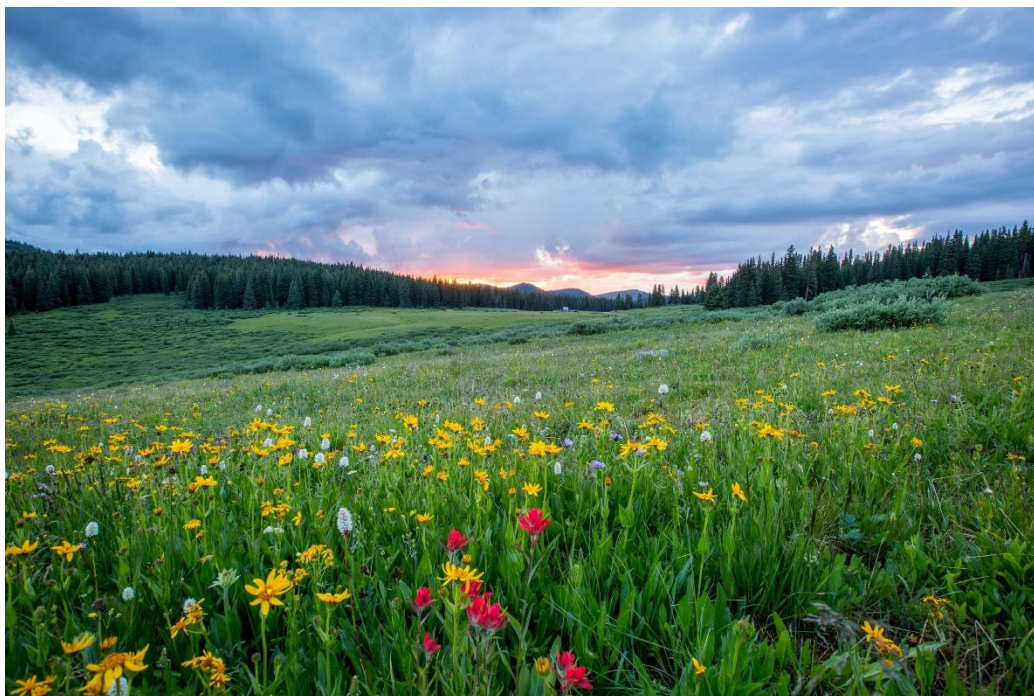


Spring Music Sunday



The Hope of Loving *by Jake Runestad*

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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 18, 2025
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“What keeps us alive, what allows us to endure?
It is the hope of loving, of being loved.”
Meister Eckhart

PRELUDE “The Gift of Love” John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Fieselmann, Liturgist

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 98)

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of God.**

For God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

* HYMN 264 (vs. 1, 2, & 4) "When in Our Music God Is Glorified"

**When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!**

**How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound
as worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!**

**Let every instrument be tuned for praise,
let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,
and may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia! Amen.**

* OPENING PRAYER (a prayer of Henri Capieu)

**God, we sing to you and give you thanks. In the midst of our pains and faults, we know that
you call forth from us our praise and love.**

**For the world, so beautiful and so fragile; for life, so lovely and so threatened; for
this immense universe in which your realm is spread, we give you thanks.**

**For this day which speaks to us again of the resurrection, for your Spirit which
unites us in all our separate places, we give you thanks.**

**And because we can love you and love each other on the earth, in the name of the love of
Christ, in peace and with joy, God we praise you. Amen.**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Now let the heavens be joyful, Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph, And all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, Our joy that has no end.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 55:6-12

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
 and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
 it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
 and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
 and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
 shall burst into song,
 and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

SCRIPTURE LESSON I John 4:16b-19

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.
Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment,
because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear;
for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We
love because he first loved us.

A CHORAL OFFERING “The Hope of Loving” Jake Runestad

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 “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” John Carter

*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

*HYMN (insert) “For the Healing of the Nations”

**For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.**

*BENEDICTION and CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” John Carter

Cover Graphic: Photo by [Joel Holland](#) on [Unsplash](#)

When In Our Music God Is Glorified – Engelberg. Words and Music - ©1991 Lifeway Christian Resources. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

Opening prayer by Henri Capieu, from A Book of Reformed Prayers, ©1998 Westminster John Knox Press. Capieu was a French Reformed Pastor, ordained in 1933, who served at Clairac and at Les Salies de Béarn (1946-47). He pastored the church in Algiers (1947-61) where he befriended Albert Camus, and worked against torture during the Algerian war. He then became pastor in central Paris at the Luxemburg Temple (1961-78). He was a hymnwriter and a talented poet, with a sensitivity to suffering and a calm repose.

“For the Healing of the Nations.” Words - ©1968 Hope Publishing Company. Contributors: Fred Kaan. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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—Children/Youth	9:15 am
Worship Service—Spring Music Sunday	10:15 am
Spring Brunch in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

TUESDAY

❖ Yoga	10:00 am
Diaconate	7:00 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY. We're glad that you have joined us for worship this morning. Everyone is invited to our spring brunch in Rockwood Hall after worship.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will be held through June 8. Mark your calendar, we will celebrate that Sunday morning with a Pancake Party! We will make the pancakes during Sunday School, children are encouraged to bring their favorite pancake topping/side to share.

JOIN US FOR GENTLE YOGA LED BY HOPE SPRAGG EVERY TUESDAY in May at 10:00 AM in Rockwood Hall. This 45-minute session is appropriate for beginner to anyone wishing to focusing on body awareness, increased mobility and relaxation. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat if you have one. Suggested donation: \$10 (cash, check, or online). Please note "IWN" in the memo line for online or check donations. All proceeds will support the Immigrant Welcome Network. Come move, breathe, and support a great cause with your church family!

THE MISSION BOARD IS A PRESENTING SPONSOR FOR THE UNITED ACTION FOR YOUTH'S FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS, which provides us with a table for 8. This event, May 22, 2025 at the Graduate Hotel at 5 PM is the single fundraiser for UAY. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served. The show will feature over 100 floral arrangements from community members and professional florists, available to purchase in a silent auction. Dinner parties, travel packages and more will be featured in a live auction. UAY's mission is to nurture the potential for all youth to create, grow and succeed. They provide crisis and mediation programs, counseling, health education, music programs, LGBTQ+ programs, homeless youth services, and a young parent program. In 2024, the counseling services provided 3146 sessions for 314 families, safe and stable housing for 46 youth, and support to 65 families including 102 children. UAY supports three of the six MB priorities for 2025: Medical/Mental Health, Children/Youth, and LGTBQ+. If you would like to attend, please let Jenn Harden (uccicadmin@uccic.org) know.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION—Every year we recognize high school graduates in our congregation. This year Dylan Beerends, McKenzie Brown, and Noam Morton will graduate from City High. The Diaconate has books available in Rockwood Hall in which you can share your thoughts and good wishes with Dylan, McKenzie, and Noam. We will recognize our graduates during worship next Sunday, May 25.

WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8. This day completes the long arc from Ash Wednesday through Easter resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ—a journey “from ashes to fire.” Pentecost marks God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and our morning will be a spirited time together. The traditional color for Pentecost is red. We invite everyone to please consider wearing “flame colors”—red, orange, yellow—to worship on Sunday, June 8.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—JUNE 8. Each year we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to

grow and thrive. The “Strengthen the Church” offering grows the United Church of Christ’s future by supporting new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development—especially among women and people of color. It also funds the “Stillspeaking” Ministry, spreading the message of God’s extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church. On Sunday, June 8—Pentecost Sunday—we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL is Saturday, June 21—less than two months away—and the Mission Board members invite you to participate in the parade and/or the booth. Last year more than 40 members of the congregation including friends and family enjoyed the celebration. In 2025 we welcome everyone to join us as we proudly show love and support for the LGBTQ+ community and celebrate the historic inclusive commitment of our denomination and congregation where all are welcome. For more information or to share your willingness to help contact any member of the subcommittee: Dianne Atkins, Martha Ann Crawford, Linda Muston, Hope Spragg, Rebecca Weatherford or Julie Wittig.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL on August 18-20, Mon-Wed, 8AM-11AM. All children pre-k-high school are encouraged to attend as campers or helpers! Silver cord hours are available for high school volunteers. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend! Sign-up in Rockwood Hall!

THANKS TO ALL who helped with the Hope Lodge dinner on Monday, May 12: Diane Dahl McCoy, Ann Molsberry, Bryan and Ginny Clemons, Linda Muston, Dianne Atkins and Andy Bertolatus, Rebecca Weatherford, Chuck and Sue Dayton. Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be in July.

HELP WITH MEALS FOR MEMBERS: Occasionally, members of our congregation who are injured or ill can use a meal prepared for them. Our Membership Board wants to be ready when the need arises. If you can help provide an occasional meal, please sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall. Thanks!

HELP WITH SLEEPING MATS STILL NEEDED: With our winter weather just around the corner, the need for more sleeping mats for the homeless is growing! By contributing your plastic bags from your purchases we can help the homeless! Bring your clean, unneeded, plastic grocery bags, or similar plastic bags from your purchases here, to Rockwood Hall. We will see to it that they are delivered.

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.