



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

WORSHIP FOR MAY 24, 2026
PENTECOST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathi Koegle, Liturgist

PRELUDE

“Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove”

Wilbur Held

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We all breathe in the air that is life-giving.

We all feel the force of the blowing wind.

We all long for the source of inspiration.

The Spirit blows where it will.

The Spirit may come as a loud, rushing wind.

The Spirit may come as a gentle breath.

Let us receive the Spirit that sustains us.

Let us worship God.

* HYMN 317

“Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness”

* OPENING PRAYER (from the Church of Scotland)

Come, Holy Spirit, as Comforter and Advocate, Energy and Breath. Come to us as we gather today. Open our minds to your wisdom. Open our hearts to your love. Open our spirits to your healing power.

Come, Holy Spirit, to all who need your presence today.

Spirit of comfort, be near to those who grieve and those who despair.

Spirit of power, give your strength to those who carry heavy burdens and are worn out by life's journey.

Spirit of peace, calm troubled hearts and minds.

Spirit of life, guide us all in the ways of justice, integrity, and truth.

Come, Holy Spirit, revive us and equip us for those tasks to which your people are called today. Carry your church forward with new life, new hope, new vision. Let the gifts of all be valued and used for the common good. May we act in the myriad richness of the one body of Christ. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (# 314)

**Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

ANTHEM "Come Down O Love Divine" David Ashley White

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 "Come Down, O Love Divine" Wilbur Held

*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

(Children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Numbers 11:24-30

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord, and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders, and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

PSALM 51:1, 10-12, 15

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

[Unison]

**O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 2:1-13

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

HYMN (insert) “As the Wind Song Through the Trees”

**As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
 as the heart made strangely warm,
 as the voice within the storm,
 so it is with the Spirit of God.**

**Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world,
 as the dancing tongues of fire,
 as the soul's most deep desire,
 so it is with the Spirit of God.**

**As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
 as the green in the spring,
 as a kite on a string,
 so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
 as the rising of the yeast,
 as the wine at the feast,
 so it is with the Spirit of God.**

SERMON “All God’s People”

*HYMN 132 (vs. 1-3) “Come, Great God of All the Ages”

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” Andreas Armsdorf

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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	Nancy LeaVesseur

TODAY

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Church School for Children and Youth 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:15 am
- Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
- Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am

MONDAY

- ❖ Church Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

TUESDAY

- ❖ Gentle Yoga 11:00 am
- Church Council 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

- ❖ Funeral Service for Del Brown 1:00 pm

SATURDAY

- ❖ Music Sunday Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am

❖ Church School for Children and Youth	9:15 am
Worship Service—Music Sunday	10:15 am
Spring Brunch	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.

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.

VISITATION COMMITTEE: The Membership Board is forming a group of volunteers who would be willing to occasionally contact/visit church members who are homebound or would enjoy a visit. If you are interested see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.

WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 24. 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, May 24.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 24. 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, May 24—Pentecost Sunday—we will receive this offering. Your generous gift will help the UCC create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR DEL BROWN: The funeral for Del Brown will be held in the sanctuary on Wednesday, May 27, at 1:00 p.m. Before the service, beginning at noon, there will be a time for visiting with Susie and her family in Rockwood Hall. Following the service, there will be a reception in Rockwood Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION: Join us on Special Music Sunday, May 31, for our last Sunday School class of the year as we celebrate a great year together and welcome the start of summer.

REQUIEM—SUNDAY, MAY 31: Please join us in worship on Sunday, May 31, for what promises to be a memorable performance of Faure's *Requiem Mass*, featuring the Congregational UCC Choir, conducted by Dr. Christopher Nakielski and accompanied by organist William Crouch. Additionally, this performance will feature an orchestra comprising area professionals,

in addition to vocal soloists Marie Von Behren (soprano) and Dr. Benjamin Laur (baritone). You won't want to miss this timeless classic!

THE MEMBERSHIP BOARD IS HOSTING A SPRING BRUNCH in Rockwood Hall after our worship that morning on May 31, our spring Special Music Sunday. During this time, we will recognize members who joined the church this past year. The brunch will be catered, so, no need to bring anything. To help us plan, we would like to get an approximate count of how many people will attend. Please indicate on the sign-up sheets in Rockwood Hall if you plan to attend and how many may be coming with you. We are looking forward to this time to celebrate spring and enjoy beautiful music.

A STRAWBERRY FIELD: Early in our church history, it was recorded that women [sic] of the church often made strawberry desserts for celebrations or fundraisers held in the spring, when local strawberries were in season. We invite anyone who wishes to bring a strawberry dessert to the May 31 brunch which will follow the Special Music Sunday service. The Membership Board provides the main meal.

We will set up a special table called "Strawberry Field" for desserts, or strawberry salads. This might become a spring tradition.

If you have questions, please contact anyone on the Membership Board: Sue Dayton, Martha Ann Crawford, Randee Fieselmann, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Dean Logan, Marsha Lowe, Sheilah McKenna, Joyce Myer, or Pam Willard.

P.S. When the Beatles wrote their famous song "Strawberry Fields Forever," they were familiar with a Salvation Army children's home in Liverpool, UK, named "Strawberry Field."

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP—JUNE 13: The Women's Reading Group will conclude its reading of *Holy Envy -Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor, discussing chapters 11,12 and the epilogue on Saturday, June 13, from 10-11am in Rockwood Hall. If you're interested, contact Marsha Lowe or Rebecca Weatherford or sign-up in Rockwood Hall.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP LUNCH: All are invited to a potluck salad lunch on Saturday, June 13 at 11:45 in Rockwood Hall. Bring a salad; bring a friend. Place settings, rolls and beverages will be provided. Come join us for this fellowship time. No RSVP needed. Questions? Contact Marsha Lowe or Rebecca Weatherford.

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!>

THE IOWA CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE IS SATURDAY, JUNE 20 IN DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY. Our church family will again participate in the noon parade and host a booth from 1 to 4 p.m. Sign-up sheets are now posted in Rockwood Hall for parade participants, booth volunteers, and setup/takedown crews. Mission Board members invite you to join in the Pride festivities as we honor, celebrate, and support our LGBTQ+ community. More announcements are coming soon.

**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.

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.