



*The Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

30 N Clinton St.

Iowa City, IA 52245

319-337-4301

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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 28, 2026

Welcome to Congregational UCC. We ask that you silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary. Please use the time during the prelude to quietly prepare for worship.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE ASK AN USHER.

PRELUDE “Be Thou My Vision” David Terry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In our diversity

We find unity

Called from the Babel of the world

We speak together

Called from the tumult of the world

We sing together

Called away from hierarchies and patriarchies

We pray together

Called by God

We worship together.

***HYMN 138 (vs. 1-3) “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,

Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,

Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,

Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee

Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Draw us more closely to you, draw us more closely to one another. Show us the vision of the world you would have us make, healing the brokenness humans have created. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#138, vs. 4)**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

**Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

SOLO “Abide with Me” Kevin Koepnick, Soloist

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.**

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Abide with Me” Sigvart Hofland

*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 3:14-19

The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.”

To the woman God said, “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

And to the man God said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it’, cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you; and you shall eat the plants of the field, In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

PSALM 89: 1-2, 15-16

I will sing of your steadfast love, o God, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

For your steadfast love was established forever, your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.

Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk in the light of God's face,
who exalt in God's name all day long and proclaim God's righteousness.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for iChrist Jesus you are all children of God through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

*HYMN 339 "Be Thou My Vision"

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

SERMON "Out of the Garden"

*HYMN 464 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Piet Post

Minister:

Director of Christian Education:

Organist:

Choir Director:

Children's Choir Director:

Office Manager:

The Rev. Bill Lovin

Hope Spragg

Bill Crouch

Dr. Chris Nakielski

Rachel Burchett

Nancy LeaVesseur

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. We welcome the Rev. Mary Hubbard to our pulpit this morning. Mary is a retired United Methodist minister who worships with us regularly. Bill Lovin is on sabbatical this month and will return this Wednesday, July 1.

TODAY

- ❖ Worship Service 10:15 am
- ❖ Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
- ❖ Church Picnic (Lower City Park) 4:00-7:00 pm

MONDAY

- ❖ Serving Free Lunch 10:15 am

TUESDAY

- ❖ Gentle Yoga 11:00 am

THURSDAY

- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

FRIDAY

- ❖ Independence Day Observed Church Office Closed

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Worship Service 10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship

ALL CHURCH PICNIC—SUNDAY, JUNE 28: Summer is here and it's time for the Church Picnic. Bring your family, bring your friends, and join us on Sunday, June 28, at **Shelter 6** in Lower City Park from 4-7 p.m. This is a different shelter than we have used in recent years. It is near the entrance to lower City Park, just past the Riverside Stage. Restrooms and parking are near the shelter. Our Membership Board will provide drinks and dessert. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and tableware. You're welcome to bring games and play equipment, musical instruments, lawn chairs, and anything else that will make for a happy gathering. And if you have a UCC Pride T-shirt, the Membership Board invites you to wear it!

STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA CITY JAZZ FESTIVAL—Summer brings great festivals to Iowa City—and closes off some of the streets! Sunday, July 5, is the final day of the Iowa City Jazz Festival. Clinton Street will be closed between College and Jefferson Streets. Access to the church will be available from Jefferson Street and from Clinton Street coming from the North. Join us for worship at 10:15 a.m., but plan on a slightly longer walk.

HOPE LODGE DINNER—Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be on Monday, July 13. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to contribute food for the dinner, please see the signup sheet posted in Rockwood Hall.

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.

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!>

**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.