



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

WORSHIP FOR JUNE 7, 2026  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*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 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" David Cherwien  
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Andrea Rauer, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

O Holy One, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**We admire the work of your hands in awe and thanksgiving!**

O Holy One, our Redeemer, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Who are we that you come to us, empower us, and give us rest?**

O Holy One, our Companion, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Let us worship the Triune God with honor and glory!**

**How majestic are your many names in all the earth!**

\*HYMN 376 (vs. 1-3)                   “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Wonderful God, we delight in your presence. We find shelter in your abiding and enduring love. You humble us, Holy Love, by gathering us as a people. Thank you for being our Companion and Guide on this journey. Receive our songs, prayers, and openness. Nourish us from the fountain of your word and the hospitality of your table. May we find hope and inspiration, courage and direction, community and resolve as we worship you. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (HYMN 376, verse 4)

**Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in Heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

ANTHEM           "Behold the House of God"           Richard Proulx

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 "Love Divine, All Love Excelling" Gerhard Krapf

\*Response

\*Prayer of Dedication

(Children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 12:1-7

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

PSALM 33:1-8

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

**Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.**

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

**For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.**

He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

**By the word of the Lord the heavens were made and all their host by the breath of his mouth.**

He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses.

(in unison)

**Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and

followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread through all of that district.

SERMON "Questions and Faith"

\*HYMN 354 "Guide My Feet"

**Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Hold my hand while I run this race,  
Hold my hand while I run this race,  
Hold my hand while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Stand by me while I run this race,  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**I'm Your child while I run this race,  
I'm Your child while I run this race,  
I'm Your child while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Search my heart while I run this race,  
Search my heart while I run this race,  
Search my heart while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Charles Callahan

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

TUESDAY

- ❖ Gentle Yoga 11:00 am

THURSDAY

- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

SATURDAY

- ❖ Women's Ready Group 10:00 am
- Salad Potluck (All welcome) 11:15 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

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

**WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING. We welcome the Rev. Libby Conley to our pulpit this morning.** Libby is a Mennonite minister who worships with us regularly. Bill Lovin is on sabbatical this month and will return in July.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7 —STREETS CLOSED DURING IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL:** Spring and summer bring great festivals to Iowa City—and close off some of the streets! Sunday, June 7, is the final day of the Iowa Arts Festival. Clinton, Dubuque, and Linn Streets 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.

**WOMEN'S READING GROUP—FINAL SPRING SESSION, JUNE 13.** The Women's Reading Group will wrap up for the spring with a final meeting on Saturday, June 13. They are reading and discussing *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. They will meet 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 11:15 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.

**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.

**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!

**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.