



*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 JULY 5, 2026
SIXTH 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Dayton, Liturgist

PRELUDE “Shall We Gather at the River?”

Robert Lowrey

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

On this day, we come before God.

**The earth belongs to God,
and all the nations are God’s people.**

We come to seek the goodness of God,

**whose justice is like a rock
and whose mercy is like pure flowing water,**

[Unison]

**that together in this place
we might recall God’s ways.
Let us worship God.**

***HYMN 563 “Lift Every Voice and Sing” James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson**

Lift every voice and sing

'Til earth and heaven ring

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the listening skies

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun

Let us march on 'til victory is won

Stony the road we trod

Bitter the chastening rod

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died

**Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast**

**God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land**

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, we seek your presence in these days. Let us find the beauty you have created in our land and in all the people who reside in it. Help us to remember you call us to pursue fairness and justice in our dealings with one another. When compassion and mercy are impeded, may we rely on your inventive power to make a way to break through. Let us be wise in our decisions; allow us to choose the moves and turns we must take to be part of what you desire for this land and for the earth and all its inhabitants. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#564, vs. 2)**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!**

ANTHEM "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

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 “*Si Tuvueras Fe*” ((If You Only Had Faith) Luciano Fernandez

*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 Joshua 4:1-7

PSALM 146

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.**

When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;

**who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

**the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous
and cares for the stranger;**

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 14:27-32

*HYMN (insert) “This Is My Song”

This is my song, Oh God of all the nations,

A song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is;

Here are my hopes, my dreams, my sacred shrine.

**But other hearts in other lands are beating,
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh hear my song, oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.**

SERMON “Keeping the Republic”

*HYMN 332 (vs. 1, 3, & 4) “Live into Hope”

**Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!**

**Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.**

**Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”

COVER PHOTO: Semiquincentennial Bison stop in Iowa City on the way to Washington, DC.
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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.

FOR OUR SUMMER JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE THIS MORNING, it's a joy to welcome back some good friends: Dick Watson, piano, Gary Palmer, bass, Craig Wood, drums, and Lynne Hart, saxophone.

TODAY

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

TUESDAY

- ❖ Gentle Yoga 11:00 am
- ❖ Mission Board 7:00 pm
- ❖ Stewardship Board (Zoom) 7:00 pm

THURSDAY

- ❖ Ben Copeland Rehearsal in Sanctuary 2-4 pm
- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

FRIDAY

- ❖ Ben Copeland Recital 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

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

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.

SUMMER 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. Guest instructor and congregant Elizabeth Taylor will teach 6/30, 7/7 and 7/14! The

\$10 suggested donation goes entirely to the Immigrant Welcome Network. We are pleased to announce we sent this year's first six month of donations totaling \$1045! Thank you to all who participate. If you'd like to join us, call the office to register.

BEN COPELAND RETURNS TO CONGREGATIONAL UCC WITH A SOLO TROMBONE RECITAL THIS FRIDAY: In partnership with Casey Dierlam Tse and the IOWinds Alliance, the concert will take place on Friday, July 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Entitled "Quixotic Good," this artist outreach concert will showcase underperformed repertoire and connect different styles for the classical trombone. Ben and Casey will feature music by Ida Gotkovsky, Maurice Ravel, Anthony Barfield, Keiko Takashima, and Saskia Apon. There will be a good-will offering for the IOWinds Alliance, with funds going toward WindFest 2026, an event that will bring middle and high school brass and woodwind musicians from across Iowa together for a day of collaboration, education, and musical enjoyment. More information about the IOWinds Alliance WindFest can be found here: <https://www.iowindsalliance.com/>

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.

The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, which opened in 2008, offers 28 guest rooms located near treatment centers in the area. The program provides a free home away from home for cancer patients and their caregivers. More than just a roof over their heads, it's a nurturing community that helps patients access the care they need. Each Hope Lodge community offers a supportive, homelike environment where guests can share a meal, join in the evening's activities, or unwind in their own private room. Patients staying at a Hope Lodge must be in active cancer treatment.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS! Vacation Bible School is happening August 17–19, 5:00–7:30 PM! Join us for "*All Are Welcome*," a joyful, creative VBS where we'll discover God's call to radical inclusivity through art, play, and music. Open to all children preschool–high school. It's free, dinner is included, and friends are encouraged. Call the office to register.

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.

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.