

Celebration for the Opening of the School Year



*Knowledge and Truth, Loud Sounding Wisdom
Sing to the Lord a New Song*

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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 24, 2025
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

It seems to me
We're all walking down
The same road
To wherever it ends
Paul Simon

PRELUDE "Brother James' Air" Setting by Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Virginia Simone, Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

From the rolling hills of the countryside to the tree-lined city streets,

**We gather to bring our hearts, minds, and spirits
before God, our Creator.**

Beside the flowing river and beneath the wide sky,

We gather to praise God who sustains all things.

At this very corner we come together

To bring all that are to worship God

***HYMN 458 "Earth and All Stars"**

Earth and all stars, Loud rushing planets

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blowing snowstorm

Sing to the Lord a new song!

God has done marvelous things.

We will sing praises with a new song!

Steel and machines, Loud pounding hammers

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Limestone and beams, Loud building workers

Sing to the Lord a new song!

God has done marvelous things.

We will sing praises with a new song!

Classrooms and labs, Loud boiling test tubes

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Athlete and band, Loud cheering people

Sing to the Lord a new song!

**God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!**

**Knowledge and truth, Loud sounding wisdom
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son, Loud praying members
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

We greet you, O God and give you thanks for your steadfast love. We take heart that as we turn to you, you reach out to embrace us. As we step out onto new paths and take on new ventures, we ask you to be with us and to care for us in the midst of what we do.

Give us clear sight to see the way ahead and courage to take the steps that lead us forward. Help us to make good use even of our hesitations and missteps. Transform our efforts into your desired ends.

When we are tempted to be foolhardy, give us wisdom in our choices. When we are guarded, give us confidence in our actions. Let us be mindful of others, how our choices affect them and how we may live in harmony with them. Grant us each day a sense of your presence and let it carry, protect, and encourage us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#482)**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!
All that has life and breath, sing out your heart's jubilation!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again;
joining in glad adoration.**

SOLO "Brother James' Air" arr. Malcolm Archer
Marie Von Behren

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 "Prelude in E Major," Op. 48, No. 5 Josef Renner

*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

(The children are dismissed to Children's Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 6:16-17

PSALM 139

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.

**If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"**

[Unison]

**darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 9:1-6

*HYMN 320 "The Lone Wild Bird"

**The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
Is still with Thee, nor leaves Thy sight.
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.**

**The ends of earth are in Thy hand,
The sea's dark deep and far off land.
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.**

SERMON Seven Psalms #5: "Psalms for the Road"

* HYMN 554 Let All Things Now Living

**Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished
And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.**

**By law God enforces.
The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living
Unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Earth and All Stars" Setting by Keith Kolander

Opening Prayer by Robin Thomas-Lovin. Used with permission.

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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	Jenn Harden

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

	MONDAY
❖ Student Welcome	11 am-1 pm

	TUESDAY
❖ Church Council	7:00 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.

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

THIS MONTH, BILL LOVIN CONTINUES HIS SERMON SERIES FROM THE PSALMS, using Paul Simon’s *Seven Psalms* as a starting point. You are invited to join Bill in Rockwood Hall at 9:50 am each Sunday to hear the song that inspires that Sunday’s sermon. Today: “Trail of Volcanoes.” Next Sunday: “The Sacred Harp.”

WELCOME STUDENTS TOMORROW: When the UI Fall Semester begins on tomorrow, August 25, Congregational UCC will welcome the new and returning students. This is a great way to let students know who we are, what we value, and how they might find a spiritual home here while studying at the University. If you would like to be a part of this, please talk with Bill Lovin.

SING OUT!—JOIN THE CHOIR: Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir begins its season on Sunday, September 7, with a rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. and we will sing during the 10:15 worship service. This year’s “Choir Round-up” will take place after worship that morning. From there we meet each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. sharp for a one-hour rehearsal before the worship service. Whether you’re a long-time member or the new kid on the block, **WE WANT YOU!** The Congregational UCC choir is a wonderful group of people who work hard at making great music.

You'll be sure to enjoy this experience. Questions? Please get in touch with our choir director Dr. Chris Nakielski at cnakielski@cornellcollege.edu.

WE HAVE A COUPLE OF OPENINGS FOR lower elementary and high school Sunday school teachers in the fall. If you feel called to work with children or youth, please reach out to Hope Spragg for more details!

THANK YOU TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH "MAKEOVER WEEK" in our upstairs classrooms! We are excited to use our refreshed spaces for our children and youth programs.

CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY PROVIDING BREAKFAST ONCE THIS SEMESTER DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL? They love it and parents appreciate one less thing to worry about on a Sunday morning. Instructions: Please provide 12 servings that can be shared or cut into more, if needed. Bring to kitchen by 9 AM or place in freezer/refrigerator in advance labeled "CE Sunday School". We ask that you consider no peanut, low (not no) sugar and not individually wrapped options. Sign-up is in Rockwood Hall.

READY, SET, SHINE! SUNDAY is September 7! Christian education will celebrate our "back-to-Sunday School" with a combined breakfast, games and arts and crafts at 9:15. Preschool-high schoolers will meet their teachers and explore their refreshed classrooms!

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, September 15. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. If you would like to contribute food, see the signup sheet posted in Rockwood Hall or talk to Sue Dayton.

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.

THE MISSION BOARD IS SPONSORING A DIAPER AND TP DRIVE during September and October. Items received will go to the CommUnity Crisis Center or the North Liberty Food Pantry. Please drop off diapers and training pullups, as well as toilet paper in the box in Rockwood Hall. Large boxes are acceptable, as the pantries will divide them into smaller packets. If you want to contribute cash to this effort, the Mission Board will do the shopping—just put "Diaper Drive" on your envelope or check. Let's all get "behind" the effort and delight others with our generosity!

Please mark your calendar for our **PROGRESSIVE DINNER** on Saturday, October 4. The registration flier is in this newsletter. Please make plans to join us. This is a great way to meet new people and make new friends. We'll start the evening with appetizers at Oaknoll from 5-6. After that, we'll break into small groups and go to host homes for the main course from 6:15-7:45. The evening will end with dessert at Steve and Sue Wolken's home from 8:-9:30. A

registration sheet is included in this newsletter.

CARBON OFFSET HELPS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Have you ever wanted to compensate for CO2 emissions from a flight or other carbon intensive activity? Carbon offsets are a recognized way to make an activity carbon neutral. Carbon offsets are also often viewed with skepticism due to concerns about whether the money given is truly decreasing carbon emissions and whether the action would have happened without the donation.

Those concerns can be assuaged with a donation to put solar arrays on Habitat for Humanity homes. The homeowners do not have the resources to make an upfront investment in a solar array and once installed the system is likely to stay in place for the lifetime of the panels. In addition to reducing CO2 emissions the donor would be helping a low income Iowa family with their energy bills.

With our energy mix in Iowa, the cost of a solar array, and production from solar panels over 25 years; the cost per kilogram CO2 reduced for solar panels is 22 cents per kilogram CO2. (Based on Iowa's current energy mix.) This means a single seat flight from New York to Los Angeles could be offset for a 68 dollar contribution to the Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity solar fund (307 kg CO2 emitted).

Please contact Jamie McCoy or see the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall for more information.

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.