



"Israel" by Mike Moyers—Used with permission

The Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

30 N Clinton St.
Iowa City, IA 52245
319-337-4301

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

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 2, 2026
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, you are invited to get whatever you eat and whatever you drink before the beginning of worship. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE ASK AN USHER.

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.

“Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives. “

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Our opening prayer includes a quote from the Letter from the Birmingham Jail by MLK Jr.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

John Carter

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

At God’s table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kin-dom of God is revealed.

At God’s table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kin-dom of God is revealed.

At God’s of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.

Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the kin-dom of God is revealed.

*HYMN 449 “My Lord! What a Morning” *African-American Spiritual*

Refrain:

**My Lord! what a morning,
My Lord! what a morning!
Oh, my Lord, what a morning,
When the stars begin to fall.**

**1 You will hear the trumpet sound
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God’s right hand
When the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)**

**2 You will hear the sinner cry
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God’s right hand
When the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)**

**3 You will hear the Christian shout
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God’s right hand
When the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, all people are your Beloved,
across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations
and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.
We are all manifestations of your image.
We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality
and tied to a single garment of destiny.
You call us into your unending work
of justice, peace and love.
Let us know your presence among us now.
Let us delight in our diversity
that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.
Strengthen us with your steadfast love and
transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action. Amen.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#368, vs. 1 & 2) *African-American Spiritual*

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.**

**I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.**

WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE "May the Circle Be Unbroken" David Moore
(Marie Von Behren, Sarah Fairfield, Betty Henson, Kelly Brown, Rachel
Burchett, Erin Brown, Barb Sisley, and Rebecca Weatherford)

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory "Let Us Break Bread Together" Phillip Keveren

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name."

But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

PSALM 42

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:

**how I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

**My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.**

Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your torrents;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.

**By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

SERMON

"Jacob"

HYMN 394 “There Is a Balm in Gilead” *African-American Spiritual*

Refrain:

**There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.**

**1 Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again. (Refrain)**

**2 Don't ever feel discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge
He'll not refuse to lend. (Refrain)**

**3 If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus
And say "He died for all." (Refrain)**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THANKSGIVING

**We pray that the table will be wide.
And the welcome will be wide.
The arms will open wide to gather us in.
And our hearts will open wide to receive.
We will come as children who trust there is enough.**

**And we will come unhindered and free.
Our aching will be met with bread. Our sorrow will be met with wine.
We will open our hands to the feast without shame.
We will turn toward each other without fear.
And we will give up our appetite for despair.
We will taste and know of delight.
We will become bread for a hungry world.
And we will become drink for those who thirst.
The blessed will become the blessing.
And everywhere will be the feast.
Amen (Adapted from Jan Richardson)**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

(Communion elements are served in the pews. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the minister's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN 354 "Guide My Feet" *African-American Spiritual

**1 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!**

**2 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!**

**3 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!**

**4 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!**

**5 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!**

**6 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**

POSTLUDE “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” John Carter

COVER ART: Moyers, Mike. *Israel*, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57141> [retrieved July 28, 2026]. Original source: Mike Moyers, <https://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/>.

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. 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 vacation and will be back on August 10th.

TODAY

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

TUESDAY

- ❖ Gentle Yoga 11:00 am
- ❖ Board of Christian Education 6:00 pm
- ❖ Mission Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- ❖ Stewardship Board Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 pm

THURSDAY

- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

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

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY ARE FROM THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BOB ASHMAN held on Saturday, August 1.

BILL LOVIN WILL BE ON VACATION FROM AUGUST 2 THROUGH AUGUST 9. The Rev. Mary Hubbard will preach on August 9.

SHARE THE HARVEST: Members and friends are invited to bring produce and flowers from their gardens to sell after worship each Sunday. And members and friends are invited to buy the abundant harvest. All proceeds go to the Food Pantry and CommUnty Crisis Center.

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. 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.

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.

FALL RETREAT—Saturday, October 10. A Fall Retreat Day based on Gratitude. The retreat is based on the book “Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks” by Diana Butler Bass. Mark your calendars now for this time of music, art, time in nature, and being together. The retreat day will be from 9-3 at The Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville. Registration will be in Rockwood Hall on Sundays in September and a \$25 registration fee needs to accompany the registration form. Questions? Contact Marsha Lowe or Rebecca Weatherford. Watch the September newsletter and bulletins for more information.



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