



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 AUGUST 30, 2026

FOURTEENTH 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

Sam Bierman, Liturgist

PRELUDE “There Is a Balm in Gilead” arr. Phillip Keveren

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

From the deepest places in our lives, we cry to God:

“God hear my voice, do not be far from me.”

[Unison]

Let us not forget God’s steadfast love.

Let us worship God.

***HYMN 274 (vs. 1-3) “O God of Earth and Space”**

O God of earth and space,

Of sea and fire and air,

Your providence surrounds us here

And everywhere.

In fruit and grain and tree,

In shelter from the cold,

In cooling breezes, flowing wells,

Now as of old.

Where faithfulness is shown,

Where love and truth abound,

Where beauty graces human life,

There You are found.

Inspirer of all thought!

Creative force of art!

The melody on every tongue,

In every heart!

Wherever freedom reigns,

Where sin is overthrown,

Where justice fused with mercy rules,

**There You are known.
Give us the courage clear
To make the earth a home
For all to live in harmony
In Christ's shalom.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, you are at the heart of the world and you uphold us in our being. As we come before you, help us to consider what we are and how wonderfully you have made each of us. Give us an awareness of our gifts and abilities. Make us aware of the possibilities still unrealized. Most of all help us to discover how to make something useful and beautiful of all that we have been given and all that we contain. May we gain the deeper knowledge that we are all made to be free, to love one another, and to contribute to the ongoing life of our world. We ask you to guide us through this life even when it is frightening or frustrating or heartbreaking. Be with us and sustain us on our way. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Tune: AZMON, #466)**

**Rebuild your people with your love,
Renew us every day;
With hearts renewed, in all our work,
Our lives shall sing your praise.**

RECEPTION OF A NEW MEMBER

Introductions: Bruce Tarwater

Owning the Covenant

We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of Jesus Christ, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our forebears, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the reign of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Welcome of the Congregation

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

**ANTHEM "Down in My Soul" Moses Hogan
Women's Ensemble: Marie Von Behren, Linda Svalstad, Sarah Fairfield, Nadia Spragg, Betsy Henson, Kelly Brown, Erin Brown, Barb Sisley, Cheryl Weatherford, Rebecca Weatherford**

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 "Andante" Jacques Lemmens

*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 Exodus 31:1-11

The Lord spoke to Moses: See, I have called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: and I have filled him with divine spirit, with ability, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, in every kind of craft. Moreover, I have appointed with him Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have given skill to all the skillful, so that they may make all that I have commanded you: the tent of meeting, and the ark of the covenant, and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furnishings of the tent, the table and its utensils, and the pure lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin with its stand, and the finely worked vestments, the holy vestments for the priest Aaron and the vestments of his sons, for their service as priests, and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the holy place. They shall do just as I have commanded you.

PSALM 90:1-4, 12-17

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.**

So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?
be gracious to your servants.**

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you humbled us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

Show your servants your works
and your splendor to their children.

**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 40:18-20

To whom, then, will you liken God,
or what likeness compare with him?
An idol? A workman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and casts for it silver chains.
As a gift one chooses mulberry wood
—wood that will not rot—
then seeks out a skilled artisan
to set up an image that will not topple.

*HYMN 484 “Sing with Hearts”

**Sing with hearts, sing with souls,
Dance with joy to God,
To whom we offer praises,
To whom we sing with gladness.**

**Let all our hearts open up to the Lord God,
Let all the heavens hear how our hearts rejoice;
For it is God who has given us graces,
From whom comes the music in our voice.
[Refrain]
O Lord we sing with joyful hearts,
with soul and body offer we our arts.**

**Let all our bodies sway to God’s music
Let all the earth move with our feet and hands;
For it is God who inspires and uplifts us,
From who flows all rhythm in our dance.
[Refrain]**

**Let all our souls shine out with God’s beauty,
Let all Creation feel our love for God;
For it is God who has granted us wisdom,
In whom we find reality and dream.
[Refrain]**

SERMON

“The Real and the Artificial—Part III: The Work of Our Hands”

*HYMN (insert) “God of Change and Glory”

**God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

Refrain:

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.**

**Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
You are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “March” Flor Peeters

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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.

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 7:00 pm
- ❖ Stewardship Board (Zoom) 7:00 p,

THURSDAY

- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

STATE FAIR EXHIBITS: The Iowa State Fair award-winning exhibits of Ella, Lily, and Oscar Lewis are on display in Rockwood Hall this morning. Congratulations to all three!

CHOIR ROUND-UP— WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, AT 7:00 PM: Join us for our first gathering of the new season. We will meet in the sanctuary for rehearsal then adjourn to Rockwood Hall for refreshments as we celebrate this new beginning.

All are invited to our gathering—current members, former members, and those who are interested in joining for the first time! The Congregational UCC choir is a wonderful group of people who are dedicated to making great music and enjoying the community that a choir provides. The choir's first Sunday back will be SEPTEMBER 13. We will meet at 9 AM sharp in the sanctuary and follow that with the 10:15 worship service.

READY, SET, SHINE! SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 13! Christian education will celebrate our "back-to-Sunday School" with a combined breakfast, games and arts and crafts at 9:15. All pre-school-high school students are welcome. Kindergarten-8th graders will meet their Sunday School teachers. *High schoolers are encouraged to attend adult ed or inquire about helping with the younger classrooms.

WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP for grades 6-12 begins September 13 from 5-6:30! Join us for food, fellowship and fun. Dinner is provided and youth are encouraged to bring a friend!

OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER will be Monday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. There is a signup sheet in Rockwood Hall for those who would like to participate.

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.

READING GENESIS: Our group that has been reading and discussing Marilynne Robinson's *Reading Genesis* will resume in September for four final sessions. We'll meet at Oaknoll in room 4 B, 735 George St., from 10:00-11:30 on four Tuesday mornings, September 15, 22, 29 & October 6. The first session will cover pages 121 to 147. Everyone is welcome, even if you

haven't been a part of earlier sessions. If you would like to be a part of this group, talk with Bill Lovin or Chuck Dayton or call the church office—319-337-4301.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A FALL RETREAT DAY ON GRATITUDE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10. The retreat day will be 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 Weathrford. Watch the September newsletter and bulletins for more information.

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 CommUnity Crisis Center.

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.

TIME TO THINK WINTER: The annual Consultation of Religious Congregations Warm Weather Clothing Distribution will be held in October. Your new or gently used/clean items will benefit our neighbors who are in need of **warm** winter wear. The following items are needed in infant, child, youth & adult sizes: Coats, snowpants, hats, gloves & mittens, scarves, boots / winter shoes, warm socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, vests & sweaters, long underwear & warm pants/jeans. Donations can be dropped off at The River Community Church, 3001 Muscatine Ave, Iowa City at 1-4 pm on Sunday 10/11, 9 am-6 pm on Monday 10/12, & 9 am-6 pm on Tuesday 10/13. Please use the marked driveway on Muscatine Ave. & enter by the Gymnasium door on the southeast side of the building.

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.

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