



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 9, 2026
ELEVENTH 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 Chuck Connerly

PRELUDE “It is Well with My Soul” Cindy Berry

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We’ve come together to worship God.

To focus our hearts and minds.

We tend to have thoughts that wander.

In this space, we can focus. In this space, we can be safe.

Let’s listen for God to speak!

In prayer, in song, in silence, we are listening for God.

***HYMN 451 “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones” Verses 1-3**

**Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O higher than the cherubim,
More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
All saints triumphant, raise the song,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

With all who have come before us, thousands of years of believers, a great cloud of witnesses, we worship God. We pray for peace to come in the world, we pray for ourselves. Make us a witness, God. Bring us out of darkness of self-doubt and guilt into the light of freedom.

**O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

TIME OF PRAYER

Silent 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.

Gerhard Krapf

**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**

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of God's robe filled the temple. Above God stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two they covered their face, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of God's glory." And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the sound of the one who called, and the place was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen God, the Lord of hosts!" Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in its hand a burning coal which was taken with tongs from the altar. And the coal touched my mouth, and it said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." And I heard the voice of God saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

PSALM 139

If I take the wings of the morning

If I dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will guide me,

and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

And your right hand will hold me

Search me, O God

Know my heart.

I am anointed with fresh oil.

Test me and know my anxious thoughts,

See if there be any hurtful way in me and lead me in the everlasting way.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Hebrews 12:1-2, 12-13

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God... Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

*HYMN 298 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,

Like the wideness of the sea;

There’s a kindness in God’s justice,

Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth’s sorrows

Are more felt than up in heaven;

There is no place where earth’s failings

Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader

Than the measures of the mind;

And the heart of the Eternal

Is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful,

We would gladly trust God’s word;

And our lives reflect thanksgiving

For the goodness of our Lord.

SERMON “Forgiven”

*HYMN (insert) “It is Well with My Soul”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” David Cherwin

Cover Art: Photography by Cohen-Rose, Sandra, and Colin Rose, *Bas Relief, Jerusalem YMCA*, from Wikimedia Commons.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bas_Relief, Jerusalem YMCA \(5503056704\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bas_Relief,_Jerusalem_YMCA_(5503056704).jpg) (retrieved August 4, 2026). Original source: Flickr, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/73416633@N00/5503056704/>.

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. Mary Hubbard to our pulpit this morning. Mary is a retired United Methodist 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

WEDNESDAY

- ❖ Staff Meeting 11:00 am

THURSDAY

- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

SATURDAY

- ❖ Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

NEXT SUNDAY

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

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.

Tuesday Yoga is canceled this week, 8/11. We look forward to seeing you back next Tuesday 8/18. The \$10 suggested goes 100% to the Immigrant Welcome Network. This gentle class is appropriate for beginners through experienced practitioners, with focused attention to flexibility, mobility and mindful rest.

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.

CHOIR ROUND-UP— WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 7:00pm 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.

HOPE LODGE —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.

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.

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.

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.