

WELCOME SUNDAY



START OF CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR
Ready, Set, Shine!

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 SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
SIXTEENTH 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 Nathan Peters, Liturgist

PRELUDE “Peace I Give You” Andrew Moore

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

When our lives are full of laughter,

God welcomes us.

When our lives are filled with disappointment,

God welcomes us.

When we are tired and need a place of rest,

God welcomes us.

Here we meet the God of welcome, whose door is always open,

Let us worship God.

***HYMN 455 “All Creatures of Our God and King” (vs. 1-4)**

All creatures of our God and King,

Lift up your voice and with us sing,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,

Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

O sing ye! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,

Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!**
**Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest us both warmth and light,
Alleluia! Alleluia!**
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thou fertile earth, that day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O sing ye! Alleluia!**
**The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them God's glory also show!**
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***OPENING PRAYER**

**We give you thanks, O God, for bringing us together in community.
We are grateful for the people who gather with us
and magnify your presence.**

**Send us your Spirit.
Renew our imagination and strength
to follow in your wonderful and unexpected way.**

**Hear the sighs of your people who bring their weariness and distress,
their hopes and dreams.
Open a pathway forward.**

**Let the energy of this time
stream into the world
as you send us out to be signs of your love. Amen.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#455, vs. 5)**

**And everyone of tender heart
Forgiving others, take your part.
O sing ye! Alleluia!**
**Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and cast on God your care.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

ANTHEM

“Let Us Love in Deed and Truth” Larry King

PRESENTATION OF A BIBLE TO A THIRD GRADER

Malia Lewis

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.

Choral Response

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “Trio, Op. 39, No. 1” 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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 12:3-6a

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.

*PSALM HYMN 241 “Behold the Goodness of Our Lord” (Psalm 133)

**Behold the goodness of our Lord, how blest it is to be
a company of God’s beloved, in holy unity.**

**Like precious oil upon the head, a healing for our strife,
it flows throughout our common bond, refreshing all of life.**

**As dew on Zion’s mountaintop brings freshness to our door,
Our Lord commands this in our midst and brings life evermore.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 12:12, 26-27

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

SERMON “Homesickness and Belonging”

*HYMN 343 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

**Called as partners in Christ’s service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God’s chosen end.**

**Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,
Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God’s people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other’s burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person’s sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.**

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Pageant” June Nixon

“Psalm 133 - Behold the Goodness of Our Lord” Words: Fred R. Anderson. Text: © 1986, Faith Alive Christian Resources. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

“Called as Partners in Christ's Service” Words - ©1981 Presbyterian Publishing/Westminster John Knox/Geneva Press. Contributor: Jane Parker Huber. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved.

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

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- ❖ CE for Children and Adults 9:15 am
- ❖ Worship Service 10:15 am
- ❖ Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship
- ❖ Youth Group 5:00 pm

MONDAY

- ❖ Serving at Hope Lodge 6:00 pm

TUESDAY

- ❖ *Reading Genesis* Group (Oaknoll) 10:00 am
- ❖ Gentle Yoga 11:00 am
- ❖ Membership Board 5:30 pm
- ❖ Diaconate 7:00 pm
- ❖ Trustees 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

- ❖ Staff Meeting 11:00 am

THURSDAY

- ❖ Women's Lunch (Oaknoll) 11:45 am
- ❖ Prairie Piffari Rehearsal 6:30 pm

SATURDAY

- ❖ Men's Breakfast (Waterfront Hy-Vee) 8:00 am

NEXT SUNDAY

- ❖ Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am
- ❖ CE for Children and Adults 9:15 am
- ❖ Worship Service 10:15 am
- ❖ Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall After Worship

❖ Youth Group

5:00 pm

WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP for grades 6-12 begins TODAY 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.

WOMEN'S LUNCH-SEPTEMBER 17 at 11:45 am, will meet at Oaknoll. Please call or Text Martha Ann Crawford at 319-855-8340 to reserve a seat at the table prior to September 15th. Parking will be available on George St.

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