



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE “It Is Well with My Soul” arr. Marianne Kim
Tim Strang & Bill Crouch, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bea Hicks, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 98)
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
 the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

**for God is coming to judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

[Unison]

Let us worship God.

***HYMN (insert) “O How Glorious, Full of Wonder”**

**O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o’er all the earth,
God, who wrought creation’s splendor, bringing suns and stars to birth!
Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic ways.
Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up our hearts in praise.**

**When we see your lights of heaven, moon and stars, your power displayed.
Who are we that you should love us, creatures that your hand has made?
Born of earth, yet full of yearning, mixture strange of good and ill,
From your ways so often turning, yet your love does seek us still.**

**You have set us in communion with the wonders of your hand,
Made us fly with eagle pinion, pilgrims over sea and land.
Soaring spire and ruined city, these our hopes and failures show,
Teach us more of human pity, that we in your image grow.**

**O how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land,
God, whose purpose shines before us toward the goal that you have planned!
Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need.
Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours, O God, indeed.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, the source of our being and the goal of our longing:
the whole earth is full of your glory and all that has life is sustained by you.
We rejoice that you have made us in your image and as caregivers of your creation.
Give us courage to face our failures and limitations, and to overcome our helplessness.
Strengthen us to bring peace and restore balance.
Gather around us your goodness,
and renew us and the whole creation with your saving grace; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#473, vs. 1 & 2)**

**For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,**

**Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

ANTHEM “The Lord is My Shephard” Howard Goodall

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 “Chorale” Alan Ridout

*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 I Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 32-39

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver’s beam, and his spear’s head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.” And the Philistine said, “Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together.” When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

David said to Saul, “Let no one’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” But David said to Saul,

“Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.” David said, “The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.” So Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you!” Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul’s sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them.” So David removed them.

PSALM 27:1-10

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

**When evildoers came upon me,
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.**

Though an army should encamp against me,
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
and though war should rise up against me,
yet will I put my trust in the Lord.

**One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, to seek God in the temple.**

For on the day of trouble the Lord shall shelter me in safety;
the Lord shall hide me in the secrecy of the holy place
and set me high upon a rock.

**Even now the Lord lifts up my head
above my enemies round about me.
Therefore I will offer in the holy place a sacrifice
with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

**You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."
Your face, Lord, will I seek.**

Hide not your face from me,
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
You have been my helper;
cast me not away;
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

**Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the Lord will sustain me.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Samuel 17:40-45, 48-49

Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

SERMON “

*HYMN 274 “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.**

Your word commands response

And summons us to life.
We follow, strengthened by Your grace,
In calm or strife.
Our ever-present help,
Our challenge and our prod,
We praise You now and to life's end
Eternal God.

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE “Maestoso” Colin Mawby

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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

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education Program Begins	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship
Confirmation Class	4:00 pm

TUESDAY

❖ Gentle Yoga	Noon
Church Council	7:00 pm

THURSDAY

❖ Student Gathering	6:00 pm
Prairie Piffari	

FRIDAY

❖ Homecoming Parade	5:45
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NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for all ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall	After Worship

Eastern Iowa Association Meeting
Edwards UCC--Davenport

3:15 pm

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.

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

OUR ANNUAL TEE OFFERING will be received during worship today. TEE stands for the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger, worked for TEE in South Africa. Please give generously—our support makes a difference

TEE stands for the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the [United Congregational Church of South Africa](#). From its start, TEE was open to both men and women and to people of all races.

OUR FIRST COLLEGE STUDENT GATHERING IS THIS THURSDAY at 6:00 p.m. Join us for food, conversation, and getting to know one another. Let us know if you're coming so we can plan for food. Sign up today in Rockwood Hall or respond to our email.

SING OUT!—JOIN THE CHOIR: Do you enjoy singing? Our volunteer choir rehearses at 9:00 a.m. and sings during the 10:15 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.

GENTLE YOGA every Tuesday at noon! 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 directly to the Immigrant Welcome Network. More information and sign-up are available in Rockwood Hall.

UI HOMECOMING PARADE—Friday, September 26: The Homecoming Parade is early this year. Join your friends here at the church for the best viewing in town. The Mission Board will sell cookies and, depending on the weather, cold or warm drinks during the parade. We are asking for donations of one dozen homemade cookies or bars that are \$1 (larger) size. Items do not need to be individually wrapped but please bring a display card labeling what type and if they contain peanuts or tree nuts. Baked goods may be dropped off in the kitchen between 9-1 or 5-5:45 the day of the parade. We also need volunteers to sell the cookies and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or you can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BA9AA2DA7FAC07-58238112-homecoming#/>

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!

HELPING OTHER MEMBERS: There are times when a helping hand is needed by a member to get groceries, run an errand, get a ride to an appointment, etc. If you would like to occasionally help out in this way, please see the signup sheet in Rockwood Hall.

OUR PROGRESSIVE DINNER will be on Saturday, October 4. 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 bulletin.

BOUNCE INTO YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 FROM 4-6PM! 5th–12th graders are welcome to bring a friend for dinner, Bible study & human bubble balls! Sign-up in Rockwood Hall!

AFTER WORSHIP ENCOUNTER (AWE) will meet after worship starting on Sunday, October 12. We will gather on the Sundays that the choir meets after worship to rehearse for the Christmas Music Sunday on December 7. We will be using *Living the Questions-The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. In this study we will be meeting progressive theologians such as: Borg, Crossen, Spong, Pagels. This is a beginning class that will introduce you to Progressive Christianity. Rev. Ann Molsberry will be leading the discussions. Please purchase your own book and read the first chapter for our first session. See you on Sunday, October 12 in the library.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY: Our Membership Board is pursuing plans to create an “in house” photo directory to help everyone put names and faces together. If you have a photo that you would like us to use, please email it to Jenn Harden at uccicadmin@uccic.org. This fall we will have opportunities for photos to be taken at the church if you would prefer that option. Please watch for more information.

THE WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION (WCD), sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Congregations, will be from the afternoon of Sunday, 10/13, through the early afternoon of Saturday, 10/19. Over the span of these days they will set up, accept clothing donations, sort & organize clothing, distribute the clothing, & clean up after the event. As in past years, they are looking for donations of gently used or new WARM winter wear, with an emphasis on coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots & winter shoes. Heavy sweaters & sweatshirts are also appreciated. **Volunteers will need to register using SignUpGenius at the following link:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-58487415-2025>

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.

To estimate your flight emissions and send an offset to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity go to www.habitatsolar.org/. Please contact Jamie McCoy or see the bulletin board in Rockwood Hall for more information.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE HOPE LODGE DINNER on September 15: Rebecca Weatherford, Dianne Atkins, Diane Dahl McCoy, Sharyn Reitz, Ruth Gardner, Marsha Lowe, Jane Kinney, Ann Molsberry, Sally Strang, Ray and Linda Muston, Hope and Peter Spragg, and Chuck and Sue Dayton. The next Hope Lodge dinner will be November 10.

SHELTER HOUSE'S ANNUAL BBQ BASH!--An evening filled with delicious food and live music, all in support of Shelter House's life-saving work in our community. They're partnering with Pop's BBQ again, who will be cooking up their incredible BBQ for attendees. Grab your tickets, load your plate with delicious food, and enjoy refreshing drinks from Big Grove Brewery at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 26 from 4:00-7:00 pm. Tickets are on sale now at www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/ (\$50 for adults and \$17.50 for youth).

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OPEN HEARTLAND ELVES NAVIDAD EVENT: Each year, families with children under 18 create a Navidad Wish List, sharing two gift wishes for every family member. Community members make those wishes come true by purchasing those gifts. This year, they are expecting over 400 immigrant families to participate. You can be a Navidad Elf by emailing openheartlandholiday@gmail.com. You will be matched with a local family by Oct 15, giving you plenty of time to purchase and deliver the gifts before the holiday party in early December. While the gifts themselves are much appreciated, what touches the immigrants the most is the love, care, and solidarity behind the tradition, reminding them that they are seen and valued.

USED MEDICINE BOTTLES NEEDED FOR REUSE IN CLINICS: 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 the congregation. If you are interested, Donna can provide a very brief orientation to bottle preparation (donna-hirst@uiowa.edu).

I can pick up bottles on Sunday.

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.