



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 29, 2024
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to Congregational UCC. We are glad that you are here this morning. While we affirm that God speaks to us in many ways, 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.

“The prophet refers to God, not as absolute, but always as related to the people.”
Abraham Joshua Heschel

PRELUDE “Angelus,” Op. 27, No. 5B Sigfried Karg-Elert

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We enter into this place to worship God together.

We ask what we should bring.

We come seeking what God requires.

And here we find what God desires:

[Unison]

**That we do justice,
that we love kindness,
and that we walk humbly with God.
Now, let us worship together.**

*HYMN 244 “Let Us with a Gladsome Mind”

*OPENING PRAYER

**Creating, Redeeming, and Sustaining God, you gather us in all our diversity and difference and hold us together as one in Christ. We give you thanks that
when we cannot let go of past wrongs, your grace comes to us new each day;
when we are weary and worried, your Spirit revives us;
when we are in despair about our world or our lives, you renew our hope and point us toward tomorrow.**

Speak gently to us now in our trouble and distraction that we might be still and know that you are God. Keep us aware of your presence with us as we live in love and joy through the days ahead. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#151)

**Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to your way, O Source and Goal of life.**

ANTHEM “Blessed Be the Name of the Lord” Dale Grotenhuis

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 in D Major” Clément Loret

*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 Choir)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Micha 6:1-8

PSALM 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart.**

There is no guile upon their tongue;
they do no evil to their friend;
they do not heap contempt upon their neighbor.

**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who fear the Lord.**

They have sworn to do no wrong
and do not take back their word.

**They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take a bribe against the innocent.**

[Unison]

**Those who do these things
shall never be overthrown.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 9:9-13

SERMON "Love Your Neighbor—It's What God Wants"

*HYMN "Let There Be Light, Lord God of Hosts" Tune: TALLIS' CANON #535

**Let there be light, Lord God of hosts!
Let there be wisdom on the earth!
Let broad humanity have birth!
Let there be deeds, instead of boasts!**

**Within our passionate hearts instill
the calm that ends all strain and strife;
Make us your ministers of life;
drive out the urge to curse and kill!**

**Give us the peace of vision clear
to see our neighbors' good our own;
To hope and suffer not alone,
bonded in love that conquers fear!**

**Let woe and waste of warfare cease,
that useful labor yet may build
its homes with love and laughter filled!
God, give your wayward children peace!**

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Maestoso” Julius André

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Interim Director of CE:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director:	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director:	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager:	Jenn Harden

WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPING WITH US THIS MORNING.

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

	TODAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
College Student Gathering	5:30 pm
	TUESDAY
❖ Board of Christian Education	6:30 pm
	SATURDAY
❖ Progressive Dinner	5:00-? pm
	NEXT SUNDAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
World Communion Sunday	
Pop Up Potluck—Christian Education	5:00 pm

THE FIRST GATHERING OF COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS will be this afternoon at 5:30. People who have signed up have said they are looking for a place to talk about how current life is going and to share a meal—so that’s what we’ll do at the first gathering. If you would like to sign up and get more information, look for the table downstairs.

YOU CAN HELP WITH THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM: Members of Congregational UCC serve at the Free Lunch Program on the fifth Monday of any month. Our next serving date

is tomorrow, September 30, and if you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Vicki Thomae at vickithomae@gmail.com.

GIVING TOGETHER. GROWING TOGETHER: Watch your mail in the coming week for information about how you can financially support our congregation in the coming year. The Christian life is lived together. We gather to worship, we work with each other in mission, we study in groups, we bear one another's burdens, and we talk and laugh together over coffee. We give together. We grow together.

During worship in October members of our congregation will talk about why they give to support all that we do together. We will look ahead to the coming year and new opportunities and new possibilities.

OUR ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER will be this coming Saturday, October 5. Ray and Linda Muston and Bill Dickinson will host appetizers for everyone at Oaknoll. Appetizers will be in the bistro just inside the entrance at 735 George St. Passengers can be let out at the covered entrance and parking is available in Lot 5 opposite the entrance and special on street parking will be available on the east side of George St. Fellowship will be just inside the doors! Then, in small groups of 8-12, we will go to other homes for the catered dinner. After dinner, we will gather at Steve and Sue Wolken's home for dessert.

HOPE SPRAGG AND THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ARE HOLDING AN IMPROMPTU POTLUCK NEXT SUNDAY, October 6 at 5:00 p.m. in Rockwood Hall. This event is for all families with children and youth in our congregation. It will be an opportunity to learn about upcoming programs and events and for the Board to hear new ideas and hopes you may have for your family's church experience this year. A vegetarian main dish will be provided, bring a side dish, vegetable, fruit or dessert to share!

INTERGENERATIONAL MEET-UP AT THE HARVEST PRESERVE. Save the date, November 9 from 2-4. Join the CE Board for snacks at the pond house and an optional walk through the woods to the Harvest Stone Circle. And watch for more details!

RUN FOR THE SCHOOLS—SUNDAY OCTOBER 6: One of the joys of worship is navigating the challenges presented by downtown events. The 49th Annual Run for the Schools will be held on October 6. Some streets to the south and east of the church will be closed. College St. will be shut down from Linn St. to Muscatine Ave. Gilbert St. will be shut down from Burlington St. to Washington St. Dodge St. will be shut down and southbound traffic will be rerouted on to Washington St. Governor St. will be shut down and northbound traffic will be rerouted on to Burlington St. **The church and the parking lot will both be accessible.** It might take a few extra minutes to get to church that morning. Plan accordingly, but plan to worship with us.

SHARE THE HARVEST: John Fuller and Kathy Fait have been bringing beautiful flowers and tempting vegetables every Sunday for several years...all from their gardens. A free-will donation is requested for the bouquets, apples, young kale, chard, tomatoes, scapes, and other great vegetables. And, this year the donations, which are sent to the CommUnity Food Bank, reflect the generous giving from our congregation. As of September 23, John and Kathy's efforts have

already raised \$447.12 from members, which will be sent to fight against food insecurity in our community.

FALL DIAPER DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK: The Mission Board is holding a diaper drive in **September and October** to help the Food Bank replenish its supply of diapers for families in need. The Food Bank relies on donations for non-food items such as disposable diapers. Please help babies and toddlers in our community stay dry, clean, and healthy by participating in the diaper drive. **Diaper sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the most needed as well as baby wipes.** There are two ways you can help. Buy a package of disposable diapers and wipes and bring them to Rockwood Hall. We will ensure that everything is delivered to the Food Bank. Or, if you would like to make a personal donation to support this drive, please write a check to the church with Diaper Drive on the memo line and the Mission Board will use the funds to purchase diapers. Whichever way you choose, your donation will help restock the Food Bank's diaper supply, provide free diapers for babies and toddlers in need and bring some economic relief to families.

WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION will be from the afternoon of Sunday, 10/13, through the early afternoon of Saturday, 10/19. Over the span of these days we will set up, accept clothing donations, sort & organize clothing, distribute the clothing, & clean up after the event. The event will be held in the gymnasium of The River Community Church, 3001 Muscatine Avenue, in Iowa City. (Enter the parking lot via the driveway on Muscatine Ave; please park away from the building)

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/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-51081789-2024>

As you sign up, please pay attention to further information & instructions provided on our SignUpGenius.

THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION IS AGAIN HAVING A FRIEND AND FUND RAISER at the Unitarian Universalist Society, Nov. 20, 6:00-8:30. The church has purchased a table for 10 and a table for 7. All you need to do is tell Jenn Harden (319-337-4301) or Donna Hirst that you'd like to attend. If you would like to be a volunteer (likely serving food), let Donna know: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu. You can make an individual donation by giving a check to Bea Hicks, JCIC Treasurer.

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.