

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 12, 2017, 10:00 A.M. Worship

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 119:1-8  
read from *The Message*

**\*OPENING SONG:** “Come, Let Us Praise the Lord”

#9

**SHARING JESUS' PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(read responsively)

One: Come to this time of worship to seek God with your whole heart.

**Many: We have come to reflect on all that God commands.**

One: Attune your hearts to God's promises and warnings.

**Many: We know that our ways are not always God's ways.**

One: God gives us choices that result in life or death.

**Many: We can obey or reject the way of life that God intends for us.**

One: Come, seek to know and follow the way of life.

**Many: We want to live according to the promises we have made.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

(read together)

God, your ways reach beyond horizons we can't see, and your law explores depths we only dimly discern, teach us today. We want to love you, but we aren't always sure how to do that. We want to keep your commandments, but we find it hard to distinguish between your eternal truths and human invention. We want to make right choices in life, but often there are no clear directions through the clouds and shadows that bedevil us. Come among us this morning, and dwell within us, as we seek to worship you. Amen.

**TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEAR**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(read together)

How often we make the wrong choices, God of our lives! We look at others through the prism of lust, distorting who they really are. We let our 'mad' feed us with bitterness and hurt. We toss about harmful words like so many snowballs on a winter's day. We would rather insult those around us, than to lift them up. Have mercy on us, God who is everywhere. May we set aside our quarreling natures to be united in common worship, common service, and a common purpose, as we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

(read responsively)

One: Jesus came, so we might be healed by God's tender touch. Jesus came, so we might be reconciled to one another.

**Many: Thanks be to God! As risky, as hard as it may be, we will choose to be God's people. Amen.**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 5:21-37

**\*MIDDLE SONG:** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

#461

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(read together)

We believe in God, creator of all things, ruler of all that is and all that is to come.

God is transforming the world into the place of God's justice and mercy.

We follow Jesus, who taught and healed, who died and rose, revealing God's abundant grace. He sent disciples out into the world to heal, to proclaim the good news of your grace, and to participate in the Reign of God in all that we do. He reigns in love over all Creation, and holds all accountable to their faithfulness to God's rule of grace.

We rely upon the unfailing grace of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the community of the church as the Body of Christ, the unity of all believers, the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection and the alluring blessing of eternal life. Therefore, we devote ourselves to lives of daily prayer, study, service and reflection, following Jesus as our Master, for the sake of the transformation of the world by the grace of God. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

#73

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Door #1 or Door #2?”

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**\*CLOSING SONG:** “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

#132

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2-Liturgical resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, & Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu; The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

=====

Organist: Liz Reynolds  
Lector: David Burrow  
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

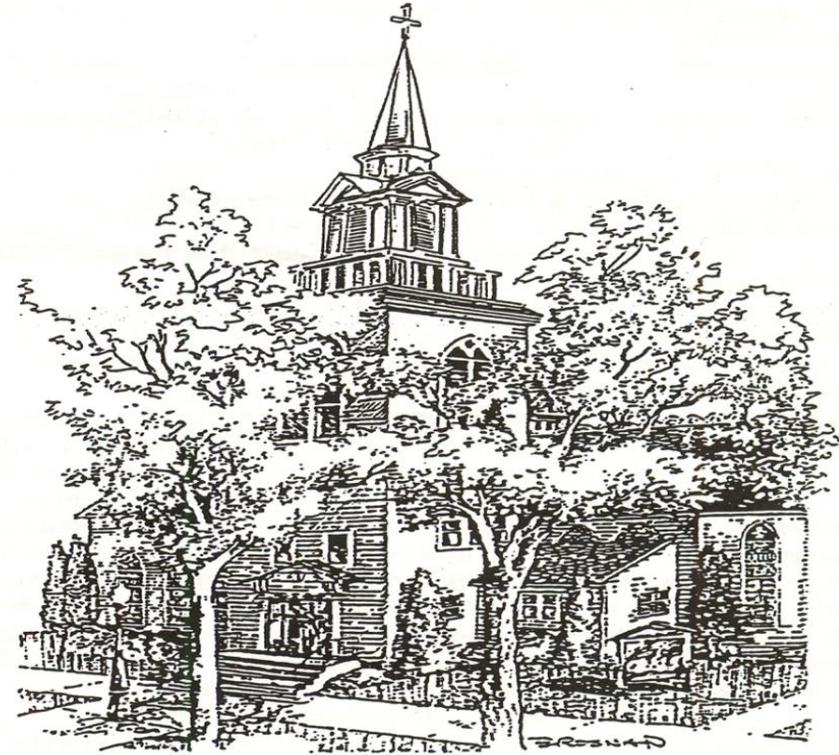
=====

February Radio Sponsors: Scott and Sandy Buchanan

Birthdays: 2-12 Lola Moore 2-13 Wayne Clegg, 2-17 Pat Beaver, Chauncey Taylor, 2-18 Karen Dearchs

Today Dr. Karen Black will be here to give an organ concert at 2 pm.  
The Board will meet Wednesday at 7 pm.  
Women’s Fellowship will meet Thursday at 2:30 pm.  
Please sign up to sponsor a month for the radio broadcasts.  
March is the Meals on Wheels month for our church. The sign-up sheet is in the parlor.

**First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa**



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511  
515-295-2845