

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Second Sunday in Lent  
March 12, 2017

**PRELUDE**  
**RINGING OF THE BELL**  
**GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 121  
read from the *Common English Bible*

**OPENING SONG:** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

#56

**SHARING JESUS’ PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: God sends us out, like Abram and Sarai.

**Many: We travel by day, in confidence.**

One: God draws us close, like Nicodemus.

**Many: We travel by night, with questions.**

One: With our hopes and our doubts,

**Many: we embark on our journeys of faith.**

One: With the saints of every age,

**Many: we seek the way that leads into God’s love.**

One: We pause on our journey to praise God,

**Many: and rejoice to find God with us, guiding every step.**

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

**Our ever-present strength and help, we come to you this morning in response to a call we have felt in the marrow of our bones. We may not be sure; we may even be full of doubts and not fully understand how we got here, but we are here. Help us listen with new ears and open hearts. Touch us during this time of worship, that we may know your unconditional love—not just for the world as a whole but for us individually. It is for this that we long and for which we search. Amen.**

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

**CALL TO CONFESSTION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

One: Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

**Many: Keeper of our souls, be with us; Watcher of our days, lead us; Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

John 3:1-17

**MIDDLE SONG:** “To God Be the Glory”

#66

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE** (read together)

inside front cover of our hymnal

**GLORIA PATRI**

#734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 12:1-4  
read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Life Is a Road Trip”

Pastor Burtnett

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**CLOSING SONG:** “The God of Abraham Praise”

#16

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman.

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

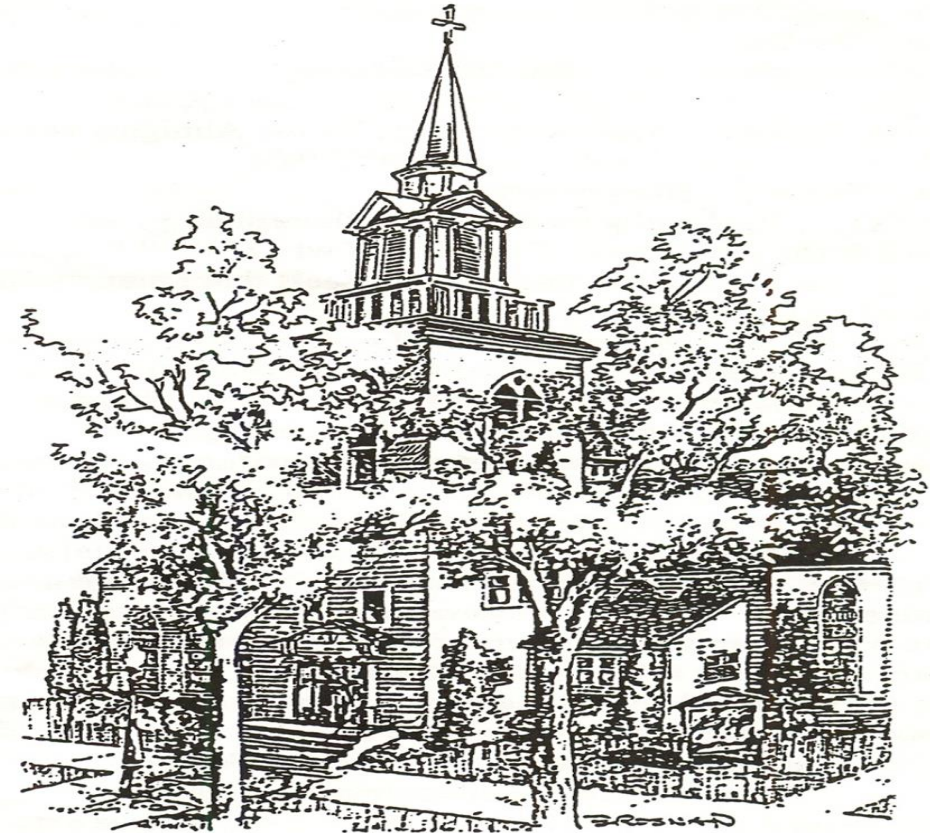
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March Radio Sponsors: John and Helen Scuffham

Birthdays: 3-15 Geoff Buchanan

Women’s Fellowship will meet this coming Wednesday at 2:30 pm.  
 The newest Our Daily Bread has been put out for you to read.  
 Please sign up to sponsor a month for the radio broadcasts.  
 Next Sunday we will be having the first of two Lenten Movies at 4:30 pm. Come and enjoy the first movie “Oh God”. We will have popcorn. Please what you would like to drink.  
 The Cornbelt Chorus will be holding their concert on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the Wilcox Performing Art Center.  
 The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

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



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

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 515-295-2845