

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE Psalm 66:8-20
read from the *Common English Bible*

OPENING SONG: "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" #31

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: Come to worship, people of God, with praises on your lips.

People: We glorify the One who holds our hands when we slip.

Leader: Come into the presence of the One who calls us into this sacred space.

People: Where the doors to grace are thrown open so all may enter.

Leader: Come and hear the stories of the One who loves you.

People: We will tell of the joy and of the love, of the peace and of the hope which is ours.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Still-speaking God, we have come here today for many reasons, each with our own story.

May these reasons and stories be immersed in your Sacred Story, finding ourselves caught up in the drama and beauty of Jesus' teachings, life, and ministry. Through your Holy Spirit enable us to move boldly into the future and to fulfill the hope of love that Jesus taught. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We admit, Knowing God, that from plastic cards to websites, from handheld devices to stock options, we are surrounded by a variety of gods who demand our worship. We can all too easily believe that work is our life, that wealth is the reason for our being, and that success is the very air we breathe.

Forgive us, God of mercy. You are not found in a computer chip, but in the child who holds our hand. You are not a simple tweet, but the Word that can transform our very lives. You are not a disembodied, constantly recalculating voice, but the One who calls us to life, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: Despite everything we do, God loves us. This grace is why we can dare to hope.

People: We will witness to this hope in every word we speak to every person we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 14:15-21

MIDDLE SONG: "Spirit of the Living God" #492

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Acts 17:22-31
read from *The Message*

GLORIA PATRI #734

MESSAGE: "What's New?" Pastor Burnett

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: “Blessed Assurance”

#426

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance, are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The 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 from The United Church of Canada.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

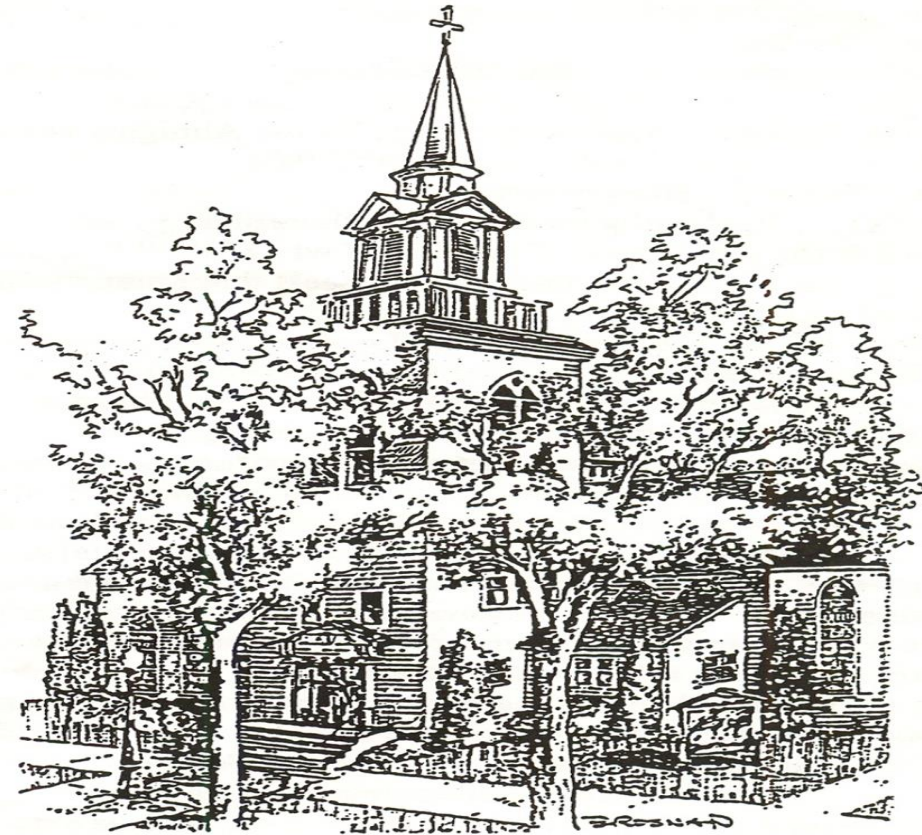
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May Radio Sponsors: Ginny Buchanan

Birthdays: 5-22 Ginny Buchanan, Mick Schlievert, 5-23 Aaron Burtnett, 5-24 Megan Rochleau, 5-25 Marge Person

Today is the last day of Sunday school until the Fall.
Thursday Pastor Burtnett will be in Eagle Grove for a clergy cluster meeting.
Friday morning Pastor Burtnett will conduct services at the care centers.
Seekers will meet at 9 am next Sunday in the chapel.
Next Sunday is the last day to contribute to the gift for Karen Dearchs.
There will be no potluck next Sunday.

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United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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