

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9, 2017

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
read from *The Message*

OPENING SONG: “For the Beauty of the Earth”

#40

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God.

People: We have come to join all creation in giving thanks.

Leader: Come everybody, be attentive to the law of God.

People: We will give thanks for all the guidance God provides.

Leader: The gentle spirit of Jesus invites us here.

People: We have come to worship and refresh our souls.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without relief. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. Thank you that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without relief. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. Thank you that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read together)

We are so skilled at being in control, at taking charge, Sabbath-Taking God, that we are not very good at resting. We think we have to be constantly busy, so we have no time for you. We are trained to be extremely productive, and so create our harried, stress-filled lives. Forgive us, Shalom Giving God. Help us to let go of our distractions, so you can act in us; calm our creaturely activity, so you can re-create us; help us to follow Jesus, not only into discipleship, but into our rest with you. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 7:15-25a

MIDDLE SONG: “Just a Closer Walk With Thee”

#504

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(See insert)

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Free to Choose”

Pastor Burnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: “May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”

#464

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession (adapted), Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Litany of Faith and Covenant Renewal is written by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson on her blog, **Freshly Squeezed Liturgy**.

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

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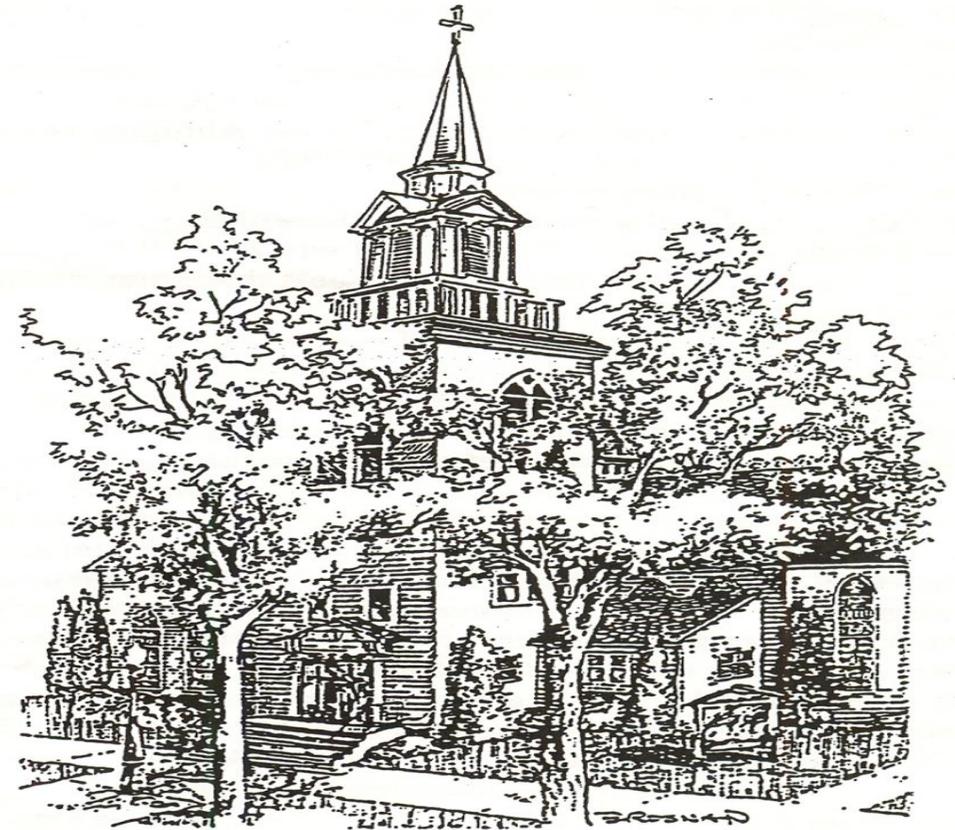
July Radio Sponsors: Pastor Chris and Pam Burtnett

Birthdays: 7-11 Ken Beaver, Sheryl Huffman, 7-15 Pam Burtnett

Announcements

DAR meets this Tuesday afternoon.
Pastor Burtnett will be in Calumet on Tuesday for a committee on ministry meeting.
Karen Dearchs will be on call while the Burtnetts are on vacation. Call her at 295-5150. Leave a message if she doesn't answer and she will return your call.

**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

A LITANY OF FAITH AND COVENANT RENEWAL

(read responsively)

Leader: Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices: left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no? Some choices are simple, and some are very complex, but one choice informs all the others: Who will be our God? Who will we trust to see us through this journey?

People: Who has been with us from before the beginning, bringing us into existence? Who has loved us and blessed us and sent us on our way? Who has pointed us toward the path and posted the signs we need to find our way? Who has been at our side when the road has been smooth and gently curving? Who has kept with us through hairpin turns and construction zones and potholes and detours? Who will celebrate with us when we complete our course and seek the comfort of eternity?

Leader: Only One. The One and Only.

People: Holy One. The One and Holy.

Leader: Will you choose this day to stay faithful to the One who is faithful to us?

People: Count us in.

Leader: Will you choose this day to place your whole trust in the One who is trustworthy?

People: Count us in.

Leader: Will you choose this day to commit your talents and your resources to the One who first endowed them?

People: Count us in.

Leader: Will you choose this day to love the One who loved us first?

People: Count us in.

Leader: Praying together,

Everyone: We devote ourselves to you by renewing the covenant—the promise you made to humanity so long ago. Because you are our God, we will be your people. Enlarge our faithfulness, our trust, our commitment and our love so that we may graciously uphold our side of the deal. Help us always to recognize your presence and your blessings throughout our journey. Keep us in your care. Amen.

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