

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 30, 2017

**PRELUDE**  
**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**GREETINGS**

**GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b  
read from the *Common English Bible*

**OPENING SONG:** “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

#138

**SHARING JESUS’ PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(read responsively)

Leader: Waiting and hoping, we gather together,

**People: seeking God’s presence and singing God’s praise.**

Leader: Waiting and hoping, we come now to worship,

**People: praying and listening for the Spirit’s guidance.**

Leader: Waiting and hoping, we gather together,

**People: seeking God’s presence and singing God’s praise.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

(read together)

Meet us here, holy God. Search our hearts and strengthen our spirits. Plant your nurturing word among us. In these moments of worship, help us find the assurance we need to live in the face of loss, discouragement, and suffering. Lead us by the teaching and example of Jesus, to trust you and your will for us. We believe that whatever happens, you can bring some good from it. Show us the good you intend. Amen.

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(read together)

What can we say about our foolish lives, God of Love? Too often, we choose to worship power when we could serve others in humility. We toss and turn at night, all those things over which we have no control keeping us wide awake, when we could turn them over to you. No matter how many times we hear the news that death has lost its power over us, we dread that day and try everything we can to postpone it.

For believing that our sins are more powerful than your mercy, forgive us, Grace of the world. You cast out your net of grace so that all might be gathered into your kingdom. Your Spirit carries the whispers of our hearts to you, and we are embraced with your hope, blessed with your love through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

(read together)

Leader: Nothing can separate us from the love of God: not death, life, angels, rulers, things present, or things to come!

**People: No power on heaven or under earth can separate us from the love of Jesus: not height, depth, or anything else in all creation. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven!**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**MIDDLE SONG:** “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

#549

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(read together)

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom. We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream. True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ. This is our faith. This is our hope. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI**

#734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**

Romans 8:26-39  
read from the *Good News Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “For Good, For Good!”

Pastor Burnett

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

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**CLOSING SONG:** "Trust and Obey"

#443

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Opening Prayer is from *Taught By Love, Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance, are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman and *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is a 20<sup>th</sup> century South African creed.

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 Organist: Liz Reynolds  
 Lector: David Burrow  
 Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett  
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July Radio Sponsors: Arlen Beschoter

Birthdays: 7-30 Olivia Bachman, 8-1 Marilyn Deal, 8-5 Connie Parsons

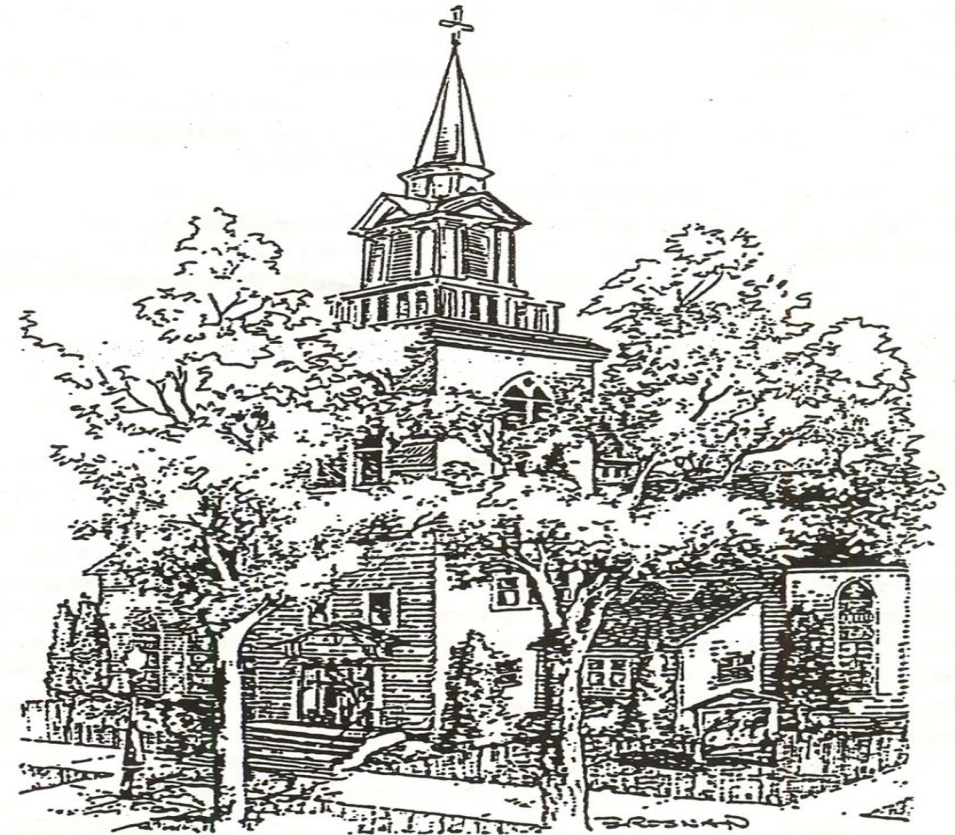
**Announcements**

Newsletter articles are due the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

Tuesday at noon Pastor Burtnett will be at a Kossuth County Coalition meeting.

Next Sunday the Christian Education group will meet after church.

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



**"Where No One Is A Stranger"**

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515-295-2845