

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 3, 2017

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

**THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE** Romans 12:9-21  
read from the *Common English Bible*

**OPENING SONG:** “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!” #136

**SHARING JESUS’ PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

Leader: We who dwell in the shelter of the Most High

**People: Seek God here.**

Leader: We who come to be inspired and changed

**People: Seek God’s Spirit here.**

Leader: We who know how little we know

**People: Seek God’s Word here.**

Leader: Let’s worship God.

**OPENING PRAYER** (read together)

**God, you are made known to us in the rustling wind that blows, in the blazing fire that does not consume, in the face of the good, in the deep of the unknown. We meet you here. We accept your greeting. We welcome your inspiration. We await the change you have in store for us. Draw us in to you. Inhabit our spirits. Focus our attention. Bring us to you – you who are already with us. Help us to be as you would have us be. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, here and everywhere, now and always. Amen.**

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read together)

**God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that our love isn’t always genuine; we see evil and wring our hands instead of resisting it; we forget to consider more ways to serve you; we turn our back on strangers who could benefit from our hospitality; we do not pray enough for our enemies we associate with our own kind, fearing the “other”; we relish in fantasies of revenge. For all this, and for all that burdens our heart today, God, we seek your forgiveness. Have compassion on us and hear our prayers. Amen.**

**A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

Leader: Listen! Come to the One who covers us with compassion, who feeds us on grace and mercy.

**People: What good news! Everyone who thirsts is given water; everyone who hungers is fed; everyone who sins is forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 16:21-28

**MIDDLE SONG:** “The Summons” #351

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** inside back cover of hymnal

**GLORIA PATRI** #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** Exodus 3:1-15

read from the *Common English Bible*

**MESSAGE:** “Burning Bushes” Pastor Burnett

**GATHERING AT JESUS’ TABLE**

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord’s Prayer, sharing the bread and cup

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love by bringing us to this meal. We go from here renewed in faith, renewed in courage, and strengthened by your presence. Thank you for loving us so tenderly. Thank you for challenging us to know you better and to receive you more fully. Amen.

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

CLOSING SONG: "Here I Am Lord" #559

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer, Call to Confession (adapted), Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, Prayer of Thanksgiving, and Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways – Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector:

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

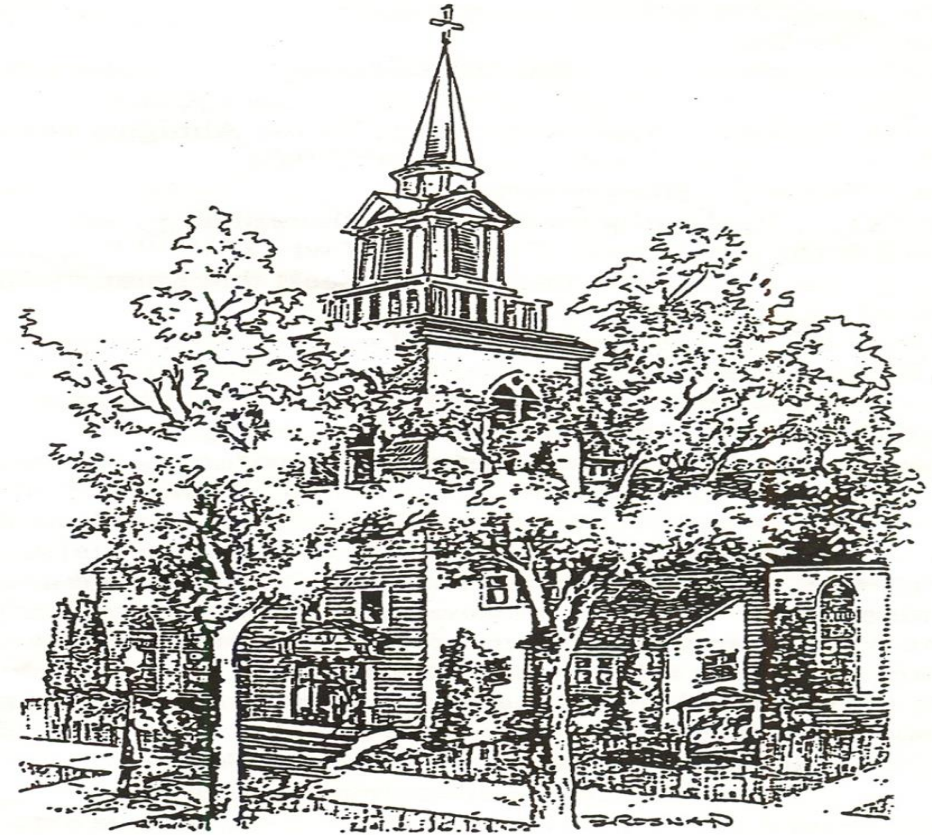
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September Radio Sponsor: David Burrow in memory of George and Bette Burrow

Birthdays:

Missions and Memorials will meet Tuesday at 5 pm, at Vanburren Terrace.  
Pastor Parish Relations will meet here Thursday at 5:15 pm.  
Next Sunday Seekers and Sunday school will begin.  
Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm we will have the Peace Pole service followed by ice cream and raspberries.

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United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa**



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

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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