

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 10, 2017

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

**THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Exodus 12:1-14  
from *The Message*

**OPENING SONG:** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

#59

**SHARING JESUS' PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Praise God!

**People: Sing to God a new song!**

Leader: Give thanks to our Maker.

**People: We rejoice in our sovereign God.**

Leader: Let us praise God with dancing and music.

**People: Let the faithful sing for joy as we praise God together!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

(read together)

As we gather here in your name, God, you are already among us. Day by day you guide us; every breath we take is a gift from you. You strengthen us to serve you. You lift our hands to give you praise. We come before you in the company of sisters and brothers to worship you. Keep us open to your presence in us and around us that we may grow closer to you. Amen.

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(read together)

We have not been faithful to your commands, God. We have been more ready to condemn than to console, more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding. We feed the flames of dissent instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness. We gather as two or three, not to welcome your presence but to gossip about those who are absent. Our sins are destroying us, God. Turn us around to a new way of being. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

(read responsively)

Leader: 2, 3, 30, 300 - we have gathered as God's people: broken, we are made whole; alone, we are welcomed into a family; forgiven, we are sent to serve.

**People: God is constantly present in our lives. Fed, forgiven, restored, loved, God's grace makes us new in every moment. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Romans 13:8-14

**MIDDLE SONG:** “We Are Called to Be God's People”

#580

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God, the maker of all things, source of all life and Mother of all children.

Our life is in God, and in God we are one with all beings.

We follow Jesus, the Christ, the Revealer of God, who taught us to love, who gave us courage to trust God's grace, and who bid us to take up our cross and follow him.

In his life and ministry and his death and resurrection, he has shown us that in losing our lives we find them. He who was crucified is the Lord of the Universe.

We rely upon the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the communion of saints, the unity of the church, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the reality of eternal life.

Therefore we devote ourselves to disciplined practice of the Way of Jesus in our daily lives,

so that we may grow in faithfulness, and serve God in humble, confident love for the sake of the healing of the world. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI**

#734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 18:15-20  
read from *The Message*

**MESSAGE:** “Jesus’ Three-Step Program”

Pastor Burnett

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

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**CLOSING SONG:** “As Your Family, Lord, Meet us Here”

#606

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*; (adapted), Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *When We Gather-A Book of Prayers for Worship* by James G. Kirk and *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. Call to Confession and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M Schuman. Prayer of Confession (adapted) is from *Taught By Love-Worship Resources for Year A* By Lavon Bayler. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

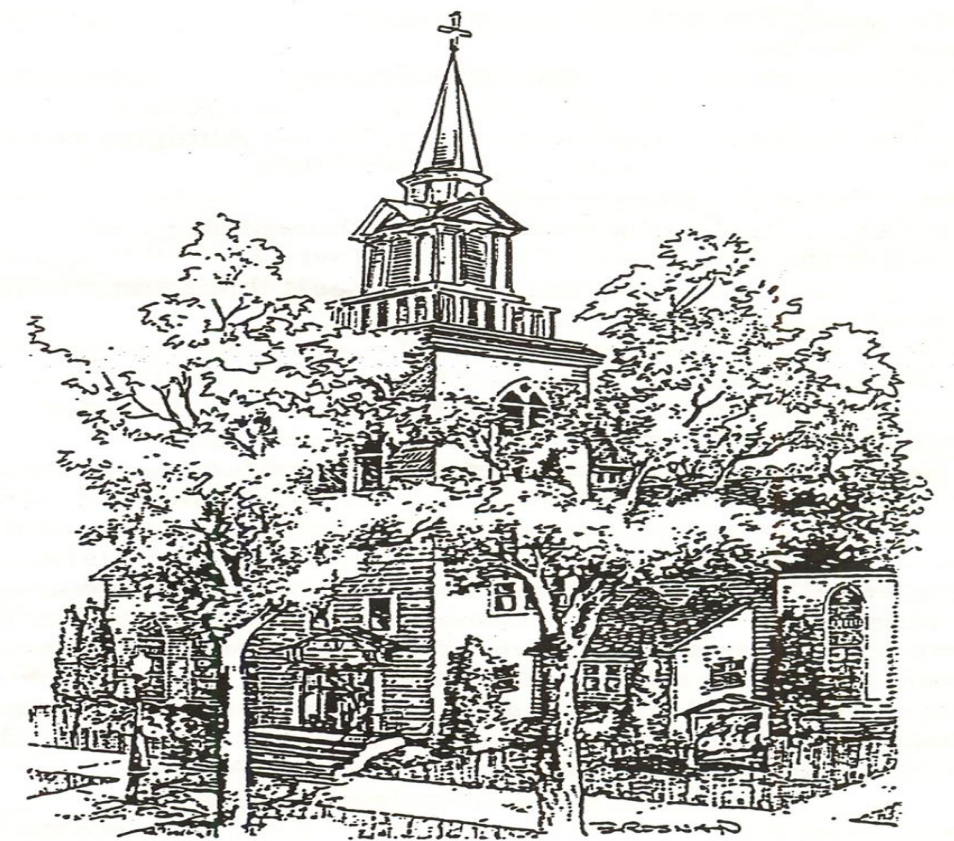
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Organist: Liz Reynolds  
Lector: David Burrow  
Worship Leader: Pastor Burnett  
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September Radio Sponsor: David Burrow in memory of George and Bette Burrow

Birthdays: 9-11 Rebecca Moore, 9-15 Taylor Steburg

Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm we will have the Peace Pole service followed by ice cream and raspberries.  
The October Meals on Wheels sheet is in the parlor.  
The Fellowship kick off will be this coming Wednesday beginning at 5:30 pm, followed by the Board meeting at 7 pm.

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



**“Where No One Is A Stranger”**

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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