

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
First Sunday in Epiphany
January 7, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6
read from *The Message*

***OPENING SONG:** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

#189

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

Leader: We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

People: We seek the Light’s ancient wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the Light that is God’s continuing gift.

People: We live into the Light’s new wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the Light that is our own, emerging anew each day.

People: We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the Light from Bethlehem’s cradle.

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

God of Light and Love, in this very moment the star still beckons. Gather us and let the star call us to new ways of healing and hope, restoration and renewal, as we discover again Christ’s call to discipleship. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

Leader: Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

People: This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:4-11

***MIDDLE SONG:** “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

#233

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 23:1-12

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(read together) inside back cover of hymnal

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12
read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “How Wise Were They?”

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

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all of Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your Light in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** "The First Noel" #229

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways – Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman*. The Affirmation of Faith is our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.

=====

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

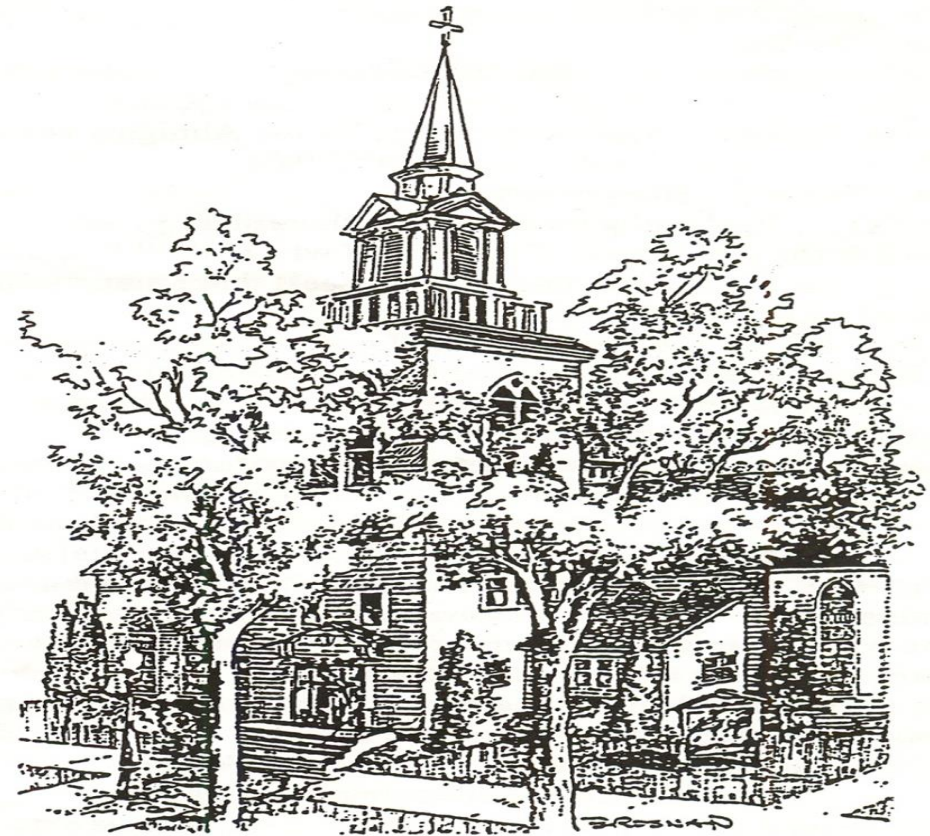
=====

January Radio Sponsor: Marilyn Deal

Birthdays:

On this Tuesday Pastor Burtnett will be at a meeting in Calumet.
Wednesday, the 10th, Fellowship will meet at 5:30 pm and the Board will meet at 7 pm.
A Radio sign-up sheet for 2018 is posted in the parlor.
Annual reports and newsletter articles for February and March are due in the office by the 28th.

**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