

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 4, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
read from *The Message*

***OPENING SONG:** “Come, Let Us Praise the Lord” #9

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: How good it is for us to gather and sing praises to our God.

People: Great is our God, who understands us, lifts us up, and strengthens us.

Leader: Sing with joy and thanksgiving to God, who fills our lives with steadfast love.

People: Praise the Lord! Let’s worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Gracious God, as Jesus spent time with you in prayer, we come before you in prayer this morning. Renew our spirits, that we might tell your story with passion and purpose. Fill us with hope that transcends worldly values. Fill us with love that knows no bounds. Fill us with compassion that leads to love and service. Free our lips to proclaim words of praise, as we share your good news with others. Guide, empower, and encourage us with your Spirit, as we seek to minister to your world. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Almighty God, we often forget the glory of creation and everything you have done for us. We ignore the beauty you place all around us. We brush aside the ways you strengthen us. We sing songs of lament instead of songs of praise and thanksgiving. We lose ourselves in the business of life, and forget that we are only found in you. Forgive us. Fill our hearts and lips with your praises and turn our lives toward you. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: Have you not been listening. God never tires out, nor is there is an expiration date on God's forgiveness. God is ever with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us for service.

People: If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:29-39

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Take Time to Be Holy” #483

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 23:1-12

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together) inside back cover of hymnal**

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:21-31 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Haven’t You Heard?” Pastor Burtnett

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 praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" #31

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer (adapted), Prayer of Confession and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu.. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman*. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is from the *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*.

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

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February Radio Sponsor:

Birthdays: 2-7 Josephine Reynolds, 2-8 Robin Rochleau

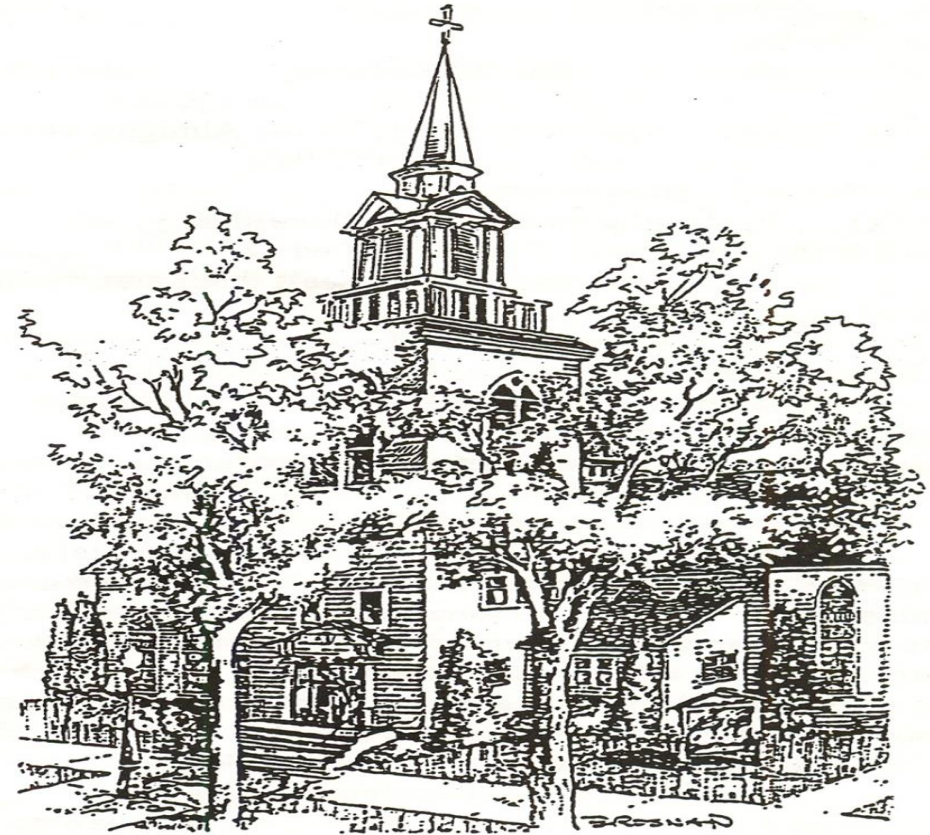
Today – Annual Meeting and Potluck
Monday- 11:00am Exceptional Opportunities
Tuesday-12 Noon Coalition Meeting
5pm. Mission and Memorial meeting
Sunday February 25 at 1:30 - Organ Concert by Ryan Mueller

A Radio sign-up sheet for 2018 is posted in the parlor.

The Kossuth County CARE Team will be hosting a Quilt Show on Saturday, March 24. If you are interested in displaying a quilt or if you would like to help, please contact Brenda Bormann - bormann@ncn.net or text her at 515-341-6982 or Jane Dreyer - janedreyer95@hotmail.com or text her at 515-320-0490. More information in the February-March Newsletter

If you are so inclined to bake cookies or bars our supply needs to be replenished.

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United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845