

February 2019 and March 2019  
Algona First Congregational United Church of Christ  
315 S. Moore Street, Algona, IA 50511  
515-295-2845  
<http://www.algonaucc.org>  
E-mail for Pastor: [algucc@netamumail.com](mailto:algucc@netamumail.com)  
E-mail for Secretary: [uccalg@netamumail.com](mailto:uccalg@netamumail.com)  
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM  
Pastor Chris Burtnett  
Home Phone 515-395-3403      Cell Phone 712-269-5719

## FROM THE FRONT PORCH

### From the Front Porch

It's February! Valentine's day approaches. Who is/are your valentine/s? Who do you love? What do you love? I know these are rather personal questions and the what do you love may seem a little strange, especially since Valentine's day focuses on people, but we love things as well as in, "I love chocolate, ice cream, my job, home, car, etc. You get the picture.

What about the church? Do you love the church? Do you love your church? I do! I love the church! I love the United Church of Christ! I love First Congregational United Church of Christ.

Some time back, the United Church of Christ, as part of the "Still Speaking Initiative" published several small booklets, one of which was titled, "16 Ways to say I Love My Church. The following are the 16 ways from the booklet.

#1-I love my church because it's sort of like the Wizard of Oz—it's about having a heart and a brain.....and courage.

#2-I love my church because when we cried together on September 11<sup>th</sup>, we cried for the whole world.

#3-I love my church because the Sunday school teacher gives out prizes to the kid who asks the best questions.

#4-You know, if you want a church where you can pretend for an hour or two that everything is just fine with you, with your family, and with the world, then we're probably not for you. But if you want a church where you can tell the truth about how it is

and know that it is okay, maybe you'll find a home here.

#5-What I love about the UCC is that it's about Jesus—not just Jesus who's on our side, but Jesus who calls us to walk by his side.

#6-I'm single and I love my church because it's the only place I don't feel like I need to buy a family size to belong.

#7-What I love most about my church is that it's a place where we feel free to "think out loud together."

#8-I love my church because the building committee got together last week and cut out part of the pews so wheelchairs could be down front in the sanctuary.

#9-I love my church because for one hour every week I get reminded that life is more than getting up and going to work, dealing with problems, and worrying about everything under the sun.

#10-I love the United Church of Christ because we're giraffes not turtles; we aren't afraid to stick our necks out. We ordained the first African-American in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this first woman in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the first gay man in the 20<sup>th</sup> century! That helps me stick my neck out and take a risk every now and then.

#11-I love my church because we share Easter Sunrise services with the local motorcycle club.

#12-I love my church because the sermons make me think about things I would probably never normally think about.

#13-I love my church because when we get together we aren't afraid of sharing feelings. Last year we voted on whether or not our pastors could perform a same sex marriage in our sanctuary. People of all ages shared how they felt, and nobody was mean.

#14-I love my church because just last Sunday a little girl, maybe four, walked by herself across the

aisle, left her parents, and climbed into the lap of a woman who is 83 years old and who lives alone.

#15-I love the UCC because it's not just about believing in Christ, it's about following Jesus.

#16-I love my church because my two favorite people to talk to on Sunday mornings over coffee are a man who lives in a group home and an 8 year old girl who wants to be the first female pitcher in the major leagues.

What about you? Why do you love your church? Give it some thought. Share them with others.

*Pastor Chris*

## WORSHIP CANCELLATION POLICY

Winter is not a season of the church year, but sometimes it does affect the church. When winter weather causes Sunday worship to be cancelled, please tune in to KLGZ/KLGA radio. The cancellation decision will be made no later than 8:00 AM and on the radio after that time. Notice will also be sent out as an email to those who have it.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### December/January Board Highlights

#### December

No December Meeting

#### January

- Pianos in the sanctuary and fellowship all have been tuned.
- The organ was tuned before Christmas. Dobson Organ Builders noted some repairs are needed to several pipes in the pipe chamber. They will send us an explanation of what needs to be done and a cost estimate.
- Pastor Chris will be covering hospital calls and funerals for Rev. Mark Holmer while he is in Arizona, January through early April.

- Pastor Chris will be visiting an inmate at the county jail at the request of Rev. Loren Shellabarger, who had been doing this until his move to Dubuque.
- The new boiler inspection certificate is in place in the boiler room.
- Several ongoing property issues were discussed. (i.e. air compressor in boiler room, roof leak in sanctuary and tree removal)
- Meyer Electric fixed several electrical problems in the Fellowship/Education/office building
- Pastor Chris shared some preliminary plans for his sabbatical which he will be eligible to take after September 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. He will be sharing more information with the Board and congregation as plans become more definite.
- Next meeting is February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Complete minutes of the Board meetings are available in the church office.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Start collecting Trash and Treasure items for our spring sale. Items should be put in the Fellowship hall southeast basement room.

## FELLOWSHIP REPORT

On February 13th, we will meet for Fellowship Night at 5:30, and dinner will be hosted by Sandy Person. Following dinner, Helen Scuffham will show us how to make "whisper phones". The phones will be given to the library in honor of Olivia Bachman. The monthly potluck after worship will be February 24th. In March, we will meet a week early, or March 6th, for dinner hosted by the Burtnett's. The Ash Wednesday service will follow dinner. The after-worship potluck will be on Sunday, March 24th. Mark your calendars, and join us!

## Newsletter 2019

The Sunday school kids recently painted dried hardshell apple gourds to decorate the tables in the Fellowship Hall. After they painted the gourds Judy Johnson lettered them with the 'Fruits of the Spirit.' If you pick one of the gourds up you will notice how light they are. The seed and fiber in the gourd has dried and the gourds will last indefinitely. This is a natural process for the gourds if they are mature at the end of the growing season when it freezes. They need a long season, so some years we don't get many that are mature before the freeze. The best time to harvest the gourds is in the spring as the freezing and thawing in the field does not spoil a mature gourd, it just naturally dries. Thank you to the kids and Judy for your beautiful work!

The E & O committee hosted a Christmas cookie event in December for Care Team clients. Three families came and after a hot bowl of soup (Thank you John) we made cookies together. Thanks to Ashley, Pam, Sandy H-B and Helen for being in charge of the stations to make four different kinds of cookies. The families took all the cookies home with them. It was an enjoyable evening for everyone. I learned Jack & Greta like gumdrops!

'The Fruits of the Spirit' gourds painted by the Sunday school kids and lettered by Judy Johnson. There are eight gourds and 9 'Fruits of the Spirit' listed in Galatians 5: 22-23. Which one is missing?



# FEBRUARY

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 
3 9 am Seekers 10:00 am Worship, Communion and Food Pantry offering	4	5 Pastor Chris at the Chocolate Season  Coalition meeting at noon	6	7	8	9
10 9:00am Seekers 10:00 am Worship	11	12 Pastor Chris at the Chocolate Season  Food Pantry Board at 6:30 pm	13	14 	15	16
17 9:00am Seekers 10:00 am Worship	18	19 Pastor Chris at the Chocolate Season	20 7 pm Board meeting	21 Ministerial meeting	22 By laws meeting in Manson	23
24 9:00am Seekers 10:00 am Worship Potluck	25	26 Pastor Chris at the Chocolate Season	27 Adult Discussion at Chuck West's	28 Clergy Cluster in Humboldt		

# MARCH

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00am Seekers 10:00 am Worship - Communion Food Pantry	4	5 Pastor Chris at the Chocolate Season Coalition meeting at noon	6 	7	8	9
10 9:00am Seekers 10:00 am Worship	11	12 Pastor Chris at the Chocolate Season Food Pantry Board at 6:30 pm	13	14	15 Care Center worship	16
17 9:00am Seekers 10:00 am Worship	18	19 Pastor Chris at the Chocolate Season Missions and Memorial at 4 pm	20 7 pm Board meeting 	21 Ministerial meeting Women's Fellowship 1:30pm	22	23
24 9:00am Seekers 10:00 am Worship Potluck	25	26 Pastor Chris at the Chocolate Season	27 Ministerial meeting	28 Clergy Cluster in Humboldt	29	30
31 9:00am Seekers 10:00 am Worship						