

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 17, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 20 read from the *New International Version*

***OPENING SONG:** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #59

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Scattered seeds, emerging seedlings....

Many: We all are welcome here.

One: The young and the old, the weak and the powerful...

Many: We are here to worship God.

One: In the love of Jesus, created anew....

Many: We gather to worship and remember.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

God of power and might, you have laid your hands on us and called us each by name.

Like our ancestors in the faith before us, we need your hand to anoint and guide us.

Like seeds that are scattered on the ground, we need your nourishment to grow and flourish. Anoint and guide us, Holy One. Feed and strengthen us, that we may grow in your grace and walk in your ways. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

How you must grieve over us, God of all. You give us blessings to share with others, but we hoard everything for ourselves. You look for us to join you in serving the most vulnerable, but find us worshiping the wealthy and powerful. You offer us joy and wonder to embrace, but we continue to cling to weapons and things.

Have mercy on us, Anointing God, as you pour your forgiveness into our foolish lives. Plant the seeds of grace, hope, love, and peace in us, so we may blossom and share all these gifts with everyone we meet. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God’s love is not logical and understandable. For God forgives those we never would, and welcomes those we would continue to ignore.

Many: This is the One who has mercy on everyone, pouring grace and joy into everyone, including us! Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 4:26-34

***MIDDLE SONG:** “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” #549

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves, but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God’s crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ’s people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the “promised land” of God’s future.

Because Christ has called me, in this I truly believe. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “New and Improved”

Pastor Burtnett

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG:** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

#461

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, 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, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is written by Bruce Prewer

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| Organist: | Liz Reynolds |
| Lector: | Marilyn Deal |
| Worship Leader: | Pastor Chris |

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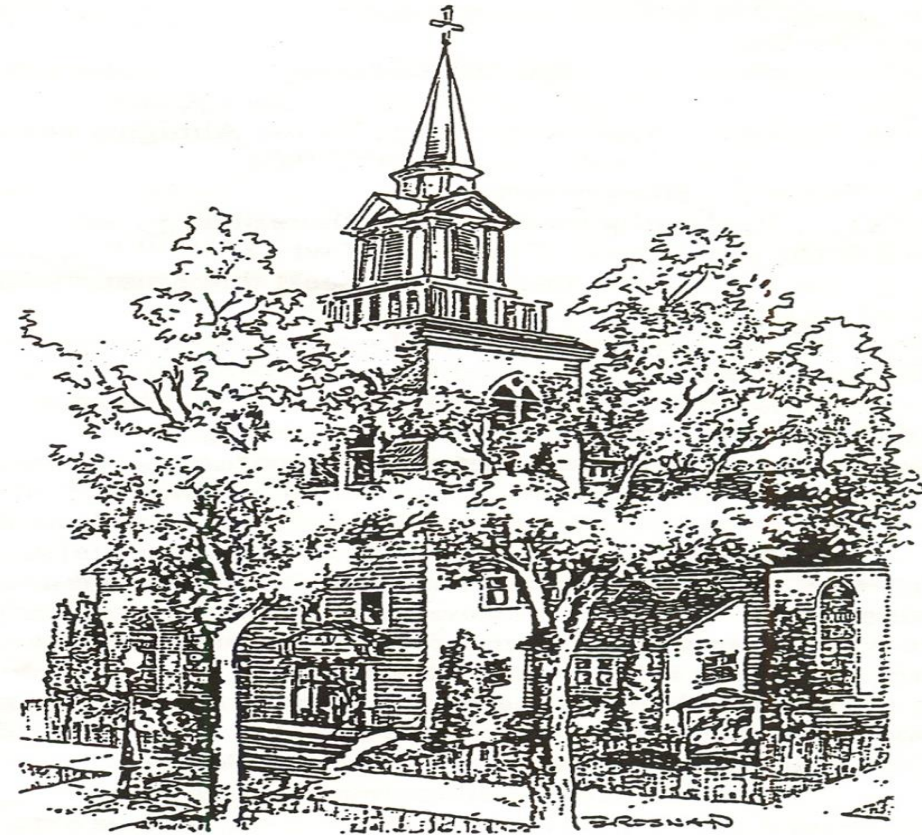
June Radio Sponsor: Pastor Chris and Pam Burtnett

Birthdays: 6-21 Arlene Kenyon, Meredith Hines

Tuesday, the 19th, Pastor Burtnett will be at the Chocolate Season from 9:30 to 11:30 am

Wednesday, the 20th, Bible Study will meet at 2 pm.

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

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