

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 11, 2018

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 146 from *The Message*

*OPENING SONG: "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" #56

SHARING JESUS' PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: We have come into this house, built by the Holy One, to worship the God of Creation.

Many: We have come to listen to the stories of people who throughout the generations have shown us the way by their trust in the promises of God, who is always watching over us.

One: We have come to be reminded of the risks we are free to take with confidence that God will take care of us through times of plenty and times of want, all along our journey through life.

Many: So let us celebrate this gathering which binds us together. Let's worship God!

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Ever living God, instill in us, we pray, the trust and self-giving that your Word imparts to us. Teach us again during this time together that you are always with us. Remind us that all that we have is a gift from you and is meant to be shared. The Holy Spirit calls and empowers us to live beyond our own desires. So, send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we might be overcome with its liberating courage and sustenance. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Bountiful Love: our self-focus causes us to imagine how poor we are. We are convinced we don't have enough: enough honor, enough respect, enough recognition, enough to live on. And so, in our poverty, we cannot trust you, we cannot see the emptiness of others, we cannot help but cling to more than we need.

Forgive us, Bestower of Blessings. Tell us we can be more loving; whisper to us of how we can be more compassionate; sing to us of how we can serve others - all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: The good news is that we are made whole; not by our efforts, not by any work we have done, not by any word of ours.

More: Out of the riches of grace, God pours forgiveness into our lives, giving us all we need in Jesus Christ, so we might live in hope and joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING 1 Kings 17:8-16

*MIDDLE SONG: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" #72

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in God, who creates us, who sustains us each moment, who is our life and our breath.

We follow Christ, who showed us God. He received and shared God's grace. He trusted God in everything. He let go of things so that he might cling to Life. He let go of life, so that he might hold onto Love. He gave of himself, even his very life, for the sake of the healing of the world. And though he was crucified, God have him life again; and he rose and is still among us in a new way.

We live by the Holy Spirit, which alone gives us life. We rejoice in the church, the Body of Christ, and in the oneness of all life, the gift of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life.

By the power of that Holy Spirit, and in the name of Christ, we devote ourselves to give generously of all that we receive, for the sake of the healing of the world, and the eternal glory of God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Mark 12:38-44 from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "Role Models"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

*CLOSING SONG: "All Things Are Yours!"

#687

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*.

The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2018* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu and *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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Organist: Liz Reynolds

Lector: David Burrow

Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett

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November Radio Sponsor: David Burrow

Birthdays: 11-12 Liz Reynolds

The Missions and Memorial committee will meet today following church.

Today is Stewardship Sunday.

Pastor Burtnett will be in Calumet on Tuesday.

There will be no Fellowship on Wednesday. But remember that next Sunday will be the Thanksgiving potluck.

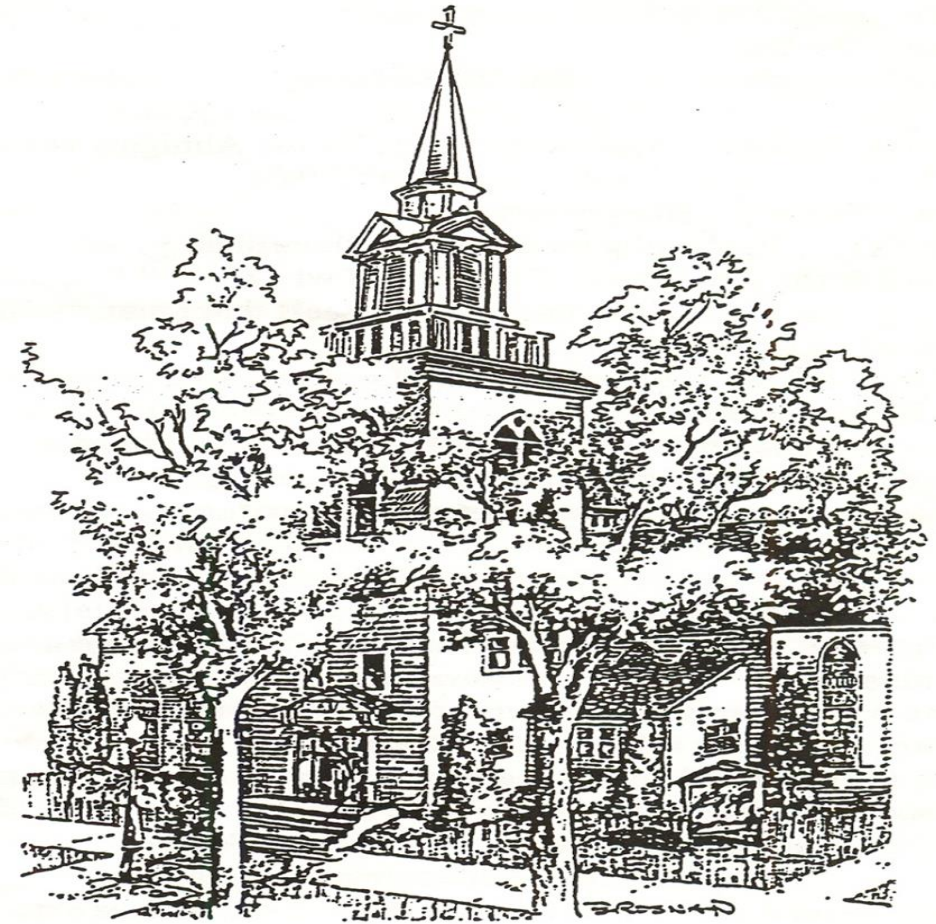
Women's Fellowship will meet this coming Thursday at 1:30 pm.

Also, next Sunday will be the last day to turn in linens and towels for the Care Team.

Poinsettias will again be ordered from Hy Vee. Please let the office know if you want us to order by the 23rd of November. December 1st we will be decorating for the Christmas season.

Newsletter articles are due in the office by November 27th.

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"Where No One Is A Stranger"

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