

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
First Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2019

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 26:1-11 from the *Common English Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Praise My Soul the King of Heaven” #82

SHARING JESUS’ PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Our souls are created to be God’s dwelling place, and the dwelling place of the soul is God.

Many: As we worship, we experience the God who dwells in us. Through our worship, we dwell in God.

One: As we make the Holy One our dwelling place, no evil shall overtake us. Come, live and love in the shelter of the Most High and say, “God is my refuge and fortress in whom I trust.”

Many: Through our worship, we love the God who dwells in us, and in whom we dwell. God is our refuge and our home.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Holy One, we come to you in gladness and expectation to begin our Lenten exploration. You offer steadfast love as our strong refuge; Your boundless grace is our sheltering presence, and we rejoice! In the unity of worship, we trust that you will speak to us and through us as we begin this Lenten journey with each other and with Christ. Prepare our hearts to seek you and embrace you, to hear you and follow you, to love you and to serve you. With gladness and expectation we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

Sheltering, guiding God, as you were present with Jesus in his wilderness experience, so you are present with us: you have urged us to trust you: yet at times we have felt discouraged, and even abandoned and betrayed by you, when things have not gone well with us. Instead of following where you lead, we have followed tempters who show us a vision of the world that is a mere counterfeit of what you desire for us. We have been deceived and enticed by imitations of love, abundance, and joy. When you have not answered in the ways or the time we desire, we have been tempted to lean on our own understanding and not acknowledge you in all ways. We so often have sought to control our lives and order our own steps, often ignoring you and pushing you aside. Forgive us. Help us to trust you to journey with us and to guide us. Help us to rest in your promise to never leave us or forsake us. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: God is at work in us and with us! God’s love enwraps us, holds us, and all encloses us. Because of God’s tender love, we are protected—in woe as in well—by the goodness of God.

Many: God urges us, “Keep the word near you, even on your lips and in your heart...This word is your salvation.” In the promise, presence, and power of God, we are forgiven for all manner of things! Thanks be to God! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Roman 10:8b-13

***MIDDLE SONG:** “I Love To Tell the Story” #560

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

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE Luke 4:1-13

from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "It's a Jungle Out There!"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

***CLOSING SONG** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

#252

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Call to Confession (adapted) Prayer of Confession (adapted), Words of Assurance (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is from *Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide*, posted on the website of Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba.

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

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March Radio Sponsor: John and Helen Scuffham

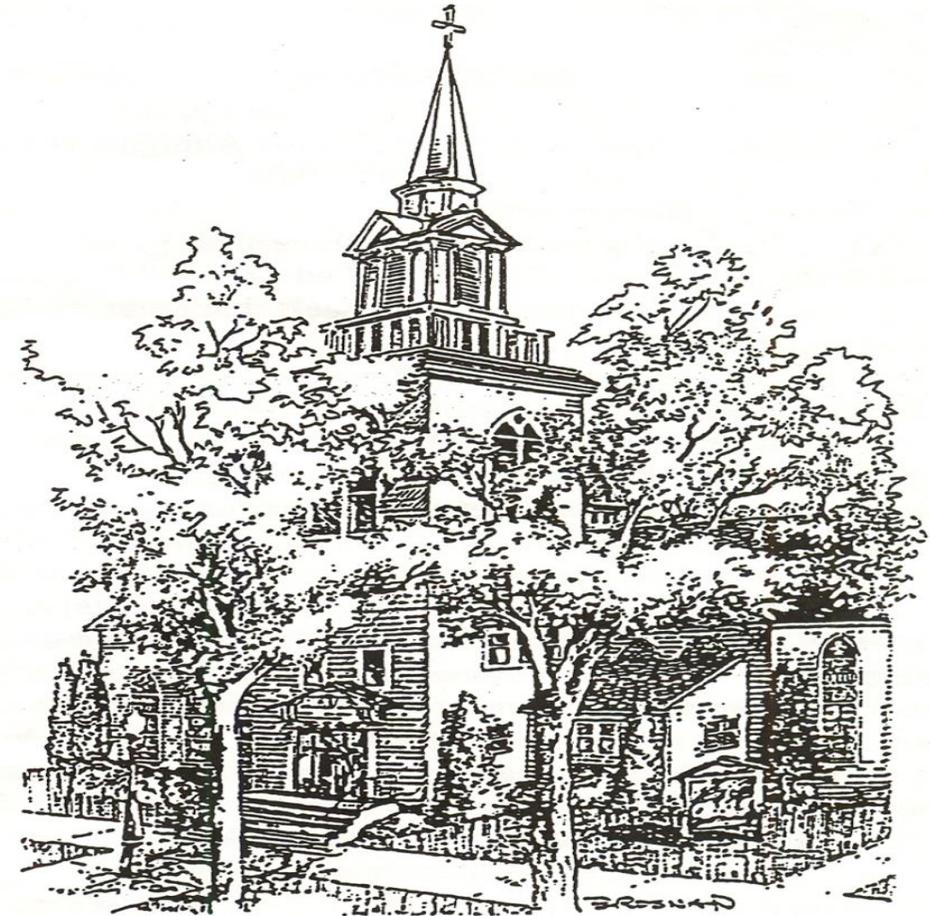
Birthdays: 3/10 Elis Vaske, Brendan Burtnett

Pastor Parish Relations will meet Tuesday at 4 pm.

The Board will meet this Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

The Trash, Treasure and Bake Sale is slated for April 26th and 27th. We need more items for this sale to be a success. Please search your attics, basements or wherever to help us out.

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United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



"Where No One Is A Stranger"

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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