

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: God's word is a lamp to our feet, a light to our path.

Many: We have committed ourselves to follow the light.

One: Let us, therefore, open ourselves to the Spirit.

Many: We will reach out for more than we can see and hear.

One: The Spirit dwells in us all offering us new life.

Many: We praise God, who saves us and gives us new life. Let's worship!

***OPENING SONG** "O Word of God Incarnate"

#670 verses 1 & 3

OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

All-powerful God, we celebrate the freedom you give us to make our own response to all the possibilities you lay out before us. We are grateful for the revelation you provide through the Scriptures. Though their words, help us to discern your Word. Come to us in the midst of our diversity and bring understanding and mutual caring. Beyond all our clamor for the things of this world, we long for the richness of the spirit you alone can provide. Feed us here, we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

We know the seeds we have sown, Harvesting God: anger which springs from our flinty hearts; bitterness which flows like a rushing river into another's heart; hurtful words which wrap their thorny briars around a friend's kindness; passion which poisons an innocent relationship.

Forgive us, Loving God, and have mercy. Your grace can turn our fallow hearts into rich fields of love. Your hope can smooth the rocks in our way, so we can go to be reconciled to another. Your love for us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, can untangle the thorny mess we have made of our lives. Bless us with these gifts, we pray. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: No ifs, no ands, no buts. Now there is no condemnation - period! God answers all our hurts, our wrongs, our sin with salvation. Believe this good news!

Many: We are stunned by God's grace, and embraced in God's love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together) inside back cover of the hymnal

We sing of God the Spirit, who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation, animating all energy and matter and moving in the human heart. We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world. The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world.

We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe, and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort, to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge. Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world. Amen

GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:1:11

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "You're Full of It!"

Pastor Burtnett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY

(music only, not sung) Words #44

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (prayed together)
Gracious God, filled by your generosity to us, may we be generous to others. Accept from us our gifts as we commit our lives to you. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “Spirit of the Living God” #492

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer are from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is excerpted from *Song of Faith* of the United Church of Canada (2006)..

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burtnett
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July Radio Sponsor: Arlen Benschoter

Birthdays: 7-15 Pam Burtnett, Sheryl Huffman,7-18 Jeff Hines

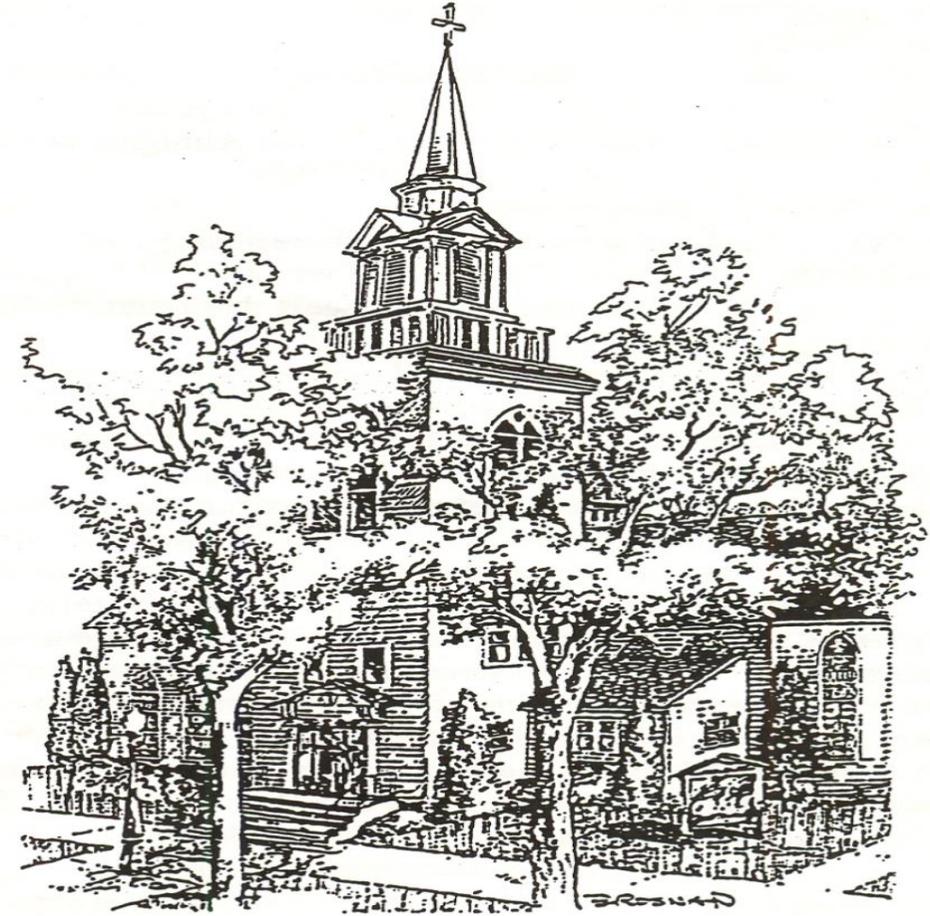
The June, July, and August Our Daily Bread is in the Fellowship Hall entrance.

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.
Gen 25:19-34 and Ps 119:105-112

Dave Skilling will be on call while Pastor Chris is on sabbatical for the next two weeks. He can be reached at his cell 319-290-2302 or home 395-1102.

The service on the church web site will not be up on the site until late afternoon.

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



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

515-295-2845