

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is a Stranger"
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 15, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: Come into this household of God that we might all listen to God's Word and discern the wisdom that comes only from God.

People: How can we discover such wisdom?

Leader: Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom. When we choose to live according to God's will and plan, God will give to each of us a wise and discerning heart.

People: God fills us with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs! We have come to praise with music from our hearts.

Leader: Jesus is here in our midst as living bread. We want to be nourished and strengthened that we may remain with him. Jesus is so close to us that we can taste his presence.

All: Praise God! We will learn of God's compassion and mercy. Praise God with our hearts! Praise God!

*OPENING SONG "Come, Let Us Praise the Lord" #9

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

God of steadfast love, your works delight our hearts and expand our thoughts. Your grace and mercy draw us together to praise you and to celebrate your wonderful deeds. Dwell among us today and reign within the lives of each one gathered here, helping us to grow in discernment and understanding. Grant wisdom and courage that we may walk in your ways and keep your commandments. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

All Wise God, we thank you for giving us this time to look into our words, thoughts and deeds. We confess that we fool ourselves into believing that we possess all of the knowledge that we need. As we go from place to place, we try to block you out. Even

though we say we want to hear your Word and speak with you, we fail to see that we are always in your presence. We stray seeking other gods, whose ways may be easy but cannot show us the ways of love and truth. We are afraid of being fed with the living bread of Jesus. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might live each day according to your will and plan for us and for your world. Help us to discern your wisdom that we might live eternally with you and Christ. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: In God's wisdom and compassion, we receive grace that we might live anew, unburdened by the obstacles and pride of the past.

Many: We will continue to feast on the living bread which is given to us each day. Thanks be to God who lifts us up with the gift of forgiveness. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 111

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother, Soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.

We follow Christ, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast, who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all Creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life. In his teaching, in his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. He calls us to serve him for the sake of proclaiming God's grace. We trust that he accompanies us and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.

We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us, and guides us and empowers us as servants of God's grace.

We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: "A God Listening Heart" Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

God of wisdom and understanding send these gifts into the world, that they may become instruments of your grace. May they be bread and blessing for a world in need of your mighty Spirit. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“Be Thou My Vision”

#502

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Opening Prayer is from *Led By Love- Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Call to Confession is from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) is by B. J. Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

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

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August Radio Sponsor: Chuck West and Becky Bibler

Birthdays: 8-18: Andrew Schlievert, 8-19: Henry Reynolds, 8-20: Adeline Reynolds

Today, August 15: 10:00 am. – Worship
Coffee

Tuesday, August 17: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill
6:30 pm. Food Pantry Board Meeting

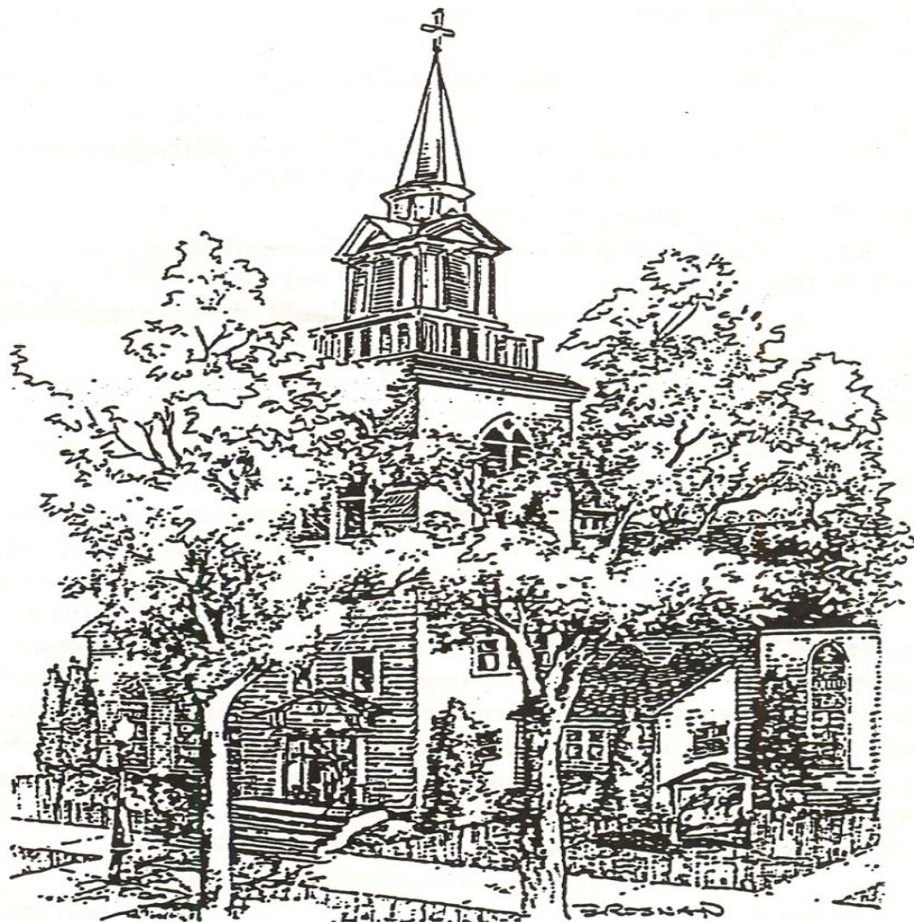
Wednesday, August 18: 7 pm. – Board Meeting

Saturday, August 21: 9-11 - Mobile Mission at Farmer’s Market

Sunday, August 22: 10:00 am. – Worship
Coffee



First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa



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