

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is a Stranger"
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Here, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our hearts:

Many: calling us to generous acts, to share the gifts we have been given.

One: Now, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our land:

Many: calling us to generous acts, to open our hearts to all in need.

One: The voice of our Beloved sounds in all creation:

Many: calling us to generous acts, to stand with God's people: the least, the lost, the little, the last.

One: Let's worship God.

*OPENING SONG "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" #31

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Creator God, you have loved us passionately into being. We come today seeking your presence and to know we are your beloved! Enter our sanctuary and enter our hearts that we may look into your loving gaze and see ourselves reflected there, as you see us. Let our love for you reflect and mirror your perfect love as we gather as your Beloved Community. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

Holy One of leaders and little children, we hear your words every day, but rarely live them out. Our anger roars like a flooded creek, but our forgiveness drips like a rusty faucet. Our impetuous tongues rush to judgment, while our words of hope sound like a sluggish soundtrack. We listen with impatient ears to the cries of the poor.

God of Lights, may your mercy fall on us like a summer shower on parched grass; may

your hope overflow our hearts; may your Beloved Child, Jesus Christ, speak to us and call us to life. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Listen and understand - the voice of the Beloved speaks to us, implanting the word of hope, the word of grace, and the word of forgiveness into our hearts.

Many: We listen and understand. Every gift comes from God, especially the gifts of mercy and love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (read together)

In faith, we acknowledge that God has acted in the past, in a holy history. In faith, we confess that God seeks to rule our lives today. In faith, we affirm that God continues to send prophets and speak through willing vessels to guide the course of all history towards its end. In faith, we imagine that end to be characterized by the traits we find in Jesus Christ: compassion, justice, and love. In faith, we long to be part of that purpose. Amen

*GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS James 1:17-27 read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "Worthless Religion" Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY Words #44

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (prayed together)

God of light, every generous act of giving and every perfect gift comes from you. May the offering we bring before you this day testify to who we are and whose we are. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG "Take My Life, and Let It Be" #466

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication 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 James T. Fatzinger from *Touch Holiness-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

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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: 8-30 Laurie Zook, 9-1 Mark Williams

Today, August 29: 10:00 am. – Worship
Coffee

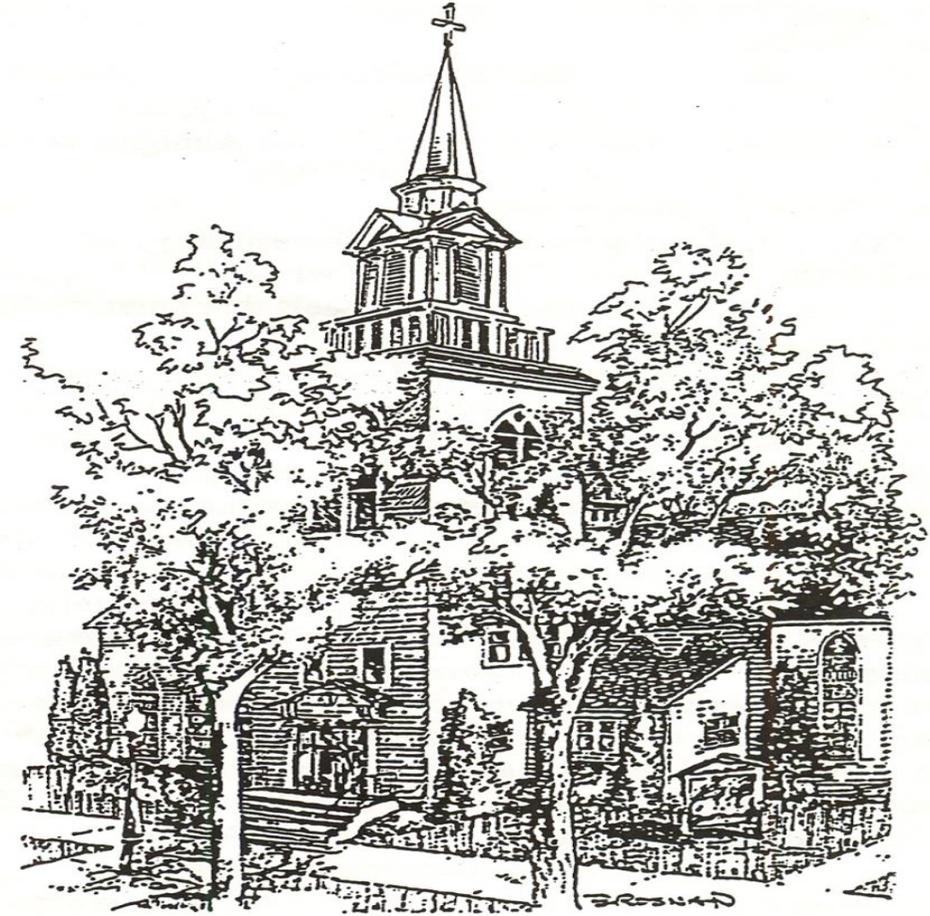
Tuesday, August 31: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Sunday, September 5: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion
Food Pantry
Coffee

Our Daily Bread for September, October, November is here. They may be picked up in the Fellowship entry.

The Kossuth Co. Food Pantry is in need of the following items: Hamburger helper, cans of corn, peas, mixed vegetables, peaches, pears mixed fruit, tuna, chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, cereal, cookies, instant potatoes and rice, small jars of peanut butter and jelly, pasta: spaghetti, macaroni wide egg noodles, bottles of juice, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, dish soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, toilet paper.

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Algona, Iowa



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