

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is A Stranger"  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 5, 2021

**PRELUDE**  
**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively)

One: We gather here to worship God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Many: We gather surrounded by God's Holy Spirit, who encourages us to walk faithfully with Jesus.**

One: Praise be to God, whose goodness and mercy fill our days.

**Many: Praise be to God, whose ways lead to peace and justice.**

**\*OPENING SONG:** "Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him" #17

**\*OPENING PRAYER** (prayed together)

God of abundant life, you want the best for your people around the globe. You bring healing, wholeness, and new life to all your children. On this day, may our eyes be open to the presence of Jesus in one another. May our ears be open to the needs of our community. May our hands be open to serve the forgotten. And may our hearts be open to receive your Holy Spirit along this faith journey. In the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.

**TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (prayed together)

How glibly we say we trust you, Holy One, and how quickly our fears silence our words. We find you at the side of the poor, while we cozy up to the rich and famous. You stand behind the counter serving the hungry at the soup kitchen, while we are stocking our freezers and pantries till they overflow. We look down at those whose hands are dirty, but your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love.

Forgive us, God, and do good to us when we have trouble doing good for others.

Surround us with your love; surround us with your grace; surround us with your peace; surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (read responsively)

One: Be strong, do not fear! God comes, to fill our parched souls with living water, to open our eyes to the grace which is ours.

**Many: God comes, for no other reason than to save us. This is indeed good news. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 146

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** UCC Statement of Faith (read together)  
(inside back cover of hymnal)

**\*GLORIA PATRI** #734

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE** Mark 7:24-37 read from *The Message*

**MESSAGE:** "Eat and Be Opened.....Again!" Pastor Chris

**GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE** Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

**SANCTUS**

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Thank you, Jesus, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**BRINGING OUR GIFTS**  
**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, thank you for these gifts. We offer them to you and ask that you bless them, that everyone may have all they need. We offer also, our very lives, asking that you bless us and use us, that all may come to know your steadfast love and your unending grace. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

**\*Closing Song**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

#712

**\*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are by Karin Ellis from the *Abingdon Worship Annual 2021* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from the United Church of Canada. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.

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

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September Radio Sponsor: John & Helen Scuffham

Birthdays: 9-1: Mark Williams

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

Monday, September 6: Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Thursday, September 9: 5-8 pm. – Mobile Mission at Public Safety Night

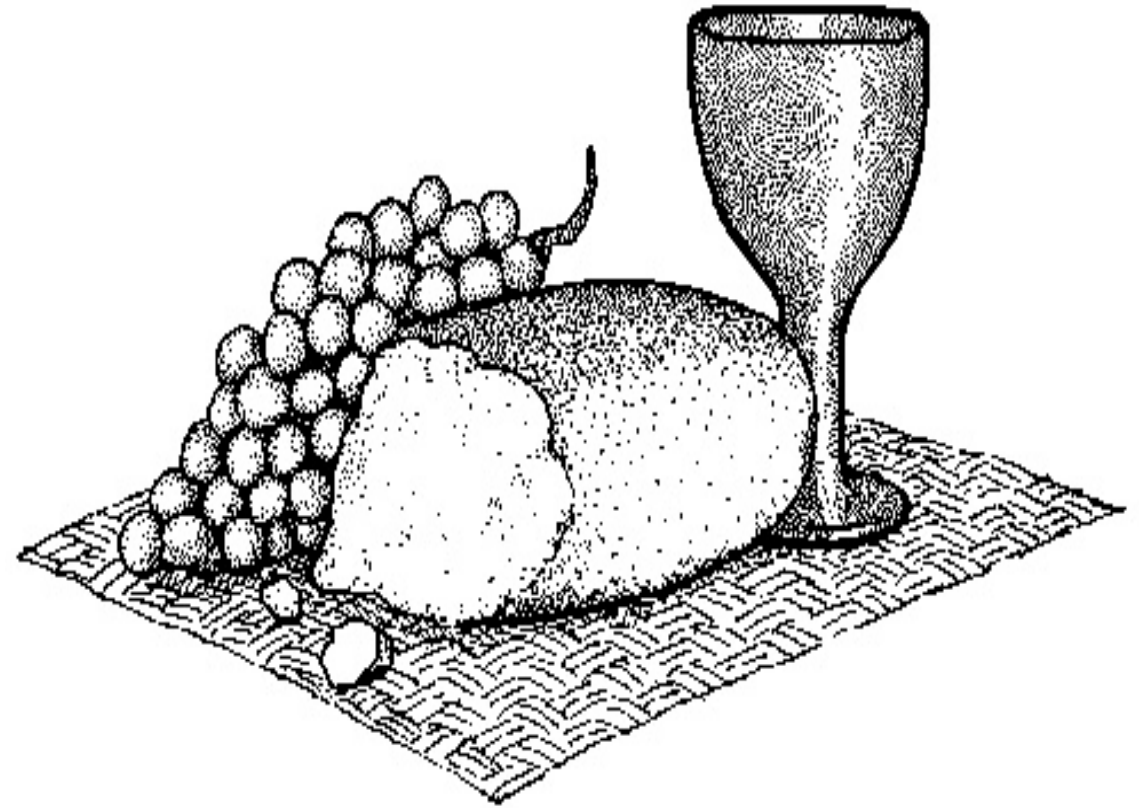
Sunday, September 12: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Coffee  
First Day of Sunday School  
Potluck after Worship

Sunday, September 19: 7 am – 12:30 pm. – Algona Rotary’s Annual Flight Breakfast at Algona  
Municipal Airport  
4 pm. - Service of Peace

We will be celebrating the sacrament of communion this morning. Everyone is welcome at the table. The inner ring is wine and outer ring is grape juice.

Today is Food Pantry Sunday. Donations of canned food, paper products and monetary donations are welcome. If you include your monetary donation with your offering be sure to mark the amount in the memo of your check.

Algona Community Blood Drive at First United Methodist Church, Monday, September 13, 12:30-5:30 pm. and Tuesday, September 14, 9 am -2 pm.



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