

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
“Where No One Is a Stranger”  
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
October 17, 2021

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Welcome! There are many places you could be this morning, but you have chosen to be here:

**Many: where we learn how to live in God's Kingdom.**

One: Welcome to this place - full of music, of words, of prayer – yet also filled with danger:

**Many: where we encounter a Wisdom we cannot always understand.**

One: Welcome to God's House, the most dangerous place in town:

**Many: where we talk about and with God, and are reduced to silence so we may hear the call to discipleship.**

One: Let's worship God!

### \*OPENING SONG

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

#31

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Source of all things, we cannot comprehend the marvels of the earth. You are so unknowable, yet evidence of your word is on every hand. The mystery of life in all its many forms, the discoveries we are allowed to make, the sweep of knowledge entrusted to our use, the amazing resources of this planet—all speak of a God who cares, who honors us, who provides for our salvation. Let this time of meeting honor you and equip us to do your will. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Creation's Heart, we look around and see how we fall short in our attempts at faithfulness. We often do things, not because it is what you call us to do, but in hopes of earning points with you. We can become so self-absorbed, we cannot see the suffering and struggles of friends, family, strangers. We are so desperate to get to the front of the line, we push aside the very ones you seek to honor.

Forgive us, Holy One. Remind us that the cup we are offered overflows with grace, that the waters of baptism cleanse and make us new, and that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is the One who calls us to service, standing by our side, as we seek to be faithful disciples. Amen.

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: The One who poured the foundations of creation fills us with grace and hope. The One who numbered the clouds, tips over rain barrels of living water into our parched souls.

**Many: The One who writes anthems for the early morning stars, fills us with songs of joy. The One who provides food for all living things, feeds us with mercies which come fresh and new each day. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**We believe in God the Creator, who created and is creating everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us; each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.**

**We believe in God the Christ, who saved and is saving everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us: each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who guided and is guiding everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us; each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit.**

**We believe that this one God in three persons, is present among us, working directly in our lives and the lives of all who are born into this world, striving to bring us back into harmony with all creation and with God: forgiving, healing, touching everyone, never rejecting any who willingly receive this freely offered gift of love and grace and eternal life. Amen.**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

#734

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Job 1-7, 34-41

read from *The Message*

### MESSAGE:

“Who Loves Ya, Job?”

Pastor Chris

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

## BRINGING OUR GIFTS

## OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Thank you, God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among people. Because you have blessed us, we have much to give. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully your own community. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG**

“This Is My Father’s World”

#21

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is by Lavon Bayler from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey* Edited by Ruth C. Duck. The Affirmation of Faith is by Lisa Frenz.

=====

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

=====

October Radio Sponsor: In Memory of Julie Buchanan’s birthday. (October 9)

**Birthdays:**

Today, October 17: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

Tuesday, October 19: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

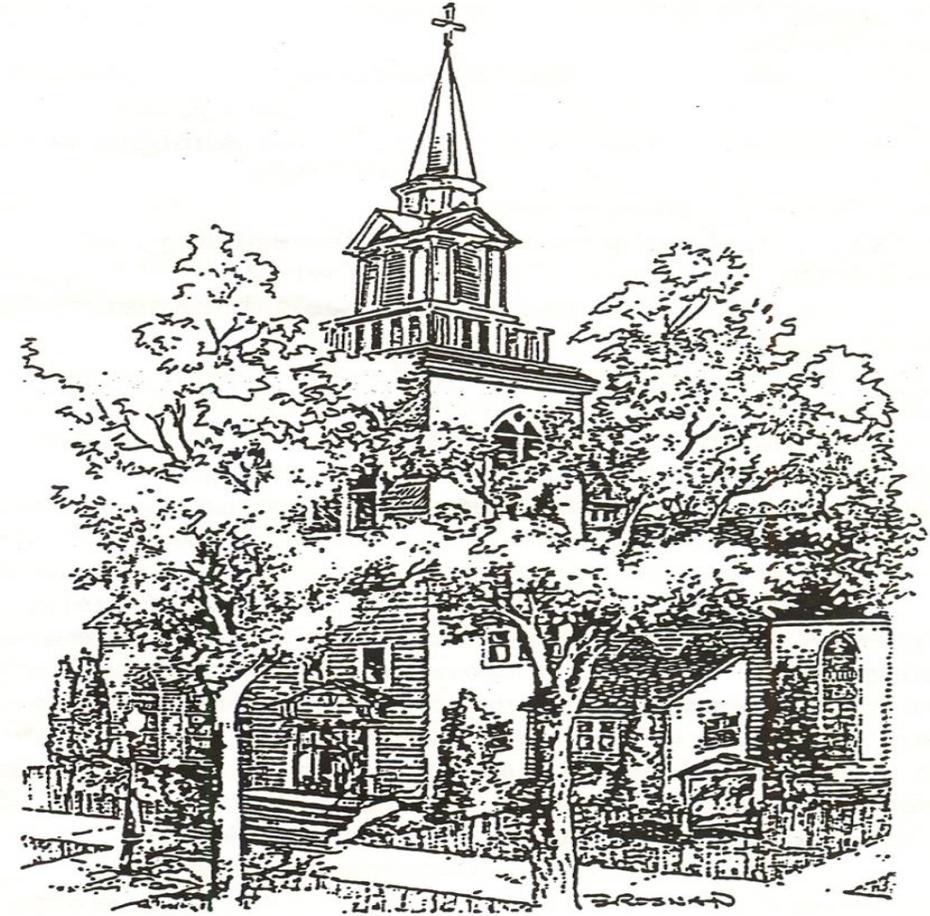
Sunday, October 17: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee

Sunday, October 24: use the 10 digits telephone number (515 + phone #) for all local calls!

Sunday, October 31: Congregational Meeting to approve the budget for the year 2022.  
5-6:30 pm.: **Trunk or Treat:** at 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church Parking lot. Donations needed: bags of individually wrapped pieces of candy or monetary donations toward non-candy, help for bagging popcorn, distributing flyers. There is a sign-up sheet for help.

Saturday, November 6: Set Clocks back before you go to bed! Day Light Savings ends

**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