

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST—ALGONA, IOWA
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 A.M. – September 18, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETING, GOOD NEWS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator God, divine artist, you fashion the universe with skill and beauty.

We praise you, God, we praise you!

Your steady eye and hand helps to shape us to have loving hearts.

We worship you, God, we worship you!

You accompany us, sustain us, and transform us in your way.

Shape us by your word, God. Help us to be your people.

* OPENING HYMN: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” #30

OPENING PRAYER

God Almighty, too often we see your wonderful world laid waste with injustice and indifference. Open us today to follow in the way that leads us back to your love. Teach us to serve you, that we may work for a world renewed. Amen.

BRIEF REFLECTION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Wholeness, we confess that sometimes our goals don't align with yours, and we get lost. At times we pursue power, knowledge, and wealth instead of focusing on you, who are the source of all. We know that you are the balm we need, and we turn ourselves toward you. You are steadfast in love and justice. Help us to be the same, and help us to be a balm for others as you are to us. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When we are genuine in coming to God with true repentance, God forgives us and welcomes us into grace.

Thanks be to God!

FIRST READING: Luke 16:10 - 16

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The purpose of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Algona, Iowa is to be an alive and growing family of faith in God, the God whom we know through Jesus Christ and who has given us in Jesus the image of what human life is meant to be.

We strive to mature in faith by encouraging the free exploration of our Christian beliefs so that our faith will be more relevant to our individual lives and to the society in which we live.

With friendship and understanding, we find strength in the diversity of the interests and backgrounds of our members. We welcome all persons who would seek with us answers to life's ultimate questions.

We take love to be the heart of the Gospel of Jesus and the unifying force in our church. Therefore, we celebrate God's love and blessings in worship. We nurture one another through acceptance, caring, and sharing. We reach out beyond ourselves to the needs of others, to promote justice and to witness to God's love.

In all that we do, we seek to continue our heritage of being a pioneering people in a changing world.

* GLORIA PATRI: “Glory Be to the Father ...” #734

SECOND READING: I Timothy 2: 1 – 8

MESSAGE: “Role Models” David Burrow

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Respond: Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS – OFFERTORY

* **DOXOLOGY:** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" #34

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Steadfast God, receive our gifts in the gladness that we give them. We thank you that we have an abundance of resources to share. May we always give from wide open hearts, and may what we give be used to help bring justice to the world. Amen.

* **HYMN:** "I Love to Tell the Story" #560

* **GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

POSTLUDE

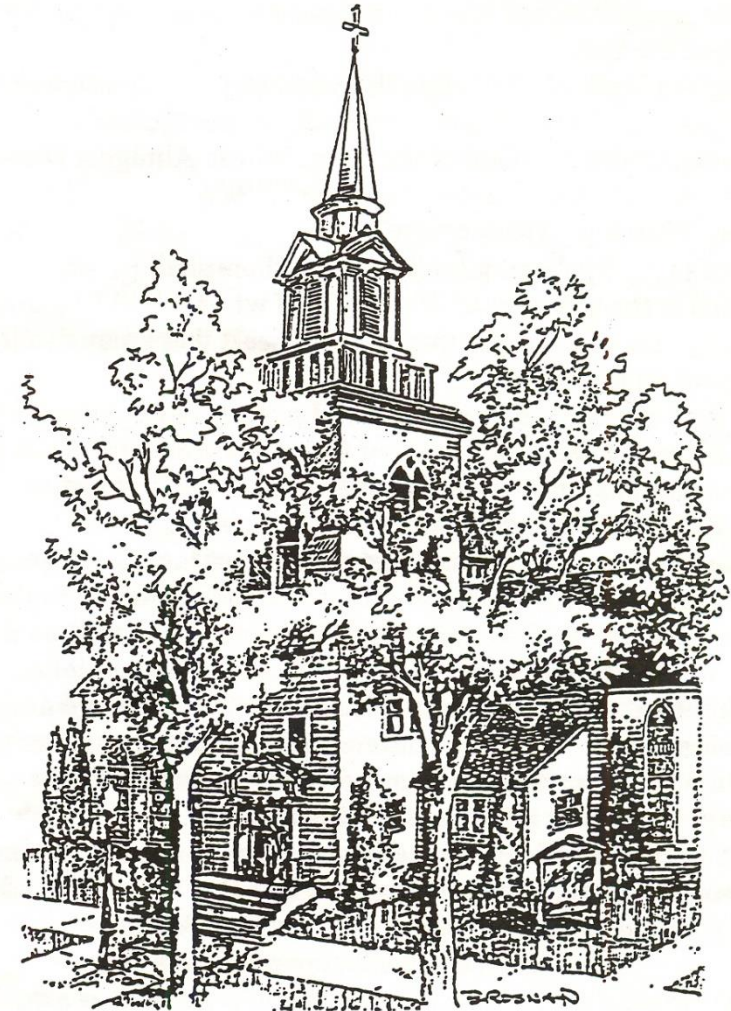
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Organist: Vicki Merchlewitz
Worship Leader: David Burrow
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burtnett
September Radio Sponsor: Connie Schwab
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- *Call to Worship by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, Unfolding Light Resources*
- *Opening Prayer from Ministry Matters*
- *Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Dedication from United Church of Christ Worship Ways*
- *Affirmation of Faith: Statement of Faith of First Congregational United Church of Christ – Algona, Iowa*

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During Rev. Burtnett's recovery, contact Mick Schlievert if there is a need for pastoral care. He will get in touch with Rev. Karen Dearchs.

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 - **The Church Board will meet Wednesday, September 21.**
 - **Newsletter articles are due by September 28.**
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**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



"Where No One Is A Stranger"