

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come, let's walk in God's ways.

Many: Let's listen for God's word.

One: We will dwell here in God's tent.

Many: We will sing God's praises.

Everyone: Let's worship God!

*OPENING SONG

“Come, Let Us Praise the Lord”

#9

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Come, Holy Wisdom, and show us your ways. In our confusing world, many voices demand our attention. Teach us to look with your eyes. Help us to walk humbly beside you—doing what is right, speaking your truth. You alone are our guide and guardian on paths of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

What have we done to you, dear God? We dishonor you every time we treat another with disrespect. We shatter your heart when we find it easier to break our word, than to take the risk to keep it. We fill your ears with the gossip, lies, and slander we speak about those around us.

You are wise enough to forgive our foolishness; you are strong enough to overcome our weakness; you are loving enough to heal the hurt we cause to you and to others. And so you give us new hope and new life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: What has God done to us - shown mercy! What has God done for us - forgiven us! This is the good news for us.

Many: We will not boast, for it is not our doing. We will give thanks to God for such grace and hope. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12

REAFFIRMATION of BELONGING

Invitation, Questions, Affirming Our Faith, Address, Question About Participation, Welcome and Reception, Greeting of Christian Love, Prayer

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Members of the local church who are able may stand and say the following or other words of welcome.

Pastor: Let us, the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Algona express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

*OUR STATEMENT of PURPOSE

inside front cover of the hymnal

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:1-8

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE

“Walking *With* God”

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** Words #44
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (prayed together)
Just God, we share our humble offering in hope and trust that, through these gifts, your kin-dom comes and your will is done. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “Rejoice in God’s Saints” #531

GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer are by Mary Petrina Boyd from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*.

=====

Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
January Radio Sponsor:	Pastor Chris and Pam Burtnett

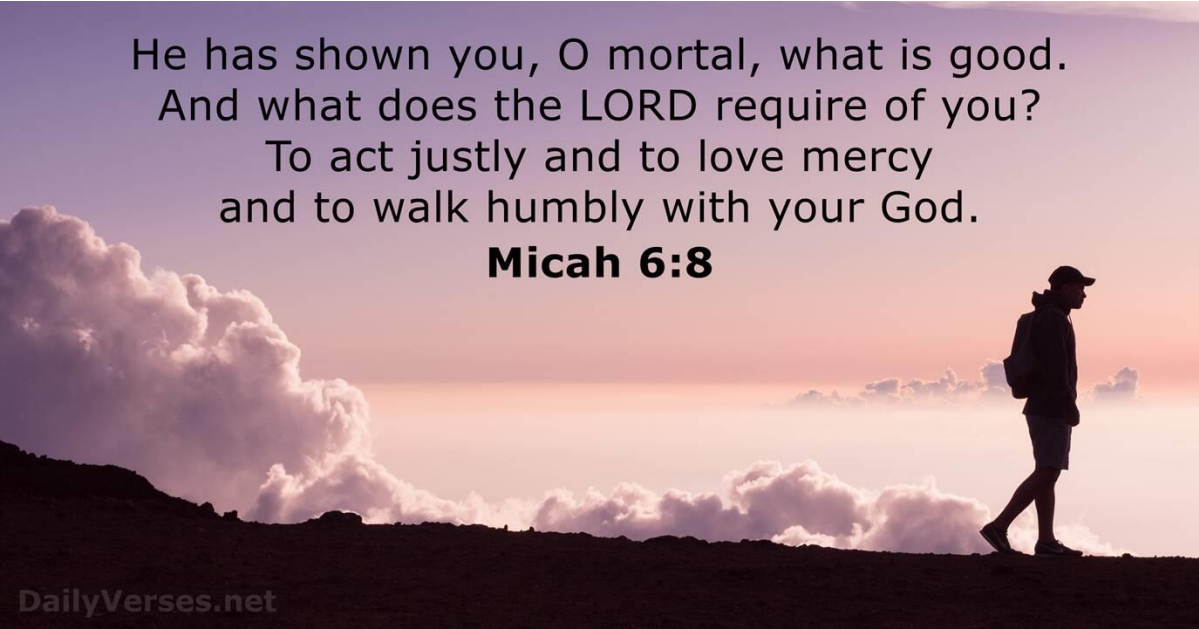
=====

Today, January 29: 10:00 am. – Worship
 Sunday School
 Coffee
 Annual Meeting
 Potluck after Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 31: 9:30-11am.- Pastor at Feed Mill

February 5: 10:00 am. – Worship with Sacrament of Communion
 Sunday School
 Coffee

Today, we welcome Kim Thilges into our 1st Congregational United Church of Christ family.
We will be collecting good used or new towels, blankets, etc. for the Care team for the month of January. If you would like to donate, please bring them to the church.
The monthly radio sponsor sign-up sheet for 2023 is posted on the bulletin board in the parlor.
The months that are open are: April, May, July, September, October and November.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*
315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845