

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 27, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Our help is in God,

Many: who calls us to worship.

One: Our hope is in love.

Many: that calls us to care.

One: Come, let us bring our full selves to worship.

Many: We bring our full love and care.

*Opening Song:

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

#501

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Gracious and loving God, bless us with your presence as we worship this morning. Bless us with your love as we grow and mature faith. Bless us with your guidance as we give ourselves to you, your church, and to your work in your world.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Renewing God, we confess that all too often we conform to this world. The voices we prioritize are far removed from you. We drown out your Still Speaking Voice with the noise of consumerism and commercialism. We ignore your gentle nudge in favor of our own desires and comfort. We fail to actively love our neighbor, care for your creation, or even honor ourselves as your divine crafting. We resist transformation through the renewing of our minds and settle for echo chambers of thoughts and ideas that deplete and deprive our souls of abundant life. Forgive us and continually challenge us to be the people you have empowered and equipped us to be.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The One who created us knows our struggles. God is still speaking, renewing, and transforming.

Many: God's grace is still sufficient and made new each and every day. God has faith in us and abides with us in the journey of new life and transformation. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven!

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-20

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus stays with us in the Spirit, who renews our hearts, moves us to faith, leads us in the truth, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant. The Spirit's gifts are here to stay in rich variety—fitting responses to timely needs.

We thankfully see each other as gifted members of the fellowship which delights in the creative Spirit's work. He gives more than enough to each believer for God's praise and our neighbor's welfare.

*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

Exodus 1:8-2:10

read from *The New Jerusalem Bible*

MESSAGE:

"Living With Fear"

Pastor Chris

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#34

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

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kingdom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world.

*Closing Song: "Forward Through the Ages" insert (sung to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers" #509)

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

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. Call to Confession (adapted) is from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is from *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*, Article 31, 33, ©1987, CRC Publications, Grand Rapids MI, 1-800-333-8300. In *Keeping in Step with the Spirit*, posted on the **Calvin Institute of Christian Worship**

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
August Radio Sponsor:	Becky Bibler

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Birthdays: August: 30-Laurie Zook; September 1-Mark Williams

Today, August 27: 10 am.- Worship
Coffee

Tuesday, August 29: 9:30-11:30am: Pastor at Feed Mill

Sunday, September 3: 10:00 am. – Worship with Communion
Coffee
Food Pantry

Sunday School will begin on September 10.

Peace Pole Service will be Sunday, September 17 at 4pm. with serve soft ice cream & toppings to follow.

International Delight-Cuban Night will be Wednesday, September 20.

If anyone has some time, the rooms in the lower half of fellowship hall need to be put back in order from painting.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
165 Years*

315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845

Forward Through the Ages

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
manifold in service, one the sure reward.

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Wide grows God's dominion, reign of love and peace;
for it we must labor, till all strivings cease.
Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified,
poets sung its glory, martyrs for it died.

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
in each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal.

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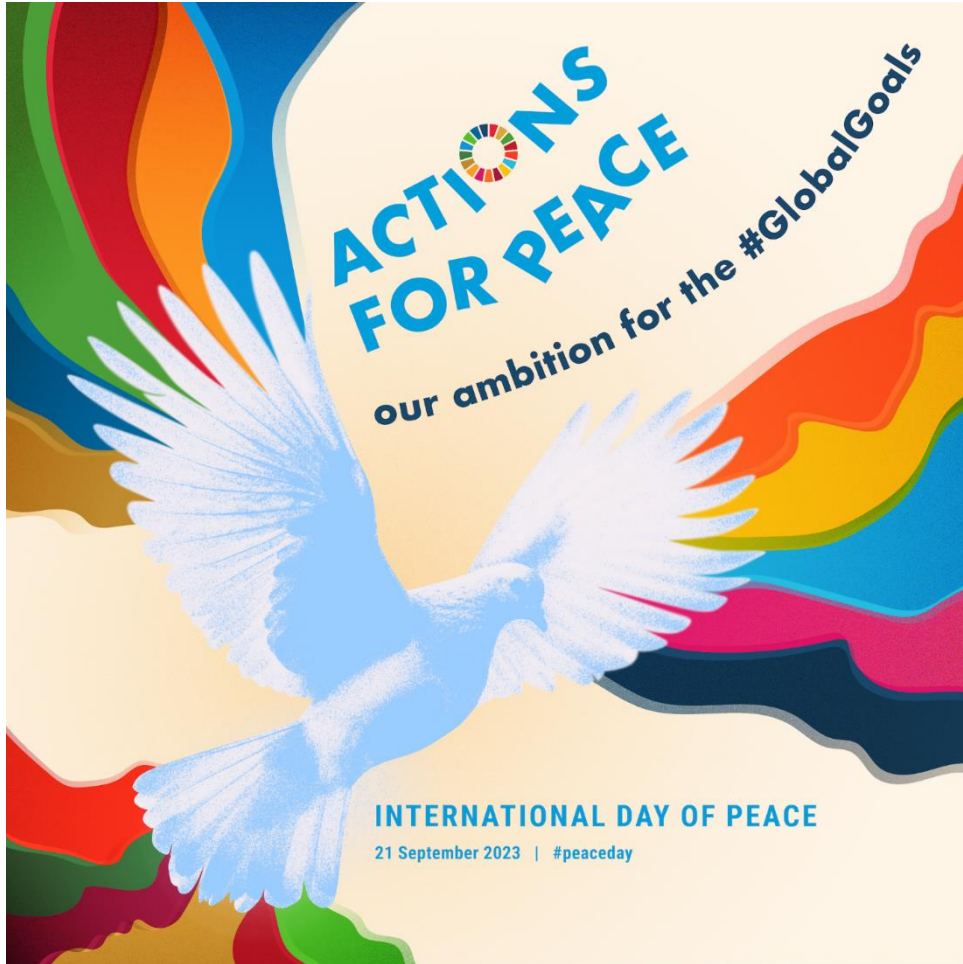
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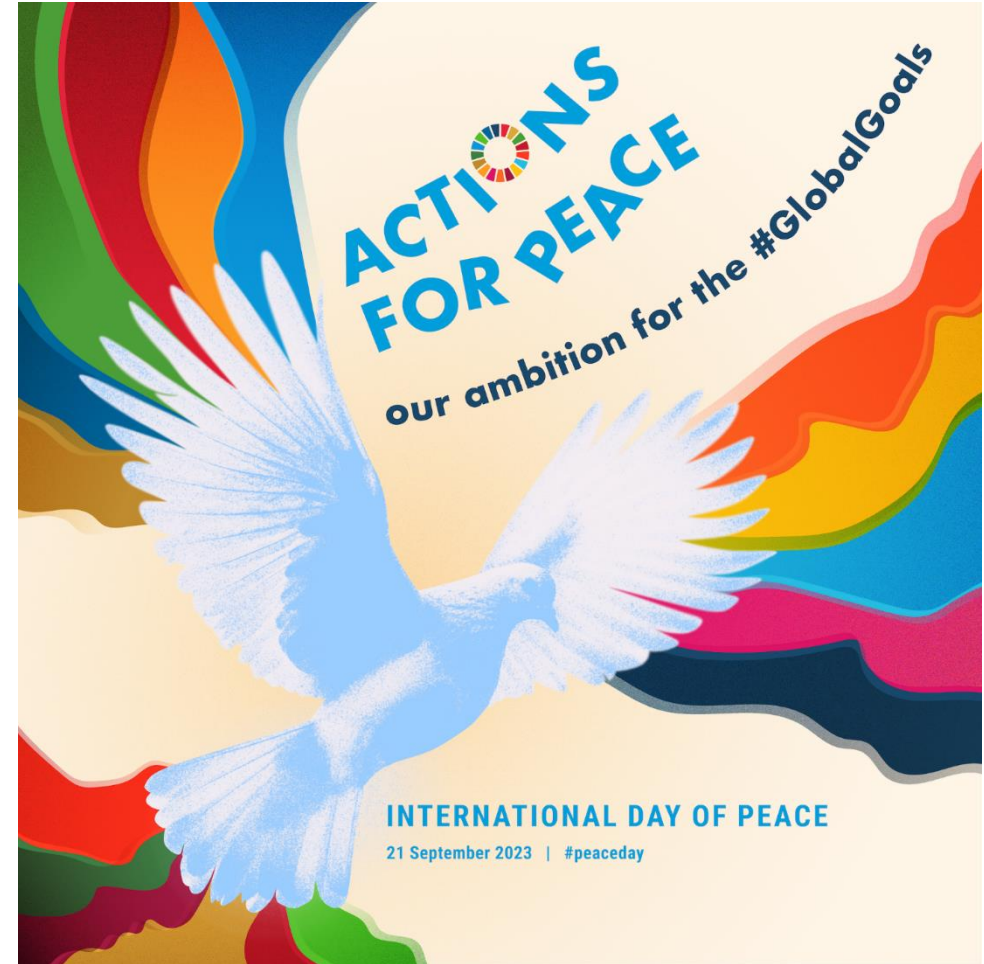
Peace Pole Celebration

Sunday, September 17 at 4:00pm.

1st Congregational United Church of Christ, 315 South Moore St.
Algona, IA.

Following the service soft serve ice cream & toppings will be served.

Please bring your own lawn chair.



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