

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 4, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Lead a life worthy of your calling.

Many: We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.

One: Lead a life filled with the gifts of your calling, gifts to be used with service and meekness.

Many: We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.

One: Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

Many: We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.

One: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

Many: We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.

*Opening Song:

"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

#598

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Gracious God, we give thanks for your presence among us. In the chaos of our lives, you provide calm, healing, and sanctuary. Inspire us to be transformed as you immerse us in your everlasting love and relentless presence. Your Spirit fills the atmosphere as we gather in your name from pew to park and from sanctuary to sofa. Open our receptivity to your word and enflame our imagination of and participation in your kingdom on earth. May it be so. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Compassionate One: it is not easy for us to confront those deeds which do not please you. We are so busy looking for the miracles we desire, we cannot see the gift of your presence in others. We are so intent on indulging our appetites and slaking our thirsts,

we cannot taste that Bread which gives life. We spend so much of our lives bemoaning the acts of others, we have no time to look in the mirror and see our secret faces. Forgive us, Steadfast Love. Grace us with your mercy, so we might be made whole. Touch our inner being and heal us, so we might know joy and gladness. Create new hearts within us, so they might beat as one with each other, and with your Son, our Savior, Jesus.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Despite knowing our sin, God chooses to forgive us; seeing our emptiness, God chooses to feed us; holding our shattered hearts, God chooses to heal us. This is the good news: God loves us.

Many: God has graced us with mercy and created new life from our brokenness. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 4:1-16 from *The Message*

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

inside back cover of hymnal

(read together)

*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

John 6:24-35

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Real Bread"

Pastor Chris

Communion Song:

"Gather Us In"

#649

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors), 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:

Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in this holy feast. May we know the presence of Jesus among us. Take us from this table, raised and restored, ready not to be served but to serve, in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

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**

Generous God, thank you for these gifts and the privilege of giving. Increase our collective resources that we might serve your kindom and bring honor to your name. Amen.

***Closing Song:** "Guide Me, O thou Great Jehovah" #501

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: 2 Sam. 11:26-12:13a and Psalm 130

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication are written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is by Rev. Stephanie Perdew, from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
August Radio Sponsor:	Becky Bibler

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Birthdays: August 8-Chris Burtnett; 10-Todd TerHark

Sunday, August 4: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion

Coffee

Food Pantry

Sunday, August 11: 10:30am – Worship – David Burrow Leading Worship

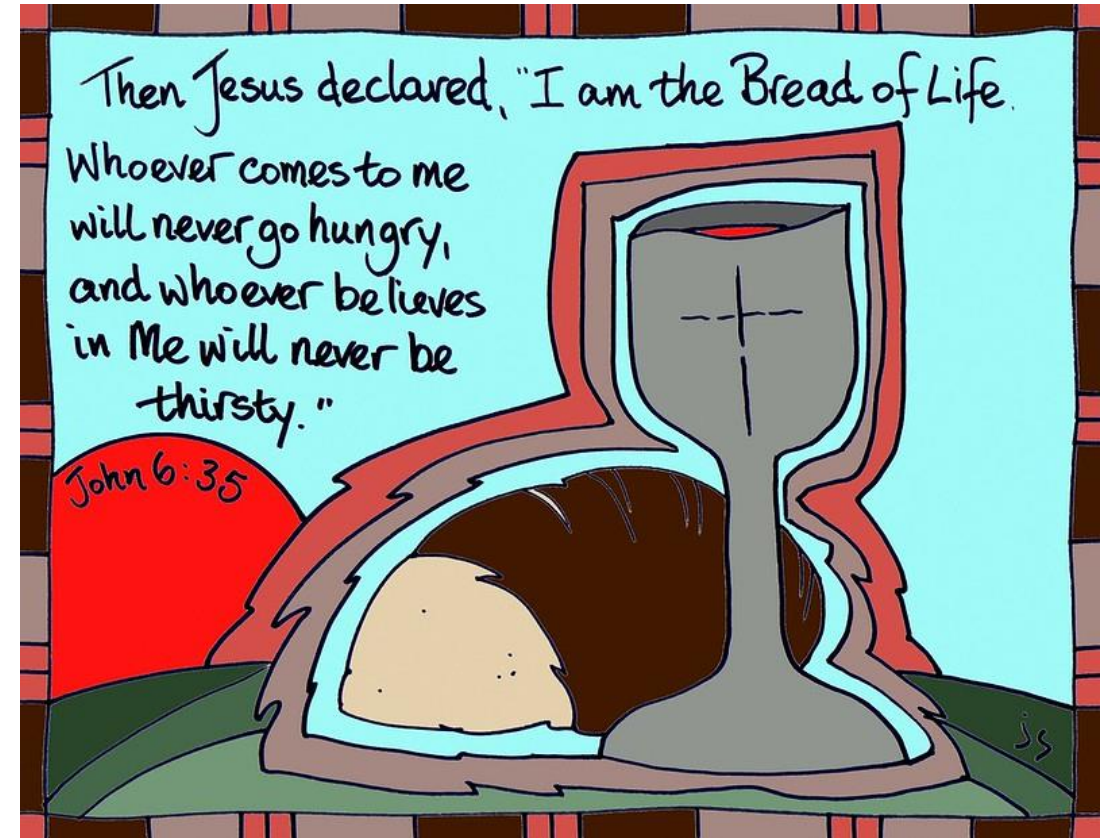
Coffee

August 9: Algona Community Blood Drive 9am-2pm at 1st Lutheran Church

August 10: Wedding of Christine Burtnett and Chad Wile at Pilgrim Heights

Pastor Chris will be on vacation starting August 5 and will be back in the Office on August 20.

If you need pastoral assistance, please call Dave Skilling at 319-290-2302.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

166 Years

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