

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 8, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Those who trust in God are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever.

Many: Surround us, God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

One: We stretch out our hands and our hearts reaching for God’s goodness and righteousness.

Many: Surround us, God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

One: May God lead us on good paths and make us agents of peace.

Many: Surround us, God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

*Opening Song: “Come and Find the Quiet Center” #477

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

We place our trust in you, God, for your love and faithfulness are steadfast and true.

Breathe your Holy Spirit into our worship and your very presence into our lives, that our love and faithfulness may be steadfast and true. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How glibly we say we trust you, Holy One, and how quickly our fears silence our words. We find you at the side of the poor, while we cozy up to the rich and famous.

You stand behind the counter serving the hungry at the soup kitchen, while we are stocking our freezers and pantries till they overflow. We look down at those whose hands are dirty, but your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love.

Forgive us, God, and do good to us when we have trouble doing good for others.

Surround us with your love; surround us with your grace; surround us with your peace; surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus, our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Be strong, do not fear! God comes, to fill your parched souls with living water, to open your eyes to the grace which is yours.

Many: God comes, for no other reason than to save us. This is indeed good news. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 7:24-37

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: inside front cover of the hymnal (read together)

* GLORIA PATRI: “Glory Be to the Father” #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: James 2:1-10, 14-17 read from *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: “Playing Favorites” Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #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

Through these gifts and offerings, bless your world, God. Through our lives and our actions, bring love to your creation, that all may know your presence and live in your grace. Amen.

* CLOSING SONG: “Help Us Accept Each Other” #596

*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Proverbs 1:22-1-2,22-23 and Psalm 125

The Call to Worship(adapted) is 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 Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is our Algona UCC Statement of Purpose.

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Organist: Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader: David Burrow
Pastor: Rev. Chris Burtnett
September Radio Sponsor: Shelly and Todd TerHark
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Sunday, September 8: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Potluck

Tuesday, September 10: 9am- Committee on Ministry Zoom Meeting
10:30am. -Pastor at Feed Mill

Thursday, September 12: 8:30am.- Ministerial in Fellowship Hall
5pm. – Mobile Mission at Public Safety Night at Fair grounds

Sunday, September 15: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Sunday, September 22: 4pm.- Peace Pole Gathering

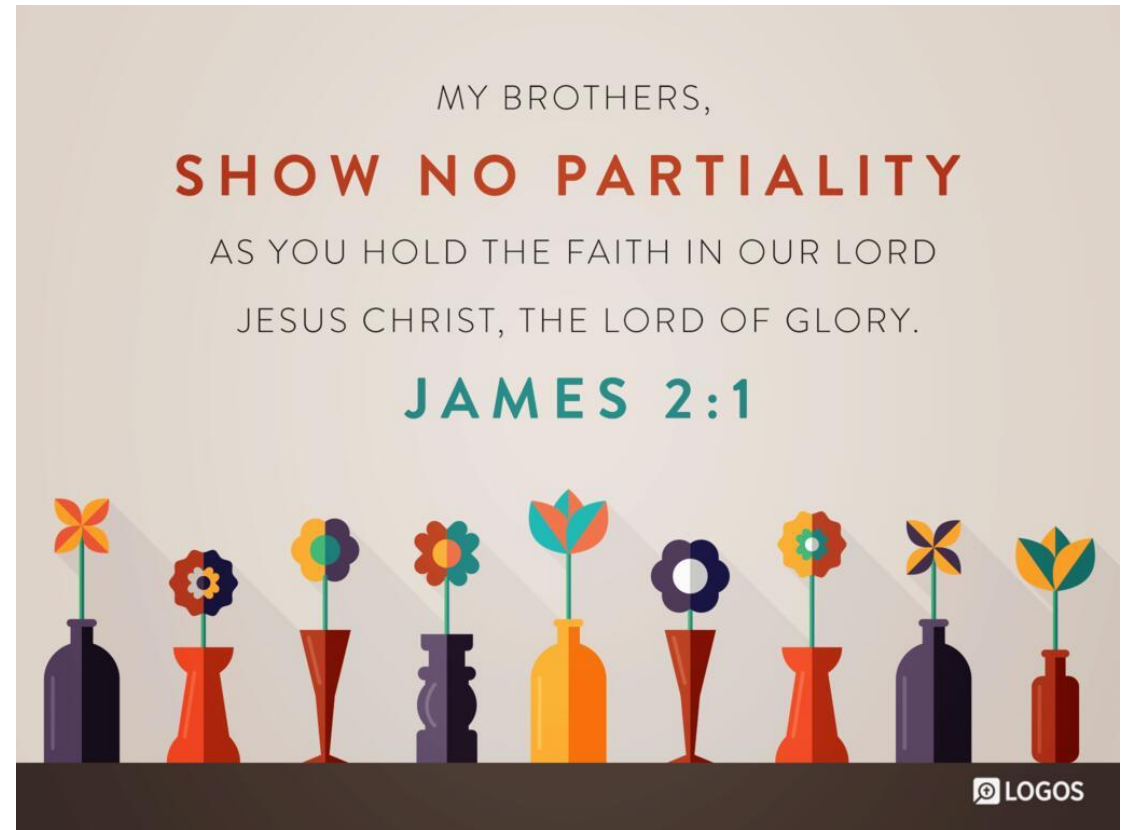
Sunday, September 29: ASK Meeting after worship in Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 9: 7pm. -Associate Conference Minister Kendy Miller will be here to help us with our ASK process. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The September, October, November issue of *Our Daily Bread* and the Led By the Spirit - 10 Reflections of *Our Daily Bread* may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.

Meals on Wheels: September 3-16, we have two routes. Thank you to all who are able to help with this ministry.

Our cookie supply is getting low. If anyone is doing any baking and would like to share some bars or cookies, that would be great. Thank you.



*First Congregational
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