

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 10, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: We are people who have been called to follow where God leads us.
Many: By faith we can obey, even when asked to walk into an unknown future.
One: We are people who have been challenged to tell God's story to others.
Many: By faith we have the ability to share the good news.
One: We are God's children who are invited to feast at the Table of grace.
Many: By faith we will embrace our sisters, brothers, and siblings in Christ.

*OPENING SONG: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #72

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Wonderful God, set your kingdom before us anew. Dwell with us as we bring our songs and prayers, our hopes and hesitations, our faith and our disbelief before you. Demonstrate your kingdom to us and through our time of gathering so that we may be firm and steadfast in love and action to make your way known. Reveal the path you trail before us so that we may follow you clearly without distraction or detour. May your Spirit enliven, challenge, and guide us in all things and for all days. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have a vision of all people as your beloved children, Imaginative God, but we see folks whose language, dress, and skin make them different. You have a vision of a universe filled with goodness and beauty, and we damage it with litter, with violence, with poor choices. You have a vision of a Table where we can feast on your grace and hope, but we line up at the fast food counters of sin and greed. Forgive us, Visionary of Mercy, as we confess that we are not "insiders" but immigrants searching for our true home. By faith, may we be willing to be as gracious, as

compassionate, and as hopeful as you are. You love us enough to want us to be with you forever, so may we take the hand of our Savior, Jesus, who leads us into your kingdom.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: There is nothing to fear. God's hope is more tenacious than our despair; God's joy is more resilient than our grief; God's love is more compelling than our hate.
Many: By grace, we are gathered to God. By faith, we rest in God's promises of forgiveness and restoration. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SACREMENT OF BAPTISM: For Ida Karine Brandt

BAPTISM SONG “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” #677

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 12:32-40

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (read together)

We belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of the gifts in this life and the gifts in our own hearts. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.
We follow Jesus, whom God sent to teach and heal, to show us a new way of living, with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity. In this faith Jesus gave of himself, even his very life. He was crucified and buried; yet God raised him from death, and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us.
We live by that Holy Spirit, and entrust ourselves to its guidance and empowerment. As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

* 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: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 read from *The New Jerusalem Bible*

MESSAGE: “By Faith” 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**
Generous God, as we bring our gifts, we ask for you to receive them and endow us with
wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of your abundant blessings. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: “How Firm a Foundation” #411

*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ

POSTLUDE

*Indicates all who are able please stand
The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted), and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.
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Organist/Pianist:	Alicia Miller
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
August Radio Sponsor:	Becky Bibler

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Sunday, August 10: 10:30am- Worship with Sacrament of Baptism
Coffee
2-4pm.- Community Open House for Pastor Chris and Pam Burtnett
Tuesday, August 12: 9:30am. - Pastor at Feed Mill; 6pm.-Food Pantry Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 13: 6pm Legacy Meeting; 7pm. Board Meeting
Sunday, August 17: - 10:30am-Worship with Communion, Baptism, and Service of Release
Coffee
Associate Conference Minister Kendy Miller will be present
Potluck following service at Christian and Ashley Grindberg residence
Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00 - 7:45 PM- English classes meet in the Community Connections Center.
We celebrate with to Calvin, Kjerstin Brandt and big brother Luther on the Baptism of Ida Karine Brandt. Her sponsors are Christian Grindberg and Karine Feddersen. God’s Blessings to all.



*First Congregational
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167 Years
315 Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2845*