

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is a Stranger"  
Third Sunday after Pentecost  
June 18, 2023

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

## RECOGNITION of MAHANA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: On an ordinary Sunday, we come to worship God:

**Many: we come, trusting God will speak to us; we come, hoping God will surprise us.**

One: On this day, like every other day, we seek to follow Jesus:

**Many: we follow, believing Jesus will be with us; we follow, hoping Jesus will work through us.**

One: On this day, we lift our souls to God's Spirit:

**Many: we open our hearts, that the Spirit may fill us; we open our hands, that we might be a gift to others.**

### \*OPENING SONG

"The God of Abraham Praise"

#16

### \*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Loving God, you remind us that the kingdom of heaven has come near. Open our eyes, our faith, our hearts, that we may perceive and celebrate your presence. Give us eyes, to see you at our doorsteps, as you promise unimaginable joy. Give us the faith to trust your eternal and unfailing love. Give us hearts empowered by your Son, Jesus, to show your compassion to the harassed and the helpless. We ask in the name of Jesus, who reconciles us to you and sends us out to be your reconciliation in the world.

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

How easily we pat ourselves on the back, Listening Love, for the lives we lead. We welcome the praise of others, but have little compassion for those who have failed us. We assume that a comfortable life is our birthright, yet believe poor choices produce suffering for those around us. We boast of the good we do, but forget to thank you for all that you have given to us.

Forgive us, Companion of Compassion, for breaking your heart, and disappointing your hopes for us. As we seek to follow your Child, may we be found with those whose lives

are barren, with those who know little laughter in their day, with those who have received no love from others - for in their presence, we will find Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

## A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Listen to the good news - the kingdom of God is very near. As close as a child's laughter, as embracing as a father's love, as enfolding as a mother's caress.

**Many: We are God's people: called, that we may follow; gifted, that we may serve; forgiven, that we might bring hope. Thanks be to God.**

## SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 9:35-10:8

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

**We believe in God, the Root of all living, Creator of all things.**

**We live in Christ Jesus, God's Son, who loved all people and who makes us one in his love. He suffered and died, and was raised to new life. In his death and resurrection, we are also raised to life that is transformed. Christ is our Vine, and we are his branches; and without him we cannot live.**

**We live by the Holy Spirit, flowing through us so that we may bear fruit for God, the fruit of love. In the Spirit we are one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.**

**We trust in the one holy church, the communing of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the mystery of resurrection, and the grace of eternal life.**

### \*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

Genesis 21:1-7

read from the *Good News Bible*

## MESSAGE

"Last Laughs"

Pastor Chris

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

## 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)  
**Generous God, may these gifts glorify your spirit and meet the needs of your Kingdom. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray.**

**\*CLOSING SONG** “The Summons” #350

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

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

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Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett

Lector:

Organist: Vicki Merchlewitz

June Radio Sponsor: Helen Scuffham

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Birthdays: June: 21 Meredith Hines; 26-Corbin Habeger; 28-Lance Zook

Today, June 18: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Coffee  
Father’s Day

Tuesday, June 20: 9:30-11am. -Pastor at Feed Mill

Wednesday, June 21:5-7pm. – 165<sup>th</sup> year celebration with pulled Pork Meal for the Care Team

Sunday, June 25: 10:00 am. – Worship  
Coffee

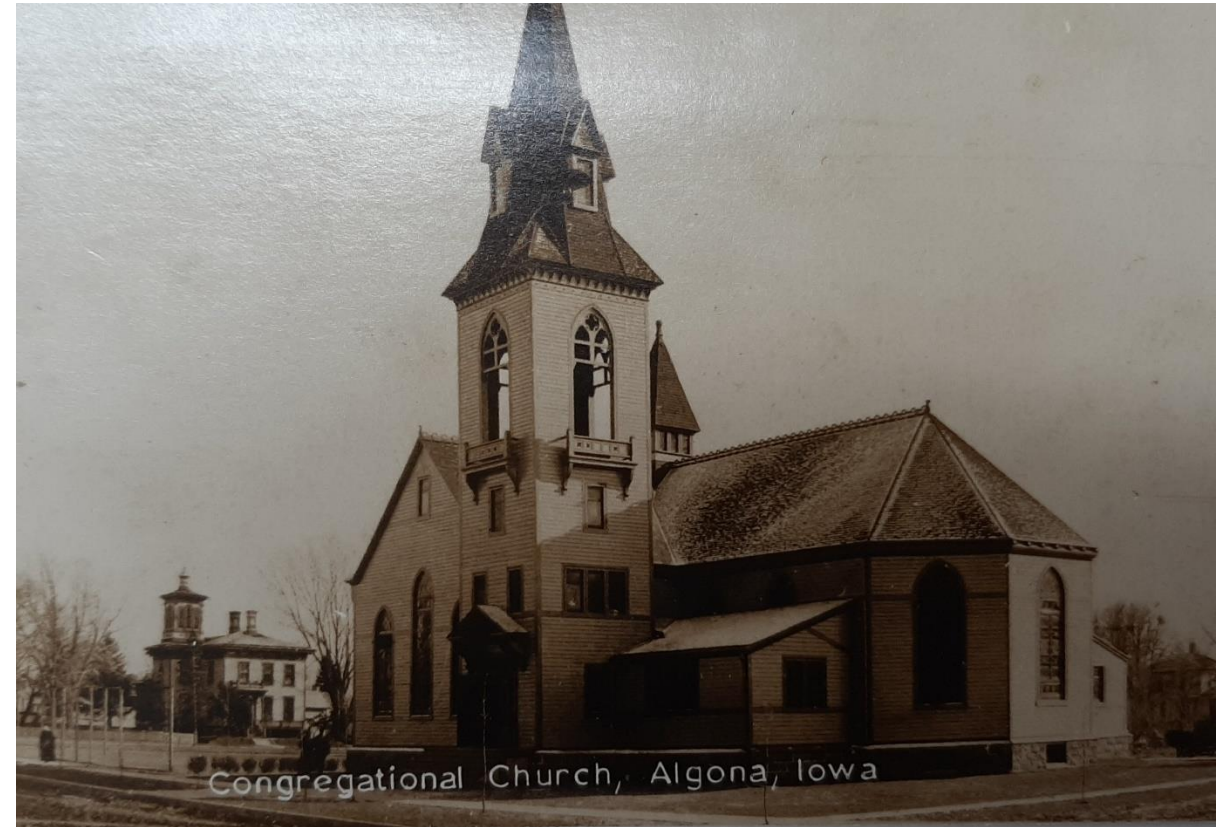
The United Church of Christ has designated Sunday, June 25 as Open and Affirming Sunday and is also the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Christ

Sunday June 25: There will be a Congregational Meeting after worship. This is to inform the Congregation about the ASK (Ask, Seek, Know) process.

**Help will** be needed on Wednesday, June 21, as we celebrate our 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Church with a BBQ Pork meal as a Fundraiser for the Care Team. We will need help with serving, setting up and other duties. If you are willing to help for all or part of the evening please call the church office or e-mail to let us know. [algucc@netamumail.com](mailto:algucc@netamumail.com) or [uccalg@netamumail.com](mailto:uccalg@netamumail.com), church office # 515-295-2845 please leave a message if we are not in the office.

**If anyone** wants to “play” in the dirt (help weed the gladiolas) at the Scuffham farm, let Helen know when you are able to come out to the farm. Please call her cell phone to set up a time at 515-341-4879.

Our Daily Bread June/July/August and the special Juneteenth devotional are available on the cart in the entry way to the Education/Office/Fellowship Hall building.



**Celebrating 165 Years**