

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
165 Years*

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

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Twentieth-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday
November 12, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come, let's gather to know God and rejoice before our creator.

Many: **We know that God is beyond all our false images.**

One: Come to give joyous expression to a growing faith.

Many: **We choose to serve the God whom Jesus revealed.**

One: Let's gather to welcome the light God promises us.

Many: **We have come to worship and respond with faithful service.**

*Opening Song:

"Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

#11

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Wise and Loving God, your presence illuminates our path. Shine your light into dim spaces so that we do not stray from your teaching. Help us discern what you are calling us, your church, to do and be in this moment in time. Give us urgency to be good news in the world and for our neighbors. Let your glory reign among us and your Spirit lead us into truth, justice, and love. For your name and in your name, we pray.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

It is never easy to admit how foolish we are, Approaching God. You have chosen us for yourself, and we continue to shelter false gods in our hearts. You promise to be with us in every moment, but we can find little time for you. You send your Word to us, but we are too busy listening to the noise of our culture to pay attention.

Have mercy, Eternal One, and forgive us. Speak to us, so we might listen, and in hearing be transformed into your people. Fill us with holiness, so we might give

ourselves wholly to others. Enable us to serve you faithfully and completely, even as did our Savior, Jesus.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This is our assurance: God forgives us. This is our hope: God's love is everlasting. This is our truth: God is with us always.

Many: We will speak the truth; we will live the hope; we will share God's mercy. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 78:1-7

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH inside the front cover of the hymnal

*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 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE: "Children of a Greater God" Pastor Chris

Prayers of The People/The Lord's Prayer (with debts/debtors)

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

Discerning God, receive our offerings and gifts for your kindom. Let them be a blessing to those in need of encouragement, material goods, and evidence of your presence among us. Magnify them beyond our imagining and grant us insight into the possibilities before us for ministry and witness. We are grateful to give. Amen.

*Closing Song: "Come, All Christians, Be Committed" #459

*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ

*Indicates all who are able please stand

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from *Led By Love-Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication are 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 Affirmation of Faith is our 1st Congregational United Church of Christ of Algona, Statement of Purpose.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
November Radio Sponsor	Connie Schwab

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Birthdays: November 12-Liz Fehr; 15-Charlotte Reynolds

Sunday, November 12: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Tuesday, November 14: 9am Committee on Ministry Zoom Meeting
10:30am-Noon 11am. – Pastor at Feed Mill
6:30pm.- Food Pantry Board meeting

Wednesday, November 15: 8:30am. Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 19: 10:00am- Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Congregational Meeting to adopt the 2024 budget.
Thanksgiving Potluck

Pledge Cards are included in your bulletin today, please return them to the church office by December 3, attention Sandy Harmes-Buchanan.

Tuesday, November 28: December/January Newsletter deadline

November 27- Tacos for Tots at First United Methodist Church by the Kossuth County C.A.R.E Team and Loving Hands