



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 13, 2024
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to Congregational UCC. We are glad that you are here this morning. While we affirm that God speaks to us in many ways, we ask that you silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary. Please use the time during the prelude to quietly prepare for worship.

“The assumption that liberal religion has run out of gas and that liberal synagogues and churches are dying is simply absurd...[T]he problems are real enough and there are plenty of trouble spots, but everywhere in America one can find liberal places of worship that are serving an example to others—congregations that are spiritually serious, religiously vibrant, communally aware, and committed to love of justice and love of God.”

Rabbi Eric Yoffie

PRELUDE “

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anna Mary Mueller, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sisters and brothers—Arise.
Arise and lift your hearts
Arise and lift your eyes
Arise and lift your voices.

**The living God,
the living, moving Spirit of God
has called us together—
in witness and in celebration.**

Reach out towards each other,
for our God reaches out towards us!
Let us worship God!

***HYMN 483, vs. 1-3** “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

**Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!**

**What God’s almighty power hath made
God’s gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God’s watchful eye ne’er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God’s might,
Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother’s tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**We come to you this day, O God, as we are.
We are disturbed by the news.
We are frustrated by all that is left undone.
We are afraid of what the coming days will bring.
We are worried about people nearby and people far away.
We come into your presence seeking your light, your peace, and your grace. We ask you to**

**clear our minds so we may think
calm our hearts so we may rest
and refresh our spirits so we may meet the challenges of this coming week.**

As we worship, grant us a sense of your love and strength that will sustain us this day and in the days ahead. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#483, vs. 4)

**Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!**

ANTHEM

“O Taste and See”

Ralph Vaughan Williams

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Response

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

*Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*PSALM HYMN 241

“Behold the Goodness of Our Lord”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20

SERMON **“Title to Come Later”**

*HYMN 435 **“We Are All One in Mission”**

**We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

**We all are called for service, to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.**

**Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “

Cover Graphic—designed by Congregational UCC member, Robyn Hepker, for this year’s stewardship theme, “Giving Together. Growing Together.”

Call to Worship from the World Council of Churches

Opening Prayer by R. J. Thomas

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Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Interim Director of CE:	Hope Spragg
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director:	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children’s Choir Director:	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager:	Jenn Harden

WE’RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

❖ Choir Rehearsal

TODAY
9:00 am

Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 am

TUESDAY

❖ Membership Board	5:30 pm
Diaconate	7:00 pm
Trustees	7:00 pm
Stewardship (Zoom)	7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Special Music Choir Rehearsal	11:35 am
Red Cedar Chamber Music	3:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: Our Office Manager, Jenn Harden, will be out of the office tomorrow, Monday, October 14.

GIVING TOGETHER. GROWING TOGETHER: The Christian life is lived together. We gather to worship, we work with each other in mission, we study in groups, we bear one another’s burdens, and we talk and laugh together over coffee. We give together. We grow together. During worship this month members of our congregation will talk about why they give to support all that we do together. We will look ahead to the coming year and new opportunities and new possibilities.

ADULT EDUCATION ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13: “Not Quite Predestined: Election Polling in the US.” Sam Harper, a doctoral candidate in Political Science at UI will look at political polling: how the industry operates, how to read polls, how prediction models like Nate Silver’s work, and how polling operations have changed in the past decade. Join us in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 a.m.

ADULT EDUCATION LOOKS AT THE ELECTION NEXT SUNDAY AT 9:15 AM: UI professor of political science and Congregational UCC member, Caroline Tolbert, will lead a discussion of the upcoming 2024 presidential elections and competitive congressional elections, including District 1 in Iowa (our district). It will discuss the battleground states and competitive House and Senate races. It will discuss public opinion polling, polling predictions (538), and money spent in the 2024 election (i.e. open secrets). It will discuss the unique challenges to this election, including misinformation and conspiracy theories, low trust in government, legal challenges, wide variation in voting laws across the states, natural disasters, and other factors. Because of the extensive use of mail voting ballots and possible election audits, it is likely the results of the election may not be known for several weeks after the November 5th election. This is an informative session presented from a nonpartisan perspective.

UI HOMECOMING FUN—OCTOBER 24 AND BEFORE

The Mission Board will sell cookies and warm drinks during the U of I Homecoming Parade Friday, October 25. Would you like to help organize our sale of hot chocolate and cider? We are also asking for donations of one dozen homemade cookies or bars that are \$1 (larger) size. Items do not need to be individually wrapped but please bring a display card labeling what type and if they contain peanuts or tree nuts. Baked goods may be dropped off in the kitchen between 9-1 or 5-5:45 the day of Homecoming. We also need volunteers to sell the cookies and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or you can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944ACA82FA7FDC16-cookies#/>

OUR NEXT HOPE LODGE DINNER will be Monday, November 18. For those who would like to provide food there is a sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. Others are welcome to eat dinner and visit with residents. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m.

INTERGENERATIONAL MEET-UP AT THE HARVEST PRESERVE. Save the date, November 9 from 2-4. Join the CE Board for snacks at the pond house and an optional walk through the woods to the Harvest Stone Circle. And watch for more details!

SHARE THE HARVEST: Following the lead of earlier church members, John Fuller and Kathy Fait have been bringing flowers and vegetables during the growing season for over 20 years. This year Andy Bertolatus and Diane Atkins shared their cucumbers and tomatoes. In past years Bob and Gloria Hanson brought lovely apples from their Wisconsin farm, and other members shared their garden produce. A free-will donation is requested for the bouquets, apples, kale, tomatoes, basil, peppers, and other veggies. This year the donations, which reflect the the generous giving from our congregation, will be sent to the CommUnity Food Bank. As of October 6, your efforts have raised over \$580 to fight food insecurity in our community.

THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION IS HAVING THEIR ANNUAL FRIEND AND FUND RAISER at the Unitarian Universalist Society, Nov. 20, 6:00-8:30. The church has purchased a table for 10 and a table for 7. All you need to do is tell Jenn Harden (319-337-4301) or Donna Hirst that you'd like to attend. If you would like to be a volunteer (likely serving food), let Donna know: donna-hirst@uiowa.edu. You can make an individual donation by giving a check to Bea Hicks, JCIC Treasurer.

THE JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH COALITION AGAINST CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM is showing the film, *Bad Faith* at the Coralville Public Library on this afternoon at 1:30.

FUN AND FROLIC, A NEW WORK BY CONGREGATIONAL UCC MEMBER, PETER BLOESCH, will be the featured premiere during the Red Cedar Chamber Music concert, next Sunday, October 20, at 3:00 p.m. here in the sanctuary. Tickets are \$20. Students are free.

AGAPE CAFÉ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Agape Cafe is a pop-up style restaurant located in Old Brick Church where they serve free hot dine-in or to-go breakfasts for our neighbors every Wednesday from 7:30-9AM. Since the beginning of the academic semester, they have experienced a significant uptick in guests coming in for their services, averaging more than 105 meals served. With the higher demand, they are on the lookout for consistent volunteers who

can help fulfill their mission of feeding our friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurity. If you are interested in pitching in to help prep food, serve, or with clean-up, we would love to have you. Please email agapebreakfast@gmail.com for additional information.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BY EXTENSION OFFERING in September. We received over \$400 for theological education in South Africa. If you would still like to give, please put “TEE” on your check or envelope.

FALL DIAPER DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK: The Mission Board is holding a diaper drive in **September and October** to help the Food Bank replenish its supply of diapers for families in need. The Food Bank relies on donations for non-food items such as disposable diapers. Please help babies and toddlers in our community stay dry, clean, and healthy by participating in the diaper drive. **Diaper sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the most needed as well as baby wipes.** There are two ways you can help. Buy a package of disposable diapers and wipes and bring them to Rockwood Hall. We will ensure that everything is delivered to the Food Bank. Or, if you would like to make a personal donation to support this drive, please write a check to the church with Diaper Drive on the memo line and the Mission Board will use the funds to purchase diapers. Whichever way you choose, your donation will help restock the Food Bank’s diaper supply, provide free diapers for babies and toddlers in need and bring some economic relief to families.

WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION will be from the afternoon of Sunday, 10/13, through the early afternoon of Saturday, 10/19. Over the span of these days we will set up, accept clothing donations, sort & organize clothing, distribute the clothing, & clean up after the event. The event will be held in the gymnasium of The River Community Church, 3001 Muscatine Avenue, in Iowa City. (Enter the parking lot via the driveway on Muscatine Ave; please park away from the building)

As in past years, they are looking for donations of gently used or new WARM winter wear, with an emphasis on coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots & winter shoes. Heavy sweaters & sweatshirts are also appreciated.

Volunteers will need to register using SignUpGenius at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-51081789-2024>

As you sign up, please pay attention to further information & instructions provided on our SignUpGenius.

PLEASE HELP WITH PARKING IN THE CHURCH LOT: Several people currently have mobility issues and need to park in our small parking lot on Jefferson St. If you are able, please park elsewhere so that the marked and unmarked spaces can be used by those who need them. Thanks.

SEE SOMETHING—SAY SOMETHING: If you notice something in the building that needs attention—a leaky faucet, a loose railing, etc.—please let the church office (319-337-4301) know right away. Thanks.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES: There are still some opportunities to greet people coming to worship, to usher, and to provide hospitality during coffee hour after worship. Please sign up on the sheets in Rockwood Hall or call the church office--319-337-4031.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY MORNING? This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to lead them in worship. Bill Lovin provides the material. You provide the spirit. Contact Bill if you are interested or would like more information.



Want to give online? Scan the QR code for our giving app.
Your giving makes a world of difference.

WE LIVE STREAM OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNING.

You can join us online in real time at <https://vimeo.com/event/1424751>. This streaming address is the same each week.

RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES are posted after worship on Sunday at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.