



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

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2024
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

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.

Today is a communion Sunday. If you are joining us online, before the worship service, you are invited to assemble what you will eat and what you will drink. It can be bread and grape juice or wine or as simple as a cracker or rice cake and water for use in our worship.

“Everybody has the Blues. Everybody longs for meaning. Everybody needs to love and be loved. Everybody needs to clap hands and be happy. Everybody longs for faith. In music, especially this broad category called Jazz, there is a stepping stone towards all of these.”

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRELUDE “How Great Thou Art”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Connerly, Liturgist

* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Hebrews 12)

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
**and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.**

Let us worship God.

* HYMN 526 “For All the Saints” (vs. 1-3)

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, into the peace of your presence we bring our restless lives. We seek strength to continue on our journey just as people before us sought you to find a sure and steady calm in the midst of strife.

**Help us to continue in our struggles now
as we pray, as we study, as we work,
as we dare to risk, as we dare to wait.**

Refresh our faith, restore our confidence, and lead us on in your ways. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#526)

**And when the task is hard, the labor long,
Steals on the ear the distant harvest song,
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ANTHEM “Softly as a Morning Sunrise” Oscar Hammerstein II and Sigmund Romberg.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

*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

(The children are dismissed to Children’s Church)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 1:11-23

PSALM 90:1-6, 13-17

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Go back, O child of earth.”

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

**In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?
be gracious to your servants.

**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

**Show your servants your works
and your splendor to their children.**

[Unison]

**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 6:37-38

SERMON “Earthbound Saints”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 508 “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

**For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.**

**By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,**

**by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.**

**With the saints who now adore you
seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**

**In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

REMEMBRANCE

**We thank you for this bread and cup set before us,
food and drink to nourish us in body and in spirit, signs of your life-giving love.
May they speak to us
of the everyday made holy,
of life made new,
of hope for your realm among us.**

We remember that on the night of his arrest...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

(Communion will be served in the pews today. Please receive the bread or cup as they are offered to you by a deacon. Hold it until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together at the pastor's guidance. We serve grape juice, not wine. Gluten-free wafers are on the trays with the bread. In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with openness and welcome. Everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God,
in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people,
we offer our energy, intelligence, and love.
Ask much of us; expect much from us; encourage many through us.
So, Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth
and as citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.**

*HYMN 369 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

**I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “When the Saints Go Marchin’ In”

Cover Photo by [Sabrina Bachmann](#) on [Unsplash](#).

Congregational Response by Allan Happe, First Church Cambridge, MA, Hymnal.

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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 WORSHIPING WITH US THIS MORNING. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Rockwood Hall after worship.

	TODAY
❖ Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

	TUESDAY
❖ Election Day—No Board Meetings	

	SATURDAY
❖ Intergenerational Gathering at Harvest Preserve	2-4 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

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. Please return your 2025 pledge card as soon as possible. Extra cards are available on the table outside of the sanctuary.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: Each year on the First Sunday in November, Congregational UCC observes "All Saints Sunday." This is a time for us to remember and give thanks to God for the lives of those members of Congregational UCC who have died in the past year—and for all the saints. This year we remember **Joan Jehle, Ken Kuntz, Joan Parsons, David Schoonover, and Fern Weir**. Our worship service on this day is both solemn and joyful, befitting a congregation of people who live in the light of the resurrection. As is our custom, a jazz band leads our worship on this morning to help us look toward that day when the saints go marchin' in. Our friend, the well-known local jazz pianist Dick Watson, is joined by Lynne Hart on sax, Gary Palmer on bass and Craig Wood on drums.

WE WILL RECEIVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING THIS MORNING: NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

RETURN TO STANDARD TIME Most of us can use a little extra sleep. Set your clocks back an hour before bedtime on Saturday, November 2. Get some rest and join us for Worship on November 3 (All Saints Sunday) at 10:15 a.m.—CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR KIM KEMPF will be held on Sunday afternoon, November 3, from 2-5pm at St. Mary's Catholic Hall in Williamsburg, across the parking lot from the Catholic Church. The address is: 102 E Penn St., Williamsburg, IA. Kim was the daughter-in-law of CUCC member, Barb Sisley, and the sister of our office manager, Jenn Harden.

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!

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

HOMEcomings UPDATE: We took in a cool \$200 from the Homecoming Cookie/Drink Sale. All will go to the CommUnity Food Bank. Thanks!

OUR MISSION BOARD IS PLANNING THIS YEAR'S ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING. We will hold our alternative Christmas gift fair in Rockwood Hall after worship on the following Sundays before Christmas: November 17 and December 1 and 15. We will offer a variety of unusual gift items, including the ever-popular Heifer Project animal gifts with gift cards bearing Ginny Clemons' graceful calligraphy, relief items for Church World Service to distribute, and intriguing and unique gifts crafted by artists and craftspeople in our congregation.

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 generous giving from our congregation, will be sent to the CommUnity Food Bank. As of October 27, your efforts have raised over \$800 to fight food insecurity in our community. **BUT WAIT! There's more!** The season isn't over. Next Sunday we expect kale, chard, and apples.

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.

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.

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.