



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

“What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures.”

Samuel Gompers

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Dayton, Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens proclaim the glory of God
and the earth shows the work of God's hands.

In late-summer abundance

we delight in the beauty of the earth.

Let the goodness of God be upon us
and give success to the work of our hands.

Let us worship God.

*HYMN (insert) “Awake, Awake, to Love and Work”

Awake, awake to love and work!

The lark is in the sky;

The fields are wet with diamond dew;

The worlds awake to cry

Their blessings on the Lord of life,

As He goes meekly by.

Come, let thy voice be one with theirs,

Shout with their shout of praise;

See how the giant sun soars up,

Great lord of years and days!

So let the love of Jesus come

And set thy soul ablaze.

*OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, out of your abundance you have given us skills and time to use both for our own good and for the good of the world.

By your grace, help us to set aside our worries about tomorrow so that we might enter into your rest.

In your compassion, strengthen us to work for those things that satisfy so that we might enjoy the fruit of our labor.

Nourish us with the bread of life and the cup of wholeness. Give us the confidence that in you our labor is not in vain; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#305)

Jesus, our divine companion,

By your lowly human birth

You have come to join the workers,

Burden bearers of the earth.

You, the carpenter of Nazareth,

Toiling for your daily food,

By your patience and your courage,

You have taught us work is good.

Where the many toil together,

There you are among your own;

Where the solitary labor,

You are there with them alone.

You, the peace that passes knowledge,

Dwelling in the daily strife;

**You, the Bread of heaven are broken
In the sacrament of life.**

ANTHEM ‘‘I’ll Be on My Way’’ Shawn Kirchner
 Marie Von Behren, Linda Svalstad, Sarah Fairfield, Betsy Henson, Rachel
 Burchett, Erin Brown, Rebecca Weatherford, Sue Dayton, Barb Sisley
 Diane Dahl-McCoy, violin

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 2:1-3

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 15:53-58

SERMON

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN ‘‘O Grant Us, God, a Little Space’’ Tune: WINCHESTER OLD #162

**O grant us, God, a little space
from daily tasks set free.
We meet within this holy place
and find security.**

**Around us rolls the ceaseless tide
of business, toil, and care,
And scarcely can we turn aside
for one brief hour of prayer.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

REMEMBRANCE

**This is the sacrament of labor,
grain and fruit made bread and wine,
transformed by Christ, as gifts for all:
Friendship’s food and sweet refreshment,**

strength and courage, joy and rest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF ELEMENTS

(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, everyone is invited to the table, regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, we give you thanks that you have nourished us at this table. Send us into our work with new resolve. Help us to work out the problems that have perplexed us, and to serve the people we encounter. May we see our work as a part of your great purpose and find significance in what we do. May we bring our creativity, energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to all our tasks and so give our hearts, minds, and wills to your glory; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

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

POSTLUDE

Remembrance adapted from *The Toiling of Felix*, by Henry Van Dyke. Public Domain.

Minister:	The Rev. Bill Lovin
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Choir Director	Dr. Chris Nakielski
Children's Choir Director	Rachel Burchett
Office Manager	Jenn Harden

TODAY

❖ Worship Service 10:15 am

MONDAY

❖ Labor Day—Church Office Closed

TUESDAY

❖ Board of Christian Education 6:30 pm
Mission Board 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

❖ Christian Education Program Begins 9:15 am
Worship Service 10:15 am

PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. The office will also be closed on Tuesday, as Jenn will be taking that day off.

RALLY DAY is Sunday, September 8th beginning at 9:15AM. We will provide class assignments and have crafts, games and refreshments! **PARENTS:** please provide the following information (one form for each child) and bring it with you to Rally Day!

Child's Name:

Birthday:

Grade:

School:

Parent or Guardian Name

E-mail address:

*Please also include health restrictions or other information that will be helpful for the classroom teachers to know.

Any questions or concerns? Please contact Sally Strang at: sallystrang@mchsi.com.

SECRETS OF THE CHURCH KITCHEN REVEALED! Mysteries of the kitchen unlocked! Please join us for a kitchen orientation on Saturday, September 28 at 9:00 AM.

- Discover where all the silverware is.
- View our collection of dinner plates.
- Is there really a place for the condiments?

Find out—and amaze your friends.

And of course, coffee pots for every occasion.

Please sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall. And while you're there you can volunteer to greet, usher or host hospitality. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

HOPE LODGE: Our next Hope Lodge dinner will be Monday, September 16. If you would like to participate, see the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall. If you have questions contact Sue Dayton cdayton7@mchsi.com

YOU CAN HELP WITH THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER: Members of Congregational UCC serve at the Free Lunch Program on the fifth Monday of any month. Our next serving date is September 30 and if you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Vicki Thomae at vickithomae@gmail.com.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR PROGRESSIVE DINNER on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Ray and Linda Muston and Bill Dickinson will host appetizers for everyone at Oaknoll. Then, in small groups of 8 to 12, we will go to other homes for the catered dinner. After dinner, we will gather at Steve and Sue Wolken's home for dessert. This is always a special event for fellowship. Please make plans to join us.

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.

RUTH KUNTZ IS WITH HER SON, DAVID, WHILE HE IS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY. If you would like to send Ruth a letter or card, please contact the church office for her address.

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.

SCREENING OF GOD AND COUNTRY—THIS AFTERNOON, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AT 2:00 p.m., Iowa City Public Library: A group of people from various religious communities in Johnson County have come together in recent weeks to plan and sponsor free public screenings of the documentary *God and Country*. From producer Rob Reiner, *God and Country* examines the implications of Christian nationalism and how it distorts not only our constitutional republic but Christianity itself. Through the voices of prominent leaders, constitutional scholars, and journalists, the film asks the question: "What happens when a faith built on love, sacrifice, and forgiveness grows political tentacles, conflating power, money, and belief into hyper-nationalism."

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.