



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

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2024  
EIGHTEENTH 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 Bible tells us to *love* our *neighbors*, and also to *love* our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people.”

G. K. Chesterton

PRELUDE    “Be Thou My Vision”            Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHORAL INTROIT

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

How precious is the steadfast love of God,  
in whose embrace all people might find refuge.

**Together, let us worship the God of mercy,  
that we might become the people we are called to be.**

### \*HYMN 136           “Sovereign Lord of All Creation”

**Sovereign Lord of all creation,  
ground of being, life and love;  
Height and depth beyond description,  
only life in you can prove:  
You are mortal life's dependence:  
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;  
Yours is every hour's existence,  
Sovereign Lord of time and space.**

**Jesus Christ, the One for others  
we, your people, make our prayer  
help us love, as sisters, brothers  
all whose burdens we can share.  
Where your name binds us together  
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;  
where no selfishness can sever  
there your love the world may see.**

**Holy Spirit, rushing, burning  
wind and flame of Pentecost  
fire our hearts afresh with yearning  
to regain what we have lost  
may your love unite our action  
nevermore to speak alone;  
God, in us, abolish faction  
God, through us, your love make known.**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

**O God, hear our prayers as we open ourselves to you:**

**we are not the people we like others to think we are;**

**we are afraid to admit even to ourselves what lies in the depths of our souls.**

**But we do not want to hide our true selves from you. We believe that you know us as we are, and yet you love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge; teach us to respect ourselves for your sake; give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#317, vs. 2)

**Author of the new creation,  
Come, anoint us with Your power.  
Make our hearts Your habitation;  
With Your grace our spirits shower.  
Hear, O hear our supplication;  
Blessed Spirit, God of peace!  
Rest upon this congregation,  
With the fullness of Your grace.**

ANTHEM     “Be Thou My Vision”             arr. Alice Parker

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     “Andante”     Jonathan Battishill

\*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 Choir)

SCRIPTURE LESSON     Jeremiah 27:4, 7, 11-14

PSALM 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you;

**let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

**Show me your ways, O Lord,**

**and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

**Gracious and upright are you, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You guide the humble in doing right  
and teach your way to the lowly.

**All your paths, O Lord, are love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 10:25-37

SERMON      “Love Your Neighbor—Who Is My Neighbor?”

\*HYMN 358      “Help Us Accept Each Other”

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE      “Sortie”      Jacques Lemmens

Opening prayer excerpted from a prayer by Caryl Micklem in *A Call to Prayer*.

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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.

TODAY

❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

	TUESDAY
❖ Church Council	7:00 pm
	THURSDAY
❖ Women's Lunch @ Monica's	11:45 am
	SATURDAY
❖ Kitchen Orientation	9:00 am
	NEXT SUNDAY
❖ Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Christian Education for All Ages	9:15 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

**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.

**THE FIRST GATHERING OF COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS** will be in late September. Watch for the date. People who have signed up have said they are looking for a place to talk about how current life is going and to share a meal—so that's what we'll do at the first gathering. If you would like to sign up and get more information, look for the table downstairs.

**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](mailto: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. Appetizers will be in the bistro just inside the entrance at 735 George St. Passengers can be let out at the covered entrance and parking is available in Lot 5 opposite the entrance and bistro just inside the entrance at 735 George St. Passengers can be left out at the covered entrance. Parking is available in lot 5 opposite the entrance and special on street parking will be available on the East side of George St. Fellowship will be just inside the doors! 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.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE HOPE LODGE DINNER** on September 16: Andy Bertolatus and Dianne Atkins, Ray and Linda Muston, Hope and Peter Spragg, Darcie Hutzell and Fielding Woolums, Diane Dahl-McCoy, Chuck and Sue Dayton and Jane Kinney. The next Hope Lodge dinner will be November 18.

**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.

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK INVITES EVERYONE** to join them this afternoon for Pizza, Music and Outdoor Fun in support of the Food Bank.

**Where:** Across from [Stella Restaurant](#), Melrose Ave, Iowa City

**When:** Sunday Sept 22, 4:00-6:30 pm

**Music** by Acoustic Mayhem and [HomeBrewed](#)

**Food:** Wood Fired Pizza by [Maggie's Farm Pizza](#) and Beverages from [Stella Restaurant](#)

**Cost:** Free-will donation at gate. Other opportunities to donate at event.

**SHELTER HOUSE BBQ BASH—SEPTEMBER 27:** Shelter House is hosting this annual fundraiser at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 27 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. There will be live music, games for all ages, and delicious, mouth-watering barbeque. You can support their mission to move individuals beyond homelessness by purchasing your tickets today. Tickets are on sale now at [www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash](http://www.shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash) for \$50 for adults and

\$17.50 for children. Visit their website for more information and to learn more about volunteering or sponsoring this event.

**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.