

First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

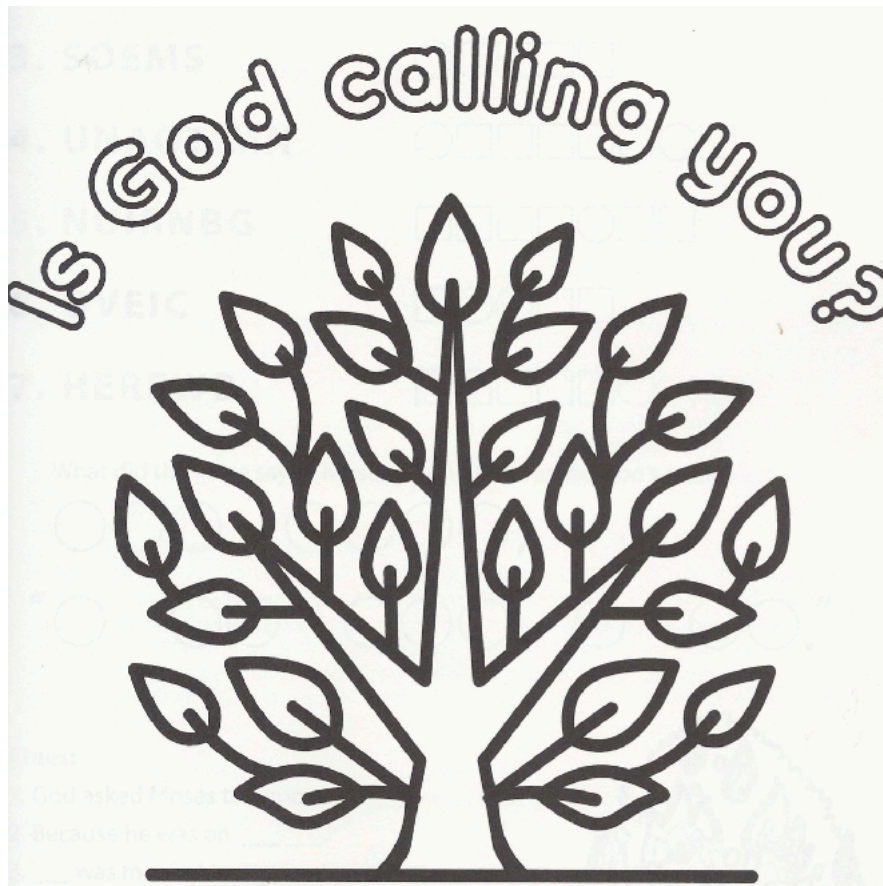
608 West Fourth St
Waterloo IA 50702

www.firstcongucc.org
phone 319-234-8927



Rally Day

September 10, 2023



Worship Leader

Gina Greene

Mini Message

Gary Waldon

Director of Music

Luke Overton

Guest Preacher

Rev. Brad Braley

Organist

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

Office Manager

Michelle Wolfe

Custodian

Kyle Lindaman

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Prelude

Glorious Celebration" by Cynthia Dobrinski

Touch of Brass

Welcome & Announcements

Gina Greene

Leader: Rejoice, people of God. Celebrate the hope that is in you and Christ's call to be learners and teachers.

**People: We gather to rejoice in the hope we have in God.
We gather to respond to Christ's call as learners and teachers.**

Leader: Sing, people of God. Sing of God's goodness and faithfulness.

People: We gather to sing praises to God, for only God is worthy of praise.

Leader: Hear people of God. Hear the story of God's love for us taught to us by the greatest teacher, Jesus Christ.

People: We gather to hear the story of God's faithfulness, eager to be taught by our Lord and Savior.

Leader: Worship, people of God. Worship the one who made you, redeemed you and sustains you.

People: We gather to worship the Lord our God.

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

Gina Greene

God who called Moses and led the Israelites through the wilderness, we thank you for leading us still today. Teaching others about our Christian faith is a wonderful privilege. We learn as much as we teach. Help us to lead in a way that is faithful to you. Give us new eyes and ears so we may learn and teach with freshness and sincerity. Grant us humility to be lifelong learners as we lean on you for insight, wisdom, and courage. Give us voices to sing your praise so that you may be glorified in all we say and do. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

When In Our Music God is Glorified

#561 (NCH - Black)

Joys & Concerns

Gina Greene

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Rally Day Litany of Dedication

Let us join together as we commission one another to these important ministries.

ONE: God called Moses to take the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt. Moses said, “No, God, not me! The people won’t believe me. I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” God said, “Moses, I want you to go. Aaron, your brother can speak for you and Miriam, your sister, can support you.”

ALL: So Moses took his wife and his children and went back to Egypt.

ONE: Jesus called Peter and James and John away from their families, their homes, and their work as fishermen.

ALL: And they dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

ONE: God called Martha away from the kitchen and Lydia away from her purple cloth, and Priscilla to open her home as a new church.

ALL: So they dropped what they were doing and followed God’s call in their lives.

ONE: God has called you as educators, musicians, and church leaders, and many more roles..

Remember that God always provides exactly what we need to answer God’s call in our lives. I ask you to answer the following questions: Will you fulfill your calling in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the guidance of Scripture?

ALL: We will.

ONE: Will you be a faithful educator, musician, or whatever God has called you to do this year, leading others to know and love Jesus as Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God?

ALL: We will.

ONE: As a community of faith, will you encourage one another, pray for one another, support one another, and honor one another, as you seek to lead others to a deepening knowledge of God?

ALL: We will.

One: Let us pray. God of grace, pour out your Holy Spirit on these your servants, that they may be faithful educators, musicians, and members in your church. Give them ears to hear the Holy Spirit’s leading; Anoint their lips to speak your truth with power. In everything, give them the mind of Christ, who taught in deed as well as in word. Give them joy in their work, and a sure sense of your abiding presence for their work of ministry.

All: Loving God, bless us and be with us throughout the coming church year, that we may be faithful to the covenant we have made this day. Amen.

*Hymn

“We Thank You, God, for Teachers”

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1. We thank you, God, for teachers Who help us learn your Way,
Who show by their example How we can serve and pray,
Who find great joy in worship, Who listen with concern;
For in their loving witness, They help us want to learn.
2. We thank you, God, for children And older people, too,
Who value times of learning And want to grow in you,

Who seek your precious kingdom And wisdom from above;
For wise ones of all ages Still seek to learn your love.

3. We thank you, God, for families Of every kind and size,
Who keep the vows they spoke when Their children were baptized,
Who pray and read the Bible, Who love and serve the poor;
They teach, by what they value, The way of Christ our Lord.
4. We thank you, God, for churches That welcome one and all,
That nurture every person In answer to Christ's call.
So fill us with your Spirit, And give us life anew,
That we may help each other Live faithfully in you.

Mini-Message		Gary Waldon
Choral Anthem	<i>This is the Day the Lord Has Made</i> by Mark Hayes	Chancel Choir
Invitation to Offertory		Gina Greene
Offertory	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
*Doxology		#515 (Pilgrim - Red)
*Prayer of Dedication		Gina Greene
Scripture Reading	Exodus 3:1-15	Rev. Brad Braley
Message	<i>"All are Called"</i>	Rev. Brad Braley
*Closing Hymn	<i>You Are Called to Tell the Story</i> - tune #400,	#357 (NCH - Black)
*Benediction		
Postlude	<i>Prelude in F Major BWV 556</i> - J S Bach	Hudson Lourenço-Feld

* You are invited to Stand