



# First Congregational

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 West Fourth St  
Waterloo IA 50702

[www.firstcongucc.org](http://www.firstcongucc.org)  
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## Second Sunday of Lent



**March 16, 2025**

**Worship Leader**  
Anne Hoekstra

**Children's Message**  
Brandyn Miller

**Director of Music**  
Luke Overton

**Senior Pastor**  
Brandyn Miller

**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.*

<b>Prelude</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Brandyn Miller
<b>*Call to Worship</b>		Anne Hoekstra
Leader: Come, all who seek to follow Christ. Set your hearts on what is true and eternal.		
<b>People: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from there, we await our Savior.</b>		
Leader: The Lord calls us to stand firm, to walk in God's ways, and to press on in faith.		
<b>People: With hearts and minds fixed on Jesus, we will worship with joy and seek to be transformed by God's grace.</b>		
Leader: Let us lift our voices in praise and draw near to the One who strengthens us.		
<b>People: We worship the Lord, who shapes us in God's holy image and calls us to live with self-control and faithfulness.</b>		
<b>*Opening Hymn</b>	<i>Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer</i>	#18 (NCH - Black)
<b>*Prayer of Confession</b> (responsive)		Brandyn Miller
Merciful God, We confess that too often, we set our minds on earthly things rather than on You. We chase after comfort, success, and our own desires, instead of pressing on toward Your calling. Our self-indulgence weakens our witness, and our lack of discipline draws us away from Your truth.		
<b>Forgive us, Lord, when we let our appetites rule us instead of surrendering to Your Spirit. Forgive us when we fail to stand firm in faith, giving in to fear or selfish ambition. By Your grace, transform our hearts. Strengthen us to walk in self-control, to fix our eyes on Jesus, and to live as citizens of Your kingdom. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.</b>		
<b>*Assurance of Pardon</b>		Brandyn Miller
Pastor: Hear the good news! Though we stumble, our Savior is faithful. Though we fall short, God's grace abounds.		
<b>People: Our citizenship is in heaven, and our hope is in Christ.</b>		
Pastor: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and transformed. Stand firm in the Lord, who strengthens and sustains you.		
<b>People: Thanks be to God! Amen.</b>		
<b>Sung Response</b>	<i>Kyrie Eleison</i>	(See Screen)
<b>Invitation to Offertory</b>		Anne Hoekstra
<b>Offertory</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>*Doxology</b>		#515 (Pilgrim - Red)
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Anne Hoekstra

<b>Choral Anthem</b>	"Home" - Ruth Elaine Schram	Chancel Choir
<b>Children's Message</b>		Brandyn Miller
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Anne Hoekstra
Leader: This is the word of the Lord		
<b>All: Thanks be to God!</b>		
<b>Message</b>		Brandyn Miller
<b>*Hymn of Response</b>	<i>Lord I Need You</i> - Matt Maher	(See Screen)
<b>Joys &amp; Concerns</b>		Anne Hoekstra
Leader: Lord, in your mercy		
<b>People: Hear our prayer</b>		
<b>Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer</b> (unison) Brandyn Miller		
<b>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.</b>		
<b>*Parting Hymn</b>	<i>God of Grace and God of Glory</i> (vs. 1, 3, 5)	#436 (NCH - Black)
<b>*Benediction</b>		Brandyn Miller
<b>Postlude</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld

\* Please Rise in Body or Spirit

*Sunday School for students up to 6th grade is provided after the Children's Message.  
We welcome your child(ren) to follow our Sunday School leaders to the  
youth director's office at the conclusion of the Children's Message.*