



# First Congregational

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 West Fourth St  
Waterloo IA 50702

[www.firstcongucc.org](http://www.firstcongucc.org)  
phone 319-234-8927



## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**September 1, 2024**

**Worship Leader**

Barb Mardis

**Mini Message**

Diane Highnam

**Director of Music**

Luke Overton

**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>		Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Barb Mardis
<b>*Call to Worship</b>		Barb Mardis
<b>Leader:</b>	God has a special concern for the vulnerable. The orphan, the widow, the stranger – they are under God's protection.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>We gather as a community, committed to the welfare of all.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	In a world often marked by indifference, God calls us to be a refuge for the oppressed.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>We respond to God's call to justice and compassion.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	Let us come together with hearts of empathy, seeking to embody God's love for the marginalized.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>We yearn for a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	May we be a people who defend the defenseless, and extend mercy to those in need.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>We commit to living out God's justice in our world.</b>	
<b>*Opening Hymn</b>	<i>I Sing the Mighty Power of God</i>	#12 (NCH - Black)
<b>*Prayer of Invocation</b> (responsive)		Brandyn Miller
<b>Pastor:</b>	Gracious God, we gather as Your people, longing to reflect Your love and justice in the world. We acknowledge Your deep concern for the vulnerable among us.	
<b>All:</b>	<b>Fill our hearts with empathy and compassion, that we might truly see and understand the needs of those around us. Grant us the courage to speak out. against injustice and the strength to act in ways that promote equity and dignity for all. Empower us to be instruments of Your peace, healing, and restoration in a broken world. We pray in the name of Jesus Amen.</b>	
<b>Special Music</b>		Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>Mini-Message</b>		Diane Highnam
<b>Invitation to Offertory</b>		Barb Mardis
<b>Offertory</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>*Doxology</b>		#515 (Pilgrim - Red)
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Barb Mardis

<b>Old Testament Reading</b>	Exodus 22:21-24	Barb Mardis
<b>New Testament Reading</b>	James 1:26-27	Barb Mardis
Leader: This is the word of the Lord		
<b>All: Thanks be to God!</b>		
<b>Message</b>	<i>“As God Has Treated You”</i>	Brandyn Miller
<b>*Hymn of Response</b>	<i>Lead on Eternal Sovereign</i>	#573 (NCH - Black)
<b>Joys &amp; Concerns</b>		Barb Mardis
<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>Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed</i>	#537 (NCH - Black)
<b>*Benediction</b>		Brandyn Miller
<b>Postlude</b>		Hudson Lourenço-Feld

\* Please Rise in Body or Spirit

*Children are welcome to worship with their families  
(Activity bags are available at the back of the Sanctuary).*