THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE

September 20

Worship 5pm

September 21

Worship 9am



Peace Pole Gathering at UCC 4pm. Bring your lawn chairs. Refreshments after.

September 22

LHN 8:30-11:30am ELO 9-2pm

Ad Board Meeting 6:30pm

September 23

Mat Weaving 9-11:30am Homestead 9am Van Buren 10am Prayer Devotions @ noon

September 24

LHN 8:30-11:30am ELO 9-2pm Vine Meal 5:30 Bells, Kids Club, Confirmation & Choir 6:15-7pm High School Youth Group 7-8pm

September 25

LHN 8:30-11:30am Football Supper 5-7pm

September 26

ELO 9-10am Office closes @ noon Chase Wedding rehearsal pm

September 27

Chase Wedding in afternoon Nativity Scene open @ 3:30-4:30pm Homecoming Worship 5pm Dessert Bar after worship

September 28

Homecoming Worship 9am Recognition of the 50 year Members Brunch after worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission of the Month is Food Packaging

Trunk or Treat

October 31, 5:30-7pm

Sign Ups are available on line and in the back of the sanctuary.

Food Packaging

November 9

Sing Ups available in the sanctuary or online. .



Algona First United Methodist Church invites you to our







ALGONA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



WELCOME SERVE LOVE SEPTEMBER 20 & 21, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to be one, united in our love for Jesus and in His grace.

People: Let us come together, not as individuals with separate concerns, but as a unified body, reflecting the love and harmony of the Trinity. Let us offer our praise and adoration to God, acknowledging His sovereignty and grace that binds us together.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God, Your love is boundless and surrounds us like a warm embrace. Your love knows no bounds and is a source of comfort and strength. Lord, help us to grasp the depths of your love and to carry it with us in all that we do. Amen.

*Song #92 "For the Beauty of the Earth" Verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 [Saturday] "A New Hallelujah" & "How Great is our God" [Sunday]

Old Testament Reading Psalm 147:1-7

UNISON CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Gracious Lord, we praise You for Your love and forgiveness to each one of us. We thank You that we are Your children and have been born into Your heavenly family. Help us Lord, to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in our homes and church communities. Give us grace to diligently seek after all those things that are well-pleasing in Your sight, so that we may live in unity, one with the other, to Your praise and glory. May Your love shine through this congregation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*Song #561 "Jesus, United by Thy Grace" [Saturday] "Love the Lord" [Sunday]

SHARING OF JOYS & PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING & *DOXOLOGY

*UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, offering our gifts in humble acknowledgment of Your abundant blessings. May these offerings serve to further Your kingdom and bring hope to those in need. Guide us in our stewardship, and fill our lives with Your peace and love. Amen.

*Song The Faith We Sing #2220 "We Are God's People" "Made to Worship" [Sunday]

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

New Testament Reading Ephesians 2:11-22

Message "The Transforming Power of Grace" Part II

*Response The Faith We Sing #2223 "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" Verses 1 & 2

*Benediction II Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF GRACE:

PART I - RESTORED TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD - EPHESIANS 2:1-10
PART II - RESTORED TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER - EPHESIANS 2:1122

OUR FORMER ALIENATION: REMEMBER WHO WE WERE

So then, remember that at one time you gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

- Society in the Roman Empire was highly stratified: Rich vs. Poor, Roman vs. non-citizen, Male vs. Female, Free vs. Slave. People are very status conscious. Mixed in with this was the disdain that many Jews held towards Gentiles. The fledgling Christian church was unique in that it brought people together as equals before the Cross.
- If something or someone is influencing you to fear, judge, hate, demonize or debase someone else, that in all likelihood is a reflection of the earthly values. Christ's Kingdom is marked by love.

CHRIST'S INTERVENTION: REMEMBER WHOSE WE ARE [2:13-18]

But now in **Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of **Christ.** For **he** is our peace; in **his** flesh **he** has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that **he** might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So **he** came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through **him** both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

• This is going to sound very simplistic, but our unity is in Jesus. We are not going to agree about every interpretation, ministry priority, worship styles, or political preferences. Our only hope for unity is Jesus.

THE RESULTING RECONCILIATION: REMEMBER WHO WE ARE [2:19-22]

So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

- The language is rich: We are now a new people, a new family, a new building.
- Analogy: When you get married, you generally get a whole new extended family. They might seem like strangers, but they indeed are your family!
- As we grow in Christ, we will naturally grow in love with our fellow believers. See I John 4:7-21.