

The Goal of Love: Grow in Spiritual Maturity

until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

Sad to say, there is a lot of confusing and deceitful ‘teaching’ being perpetuated today. Good teaching produces stability. Be careful who your spiritual teachers are. Carefully measure what you hear against the sweeping themes of the Bible and historic doctrines of the church. Let love be a primary litmus test. “The goal of what God is doing in the world is primarily relational.” One great test of healthy teaching is to ask if it promotes love or division.

This Week’s Schedule

- October 11**
Worship 5pm
- October 12**
Worship 9am
Adult Bible Study & High School Sunday School @ 10:15am
- October 13**
LHN 8:30–11:30am
ELO 9–2pm
Paper Magnolia’s 10–noon
- October 14**
Mat Weaving 9–11:30am
Homestead 9am
Van Buren 10am
Prayer Devotions noon

- October 15**
LHN 8:30–11:13am
ELO 9–2pm
Vine Meal 5:30pm
Bells, Kids Club, Confirmation @ 6:15–7pm
Choir & High School Youth Group 7pm
- October 16**
LHN 8:30–11:30am
Sewing Day 9–3pm
Charity Circle 9am
Friendship Circle 1:30pm
Football Supper 5–7pm
- October 17**
ELO 9–10am
Office closes @ noon

October Mission of the Month
is Operation Christmas Child

Trunk or Treat is October 31
5:30–7pm. Your help is very much appreciated! Please sign up if you are able.

UW in Faith Annual Chicken & Biscuit Luncheon
November 13, 2025 11am –1pm
Tickets \$11
Dine In & Carry Out



The United Women in Faith
CHICKEN & BISCUIT Luncheon
NOVEMBER 13 11AM-1PM
DINE IN - CARRY OUT
ADULT \$11
AGES 6 & UNDER \$2
Algona 1st UMC
201 East Nebraska Street
Cards & Brooms Available to purchase





Announcements



ALGONA 1ST UMC INVITES YOU TO
TRUNK OR TREAT
OCTOBER 31 5:30-7PM

Call the church office to register your trunk! 515-295-7241
FREE HOTDOGS, POPCORN & DRINK
201 E. NEBRASKA ST. ALGONA IOWA



Algona First United Methodist Church

October 11 & 12, 2025

Welcome Serve Love

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome today to a celebration of God’s love!

People: We are grateful for this welcome.

L: Feel the loving power of God flow into your lives.

P: We open our hearts and lives to receive God’s blessings.

L: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

P: Lord, be with us today as we listen for your words of hope.

Unison Opening Prayer

Loving God, You have drawn us together this day from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, hopes, and dreams. Be with us as together we experience Your presence and Your healing love. Open our hearts and our spirits to receive strength, encouragement, and peace. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

***Song #545** *“The Church’s One Foundation” Verses 1, 2, 5 (Saturday) & “Come as You Are” & “We Fall Down” (Sunday)*

Unison Old Testament Reading *Psalm 113*

Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people. He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the Lord.

Congregational Prayer

Dear Father God, we pray that You will help every member of the Church to live in harmony with one other. May we be united in love. Guide us by Your Spirit. Help us to glorify You with heart and voice. Keep us from selfishness. May our lives be a witness of Your love, not only in what we say but in all that we do. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

***Song The Faith We Sing #2220** *“We Are God’s People” (Saturday) & “Truth Be Told” (Sunday)*

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

***Offertory Prayer**

All things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ’s offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Song #540** *“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” (Saturday) & “Less Like Me” (Sunday)*

Children’s Message

New Testament Reading *Ephesians 4:1–6*

Message *“What Love Looks Like”*

***Response The Faith We Sing #2226** *“Bind Us Together”*

***Benediction**

Leader: Jesus’ love and compassion has been poured out for you today. Go into the world in confidence, bearing forgiveness and love for all God’s people. Go in peace.

People: AMEN.

Sermon Notes

Ephesians 1–3: We are God’s Beloved!

Ephesians 4–6: Learn to live as God’s Beloved!

The Attitude of Love: Humility

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

Humility and meekness were despised in the ancient world. Jesus exemplified humility and redefines greatness!

The humble person is secure in God’s love and doesn’t need to prove their worth to others. Be on the look out for ways that pride drives a wedge between you and others.

The Perspective of Love: We are One!

making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

“Make every effort” – Unity is a huge priority. *It doesn’t “just happen”. It calls for effort. We don’t ‘create’ unity. It’s already given to us through Christ. Note all the common things we share as believers. In an age of division, it is crucial that we remember what unifies us. What can you do to strengthen the unity of the church?*

The Context of Love: Use our Abilities to Build Up One Another

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.” (When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Every member of the Body of Christ has an important role! The word “pastor” is rarely used in the Bible. In this rare occurrence, do you see what the pastor’s role is? What special abilities do you have to build up others? What can you do to develop and deploy this group?