



# ames UCC COURIER

United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

ISSUE 258  
OCTOBER 2014

Just Peace, Open & Affirming

office@amesucc.org  
(515) 232-9323  
www.amesucc.org

## ***FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR***

**Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors....**

The old Sunday School rhyme ends that line with "...and see all the people," a reminder that it is the people, not the building, that make a church. I wouldn't however, go too quickly past the phrase, "open the doors." You are a church that focuses on opening the doors—opening the doors of welcome, so all people can feel God's embrace; and opening the doors of service, so that God's people can flow out to make a difference in the world.

Over the last several years, your doors have opened inward to more and more LGBT people, more and more families with small children, more and more youth. They've also opened outward, as your members have gone out to serve meals at Food at First and the Emergency Resident Project; to organize for access to affordable housing, healthcare, and transportation; and to serve in countless leadership roles in helping agencies throughout the community.

As we look toward Pledge Sunday on October 12, and as you look toward calling a new pastor in the coming year, it's time to consider how important those doors are to you. How important is it that they keep opening wide?

Rather than face a last-minute budget crisis like last year, I would encourage you to weigh the importance of this church and its future. The projected 2015 budget would require a 12% increase in giving, in order to keep this ministry healthy.

"Open the doors and see all the people." You are the people who open the doors in welcome. You are the people who go through them to serve. So, how important is it to you keep those doors opening? I hope it's very important.

Blessings, Terry



## FROM THE MINISTER TO CHILDREN & FAMILIES

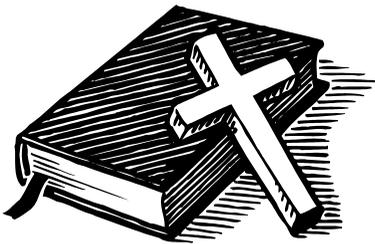
### Wednesday Afternoon Club (WAC)

Things are off to a good start on Wednesday afternoons! We have learned about how "God is like"....a Gift, Water, and a Rescue Worker. In October we will learn how "God is like"....a Rock, a Potter, an Inventor and a Mom! Our lessons include a game, a Bible Story, an art project, and of course...a snack! Special thanks to Dasja Deuel and Ashlen Rutherford for helping each week, and thanks to those that have volunteered to bring snacks this Fall! We are also very thankful to Carl Tipton, Ellen Barnhart, and Jerry Chase for providing transportation each week for the children from their school to the church.

### Bible Presentations

Sunday, September 28 was a special morning in the life of our congregation! We were able to present new age appropriate Bibles to our Kindergarten and 3rd grade children, as well as our six confirmands.

Let's join together in praying for these children and youth, as they continue to grow, learn, and thrive in their daily journeys with God!



**Kindergarten:** Eliana Briseno, Erin Frank, and Kashon Schaefer, **3rd Grade:** Ailis Sherk Cook, Adela Johnson, Adeline O'Neal, **Confirmands:** Abby Buchele, Morgan Egeland, Ryan Johnson, Alison McHenry, Cecilia Monroe, and Ryan Strum.

### First Sundays of the Month

Just a reminder! Sunday, October 5 children ages 4 through 5th grade will enjoy SPEED rotations during the Sunday School hour! During worship, following the children's lesson, this group is invited to join Hannah and Genya Coffey upstairs in the Godly Play room for a story (and play) about the church calendar.

**Interested in getting to know our nursery staff a little better?** Check out the bulletin board across from the nursery on the 2nd floor. You will see pictures of our staff and be able to read a little more about who they are! We are very thankful to have such a wonderful staff for our youngest children!

## Fall Work Day

Mark your calendars for this year's Fall Work Day with the Property Team. Join us as we work to clean up the building and grounds, as well as a variety of other tasks, indoors and out. Saturday, November 1st, 9:00 a.m. to noon.



## **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP TEAM**

*Blessed to be a blessing*

*I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you,  
and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

*Genesis 12:2*

As the Annual Fall Pledge Campaign approaches, it's again time to reflect individually on what sort of commitment of financial support one can and should be making, having been blessed, so as to be a blessing.

The budget year for 2014 has been a challenge. Faced with a significant drop in pledges due to deaths of long time members and people moving away from Ames, we were only able to balance the 2014 budget through second mile contributions and a one-time transfer of \$18,138 from funds in a reserve account. We also reduced giving beyond our building to a regrettably low percentage of our budget. Such practice is unsustainable.

The Executive Board has been working hard to identify potential reductions in the 2015 budget. Salaries and wages constitute over 62% of the budget. Even with some painful reductions, the total projected budget for 2015 is still expected to grow slightly. Significant increases are foreseen for our pastoral search as well as on-going property maintenance for 2015. The need to make up the shortfall of over \$18,000 in the 2014 budget plus expected adjustments for 2015 in budget expenses means that we need an increase in pledges for 2015 of about \$30,000 or about 12%.

As the Executive Board prayerfully deliberates on planned budget expenses for 2015, please prayerfully deliberate on how you can increase your tithes and offerings for 2015. Having been blessed, let us be a blessing!

*Pledge Sunday*  
October 12, 2014

## ***SOCIAL JUSTICE & OUTREACH TEAM***

**Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering** is coming up on Sunday October 5th. It is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Please help support this very good cause.

### **Anti-Racism Workshop October 4**

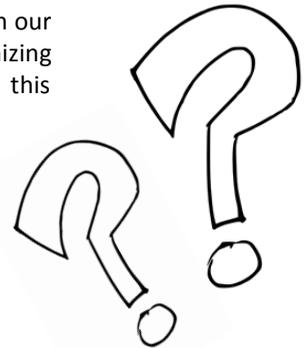
Bethesda Lutheran Church invites members of the community to a workshop designed to transform personal and institutional forms of racism. The workshop will be held Saturday, October 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bethesda, located at 1517 Northwestern. The cost is \$10, which includes lunch. To reserve a place, contact Pastor Russ Melby at 515-233-4830, or at [norskeboy@aol.com](mailto:norskeboy@aol.com), by September 29.

### **What Keeps You Up at Night?**

Another way of asking this is: "What pressures are you experiencing?" or "What needs in our community concern you most?" Over the next few weeks, AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) will be holding a series of house meetings to hear the concerns of those in this congregation and the wider community. The needs that are shared at these meetings will shape the priorities of AMOS for the coming years.

**On Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m. our congregation, First Christian Church, and First Baptist Church will hold a joint house meeting at First Christian Church. Please come, and bring your friends and neighbors.** This is the perfect time to share your issues, and also to include others who might not be part of any church community. We want to hear from as many people as possible what their greatest concerns are.

So, what *does* keep you up at night? Your AMOS friends want to know and to help work for a solution, so we can all sleep soundly.



## ***INVITATION & WELCOME TEAM***

### **GETTING TO KNOW...**

*On July 27, Marlys Benck, Ashlen Rutherford, Dajsa Deuel, Enrique Hernandez and Richard White were welcomed into our congregation.*

**Richard White** was born in Leon, Iowa and grew up in Lamoni, Boone and Ames and graduated from Ames High in 1958. He then went off to college at Graceland University. He earned a BS from Iowa State in 1962 and then attended grad school at Wisconsin at Madison. Next he earned an MA at Stanford. Richard taught high school social studies for five years in metro Kansas City at Shawnee Mission, Kansas. Then he returned to Ames and taught at Ames High for 32 years. Richard's interests include playing duplicate bridge, writing poetry, playing tennis, flower gardening, and playing the piano. He sings in the chancel choir at UCC. On May 25, Richard married Elizabeth

## ***Enabling a Well-Fed World: Building Networks, Empowering People, Nurturing the Earth***

**Location: Ames United Church of Christ**

**Date: Sunday, October 12**

**6 p.m. – Reception with local foods prepared by the Wallace Centers**

**7 p.m. – Program in Main Sanctuary**

Whether in Iowa or Ethiopia, farmers face many of the same challenges – climate change, access to land, rising costs of production, and the ability to provide a safe and healthy food to a growing population.

This October, a delegation of Ethiopians will come to Iowa to learn about Extension and farmer-to-farmer based learning systems. On Sunday, October 12, Oxfam America and the Ames United Church of Christ will host this group of farmers and extension workers in an evening gathering that will feature exhibits from Iowa organizations focused on creating long-

term sustainable responses to food security, farming and social justice. In addition, there will be a presentation from the Ethiopian group including Female Food Hero, Birtukan Dagachew, and the Ethiopian Extension Directorate Director, Tesfaye Mengsistie Dore. Local foods will be prepared by Chef Katie Routh and served by the Wallace Centers of Iowa.



*Hosts: Oxfam America, Ames United Church of Christ*

*Co-sponsors: Iowa Oxfam Action Corps, Foods Resource Bank, Sustainable Agriculture Student Association at ISU, Citizens Climate Lobby, Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ, Church and Society Commission of the Southeast Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Self-Help International, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Interfaith Power and Light, Wallace Centers of Iowa, ONE*



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

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

OC

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

**For the most up to date calendar visit:**

[www.AmesUCC.org/calendar](http://www.AmesUCC.org/calendar)

**BIRTHDAYS**

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 – Matthew O’Neal   | 20 – Mersadie Franklin |
| 2 – Bonnie Trede     | 21 – Shirley Warren    |
| 9 – Mary Weisgram    | 21 – Jenna Buchele     |
| 9 – Marlys Benck     | 22 – Lucy Hannover     |
| 12 – Diane Birt      | 23 – Sally Chase       |
| 16 – Dylan Adams     | 23 – Gary Deal         |
| 17 – Tom Hertz       | 23 – Kirk Nichols      |
| 18 – Sharron Slinger | 28 – Charles Mulford   |

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 6 – George Belitsos & Peter Wolfe
- 8 – Dan & Genya Coffey
- 10 – Bob & Dinah Kerkseick
- 11 – Nathan & Hannah Hannover
- 28 – Charles & Mary Mulford

**ONGOING EVENTS**

- Farm to Folk.....Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m.
- Bell Ringing for Peace.....Wednesdays, 12:10 p.m.
- Morning Bible Study.....Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Work Crew.....Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal.....Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
- INSIGHT Thursdays.....Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous.....Fridays, 7:30 p.m.
- People Place.....Monday – Friday
- Meals On Wheels.....Saturdays, 11:15 a.m.

**5**

***Neighbors In Need Offering  
World Communion Sunday***  
9:00 – Breakfast  
9:30 – Learning Center  
9:30 – Sunday School  
10:45 – Worship  
5:30 – Youth Group

**6**

6:00 – Pastoral Search Cmte

**7**

7:30 – Students for  
Progressive Christian

**12 PLEDGE SUNDAY**

9:00 – Breakfast  
9:30 – Learning Center  
9:30 – Sunday School  
10:45 – Worship  
5:30 – Youth Group  
6:00 – Oxfam reception  
7:00 – Oxfam program

**13**

6:00 – Pastoral Search Cmte  
*ERP – Lamont*

**14**

12:00 – Men’s Fellowship  
6:15 – 150<sup>th</sup> Capital  
Campaign Commitment  
7:30 – Students for  
Progressive Christian

**19**

***Holy Communion***  
9:00 – Breakfast  
9:30 – Learning Center  
9:30 – Sunday School  
10:45 – Worship  
12:00 – LGBTQ Fellowship  
5:30 – Youth Group

**20**

6:00 – Pastoral Search Cmte  
*ERP – Hanson*

**21**

7:15 – Executive Board  
7:30 – Students for  
Progressive Christian

**26**

9:00 – Breakfast  
9:30 – Learning Center  
9:30 – Sunday School  
10:45 – Worship  
5:30 – Youth Group

**27**

6:00 – Pastoral Search Cmte  
*ERP – Lasley*

**28**

12:00 – Men’s Fellowship  
7:30 – Students for  
Progressive Christian

# TOBER 2014

DAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 2:05 – Wed Afternoon Club	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>MOW: 1)Hieber, 2)Tipton</i>
Community	<b>8</b> 12:00 – Women’s Fellowship 2:05 – Wed Afternoon Club	<b>9</b> 7:00 – Cooking Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>MOW: Andersen/Potter</i>  9:00 – UCC IA Conference Meeting, 2500 University Ave, DSM
Worship Free Community	<b>15</b> 2:00 – UCC Book Club 2:05 – Wed Afternoon Club 7:15 – Financial Stewardship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>MOW: Dirks</i> 9:30 – Food at First 10:00 – Cooking Group
Steward Community	<b>22</b> 12:00 – Women’s Fellowship 2:05 – Wed Afternoon Club  <b>NOV. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <i>MOW: Chase</i>
Worship Community	<b>29</b> <b>No Morning Bible Study</b> 1:00 – Assemble Newsletter 2:05 – Wed Afternoon Club	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:</b>  <b>October 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 p.m.</b>

## MEMBER SERVICES TEAM

### Easy as Apple Pie

Join Dinah Kerksieck as we go back to basics in the kitchen. Sessions will be held on Thursday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the church kitchen. This month's subject will be apple pie; we'll talk about selecting apples, choices for shortening, making crusts, and prepping apples. If you have a favorite kitchen tool for making pies, bring it along! And of course, we'll bake pies – kitchen oven space is limited, so if you want to take a pie home, please bring your own pie plate and some apples.

**RSVP by October 5 at [dinahandbob@hotmail.com](mailto:dinahandbob@hotmail.com) or 515-233-3550.**



### Annual Chili & Pie Bake-off

Attention all chili makers and pie bakers! The annual Ames UCC Chili & Pie Bake-off will be held, Saturday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come join the fun and compete for great prizes. There will be chances for everyone to win with many different categories.

Have a special chili recipe you have been wanting to try? Maybe your pie recipe has been passed down from one generation to the next. This is a great opportunity for everyone in the new *Easy as Apple Pie* class; show us what you have learned! Everyone is invited whether you can cook or not. See you there!



### Women's Fellowship

In October, the new days and format of the Women's Fellowship group is starting. We will meet every second and fourth Wednesday at 12 noon for a sack lunch and conversation. Join in the journey as we get to know the women of our church and grow closer together!

On October 8, Hannah Hannover will give a short presentation about our new Sunday School curriculum, *Godly Play*. We will then take a walk down memory lane, sharing our personal origins and memories of childhood. At our October 22<sup>nd</sup> gathering, the Fellowship will gather again to share our *current* happenstances of life, both hopes and concerns. Join us for lunch and conversation!

### ABC Sale 2014 Closing Thoughts

Our annual Attic to Basement Sale was very successful this year, raising more than \$1,800.00. With prices as low as they were, that means a lot of items were sold! The funds were added to the operating budget, as they traditionally are every other year, with 20% of the funds going to outreach into the community. Two days of the regular sale were held, as well as one day for churchgoers and some from Food at First. Leftover items went to Habitat for Humanity, Evert's Florist, Goodwill, and The Affordables.

The team wishes to thank all of the people who put in *many* hours to make the sale a success, as well as those who helped up move all of the donations down to the Fellowship Hall. And thank you to everyone who gave donations so generously! The more and varied donations truly helped make the sale so successful. Remember the ABC Sale next year as you look to cleaning out those hidden treasures. Thanks again to *everyone* for their hard work.

~Barbara Faidley, Barbara Yungclas, Cornelia Flora

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM

## Transition in Youth Ministry

Our thanks and deepest gratitude go out to Rev. Linda Hanson for her ministry as our Youth Minister over the last year. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and deep love shown to our Youth!

Due to personal reasons, Linda resigned earlier this month. In this time of transition, Hannah Hannover will lead Youth Group gatherings on Sunday evenings, while Terry Hamilton-Poore will teach Confirmation on Sunday mornings with our confirmands and older, already confirmed youth. Jean Watts and Emily Kenneke will lead our new middle school Sunday School class.

We are actively in search of a new Youth Director. If you know of anyone that might be a passionate, dedicated candidate, please let us know! And please join us in praying for this process, the Youth of our church, and for Linda in the days and weeks ahead.



## Confirmation Class Begins

There are six 9<sup>th</sup> graders participating in Confirmation Class this year: Abby Buchele, Morgan Egeland, Ryan Johnson, Alison McHenry, Cecilia Monroe, and Ryan Strum. The class is meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., with Terry Hamilton-Poore as the main teacher, and Hannah Hannover providing a strong assist.

Please hold these young people in prayer as they deepen their understanding of the faith, and look toward embracing as their own the promises made for them at their baptisms.

## Adults Can Learn Something New Every Sunday at Learning Center

*The program begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come early for continental breakfast of doughnuts, pastries, bagels, coffee, tea and juice at 9 a.m. The breakfast is supported by a free will offering.*

**October 5** - Immigration in the United States is a lightning rod topic. AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) has been studying the situation. AMOS members will provide information and views on immigration.

**October 12** - A presentation on the priorities and plans for the 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign is scheduled to be presented by the committee. Find out what remodeling and new construction the committee has put together for a congregational vote in November and discuss the details with them.

**October 19** - A presentation on the new Godly Play format being used in our Sunday School this year. Expect examples and information on why this new curriculum has been adopted.

**October 26** - Keenan Crow of the Iowa Fair Courts Coalition will speak about the federal courts and how they impact the lives of Iowans on an everyday basis.

**November 2** - Members of the 150th Celebration Team will be present to inform of us plans for the big anniversary celebration. Hear about what is coming up late this year as well as next.

## Library News

During the month of September, we received a great addition to the church library. Joyce Huisman, a member of our church, generously donated a wonderful collection of hardbound biographies and autobiographies. Thank you, Joyce!

At Builder's Sunday, volunteers were taken to start up a library work group. We'll gather monthly to clean, stamp books, and organize the library. If you are interested in lending a helping hand, please let Barbara Faidley know soon. Come help make our church library an ongoing, strong part of our church!

On October 4, Barbara Faidley will be attending the Mid-Iowa Church Library Volunteers meeting. Many churches are represented to share what is happening in their different libraries, as well as to share new ideas and innovations. Each meeting visits a different church. Look for more details in the next newsletter!

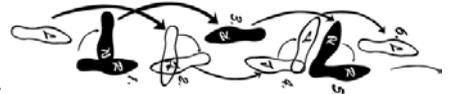
## Book Club

In October, our book club will be reading and discussing the book *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. The 320-page book is a first by the author, and is available from the Ames Public Library in their book club selections. The 2011 book has received many accolades and awards. It explores the life of a young girl growing up in the foster care system, unable to get close to anybody. Her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. We will be meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Church Library. Everyone is welcome; come and join in the discussion or just come and listen to the discussion.

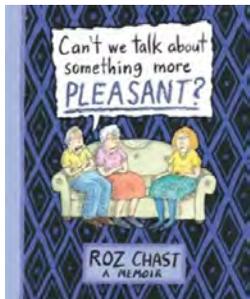
## Children's Book Review

***Can You Dance, Dalila?*** by Virginia Kroll, illustrations by Nancy Carpenter.

This book is a journey of discovery for a little girl, Dalila. She loves watching people dance and then trying each type of dance for herself, as her Gramma takes her to many different places where dances are taking place. Dalila then goes home and tries to do the dance that she just witnessed, but something is always wrong with each type of dance, until the last visit where she discovers the dance that is just right for her. The illustrations bring the story to life as each dance and each locale is depicted realistically in the costumes for dance, and the special relationship Dalila has with her Gramma. She is providing a way for her granddaughter to express herself. ~Review by Barbara Faidley



## Book Review: *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?* A Memoir by Roz Chast



In this memoir, "New Yorker" cartoonist Roz Chast recounts the last years of caring for her aging parents. Told in cartoon-form, Chast tackles the unpleasantness, indignities, guilt, and frustration that come with taking care of one's parents as they become unable to take care of themselves. Roz tells her story with tenderness, but also with the same sharp eye for absurdity that marks her "New Yorker" cartoons.

I consider this the book of the year, particularly as our aging population creates an entire new Sandwich Generation who are dealing with all of the issues Chast raises. "Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant" *isn't* pleasant, but it is as honest, sad, and hilarious as real life. ~Review by Terry Hamilton-Poore

## Students for Progressive Christianity

Interested in learning more about our campus ministry group? Are you wanting a more progressive Christian voice to be heard? Join Students for Progressive Christianity as they tackle questions of faith and discuss topics that are often left unheard. SPC meets Tuesday nights at 7:30, Jeff's Pizza Shop, Lincoln Way & Stanton Ave. Come check us out!

## CONFERENCE NEWS

You are joyfully invited to celebrate the installation of

**The Reverend Nathan Willard,**

Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

**Ankeny United Church of Christ**

602 Southeast Delaware Avenue

Ankeny, Iowa

*Dinner to follow service.*





**Ames United Church of Christ**  
 217 Sixth Street  
 Ames, IA 50010

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Moderator.....Phil Spike  
 Team Advisor.....Ellen Barnhart  
 Caring Network.....Christa Andersen  
 Christian Education.....Genya Coffey  
 Financial Stewardship.....Doug Powell  
 Invitation and Welcome.....Bill Yungclas  
 Member Services.....Jan Bauer  
 Property.....Ken Birt  
 Social Justice and Outreach.....Kim Spangler  
 Worship & Music.....Bradley Duckstein  
 Association and Conference Delegate.....Jim Peake  
 Treasurer.....Jim Dickson  
 Clerk.....Lynette Spicer

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Ministers.....The Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore, Interim Minister  
 Hannah Hannover, Children & Families Minister  
 Music Director.....Lesley Lackore  
 Keyboardist.....Karen Stewart  
 Secretary.....Becky A. Bridges  
 Sexton.....David Cook  
 Financial Secretary.....Nancy Heathman

**STAFF**

In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability or sexual orientation into our community of faith and affirm the worth of all people as unique individuals made in God's image. We are open to the special gifts that each person brings and invite each one to participate in the life of our church.

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**  
*where you are on life's journey,  
 no matter who you are or*

