

LIVING OUR UNITY, WORSHIPPING TOGETHER



NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

JUST PEACE, OPEN & AFFIRMING

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 19, 2015

*Those who are able please stand

Songs: NCH – *New Century Hymnal*; SPP – *Sing, Prayer & Praise*

Bold face indicates where the congregation is invited to join in saying the words

WELCOME

Welcome to a joint service of First Christian Church and Ames United Church of Christ! Worship is the way we praise God, and learn what it means to be a Christian. Services are a way to serve the power that calls us together, and send us out to be the eyes, hands, and feet of justice in the world. We hope that you leave today feeling connected, renewed, and in relationship with the holy.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love.

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Halle-Halle-Hallelujah” (3x)

SPP 55

A bridge between the hubbub of the Peace, the business of announcements, and our time of worship

(music)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

A formal and mutual invitation to move into the worship experience

One: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the living God.”

Many: This is the day when we rejoice in holy creativity.

One: Peace to all who enter here!

Many: Peace this day and every day!

*OPENING HYMN

“Enter, Rejoice & Come In”

NCH 73

Singing is one way to connect to God through our bodies. We stand up, breathe deep, and let loose. And as Augustine wrote, “(S)he who sings, prays twice.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Confession has a long tradition in Christian history. It is a way to name our own brokenness and failing, sometimes generically, and sometimes quite specifically, as a means to cleanse our hearts as we move through the service.

One: Let us confess our brokenness.

Many: Too often our hearts are cold and without gratitude. Too often our hands are passive and unwilling to carry out acts of mercy.

One: Too often we are indeed separated and alienated from our better self.

Many: Separated and alienated from God.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

A brief moment to reflect on the prayer and your own heart and life. Silence is as important as noise in our dialogue with the Divine.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As a people of Easter, there is always good news: when we die to our brokenness, we live again in hope.

One: God does not hold grudges. Be released from your worry and go forth in grace. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION

Children are very important to our church. Each service they come forward for a special lesson just for them. We want all children to know they are welcome everywhere in our sanctuary, even – especially – at the very front.

GOSPEL

Gospel means “good news,” making the full title of this book of the Bible, “The Good News of the Jesus Christ According to Mark.”

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns, and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region, and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

SERMON

“The Politics of Church”

Pastor Eileen Gebbie

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

NCH 330

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Communion table is open to all: young and old, faithful and dubious. No one will be turned away. We serve the bread and the juice through “intinction,” which means dipping the bread into the juice. Your server will offer each to you with the phrases, “The Bread of Life,” and, “The Cup of Blessing.” If you are unable to come forward but would like to participate in the meal, simply wait for your row to be empty, then raise your hand. A server will come to you.

Invitation

One: God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves, and divide us from one another.

Many: We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith.

Prayer

One: We dream, O God, of community, but in waking hours we forget such hopes. Our dreams we call “alien,” our sister and brother we call “stranger.”

Many: Yet today we remember with thanksgiving your promise of new life through Christ.

One: We thank you that you have given us to one another, even as you have given yourself to us.

Many: You call us by name, you call us to yourself. You name us your own people. So named, we now name all as friends, our hopeful dreams made real.

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: You bring us to this table as sisters and brothers. Lead us now, through each of our moments, toward that beloved community where all will gather as family.

Many: Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

~ Pat Spangler on the loss of her mother, Lorraine Smith

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The basics of the Lord’s Prayer appear in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. It may be familiar to you in this form, or with “sins” or “trespasses” toward the end. We support the use of traditional or contemporary language for addressing the Holy, and naming the Holy’s realm.

Our Father/Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom/kin-dom 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom/kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

OFFERING

Thank you for giving what you can to the work and mission of our churches. Checks may be made out to the church of your choice. Cash gifts will remain with the hosting church.

“For Where Love Is, There is God”

Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner
Joint FCC/UCC Choirs

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN OF SENDING “In Christ There Is No East or West” NCH 394**

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE “Amen, Amen” (3x) NCH 161

*A sung blessing, this song or part of a song varies throughout the year.
Please repeat three times.*

MUSIC

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 19

9:30 a.m. Joint Worship With FCC
Holy Communion Sunday

Monday, July 20

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project
(Hannover)

Tuesday, July 21

9:45 a.m. Learning Center Committee (Rm 104)
3:00 p.m. Farm to Folk
7:15 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 22

August Newsletter Article Deadline

8:30 a.m. Morning Bible Study
9:30 a.m. AM Work Crew
10:00 a.m. ABC Sale Team
12:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
12:10 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers

Saturday, July 25

11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels (Chase)

Sunday, July 26

9:30 a.m. Joint Worship with FCC (at UCC)
Preacher: Pastor Eileen Gebbie
Scripture: John 6:1-21
Sermon: The Politics of Compassion

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

You Are Invited: New Member Classes: Interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and Ames UCC? Would you like to explore what becoming a member of our church means? Sign up for our new member classes: Sunday, August 23 and Sunday, August 30 after worship (for an hour). We will meet in Room 104. Childcare is available, but please indicate your need (ages, number of children) when you register. Both classes are required for joining the church; however, taking the classes is not a commitment to join Ames UCC. We will receive new members during worship on Builder's Day, Sunday, September 13. Register with Pastor Eileen by calling the church office (515-232-9323), or by emailing eileen@amesucc.org.

Creating A Joyful Noise: It's time to get out those instruments, brush up your public speaking, write a poem, or practice the performance art of your choice. As part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration, we will have a "Creating a Joyful Noise" talent show at 7 p.m. Saturday, September 19 in Fellowship Hall. Kristin Shields is the liaison for the youth members, who can sign up with her. Others can sign up with Tom Meyer, Laura Deal, or Greg Lamont. A sign-up page has also been created on SignUpGenius.com.

Attic to Basement Church Sale: Preparations continue on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. Come "pick" with us, or bring donations; have car, will travel for pickups if needed. Contact Barbara Faidley, Barbara Yungclas, or Cornelia Flora for details.

Welcome! Whether you are passing through, attending with a friend or relative, searching for a church home, or seeking answers to life’s questions, we are glad you are with us today. Please introduce yourself to the minister following the service and stay for refreshments so others in our fellowship may meet you. If you want to know more about our church, please tell the minister or indicate this on our fellowship pads.

In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity 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.

Nursery Care: We welcome children to stay during our worship service...in fact, we enjoy it! However, if you or your child(ren) would like to use our staffed nursery, it is available during worship for infants and children through kindergarten. Our nursery is located on the second floor on the east side of the church building, and a parent or guardian will be required to sign their child in and out. Please feel free to use this service.

Godly Play: All Godly Play activities will be on break for the summer, and will reconvene after Labor Day.

Bell Ringing for Peace: Join us every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. in the bell tower to ring the bell and pray for worldwide peace. Ames UCC is a Just Peace church, encouraging the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence.

Communion: Jesus included everyone present in the meals he shared, and so do we. The bread we use is free of gluten, soy, and dairy products (it does contain eggs); and the wine is unfermented (aka “juice”). In our theological understanding, it is not the bread or the wine that is changed in Communion, but we who are changed in the sharing of it. If you are here on a Communion Sunday, we hope you will join us in this transformative meal.

To contact Pastor Eileen Gebbie: From time to time, we find ourselves in life situations when the church office is closed, and we need a pastor. In order to serve you in these times of need, we will now be available to you by calling our Pastoral Emergencies line at **515-428-1779**. Leave a message with your concern and your contact number. Pastor Gebbie (or another on-call pastoral caregiver) will receive the message, and will respond as soon as possible. Eileen can also be contacted at Eileen@amesucc.org.

Program Staff:

Minister	Rev. Eileen Gebbie
Minister to Children & Families.....	Hannah Hannover
Youth Director.....	Emily Kenneke
Music Director	Lesley Lackore
Keyboardist.....	Karen “Sunny” Stewart

