



# ames UCC COURIER

United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

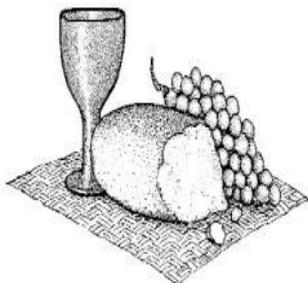
ISSUE 262  
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Just Peace, Open & Affirming

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www.amesucc.org

## *FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR*

### **Bread and Water for the Wilderness Journey**



It's time again for Lent—time to follow Jesus out into the wilderness. Throughout scripture, wilderness is the place where true change happens: where we are tested (and often fail), where we are forced to acknowledge our dependence on God, where we learn that God can be trusted.

When Jesus is out in the wilderness for those 40 days, Mark tells us, “The angels waited on him.” This is our assurance that we don't travel the most difficult parts of our journeys alone. The same God who sent protectors for Jesus, the same God who sent manna for the Israelites and provided water from out of a rock, travels with us.

As a sign of God's care and nurture in our struggles, we will be sharing Communion together each of the Sundays of Lent. We will also gather each Wednesday evening for a soup supper at 5:45 p.m. and for a Taize service in the sanctuary from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Taize (a style of worship named for the Taize Community in France) is worship that centers around prayer that is sung, spoken, and silent. It is a contemplative approach that is especially appropriate during the reflective season of Lent, and in the darkness of the evening. Last year, the Taize services used Light as the central theme, and we lit candles as signs of prayer around the cross. This year, we will focus on Water—specifically, the waters of our baptism, the waters of our inclusion in God's ocean of grace, into which we can drop our heaviest burdens.

So come and be nurtured; come and find release; come and learn to trust that our times of wilderness are also the times when God walks most closely with us.

Blessings,

Terry

### WORSHIP AND MUSIC

## Lenten Soup Suppers

*Each Wednesday February 25 through March 25*

*Soup supper at 5:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall*

*Taize service in the sanctuary from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.*

The soup suppers are a time of community, a time of contemplation. Everyone is invited. Each week individual connection groups are in charge of the meal. The UCC youth group will handle all clean-up duties. All freewill donations at the soup suppers go to the youth group.

Want to provide soup, bread, relishes or help?

Sign up online using the Lenten Soup Suppers link at <http://amesucc.org/Members>.

Eight soups and loaves of bread needed each week. Four people working before the supper and four or five people helping during supper can generally cover all activities.

The connection groups in charge:

- February 25    Choir and music staff
- March 4        Women’s fellowship
- March 11      LGBT fellowship and young adults group
- March 18      Men’s fellowship
- March 25      Executive Board



**Support Our Youth During Lent!**

Come support the youth on Wednesday evenings at the Lenten soup suppers! Our fabulous youth will be cleaning up each week to raise money for their summer mission projects and fun!

### Help Our Kids Collect for MICA

As we journey through Lent, our Sunday School children will be collecting items for MICA. The donations that they are requesting at this time include: 2015 calendars, books (for any age), greeting cards, toiletries (small containers from hotels work well), and as always, non-perishable food items. There will be a basket in the parlor where you can leave your items. Our Wednesday Afternoon Club children will help deliver the items to MICA periodically throughout the next few weeks. Thanks for your support!



## 150th CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

### The Fundraising Phase Begins!

Following the unanimous support of the congregation at the January 25 congregational meeting for engaging the Rev. Priscilla Bizer, UCC National Office, to assist us in the fundraising we have recruited a Campaign Executive Team and launched the campaign on February 22 at the initial meeting of this team with Rev. Bizer. The campaign is expected to last about 17 weeks and conclude around June 21.

The members of the Campaign Executive Committee are:

Interim Pastor - Terry Hamilton-Poore  
 Campaign Administrator—Diane Birt  
 Leadership Gifts co-chairs—Tom Hertz and Charles Kniker  
 Giving Potential task group—Ken Birt, Phil Spike and Terry Hamilton-Poore  
 Commitment Callers—Rich Fellingham  
 Communications Task Group, publicity—Cornelia Flora  
 Group Meetings—Sharron Slinger  
 Hospitality—Jan Bauer  
 Administrative Support—Larry Trede  
 Recording—Nancy Heathman  
 Follow-up—Doug Powell



### SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH

#### The 150th Capital Campaign provides an amazing opportunity for outreach in our community, our state and the world

At each priority level, we can make a real difference beyond our usual wonderful work in sharing our time and our talents beyond the church building. We are looking for places where a specific contribution can make a difference for people's lives. For example, once we reach priority 1, we will be able to invest \$26,500 to improve the situation of those needing special assistance. The total, if we meet all our priority levels, is \$290,000. Please talk to those doing social justice and outreach work in our community and beyond as to what a substantial contribution could do for that group's work. Share those ideas with the social justice and outreach team. Ideas to date include building a Habitat House and supporting two students from Story County to participate in Project Iowa to get the skills and mentoring they need to earn a living wage with chances for advancement. We will continue our contributions to the operating funds of the organizations we support, but this allows us to do even more.

--Cornelia Flora

#### One Great Hour of Sharing, UCC Offering March 15

This is our opportunity to work with other people of faith to aid those who suffer from disaster – human or nature generated – around the world. One Great Hour of Sharing is quickly there in the midst of destruction and loss. You can see the amazing things we do as part of this wonderful collaboration at [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs). We will collect a special offering for this wonderful outreach effort March 15. There will be envelopes in the pews for this offering soon, so you can give sooner if you wish. This is an amazing way to show how God is still speaking around the world.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Godly Play News

Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to join Genya Coffey and Hannah in the Godly Play room as we discover the "Faces of Easter" this Lent. Most of the stories will happen during the Sunday School hour (9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.), with the exception of those Sundays when there is no Sunday School (Spring Break) or we have other activities going on at that time (Palm Sunday). Those weeks we will meet following the children's lesson during worship. We would love to see some new faces during this time of "wondering" through Lent!



### Intergenerational Palm Sunday Workshop

Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 29 when we have our annual Palm Sunday Workshop in the Fellowship Hall! There will be crafts for children of all ages and a light breakfast provided by our Christian Education Team. The fun begins at 9:30 a.m. and continues through worship as the children will be processing in with Palm leaves! Let's start Holy Week together in learning, fellowship, and worship!

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

Continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m., program begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

March 1 – Theologians in Residence

March 8 – Pilgrim Heights Camp and Retreat Center

March 15 – no program

March 22 – Cornelia Flora will lead a conversation to tie together the sermon series on race

March 29 – Intergenerational Palm Sunday Workshop

April 5 – Easter, no program



## LIBRARY NEWS

### Brownies and Books

Come check out books and enjoy a brownie during social hour after worship on March 22. Some of the newest donations to the church library will be displayed including books that have been reviewed in this newsletter.

### Book Review

***“IN THE BEGINNING: Creation Stories from Around the World”*** by Virginia Hamilton, illustrated by Barry Moser

The origin of the universe, and all that is in it, has always been cause for wonder. For thousands of years people have made up stories in an attempt to explain the beginning of humankind, the earth, and the cosmos. This book is a collection of 25 creation myth stories that will engage the reader and introduce them to cultures around the world. Each myth was researched by both author and illustrator and each story includes one or more illustrations. And each story is followed by author comments that tell about its origin. To read the diverse beliefs of people around the world, both ancient and contemporary, broadens our understanding of others and strengthens our own spirituality. This book is a Newbery Honor Book and has received many other awards. It could be considered a young adult book but is entertaining for all ages. -- Review by Barbara Faidley

## Children's Book Review

*"The Water Hole"* by Graeme Base



This is a beautifully illustrated book. The author/illustrator is well-known for his picture books. It is said about Graeme Base that he has "the eye of a Renaissance painter and the ear of Dr. Suess". This book is a fusion of counting book, puzzle book, storybook and art book. Each of the double pages show animals from a different area of the world coming to a secret water hole to drink. Each double page has a number related to the animals at the hole. In the borders of the double page spread are animals drawn to look like cut-outs from a different area. If you look closely at the colored illustrations you will find all of these animals hidden in the pictures. As the season progress, the water hole gets smaller (actual cut-out on the page). See what happens to bring the animals back to the water hole. What a great book for children to look at by themselves but what fun to find the hidden animals with a parent or a grandparent. ENJOY!

-- Review by Barbara Faidley

***Both of the above books are recent gifts to the church library - a great big THANK YOU to Steve and Ellen Barnhart.***

## MEMBER SERVICES

### Celebrations of Life in the Church

The 150th Celebration Committee is looking for church family treasures to display during our yearlong celebration. We will be focusing on the following celebrations: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, and Christian Burial. Displays will seek to depict each celebration by using certificates, photographs, jewelry, even gowns. If you have an item you would like to share of a family member who was baptized, confirmed, married at or buried from Ames UCC please contact Jan Bauer at [bauerjan@yahoo.com](mailto:bauerjan@yahoo.com) or (515) 292-3739.

### Hosting Coffee Fellowship Can Be a Rewarding Opportunity

Coffee fellowship is one of the best ways to welcome new members and visitors into our church family. It is a time to socialize and get better acquainted with one another in a relaxed setting. Working with fellow members is a great way to meet others in the church—whether you are new to Ames UCC or a longtime member.



The member services team is looking to broaden our pool of volunteers for coffee fellowship after worship services. To accomplish this goal, we are asking all members and friends of Ames UCC to take turns serving coffee fellowship through the year. An easy way to sign-up is to use the Sunday Morning link at <http://amesucc.org/Members>. You can also sign up by calling the church office at 232-9323.

If you are new to Ames UCC, we are happy to team experienced workers with those who may not be as familiar with serving. Please consider signing-up!

## UCC BOOK CLUB

The UCC Book Club welcomes all readers and even those who just want to hear the discussion. The group meets in the church library on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.

Please note the books marked with \*Multiple copies are available in the Ames Public Library Book Club collection. Books may be checked out for six weeks.



**March 18 -- Orphan Train: A Novel** by Christina Baker Kline (2013 fiction, 304 pages) Discussion leader: Christa Andersen

As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was sent by rail from New York City to Minnesota. Returning east later in life, Vivian leads a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past. *Orphan* tells of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

**April 15 -- Dear Life: Stories** by Alice Munro (2012 fiction, 319 pages) Discussion leader: Christa Andersen

Winner of the Nobel prize in literature 2013, these stories about departures and beginnings, accidents, dangers, and homecomings both virtual and real, paint a portrait of how strange, dangerous, and extraordinary the ordinary life can be.

**May 20 -- Looking After Minidoka: an American Memoir** by Neil Nakadate (Local Author, 2013 nonfiction, 213 pages) Discussion leader: Nancy Marks (Multiple copies are available in the Ames Public Library Book Club collection. Books may be checked out for six weeks.)

During World War II, 110,000 Japanese Americans were removed from their homes and incarcerated by the U.S. government. In this memoir, the "internment camp" years become a prism for understanding three generations of Japanese American life, from immigration to the end of the twentieth century.

**June 17 -- The Invention of Wings** by Sue Monk Kidd (2014 fiction, 373 pages) Discussion leader: Nancy Marks

The novel begins on Sarah Grimke's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave. The book follows the next 35 years of their lives. Inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke (a feminist, suffragist and abolitionist), Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the inner lives of the characters, both real and imagined.

**July 15 --** Select titles for upcoming book club year.



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

### Providing an Extravagant Welcome for All



At Ames UCC, and throughout the United Church of Christ, we are the church of Extravagant Welcome. It's deep inside us, in our bones and in everything we do; it's just who we are. And a part of providing such a warm welcome to all is found in the "nitty gritty" of each time we come together. Whether it be our Sunday morning Deacons, liturgists, ushers, volunteers with Coffee Fellowship or the Welcome Center, or even making sure our building is secured at the end of the day – volunteers do it all!

Coordinating those volunteers is a hard, thankless job – so let's do our part to make the job a little easier! Next time you're in the office or seated at your computer take a moment to thank Becky, the office secretary, for all the time she puts into coordinating our weekly volunteer signup. And then take another second to volunteer a little bit of your time to provide all people with the welcome we are called to shout from the rooftops!

The Lenten season is now upon us and the journey is sure to be one of peace, prayer and reflection, and ultimately great joy as we celebrate the living Christ, in just a few short weeks. Along that winding road are many, many hands helping to make the experiences memorable and impactful. If you have already signed up to volunteer, thank you, and if you are still checking your calendar, please don't forget us!

Volunteer signup is available by visiting the Members section of our website ([www.amesucc.org/members](http://www.amesucc.org/members)). Links are available there to sign up for Sunday volunteering, or to help with Lenten Soup Suppers. Or if you like to "kick it ol' school," just give the office a call at 515-232-9323. The choices are many, the time commitment minimal, the impact...EXTRAVAGANT and GREAT! Sign up today!

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Sunday, March 29 – Palm/Passion Sunday** at UCC at 10:45 a.m.

**Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday** at First Christian Church at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 3 – Good Friday**

12 noon Prayer Service at First United Methodist Church

1:00 p.m. Prayer Stations at UCC and Prayer Vigil at First Christian Church

**Sunday, April 5 – Easter**

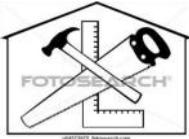
Sunrise Service at UCC at 7:00 a.m. (jointly with FCC and FUMC)

Breakfast after service in Fellowship Hall.

Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m.

Easter Service at UCC at 10:45 a.m.

### PROPERTY



Steve Barnhart is the Property Team Coordinator for 2015; with Josh Pilcher as Team Vice-Coordinator. The year begins with a list of Church 'property' items that need attention.

Currently the Choir room and the Youth room are in the process of being repaired after years of water damage. Asbestos floor tiles have been removed, and sections of wallboard have been replaced in both rooms and from both rooms. We are seeking bids for floor contractors to seal and install new floor surfacing in both rooms. A first step toward alleviating further water damage in the Choir room has been replacing the roof drain gutter on the west end of the north church wall. Improved surface drainage and downspout extension are planned for Spring.

Other items on the Property 'to-do list' are also associated with the 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign, so success of the Capital Campaign will directly influence near further 'Property' projects.

The Property Team coordinates locking church after Sunday services. We have volunteers for the Sundays in February, March, and May, but the months of April and the remainder of the year are still available! If you can help with this, either contact me (Steve Barnhart, email: [sbarnhar@iastate.edu](mailto:sbarnhar@iastate.edu)) or sign up via the church website, [amesucc.org/members](http://amesucc.org/members). Select 'Sunday Morning' (left column); The coming Sundays will be listed. At the bottom of each Sunday is an option titled 'Property-Building Lock-Up'; to volunteer to help lock the Church, select the 'Sign-Up box' We would like for people to commit for each Sunday for an entire month. An added bonus is an



#### **Sign-Up Online to Help with Sunday Mornings or with Soup Suppers**

Want to help with Sunday mornings? We always need readers, ushers, coffee servers, deacons, and greeters.

Or do you want to bring some soup to a Lenten Soup Supper, or help with set-up?

Either way, just go to the church website ([amesucc.org](http://amesucc.org)), click on the "Members" tab at the top of the page, and you will see a place on the left side of the page where you can sign up. Easy-peasy, and oh-so-helpful!





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

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Phil Spike.....Moderator  
 Ellen Barnhart.....Team Advisor  
 Christian Education.....Genya Coffey  
 Financial Stewardship.....Diana McHenry  
 Invitation and Welcome.....Amy Erica Smith  
 Member Services.....Jan Bauer  
 Property.....Steve Barnhart  
 Social Justice and Outreach.....Cornelia Flora  
 Worship & Music.....Bradley Duckstein  
 SR Association and Conference Delegation.....Jim Peake  
 Treasurer.....Jim Dickson  
 Clerk.....Lynette Spicer

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The Rev. Terry Hampton-Poore, Interim Minister  
 Hannah Hamover, Children & Families Minister  
 Emily Kenneke, Youth Director  
 Music Director.....Lesley Lactor  
 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

