



## **Ames United Church of Christ Sunday, October 4, 2015**

*Welcome to Ames UCC! Worship is the way we praise God and learn what it means to be a Christian. Services of worship are just that: a way that we serve the power that calls us together and sends 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.*

*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.*

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenna Buchele

*Most announcements are also in your bulletin and our weekly e-newsletter. To sign up, e-mail [office@amesucc.org](mailto:office@amesucc.org).*

*On World Communion Sunday, we consciously gather with followers around the planet to take in the bread and cup of life and liberation. We worship, acknowledging the brokenness and hope that exists around the world and proclaim that the death-dealing ways of the powers-that-be are not the ways of God and Jesus, the radical one from Nazareth.*

*Today's liturgy is based on one by the Rev. Ashley Goff, an ordained UCC minister serving at Church of the Pilgrims (PCUSA), Washington, DC, especially for World Communion Sunday.*

*We are also receiving special offerings for Neighbors in Need (NIN). This 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. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.*

*Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.*

*Please use the special NIN envelope in your bulletin to participate in this mission.*

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Elliott Coffey

*A formal and mutual invitation to move into the worship experience.*

One: Come.

**Many: Let us be God's community.**

One: Come with love.

**Many: The steadfast love of God never ceases.**

One: Come with curiosity.

**Many: We are one body, one planet, one Church.**

One: Come with hope.

**Many: As we gather with the bread and the cup, justice is served.**

One: Let us worship.

**HYMN** "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In" (Hymn 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."*

**INVOKING THE HOLY**

Will Hannover

*God is always with us, so this "invoking" or invitation to God, is really an invitation to our own selves to become aware of that constant presence.*

**All: O Source of Justice, we are Your One Body, called to follow Jesus  
to create beauty and justice on Your One Body, Your planet.  
As we experience your Word,  
may we be awakened to see how suffering hurts the entire body  
and how beauty enlivens us all.  
Strengthen us.  
Draw us in to witness your vision,  
to the resilience and resistance of the timeless faithful in the work for justice.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Celia Schrag

*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: God who heard and responded to the suffering Job, we confess that we were not there at the founding of the earth, we do not command the morning, we do not come to the deep wellsprings of the seas, and the hawk does not soar by our wisdom.

**Many: God, remind us of all that is at stake when our vision is narrow.  
As with Job, we tell, but do not understand,  
wonders beyond us that we cannot yet know.  
"By the ear's rumor" we have heard of you—  
Now let our eyes see as you do.**

## 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

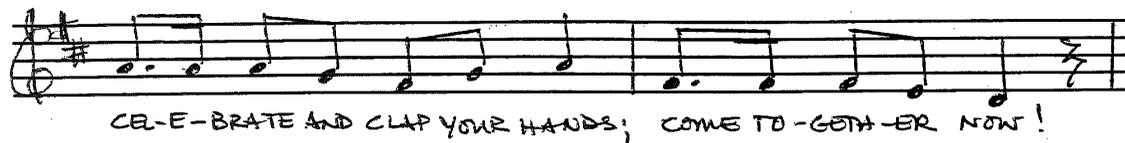
Sarah Frank

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

One: In returning to our vision of God, we may break again the bread of life with those we love and those we will come to love. 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. We sing the song below as they come forward.*



## HEBREW BIBLE

Exodus 3:1-10 (The Message)

Jenna Buchele

*We use "Hebrew Bible" instead of "Old Testament" out of respect for our Jewish sisters and brothers (it isn't old to them) and acknowledgement of the living voice still found in these ancient stories.*

Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the west end of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. He looked. The bush was blazing away but it didn't burn up.

Moses said, "What's going on here? I can't believe this! Amazing! Why doesn't the bush burn up?"

God saw that he had stopped to look. God called to him from out of the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

He said, “Yes? I’m right here!”

God said, “Don’t come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You’re standing on holy ground.”

Then he said, “I am the God of your father: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.”

Moses hid his face, afraid to look at God.

God said, “I’ve taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I’ve heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them, pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a lush land with milk and honey, the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

“The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I’ve seen for myself how cruelly they’re being treated by the Egyptians. It’s time for you to go back: I’m sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt.”

## **SERMON**

Ryan Johnson, Adysen Pingel, Abby Buchele, Jacob Buchele  
Eli Henginger, Kathryn Shields

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** “This is the Day” (Hymn 84)

## 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* Celia Schrag, Ailis Shenk Cook, Jenna Buchele, Eli Schrag, Carter Pilcher

One: Sisters and brothers, what we are about to do is to celebrate the Joyful Feast of the people of God.

**Many: When we are able, with the Holy One,  
to experience the vision of love  
for God's Global Village here on earth –  
then all of creation will come as equal companions  
to sit at this table.**

One: In the meantime, you and I are invited to eat and drink, to be nourished and renewed for the ongoing work of justice, embracing mercy and walking humbly with God.

**Many: This is an open table, all are welcome, no exceptions.**

*Great Prayer of Thanksgiving*

One: Holy One, One of many names and faces, we thank you for how the light came out of darkness, for the division of the waters and dry land, for creating the whole planet up and through the cosmos and calling it sacred.

**Many: We thank you for creating us in your image,  
to live connected with love,  
for the gift of life, speech, and movement  
and freedom to live in Your Way.**

One: Moses revealed your vision in commandments. Your prophets unleashed cries for justice when your planet's beauty was violated.

**Many: Through long generations we have ebbed and flowed  
with suffering and sorrow, healing and renewal.  
In the most beautiful and oppressive of times,  
You still called us beloved.**

One: You are full of wonder and awe, O God. Your ways are just and prophetic. With all of creation in all times and places, with our brothers and sisters around your planet we proclaim in one voice:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: Holy God, Creator of milk and honey, of wheat and grapes, this table has over time been a symbol of restoration and community, a call to remembrance. Draw us into thanksgiving for the gift of receiving your holy welcome and the powerful memory of the justice work of the radical rabbi from Nazareth, Jesus.

**Many: We share bread and wine from your global planet,  
symbolizing the suffering and beauty,  
and the need for freedom on every mountain,  
in every river, on land, and sea, in village, farm land, town and city.**

One: As we consume the bread and cup of community, root us firmly in your vision of justice, intended for Your One Body. Let its flavor move us to a commitment to share such welcome and hospitality with all who live and breathe on your planet.

**Many: As we drink the cup and consume the bread, may your Spirit be with us,  
enlivening us with courage and hope to join together in the sacred work  
of restoring your planet.**

### *Sharing the Meal*

#### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

All: As one body, we lament with those who lament.  
We hope with those who hope.  
We live with suffering. We live with beauty.  
Let us go from this table as a renewed community,  
doing the radical work of Jesus that calls us  
to live justice-making lives of faith.  
We are followers of God's Way.  
We give thanks!

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Oliver Comstock

*If you would like a name on the prayer list, simply contact the pastors.*

## **PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR**

*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 also 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, for ever and ever, Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

"What Shall I Offer My God?"

Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

*Today we will receive pledges for the coming year as well as gifts for Neighbors in Need, a national offering of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for giving what you can. All cash gifts will go to supporting our community justice partners like Food at First.*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Oscar Chelcea

## **HYMN OF SENDING**

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" (Hymn 498)

## **BENEDICTION**

Carter Pilcher

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

## **POSTLUDE**

*You are welcome to be seated and enjoy the day's postlude or move into the parlor for fellowship. Our worship leaders will greet you at the end of the center aisle, or you may go out the side aisle. Thank you for joining us today – if you have any questions or concerns, please contact any one of our pastors or members of staff.*

# AMES UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Upcoming Sunday Scriptures**

During the 8:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study, in the Fellowship Hall, we reflect on the coming week's scripture. Join us!

10/11 Hear O Israel, Deuteronomy 5:1-21;6:4-9

10/18 The Book of Ruth

10/25 David Anointed King, 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5

11/1 Kingdom Divided, 1 Kings 12:1-17

## **150th Anniversary Celebration Tickets on Sale**

On Sunday, November 1st, Ames United Church of Christ is ending its 150th anniversary celebration with a dinner and program following the worship service. Starting this Sunday, the 150th committee will be selling tickets in the parlor every Sunday in October. Tickets are \$5, children 3 and under are free. Vegetarian options are available; please designate when purchasing your tickets. Tickets need to be purchased prior to November 1st.

## **Library Work Group - October 7th**

The church library work group will be meeting on Wednesday, October 7th at 1:30 p.m. in the church parlor. We will be processing more books for the church library. If you are interested please join us. If you like books this is a project you should enjoy. Let Barbara Faidley know if you would like to participate. All are welcome. Barbara's contact information: 515-233-3874/barbara@faidley.org

## **CROP Walk - October 11th**

The 2015 CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 1pm sign-in; 1:30pm walk. The approximately 5 KM walk & will go through the ISU campus, starting & ending at the Maple Shelter in Brookside Park. Funds raised through the CROP Walk help to fund food programs sponsored by Church World Service as well as seven local food programs. Twenty-five per cent of all funds raised are returned to the local food programs. The 2014 Walk raised \$26,823.87 with 18 groups participating. Anyone interested in participating can pick up an information / sign-up packet at the church office or contact Rachel Schelle at 515-450-3137.

### **Women's Fellowship - October 14th**

All women of the church are invited to participate in Women's Fellowship. Every 1st and 4th Wednesday of the month we have a bring your own lunch meeting from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The first meeting of the month is usually a planned activity or speaker, etc. The 2nd meeting of the month is generally a time of conversation about anything we wish as we share our joys and concerns with each other. On Wednesday, October 14th, we have a special meeting planned. Jan Breitman has arranged for us to visit the Ames Historical Center for a question and answer session. Come with all your questions about Ames' history. The Ames History Center is on the corner of 5th St. and Douglas. You can bring your lunch and sit around a big table and ask questions.

### **Holiday Bazaar - October 24th**

So many people were generous with donations for our Attic to Basement Sale that we were unable to display it all. We decided to have another sale with all the Christmas items that were donated. So we are continuing our Wednesday morning sale work parties. All of our donations have been moved to the Choir Room so if you have time, join us on Wednesday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon to sort and price the items for our Christmas Bazaar. The Sale will be on Saturday, October 24th from 8am to noon.

### **New Church Pictorial Directory - November 17th - 21st**

Mark your calendars to sit for photos for a new church pictorial directory! Look out for more information in the bulletin and weekly e-announcements on sign up and pricing. There are many ways you can volunteer to help make this run smoothly. Contact the church office for more information.

## Calendar for the Week

### Monday, October 5

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

### Tuesday, October 6

3:00 p.m. Farm to Folk

### Wednesday, October 7

8:30 a.m. Morning Bible Study

9:30 a.m. AM Work Crew

10:00 a.m. Work on Bazaar

12:10 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers

2:05 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club

6:45 p.m. Choir Practice

### Thursday, October 8

7:15 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Meeting

### Friday, October 9

1:00 p.m. UCC Book Club

### Saturday, October 10

11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels (*Trenkle*)

### Sunday, October 11

9:30 a.m. God Talk

9:30 a.m. Learning Center

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

### **Be In Touch with Ames UCC**

217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010

515-232-9323

Mondays—Thursdays

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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