

**Ames United Church of Christ**  
**Sunday, April 10, 2016**

*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.*

*Our worship leaders today are Dan Coffey (scripture), Jim Dickson (Stewardship Moment), Eileen Gebbie (sermon), Hannah Hannover (Children's Celebration), Sue Lamont (prayers) and Phil Spike (scripture).*

## **GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

## **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**

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

**One:** We gather with wonder and amazement at all that Jesus does.

**Many:** Today we take a moment to pause  
and contemplate all that God gives us. Amen.

## **HYMN**

"The Day of Resurrection," Hymn 425

*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**

*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.*

**One:** God of wonder and amazement, we are in awe of the miracles around us. Help us to see you in all things, and keep us mindful and present. Amen.

## **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 before God and one another.  
Merciful and forgiving God,

**Many:** Your world is filled with wonderful things.  
Yet we become so immersed in our worries, becoming successful,  
and our problems, that we often fail to see the miracles around us.  
Forgive us, and ground us in your presence.

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 is merciful and patient. Receive the entire forgiveness of all your sins, and move through this world with eyes to see God in all things. 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.



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

NEW TESTAMENT Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10 (Good News Translation)

From Christmas through Easter we heard stories from the Gospel of Mark. We now continue through the New Testament to the Acts of the Apostles (a companion to the Gospel of Luke) and then various letters written to and from early church leaders. The Good News Translation of the Bible was first published in full in 1976 as an “everyday language” translation from the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek of the Bible’s original parts.

One day Peter and John went to the Temple at three o'clock in the afternoon, the hour for prayer. There at the Beautiful Gate, as it was called, was a man who had been lame all his life. Every day he was carried to the gate to beg for money from the people who were going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John going in, he begged them to give him something. They looked straight at him, and Peter said, “Look at us!” So he looked at them, expecting to get something from them. But Peter said to him, “I have no money at all, but I give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I order you to get up and walk!” Then he took him by his right hand and helped him up. At once the man's feet and ankles became strong; he jumped up, stood on his feet, and started walking around. Then he went into the Temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. The people there saw him walking and praising God, and when they recognized him as the beggar who had sat at the Beautiful Gate, they were all surprised and amazed at what had happened to him.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” (next page)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

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, Amen.

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy  
Tune: Beach Springs  
(Public Domain)

**HYMN OF SENDING**                    “We Live by Faith and Not By Sight” *(below)*

Tune: Morning Song  
(Public Domain)

**BENEDICTION**  
*From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off. Please join us next door in the parlor for coffee, tea, treats, and community.*

**TODAY’S FLOWERS**  
Today’s flowers are given by Pr. Eileen Gebbie and Carla Barnwell in celebration of their tenth wedding anniversary.

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

**OFFERING**                    “Now the Green Blade Rises”                    Noel Nouvelet, arr. K. Stewart  
Chancel Choir  
*Your gifts go to support the work and mission of our church. Coins and bills are sent to mission partners like Food at First and Youth and Shelter Services. Checks, unless otherwise designated, go to the church proper to help keep our ministries (like worship, youth group, and Godly Play) vital. If you would like to sign up for electronic giving, please visit [amesucc.org/give](http://amesucc.org/give) or contact Katie Bonney for details ([office@amesucc.org](mailto:office@amesucc.org), 515-232-9323).*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**



# God's Story Our Story

April 10, 2016

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your daily devotions.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of wonder and amazement, we are in awe of the miracles around us. Help us to see you in all things, and keep us mindful and present. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading.

But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." Acts 3:6

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

Peter and John offered healing in Jesus' name as their witness to Jesus' love for humanity. The people who were used to seeing the man asking for alms were filled with wonder and amazement at the sight of the lame man walking. There are many things about Jesus and about God's world that can fill us with wonder and amazement. Are we open to seeing?

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, Acts 3:1-10, *Peter Heals in Jerusalem*

Monday, Acts 4:1-22, *Peter and John before the Council*

Tuesday, Acts 4:23-31, *The Believers Prayer for Boldness*

Wednesday, Acts 4:32-37, *The Believers Share Their Possessions*

Thursday, Acts 5:1-11, *Ananias and Sapphira*

Friday, Acts 5:12-16, *The Apostles Heal Many*

Saturday, Acts 5:17-42, *The Apostles Are Persecuted*

How did early believers back up their words with their actions?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Who in your community has a need that you could fill? Ask your pastor to connect you with people who could use the gifts you have to offer.

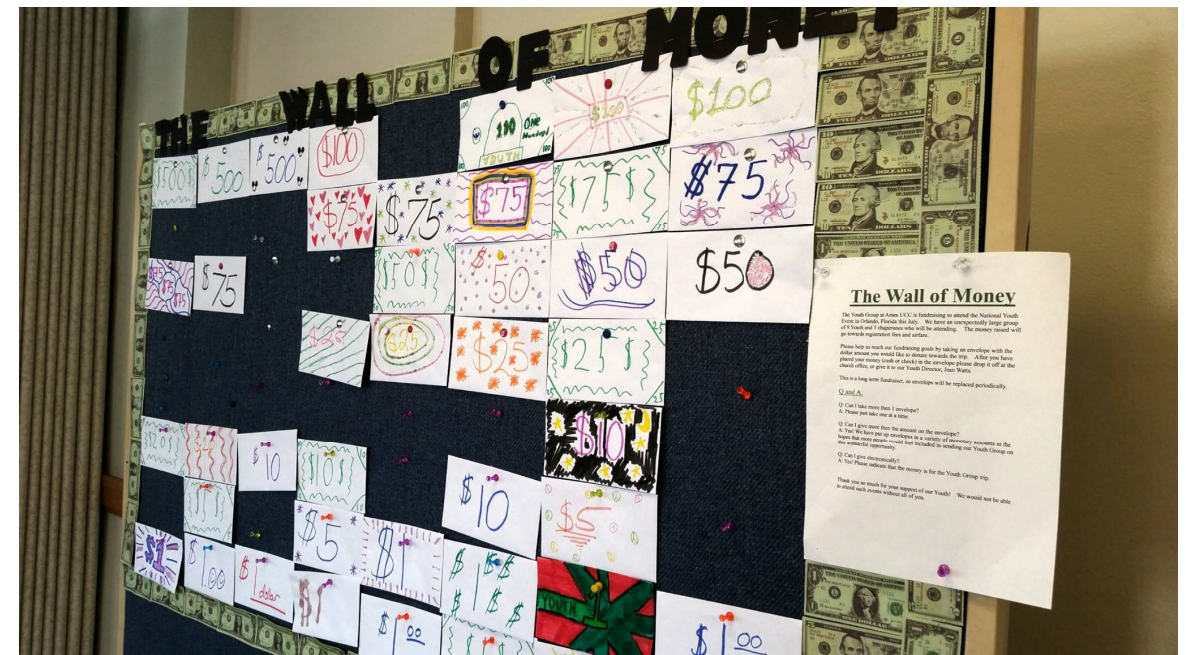
What fills you with wonder and amazement?

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Keep two jars on a counter in your kitchen. Throughout the week, put a dollar in one jar for every time you catch yourself with a negative thought or action. Put a dollar in the other jar for every time you catch yourself with a positive thought or action. At the end of the week see which jar has more money. Donate all the money to a local charity.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless others through the gifts you share. Amen.



## AMES UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming Sunday Scriptures

- 4/17 Exodus 13:17-18a, 20-22  
4/24 Church at Corinth, Acts 18:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
5/1 Faith, Hope, and Love, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
5/8 Death Swallowed in Life, 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57

### Congregational Meeting to Vote on Phase 3 Spending

A congregational meeting is scheduled after church on April 24 to decide how we should proceed with construction at this time.

### New Church Directory

The new church directories can be picked up after worship this Sunday, April 10, and next Sunday, April 17. Please pick them up in the church parlor. Each family will receive one directory. Please let Barbara Faidley know when you pick up your directory so you can be checked off the master list (515-233-3874, barbara@faidley.org). If you are taking someone else's directory to them, please let Barbara know so it can be recorded also. Thanks for your cooperation. We will deliver some directories to our housebound members. If you find any mistakes in the directory listings please let Katie Bonney in the church office know so we can keep the directory as up to date as possible. We will try to send out corrections in the church newsletter. Thanks for your help.

### Wall of Money

Thank you to everyone who has been able to participate in the "Wall of Money" to date (pictured left). Funds raised through this effort, the Lenten soup suppers, a forthcoming soup supper cook book, and more, will allow youth Abby, Jacob, Alison, Ben, Eli, Kat, Aria, Ryan, and Emma, and adults Jean Watts, Katie Bonney, Tracy Johnson, and Bradley Duckstein to attend the 2016 UCC National Youth Event.

"National Youth Event (NYE) is a spirited quadrennial event centered on faith, leadership, service and social justice first inaugurated in 1980. It is celebrated as the largest denominational gathering for the United Church of Christ with an expected attendance of 4,000 participants." Read more here: <http://www.uccpages.org/nye>

### Office Administrator Out on Vacation April 25-28:

#### Newsletter & Announcement Deadlines

Our Church Office Administrator Katie Bonney will be out on vacation the last week in April. To make sure the newsletter, bulletin, and weekly e-mail announcements are prepared ahead of time, please submit your announcements and articles by the following deadlines:

Newsletter: Tuesday, April 12

April 20 e-mail announcements and April 24 bulletin: Tuesday, April 19

April 27 e-mail announcements and May 1 bulletin: Tuesday, April 19

### Men's Fellowship - Apr. 12

Brown bag lunch & lively conversation from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Please join us!

### Women's Fellowship - Apr. 13

The first meeting this month is April 13. We will be meeting from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. to allow some of our members to ring the Just Peace bell at noon. At this first meeting of the month we are asking everyone to share someplace they really like to visit in Iowa. Come prepared to talk about this place, where it is located, and how to get there. If you have photographs bring them to share. Places can be in Ames but we are also looking for places in other parts of Iowa. Come and share a favorite place to visit. Visitors are always welcome and remember to bring your lunch.

### RIOTcon 2016: Mapping a Movement

Pr. Eileen will be at Chicago Theological Seminary for RIOTcon 2016: Mapping a Movement from Thursday, April 14 through Monday, April 18. The focus of this annual event (RIOT stands for Raging Issues of Today) will be the history, organization and necessary tools for social justice movements. For more information: <http://riotcon.ctschicago.edu>

### "This Changes Everything" Film Showing - Apr. 28

Join the Social Justice and Outreach Team in viewing "This Changes Everything," a documentary film by Avi Lewis. This film is a purposefully unsettling but ultimately encouraging movie that gives a global overview of efforts by activists to push back against corporate polluters and reduce climate change. The film showing will be held

on Thursday, April 28 at 7:300 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is intended to share education about climate change and kick off the Ames UCC Green Team. We hope you will join us in the journey to learn how we as individuals and a congregation can live more environmentally friendly.

**Central Association Iowa Conference UCC Spring Meeting**

Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10am-3pm  
Bethany UCC, 5627 N 95th Ave W, Baxter, IA 50028

Join us as we worship, serve, and learn together.

- Worship led by Rev. Teresa Clark, interim pastor of Bethany UCC, and Rev. Charles Kniker
- Learn more, ask questions, and provide feedback regarding the Tri-Conference Cooperation
- Discuss your ideas to move into action in such areas as: the environment, health care, racial justice, homelessness, human trafficking, and more-*Bring your passions with you!*
- Consider Rev. Jessica Schirm for Privilege of Call in the UCC
- Share a meal with Association friends old and new!

Business Matters

- 2016-2017 Budget
- Nominations and Election for Advisory Council and Committee on Ministry
- Committee on Ministry Report
- Tri-Conference Cooperation

RSVP by Wednesday, April 13 by sending:

- Names/number of attendees
- Church affiliation
- Any special food requirements via email (preferred), mail, or phone

Central Association Iowa UCC  
4949 Westown Parkway, Suite 165-220  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Email: [ContactUs@centraliowaucc.org](mailto:ContactUs@centraliowaucc.org), Phone (Rev. Jessica Petersen): 641 .792.3773

**Calendar for the Week**

Monday, Apr. 11

1:00-4:00 p.m. Office Closed: Office Admin  
w/ Treasurer  
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project  
(Starck)

Tuesday, Apr. 12

12:00 p.m. Men’s Fellowship  
3:00 p.m. Farm to Folk

Wednesday, Apr. 13

8:30 a.m. Bible Study  
9:30 a.m. AM Work Crew  
12:00 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers  
12:15 p.m. Women’s Fellowship  
2:05 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Club  
6:45 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, Apr. 14

*Pr. Eileen out*  
1:00p Library Work Group

Saturday, Apr. 16

9:30 a.m. Ames UCC’s Day at  
Food at First  
11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels (O’Neal)

Sunday, Apr. 17

*Pr. Eileen out*  
9:30 a.m. Learning Center  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

**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.  
24-hour pastoral emergencies:  
515-428-1779

Katie Bonney,  
Church Office Administrator  
[office@amesucc.org](mailto:office@amesucc.org)

David Cook, Sexton  
[cookdavi@gmail.com](mailto:cookdavi@gmail.com)

Jim Dickson, Treasurer  
[dje49@opencom.net](mailto:dje49@opencom.net)

Eileen Gebbie, Minister  
[eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org) / Ext 11

Hannah Hannover,  
Minister to Children & Families  
[hannah@amesucc.org](mailto:hannah@amesucc.org) / Ext 12

Nancy Heathman, Financial Secretary  
[heathman@mediacombb.net](mailto:heathman@mediacombb.net)

Lesley Lackore, Music Director  
[llackore@gmail.com](mailto:llackore@gmail.com)

Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Keyboardist  
[karen.stewart@ames.k12.ia.us](mailto:karen.stewart@ames.k12.ia.us)

Jean Watts, Youth Director  
[jean@amesucc.org](mailto:jean@amesucc.org)