

ames

UCC COURIER

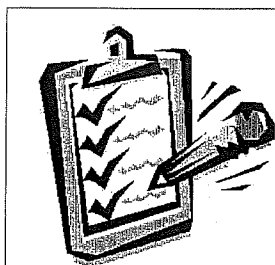
United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

ISSUE 256
AUGUST 2014

Just Peace, Open & Affirming

E-mail: office@amesucc.org
Tel: (515) 232-9323
www.amesucc.org



From the Interim Pastor

There is a perception that the work of the church slows down during the summer, but these last several weeks have been full of activity for many groups in the church. Here is just some of what's been happening:

The youth have recently returned from their mission trip to the Heifer Ranch in Arkansas. We had the joy of commissioning them the Sunday before they left, and the prayers of their prayer partners surrounded them while they are away.

And even though there is no Sunday School during the summer, the Christian Education Team co-led Vacation Bible School with First Christian and First United Methodist, and has been working hard on a new design for children's education, called "Godly Play." This program will begin in the fall (and you will be able to get a taste of it on Builders Sunday, September 7).

The Property Team spent a hot day moving furniture and files out of the office, which was then carpeted; and then another hot day moving everything back in. The office looks great—please stop by to admire their work! You might also thank our erstwhile gardeners, who keep the landscaping looking so good.

A faithful crew has been working weekly getting ready for the upcoming rummage sale; and Jan Bauer and her cast of thousands kept the church in the town spotlight during the Ames Fourth of July Parade and Chautauqua.

The Invitation and Welcome Team organized membership exploration classes that brought in five new members. Financial Stewardship is in high gear planning the fall stewardship emphasis. Caring Network has continued to provide meals and other supports for members who are ill. The Worship and Music and Member Services Teams have been busy with our joint services with First Christian, Worship in the Park (coming up this Sunday), and all the regular planning and tasks that go along with a meaningful life together. Personnel Committee has been reviewing and updating position descriptions, and will be doing annual staff reviews later this month.

As for Social Justice and Outreach, our members have continued to supply meals for the Emergency Residence Project shelter, deliver Meals on Wheels, and serve at Food at First (other than a July hiatus to help David White move).

In the midst of all this, the Pastoral Search Committee has begun receiving resumes from candidates and is doing the hard work of sifting through them.

It's good to see the energy and joy of this congregation, even in the heat of summer.

Blessings,
Terry



Worship

Worship time will be 9:30 a.m. until the end of August.



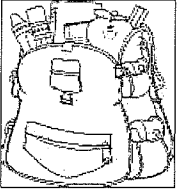
Worship

From the Minister to Children and Youth

We have an exciting new curriculum for the children's Sunday School this fall. It is more than a story each week...it's an experience! The new way our favorite (or less known) Bible stories will come to life will be told using Godly Play. YOU will have a chance to be present for a Godly Play story-telling session during the morning of Builders Sunday on September 7. The Christian Education team looks forward to sharing more about Godly Play with you in the weeks to come!

–Hannah Hannover

Blessing of the Backpacks August 10

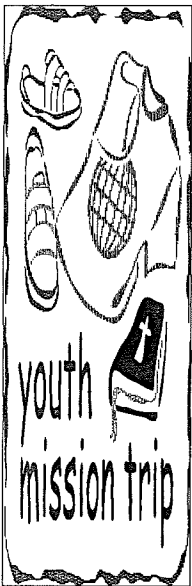


If you are going back to school this fall—students of all ages and teachers, too—bring your backpack to worship to receive a blessing for the upcoming school year. We will have a blessing of the backpacks during worship.



Curious to hear about the July youth mission trip to the Heifer International Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas? They will share their experiences when they lead worship on **Sunday, August 17.**

From the Youth Minister



Here are the things the Ames UCC youth found the most memorable on their mission trip:

Walked a goat.

Milked a goat.

Fed the goats, pigs, and chickens.

Tried to save the life of a baby bat.

Had a baby bat funeral.

Named Abby's baby (she was selected to be pregnant) after the bat.

Harvested peppers and potatoes.

Found out fire ants like potatoes.

Stayed in the Urban Slums section of the Global Village.

Learned about cooperation and consensus.

Shared our home with a bat, a moth, a frog, several centipedes and lots of mosquitoes.

Learned the Seven M's of animals' use for humans. (Ask!)

Made a pizza: Milked the goat, made goat cheese, picked the spices, mashed whole tomatoes, mixed tomatoes with spices, made the crust, put it all together.

Made tortillas over a wood-burning stove.

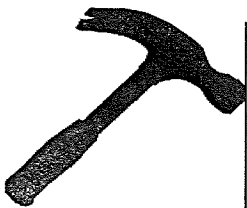
Learned about locally grown food.

Played cards, laughed a lot, made new friends from Minnesota and Texas.

Had a block party in Thailand at the Global Village and played Silent Football.

Come to our worship service in August to learn more!!!

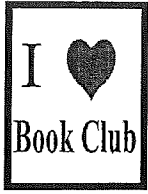
Linda Hanson



Calling All Builders!

Together, we all help to build up the church, so mark your calendar and join us for **Builders Sunday** (formerly known as Rally Sunday) on September 7. Builders Sunday will include break-fast, an opportunity to hear about the work of each team at Ames UCC and experience the new children's Sunday School curriculum, and join in worship together!

Look for more details in the September newsletter!



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.

September 17 – Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression* by Mildred Armstrong Kalish (2007 nonfiction, 292 pages) Discussion leader: Pat Spangler

A memoir from a schoolteacher of growing up in the Midwest during the Great Depression describes life on an Iowa farm during a time of endless work, resourcefulness, no tolerance for idleness, family, and kinship.

October 15 – The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh (2011 fiction, 352 pages)

Discussion leader: Lynette Spicer

The story of a woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others as she struggles to overcome her past in the foster-care system.

November 19 – The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History by Robert M. Edsel (2009 nonfiction, 473 pages) Discussion leader: Allen Trenkle

A World War II Allied division has the mission of tracking down European art and treasures looted by the Nazis at Hitler's command.

December 17 – Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21st Century by Ruth C. Duck (2013 nonfiction, 358 pages) Discussion leaders: book club planning members

Renowned hymn writer and professor Ruth Duck provides theological foundations for worship and explores the ways Christians have adapted worship to various cultures to help them live faithfully and to communicate the Gospel to others. The author celebrates the many languages and cultural settings in which the Gospel has been, and is, preached, sung, and prayed. (continued)

January 21 – The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride (1996 nonfiction, 228 pages) Discussion leader: Barbara Faidley

Ruth McBride Jordan concealed her former life as Rachel Deborah Shilsky, the daughter of an Orthodox Jewish rabbi, from her children. Her grim upbringing in an abusive environment is left behind when she moves to Harlem, marries a black man, converts to Christianity, and cofounds a Baptist congregation with her husband.

February 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.

March 18 – 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.

April 15 – Looking After Minidoka: an American Memoir* by Neil Nakadate (Local Author, 2013 nonfiction, 213 pages) Discussion leader: Nancy Marks

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.

May 20 – 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.

June 17 – Select titles for upcoming book club year

Invitation and Welcome

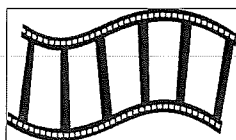
Welcome New Members!

On July 27 we were delighted to have Marlys Benck, Ashlen Rutherford, Dajsa Deuel, Enrique Hernandez and Richard White join our congregation. Please welcome these new members!

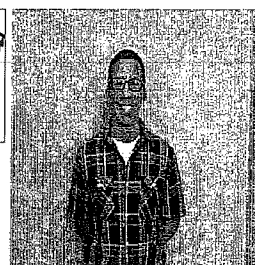
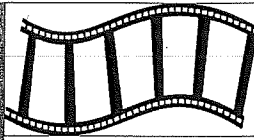
(Richard White was not present for a picture.)



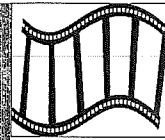
Marlys Benck



Ashlen Rutherford
and Dajsa Deuel



Enrique Hernandez



Worship and Music



Choir Dessert Social August 20

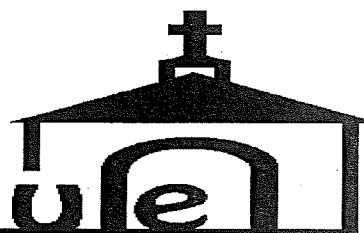
Join the chancel choir for a dessert social on Wednesday, August 20 at 6:45 p.m. in the church parlor. Bring your favorite dessert to share and come for the fellowship. If you have been a long time choir member or are just thinking about joining us this year—come and share dessert with us.

Chancel Choir rehearsal will begin Wednesday, August 27 at 6:45 p.m. in the choir room in the basement at Ames UCC.

—Lesley Lackore

Fall Worship Time Changes September 7

Worship hour will change to 10:45 a.m. on September 7. Come for Christian Education opportunities at 9:30 a.m. and worship to follow at 10:45 a.m.



Worship Schedule



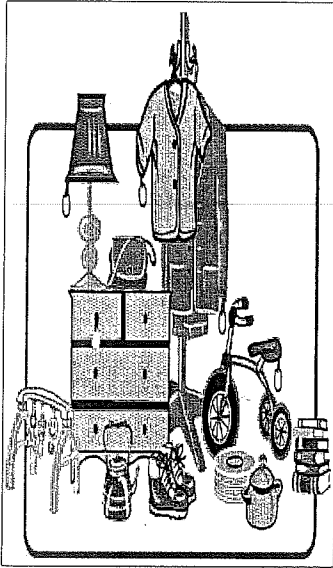
You are invited to a:

**90th Birthday Open House
for Dean Lehman**

**Sunday, August 10 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.
at Green Hills Retirement Community
Dining Hall**

2200 Hamilton Drive, Ames

Member Services



ABC (ATTIC TO BASEMENT CHURCH) SALE

Friday, August 22

4 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 23

8 a.m. to 12 noon.

DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED!!!

If you need a receipt or need donations picked up, let us know.
Questions? Call or email:

Cornelia Flora 232-7664—cflora@iastate.edu

Barbara Yungclas 292-9274—wryungclas@aol.com

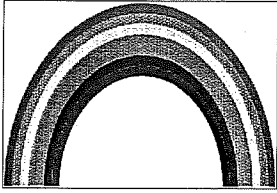
Barbara Faidley 233-3874—barbara@faidley.org

ABC SALE: "Many Hands Make Light Work"

"What can I do to help?" the Attic to Basement Church sale Top 15 List

- 15. Let go of those items that are cluttering your drawers, cupboards, closets, basements and garages and bring them to the church by August 21 or call (515) 233-3874 (Faidleys) for pick up! Large items can be accepted at the church between August 16 and 21.
- 14. Volunteer to update the signs used to advertise the sale and put them in place two weeks before the sale.
- 13. Volunteer to distribute flyers to various locations around town.
- 12. Come Wednesday mornings, August 6 and August 13 from 9:30 to 11:30 to help sort and price donated items. Join the Fun!!
- 11. Come set up tables for the sale on Saturday, August 16.
- 10. Come on Saturday, August 16 at 10 a.m. to sort and price a large number of items coming from one church member.
- 9. Come on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings before the sale to arrange, sort and price items not already done. Refreshments will be available.
- 8. Move boxes of sorted and priced items from Room 209 to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 17 after worship.
- 7. Volunteer to work at the sale on Friday, August 22 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. or 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. We need cashiers, packers, general supervision, back door guard.
- 6. Volunteer to work at the sale Saturday, August 23 from 8 to 10 a.m. or 10 a.m. to noon.
- 5. Take another look for possible sale items, ask your neighbors and friends! We welcome larger items after August 16!!!!
- 4. Volunteer to cashier after worship on Sunday, August 24 - Yes we will be open!
- 3. Volunteer to box unsold items after coffee fellowship on Sunday or Monday, and take all the items you can squeeze into your vehicle to Goodwill!!!! Or other distribution points (Affordables in Story City or Collegiate Presbyterian Church Sale).
- 2. Come to the sale - Friday, August 22, 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, August 23, 8 a.m. -12 noon.
- And the **number one** answer to the question "What can I Do?... 1. Reread the above items, circle the ones that you can do, and email Barbara Faidley at barbara@faidley.org or sign up on the table in the parlor. Thank you all for your hard work.

—The ABC Sale Committee: Barbara Faidley, Barbara Yungclas and Cornelia Flora



LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Allies) Fellowship

Thank you to all who came to the July barbeque, and to Kim and Pat Spangler for being our hosts! Remember that gatherings are held every third Sunday of the month, so feel free to join us! If you are interested in learning more about the LGBT+ fellowship, wish to join the mailing list, or would like to host a monthly gathering, contact Bradley Duckstein at bduckstein@gmail.com or (515) 971-2886.



CONGREGATIONAL DINNERS are happening again in September! Please let Hannah know if you are interested in hosting a meal in your home. The dates are September 19, 20, & 21 and 26, 27, & 28. You can contact Hannah at: hannah@amesucc.org

Sesquicentennial Events

The Member Services Team has been busy this summer with a number of sesquicentennial events. The team thanks everyone who participated in the following activities:

Ames UCC's open house during the Historic Old Town Neighborhood Association's Home and Garden tour was a great success. Despite the rainy start, the church hosted more than seventy guests. Thanks to the delicious refreshments arranged by Barbara Yungclas, and the inspired music provided by Sunny Stewart, Paul Hertz and Bradley Duckstein, everyone who attended will remember their visit long after the architectural details and the historical facts have faded from memory.

Ames UCC's towering Birthday Cake Float was the hit of the 4th of July parade. It was quite the spectacle rolling down the street. Ellen Barnhart and Peg Powell provided the inspiration while Steve Barnhart and Doug Powell provided the muscle. It was by far the best float in the parade. Thanks to everyone who participated.

The all church play, "The Bell at Sixth and Kellogg," performed at the Ames 150th Chautauqua celebration was well received thanks to the commitment of time and energy by everyone involved. Leading our UCC thespians, Ed Goedeken masterfully portrayed congressman and philanthropist, the Honorable Oakes Ames; Bradley Duckstein gave an inspired performance as the Reverend John White; and Lynette Spicer played to perfection the invincible founding mother, Cynthia O. Duff. Everyone did a wonderful job!

All participants made Ames UCC proud!

—Jan Bauer

Social Justice and Outreach

ERP Homeless Shelter Meal Providers Needed

Want to provide a simple meal about two to three Mondays a year for 8-10 men who reside at one of our local homeless shelters? The shelter is located at 225 South Kellogg Avenue.

Expectations - provide a main dish and salad/vegetable, eat with group or drop off the meal about 5:30 p.m. If 5:30 won't work, you can make arrangements to drop off the food at an alternate time.

A yearly schedule and instructions will be mailed to you. If your date does not work just call/email someone on the list to exchange dates.

To sign up email (ellenbarnhart@hotmail.com) or call (515) 232-3855 before **September 1**. For those of you who already provide meals - **THANK YOU!!!**

But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do,
what God is looking for in men and women.
It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,
be compassionate and loyal in your love,
And don't take yourself too seriously—
take God seriously.

Micah 6:8 - The Message

—Ellen Barnhart, UCC Emergency Residency Meal Coordinator

Iowa UCC

July 21, 2014

A Pastoral Letter from the Ministerial Staff of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ In Response to the Plight of Central American Children

We call the people of the Iowa Conference to prayer and to action.

We commit ourselves and invite you to prayerful remembrance. We prayerfully remember the witness of wanderers and strangers that stirs through our sacred texts. We prayerfully re-call the words of law and voices of prophets through which God insists that the people of God give particular attention to the well-being of the strangers and of the fatherless. We prayerfully remember the Word that lived in Jesus, a Word that commanded love and directed that love beyond the comfortable and familiar toward new definitions of neighbor and toward far margins of risk and sacrifice. We re-call our story of the child refugee Jesus, carried by his parents to safety in Egypt.

We commit ourselves and invite you to prayerful intercession. For children living in dangers beyond the borders of our imaginations. For parents making excruciating choices. For those who meet the children at our nation's edge. For the members of the U.S. Border Patrol. For those offering shelter and care. For those raising shouts of fear and hatred. For those who have legal authority to show justice and mercy. For those who have political authority to shape change.

We commit ourselves and invite you to listen with purpose for the voice of the Holy Spirit in the words of Scripture and of news reporting and of public conversation. We listen attentively for what the Spirit is guiding us, not someone else, to say and do. We listen for the Spirit's summons to speak and to listen in our congregations and communities. We listen for the Spirit's summons to bear witness to those in political authority that the first imperative must be the well-being of the children. They must not be returned to danger.

We commit ourselves and invite you to seek opportunities to offer the radical hospitality and extravagant welcome that are at the heart of our common life in the United Church of Christ, to make room and to support the work of others who are making room.

We commit ourselves and invite you to draw courage from courage. From thousands of children who find the courage to keep walking, we find the courage to keep walking at their sides. We commit ourselves and invite you to boldly and more boldly follow Jesus.

– Rich Pleva, Jonna Jensen, Brigit Stevens, Laura Arnold, Samantha Houser, Katherine Mulhern

Thank you for your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

Your support helps many people in many places in many ways. OCWM funds the work of the Iowa Conference. Currently, I am the assistant moderator for the Iowa Conference and want you to know how important your gifts are. A few examples of this work are pastoral placement in Iowa churches, education and training of church leaders, and materials for worship, stewardship and much more. Currently, my home church, Faith UCC, Muscatine, is in transition. We have an interim pastor and rely on the guidance of the professionals at the Iowa Conference as we consider the search and call process.

Gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission benefit a full range of UCC missions across our country and around the world to people in all ages and stages of life. Your support shows the love of God for people you will never meet in places you will never visit. Your OCWM gifts are greatly appreciated wherever the ministries of the UCC reach on your behalf. Every dollar you gave has been and will be put to work wisely and with the love of God.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I ask you to accept our sincere thanks for your generous support of our ministries through Our Church's Wider Mission. May God bless you and your giving.

Sincerely,

Sue Johannsen, Faith UCC, Muscatine

United Church of Christ-Congregational
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Worship in the Park Sunday, August 3
Bring your lawn chairs for worship on August 3 at Brookside Park, 1325 6th Street, with First Christian Church and First Baptist Church. This relaxed worship experience will begin at 9:30 a.m. and follow with a light refreshment social. If you'd like to bring cookies or donate cups and napkins, contact Jan Bauer at (515) 292-3739.