



Just Peace, Open & Affirming

217 Sixth Street | Ames, IA

office@amesucc.org | 515.232.9323

www.Amesucc.org

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2014

*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

RINGING THE BELL

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

ADVENT CENTERING

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Kristin and Kathryn Shields

We light candles during Advent to scatter the darkness. As we light these candles, the circle of Christ's light grows wider. Today we light four candles as a sign of God's coming reign of love.

We look for the Advent of God into this world, turning hatred into love. Come, Lord Jesus!

***GATHERING SONG**

“Canticle of the Turning”

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

“Gloria 3”

Taize Community

***SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

The peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share Christ's peace with one another.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "Spreading the Circle of Light"
The Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Lowell Mathison at Green Hills for physical rehab (no visits yet).

Donna Trenkle

Marilynn Curry recovering from a fall.

For the Pastor Search Committee in this period of discernment.

For Mitchell, brother-in-law of Greg Wool, in ongoing health concerns.

Caregivers

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray the following, or whatever version is most meaningful to you:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT

Christmas Fund

Kim Spangler

OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

arr. C. Davis

MESSAGE

The First Light: Rejoice! A Child of Hope is Born T. Fettke

I. Gloria

II. O Little Town of Bethlehem (choir & congregation)

III. Child of Hope

IV. Lord of Life and Love

V. Hear the Good News *with*

Angels We Have Heard on High* (choir & congregation)

(**Choir director will cue each verse*)

COMMUNION PRAYER Beginning with:

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our gracious God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

All are invited to share in this meal. The bread is free of gluten and soy; the cup contains grape juice. To receive, take a piece of bread, then dip into the juice before eating. If it is difficult for you to come forward, remain seated and the elements will be brought to you.

***CLOSING PRAYER**

CHORAL SONG

VI. "In the First Light"

T. Fettke

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

VII. "You Are the Light"

T. Fettke

***SENDING MUSIC**

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 21

No Youth Group

Monday, December 22

6:00p Pastoral Search Committee, *rm 104*

Tuesday, December 23

No Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, December 24

No Bible Study

7:00p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day – Church Office Closed - Holiday

Friday, December 26

Church Office Closed – Holiday

Saturday, December 27

MOW: Chase

Sunday, December 28

10:45a Worship

Poetry & Christmas Carols

Hannah Hannover

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Recital

Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1416 20th St, Ames, will be holding an **Advent recital**, hosted by NPC organist **Paul Hertz**, today at **6:00 p.m.** A free-will offering will go to support the Ames Emergency Residence Project.

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. The evening offering will support the Emergency Residence Project.

Come Explore Membership!

Are you interested in becoming a member, or just curious about what membership means in the UCC? Then come to this Membership Exploration Class! These classes will be an opportunity to learn about the church, get to know other newcomers as well as some long-time members, and come away with a clearer sense of your own spiritual journey. These classes truly are an *exploration*: you don't have to be ready to sign on the dotted line to attend! **Classes will be 12:00-1:00 p.m. on January 4, 11, and 18, with lunch and childcare provided.** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will come and explore with us!

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: Join us during the Sunday School hour for *Godly Play*! On the second Sunday through the end of the month, children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited upstairs to experience a story from the Bible and then create, play, or act out their ideas. The first week of the month will feature *speed rotations*, where children experience a Bible story through an action-packed variety of activities. *Godly Play* is also offered during worship on the first Sunday of each month, following the Children’s Message.

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 the Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore: During regular office hours, if the matter is not urgent, please call the church office or email Terry at terry@amesucc.org. If your situation is an emergency, don’t hesitate to call her cell phone at 415.686.4799.



Program Staff:

Interim Minister.....Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore
Minister to Children & Families.....Hannah Hannover
Youth Director.....Emily Kenneke
Music Director.....Lesley Lackore
Keyboardist.....Karen “Sunny” Stewart