



Just Peace, Open & Affirming

217 Sixth Street | Ames, Iowa
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!

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 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

“A Time of Waiting”

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Light a Candle for Peace”

arr.

Ruth Elaine Schram

Lighting the Second Candle of Advent Amy, Luke, Landon, & Leo Johnson

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

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

***GATHERING SONG** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" NCH 131

***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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Landon LeRoy Johnson

Parents: Luke (Amy) Johnson and Stephanie (Adam) Bates

Sponsors: Jeremy Johnson and Stacy Johnson

Leo James Johnson

Parents: Luke and Amy Johnson

Sponsors: Will Schuldt and Emily Schuldt

WELCOME LANDON AND LEO

As members of the household of God, let us welcome Landon and Leo to this life and ministry.

Welcome, Landon and Leo, into the household of God.

WELCOMING SONG "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" NCH 351

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will

stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-14

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight,' "

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SERMON

"Tidings of Comfort and Joy"
Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

***SONG**

"Comfort, Comfort O My People"

NCH 101

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

beginning with “Come and Fill Our Hearts” ELW 528

France

Joys & Concerns

- ✠ We rejoice with Greg and Sue Lamont as they welcome their first grandchild Ian Ansel Cook Lamont, who was born November 30.
- ✠ Charles Kniker in the death of his brother, Kenn.
- ✠ Nancy Heathman and her family in the death of her mother.
- ✠ Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore’s step-father, Joe, undergoing radiation for cancer.
- ✠ For Mitchell, brother-in-law of Greg Wool, in ongoing health concerns.
- ✠ For the Pastor Search Committee in this period of discernment.

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.

OFFERING OF GIFTS

“The Rose of Bethlehem”
Emily Schuldt

Selah

***SUNG RESPONSE**

“Prepare the Way” v. 3

PH 13

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SONG**

“Let There Be Peace On Earth”

***BLESSING**

***SENDING MUSIC**

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday of

Advent

- 9:00a Breakfast, *Fellowship Hall*
9:30a Learning Center, *Fellowship Hall*
9:30a Sunday School
10:45a Worship, *sanctuary*
“*Tidings of Comfort and Joy*”
Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore
Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-14

Alternative Gift Market

***Congregational Meeting to vote on the 2015
Budget and nominations for new officers***

6-7:30p Youth Group

Monday, December 8

- 10:00a AMOS Housing meeting (parlor)
6:00p Pastoral Search Committee, *rm 104*

Tuesday, December 9

12:00p Men’s Fellowship

Wednesday, December 10

- 8:00a Habitat for Humanity Faith Relations
team
8:30a Morning Bible Study, *Fellowship Hall*
9:00a Wed. AM Work Crew
12:00p Women’s Fellowship, *Fellowship Hall*
12:10p Peace Bell Ringers, *bell tower*
2:05p Wednesday Afternoon Club
3:30p Theologian in Residence mtg.
(*Conference rm*)
6:45p Chancel Choir rehearsal, *music rm*

Thursday, December 11

- Poinsettia order deadline*
3:00p INSIGHT study group, *rm 104*

Saturday, December 13

- MOW – Dirks*
9:30a Children’s Christmas Program Practice
(*sanctuary*)

Sunday, December 14 – Third Sunday of

Advent

- 9:00a Breakfast, *Fellowship Hall*
9:30a Learning Center, *Fellowship Hall*
9:30a Sunday School
10:45a Worship, *sanctuary*
Children’s Christmas Pageant

Alternative Gift Market

6:00p Youth Group Christmas Party at
Hannover’s, 800 Vermont Circle

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting December 7 – We will gather after worship today to vote on the 2015 budget and elect officers for the coming year. The Executive Board has approved a budget for 2015 that appeared in the December issue of the UCC Courier, along with nominations for officers.

Alternative Gift Market will be available in the Parlor after worship today, and December 14. An Alternative Gift is a humanitarian gift given in honor of a friend or loved one. Thirty projects ranging from water wells in South Sudan to medicine for Burmese refugees are available through our partner, Alternative Gifts International. Just like traditional gifts, Alternative Gifts express love and affection, celebrate occasions, and show you care. Unlike traditional gifts, Alternative Gifts do not contribute to the consumer stream and will not be re-gifted. Alternative Gifts express our stewardship of the world God gave us, and give us a tangible way to care for our brothers and sisters. Give gifts that have global impact!

Don't Forget to Pick Up Your Tag from the Angel Tree!

Find a tag for the individuals on the CE bulletin board. Shop for the gift and return it to the church office already wrapped. Be sure to include the original tag with your gift. We would like to have ALL of the gifts returned to the church office no later than Sunday, December 21. Thank you for your giving spirit this Christmas!

Retirement Reception for Diane Birt, December 11

After many years of service to the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Iowa State University Distinguished Professor Diane Birt is retiring. A reception will be held Dec. 11, 2-4 p.m. in the Memorial Union Campanile Room. A brief program will be held at 3 p.m.

December 14 Children's Christmas Program: The ABC's of Christmas

Sunday, December 14, at 10:45 a.m. our children will share with you *The ABC's of Christmas*! It is a delightful way to tell the Christmas story through our ABC's. The children have been working hard and are excited for you to come to worship and hear what they have been learning. The remaining parts of the service will be lead by the youth group. This will be a fun way to prepare for Christmas! We hope you'll join 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

