



ames

# UCC COURIER

United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

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## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

### Absorbing Worship



A few months ago my husband sneezed and our grandson said, “Bless you, Granddaddy!” Grady had just turned two, and none of us had taught him to say “Bless you,” when someone sneezed, so we were delightfully surprised by his response.

Just as babies learn the rhythms of language and family life simply by being surrounded by them, small children learn the rhythms and language of worship by being present. It might seem as though they’re getting nothing out of it, but even as they are babbling, fidgeting, or scribbling, they are absorbing what’s going on around them. For that matter, it’s an incredible gift to *have* small children around—so many congregations have quiet, reverent worship just because they have no little ones.

At the same time, older members also have needs: the need for a sense of tranquility in worship, and the need to be able to hear—which is not always easy with the activities of children in the background. Not for nothing did Jesus say, “*Suffer* the little children to come to me”!

Over the next few months, the Christian Ed. Team will be developing a Children’s Church for after the Children’s Message. This will be a child-centered liturgical experience for Preschoolers–Kindergartners, in a separate space. Still, I hope we can continue to extend the same welcome as always to those children whose parents choose to keep them in worship. What they are absorbing is priceless, and the noise they bring is the sound of new life.

Blessings, Terry

# Invitation & Welcome Team



(formerly Evangelism)

## Membership Exploration Class Coming May 4!

Have you been worshipping with us for a while, and beginning to wonder about joining? This class is for you! Whether you already know that you want to become a member, or you just want to know what we're all about, we hope you will attend these classes. You won't just learn about the church: you'll get to know other newcomers as well as some long-time members, and you may also come away with a clearer sense of your own spiritual journey.

Classes will be after Sunday worship on May 4, 11\* and 18, with lunch and childcare provided. This class is truly an *exploration*: you don't have to be ready to sign on the dotted line to attend! We just hope you'll come and explore with us.

---The Invitation and Welcome Team

\*At the first gathering, we will poll the participants about whether holding class on Mother's Day is a problem. If so, we will adjust the schedule.

## Share Your Ideas at the Christian Education Gathering on Sunday, May 11

Come and enjoy a potluck breakfast at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. At 9:30 a.m. the CE Team will hold its spring gathering for all who are interested in Christian Education opportunities!

We will evaluate how things went this year: Sunday School for all ages, Learning Center, Youth Group, WAC, etc. and brainstorm ideas for next year! If you have an interest in Christian Education at Ames UCC, please attend! Our last week of Sunday School is May 18. Remember! Worship stays at 10:45 a.m. through June 8.

**From the Minister to Children and Youth**

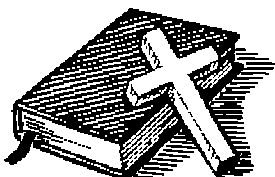
**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who donated plastic eggs, stickers, small toys, and candy....lots of candy for our Easter Egg Hunt! We had 24 children for the hunt. Our fabulous youth group came early to hide more than 600 eggs! Your generosity made a VERY fun morning! Thank you!

**Thirsty for more Bible study?**

Go deeper....

- in your knowledge of the Bible.
- in your faith development.
- in your connections with your church.



at DeWitt Academy for Theological Education.

Dive deeper into Biblical Studies and Christianity with College and Seminary professors and intentional learners like yourself.

Classes are offered five weekends (all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon) per year at DeWitt's UCC.

<http://www.uccdewitt.org/dewittacademy.html>

## Property Team

### **Spring Work Day Saturday, May 31 9 a.m. to noon**

We anticipate a variety of indoor and outdoor activities

- Fix up
- Clean up
- Gardening

Please come help!



# Social Justice & Outreach



## MICA Food Drive

During May we will hold a food drive to benefit the MICA food pantry. A MICA representative said the following items are in great demand:

- Toilet paper
- Ramen noodles
- Peanut butter
- Beans of any type—canned is best
- Pasta
- Canned pasta sauce—no glass bottles please
- Any type of cereal
- Canned vegetables
- Packages of side noodles
- Personal hygiene items
- Diapers of any size
- Detergent—washing machine
- Fabric softener
- Dishwashing soap

**Cash** is always welcome—give to church office or put into offering plate in an envelope marked Food Drive. Checks should be written to UCC—with food pantry on the memo line. Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. (MICA) is a private, nonprofit organization serving children and families in central Iowa. Established in 1965 to serve children and families affected by the conditions of poverty, MICA's foundational programs include Early Head Start; Head Start; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); Maternal and Child Health; Weatherization; Energy Assistance and Family Development. MICA primarily serves families in Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, Story and Tama counties.

Look for the shopping cart in the parlor. That will be our collection point. Help us make this the best collection ever. Be generous!



Dear Members and Friends of Ames UCC:

These seminaries provide an important ministry in the United Church of Christ by training and equipping leaders for ministry with congregations, in local community settings, and across the globe. Each seminary strengthens the life of the church by supporting bold Christian discipleship and enlivening critical reflection on faith. Each school is a vibrant, caring, and challenging place in which to pursue theological education. Thank you for supporting theological education as a vital part of your ministry.

With gratitude, Kiely Todd Roska

## Member Services Team



### Women of the Church

#### Women’s Fellowship Wednesday, May 7 at 12 noon

Come join the women in the congregation at noon, Wednesday, May 7 in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and a book to share. Are

you currently reading a book you really like? Share it with the group. Have you read a good book in the last few months? Bring the book or the name of the book and share a little of the story. Summer is coming; maybe we will have more to read! Moderator for the meeting is Pat Spangler.

## Worship & Music

### Worship at Hobbits Hill

The llamas and goats are calling!



This year’s Worship at Hobbits Hill will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:45 a.m. Join us for a festive outdoor worship experience and cookout potluck in celebration of Pentecost. Many volunteers are needed; if you are interested in lending a helping hand, please contact Bradley Duckstein. Keep an eye out for more details in the bulletin & email announcements to come!

### Summer Worship Time

*Sunday morning worship will change to 9:30 a.m. on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mark your calendars!*

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# Christian Education Team



## Adult Education

### Learn Something New Every Sunday at Learning Center Adult Forum

The program begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come early for continental breakfast of doughnuts, pastries, bagels, coffee, tea and juice at 9 a.m. The breakfast is supported by a free will offering.

May 4 – Search Committee

May 11 – Potluck and planning for Learning Center and Christian Education

May 18 – PFLAG, Pat Spangler

## CHURCH LIBRARY

“Love the Lord your God with all your mind.”



**Theologian in Residence Books:** The church library is trying to make a collection of books by our Theologians in Residence. If you attended any of the following lectures and have books by the speaker, would you donate the book or books to the library for our newest collection? These are the years and the authors we need: 2014—Phyllis Tickle, 2011—Ingrid Mattson, 2010—Peter Sawtell, 2007—Randall Balmer, 2006—Christine M. Smith

If you have any books by these speakers, please call Barbara Faidley (515) 233-3874 so we can add them to the collection.

**Bibles:** Have you read something in the Bible that you did not understand? Try reading that verse in another version of the Bible. The church has a variety of Bibles available. A number of them are in the church library or in room 104. Following are some of the versions that are available for you to pursue your questions: 1) Good News Bible—Today’s English Version; 2) Large Print Bible – 6 volumes; 3) Bible in Basic English; 4) King James Version- red letter and concordance version; 5) Interpreter’s Bible—12 volumes based on King James and Revised Standard; 6) New International Version; 7) Complete Bible—American Translation; 8) Revised Standard Version; 9) New Revised Standard; 10) The Anchor Bible—27 volumes; 11) Contemporary English version; 12) The New English Bible; 13) The Living Bible—Paraphrased. There are also many children’s Bibles.

## Children's Book Review



**SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL** by Sharon Dennis Wyeth, illustrated by Chis K. Soentpiet

A little girl from the inner city longs to see beyond the scary signs of the sidewalk and the angry scribbling in the halls of her building. When her teacher writes the word beautiful on the blackboard, the girl decides to look for something beautiful in her neighborhood. To this little girl, beautiful means something that when you have it, your heart is happy. She checks with different people in the neighborhood and they share with her the things that are beautiful to them. The author has made us realize the beauty of friendship and the power of hope. The illustrations are bright and almost photographic in detail. This is a unique read about BEAUTY.

-- Review by Barbara Faidley

### WANTED:

People who like to read and who would be willing to write a short review of a book from the church library. The review will appear in the church newsletter.

Please contact Barbara Faidley at (515) 233-3874 or [barbara@faidley.org](mailto:barbara@faidley.org).

Thanks for your help!

## Book Club

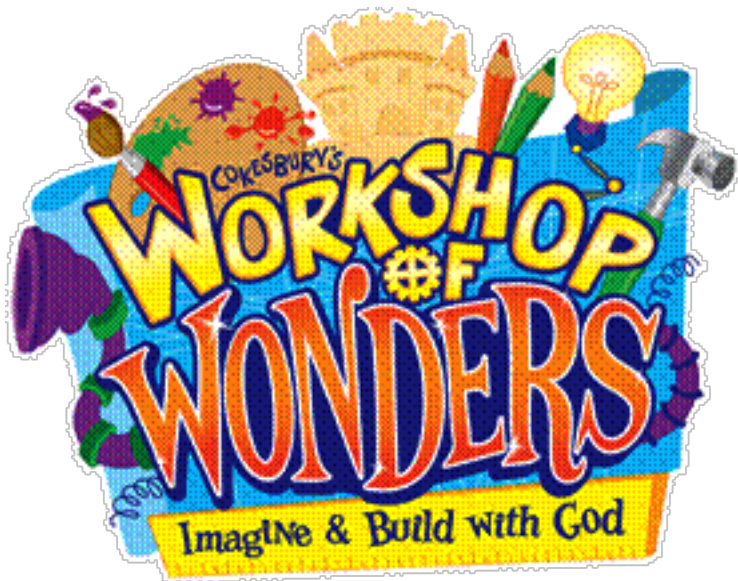


The UCC Book Club welcomes all readers and even those who just want to hear the discussion. The group meets in the church library at 2 p.m.

**May 28 -- Deep Down** by Deborah Coates (2013 novel, 304 pages) Discussion leader: Christa Andersen

The author will be present to discuss her book and will bring a copy of her third book **Strange Country** which is coming out that day.

**June 18** – Bring suggestions for book club reading when the group resumes sessions in September.



### **Vacation Bible School Time Again!**

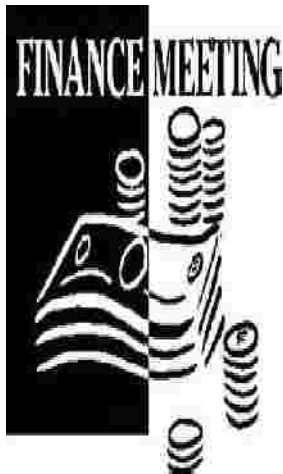
This year's theme for VBS is Workshop of Wonders (WOW). At WOW VBS, discover how the ordinary becomes extraordinary with God.

Go to <http://2014.cokesburyvbs.com/AmesFUMCUCC2014> to register to attend or be a volunteer. You may also sign up with Hannah! We are still looking for a pre-school teacher, story tellers, and shepherds (no teaching, stay with one group of children all morning)!

VBS again will be held with our friends at First United Methodist Church June 23-27 from 9 a.m. to noon.



## Financial Stewardship Team



The Financial Stewardship Team will be meeting the evening of Tuesday, May 13, in Room 104. On the agenda will be a standard review of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports covering prior months. We will also be reviewing a seed budget proposal to take to the Executive Board at their Tuesday, May 20, meeting. This is a much earlier start on the annual operations and outreach budgeting process than in prior years. The objective is to be able to initiate our annual pledge campaign earlier this year while giving those making budget requests sufficient time to properly consider the costs of our many internal and outreach missions. Membership input at this meeting is both encouraged and welcome.

## UCC

### Julia Genevieve Carlander

August 18, 1919—February 15, 2014



Please join us for a  
**Memorial Service Honoring Julia's  
Life**

**Saturday, May 17, 2014**

11:00 a.m. at Ames UCC . Luncheon  
following the service in the Fellowship  
Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in  
Julia's name may be made to:

- Green Hills Retirement Community  
Memorial Fund
- Ames United Church of Christ
- Youth & Shelter Services of Ames

In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability or sexual orientation 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.

## United Church Courier

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### STAFF

**Ministers** The Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore, Interim Minister  
Hannah Hannover, Children & Youth Minister  
Linda Hanson, Youth  
**Music Director** Lesley Lackore  
**Keyboardist** Karen Stewart  
**Secretary** Becky A. Bridges

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Moderator** Phil Spike  
**Team Coordinator** Ellen Barnhart  
**Caring Network** Christa Andersen  
**Christian Education** Genya Coffey  
**Evangelism** Bill Yungclas  
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**Member Services** Jan Bauer  
**Property** Ken Birt  
**Social Justice and Outreach** Kim Spangler  
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**Association and Conference Delegate** Jim Peake  
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