



**Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, August 30, 2015**

*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: Rachel Schelle (prayers), Greg Wool (scripture), Eileen Gebbie (preacher)*

## **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 come, like Abraham, Sarah, and John, people with hope.

Many: **We come, like Job, Thomas, and the Samaritan woman, people with questions.**

One: We come, like Moses, Jeremiah, and Mary, people with self-doubts.

Many: **We come, like Joshua, Deborah, and Stephen, people with courage.**

One: We come, like David, Mary of Magdalene, and Paul, people with brokenness in our lives.

All: **We come, like Rebekah and Samuel, like Hosea and Esther, like Nathaniel and Martha, like John Mark and Priscilla, people with a part to play in the story of faith.**

**\*HYMN** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," Hymn 25

*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: Holy God, we thank you that you receive us not according to our failing goodness, but according to your overflowing grace. You receive us as we are. You show us what we can be, through Jesus Christ, who shared our common lot. Sweep over us with your Spirit, and change us by your love that we may sing

with joy before you, and live to your glory in the world.

## **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.*

**All:     God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Jesus Christ,  
God of our mothers and fathers, you are a God present in the world.  
Yet we confess that we are too busy with our own lives  
to perceive you in the moments of our days.  
We fall into fear and despair about our troubled world,  
as if you were far away.  
Forgive our lack of faith and help us to join you  
as you labor to bring new life on earth;  
in the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.**

## **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's appearance is sure as the dawn. We become aware of God as with a  
shower: like needed summer rains that water the parched earth. We are  
forgiven! 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 and as they return to their seats or head off for Godly Play.*

**In Christ there is no East or West  
in Christ no South or North.**

**But one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth!**

**CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT**

Hebrews 9:1-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was constructed, the first one, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the Presence; this is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a tent called the Holy of Holies. In it stood the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot speak now in detail. Such preparations having been made, the priests go continually into the first tent to carry out their ritual duties; but only the high priest goes into the second, and he but once a year, and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people.

By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the sanctuary has not yet been disclosed as long as the first tent is still standing. This is a symbol of the present time, during which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, but deal only with food and drink and various baptisms, regulations for the body imposed until the time comes to set things right. But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF REFLECTION**

"Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary"

**Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true**

**And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living, sanctuary, oh for you**

*3 times*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*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 com, 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 and ever, Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*Thank you for giving what you can. All cash gifts will go to supporting our community partners like Food at First.*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN OF SENDING**      "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?" (Hymn 539)

## **BENEDICTION**

*From the Latin of "well" and "to speak," this is one final good word to send us off.*

## **THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*A sung blessing, this song or part of a song varies throughout the year.*

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace:  
Oh, refresh us, oh refresh us, Traveling through this wilderness.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*You are welcome to be seated and enjoy the day's postlude or move into the parlor for fellowship. Our*

worship leaders will greet you at the end of the center aisle, or you may go out the side aisle. Thank you for joining us today – if you have any questions or concerns, please contact any one of our pastors or members of staff.

God's Story  
Our Story

## **DAILY DEVOTIONALS**

August 30–September 5, 2015

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

Great High Priest, you have shown us a way to serve that does not require blood or destruction. Cleanse our spirits in faith and welcome us into your heavenly sanctuary. Amen.

**Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.**

*For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God! Hebrews 9:13-14*

**Study: Study the reading and consider the background.**

In days of old, tents served as places of worship. There worshipers offered up animals' blood as sacrifices for the purification of flesh. The notion the author(s) of Hebrews want us to consider is Jesus' blood as a sacrifice for the purification of the spirit in God's heavenly sanctuary. This may not be your understanding (and it is not generally understood in that way in the UCC.) How do you understand Jesus' execution? How does this theology feel to you? What makes sense in your own daily life?

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

Sunday, Hebrews 9:1-14, *Earthly and Heavenly Sanctuaries*

Monday, Hebrews 11:17-22, *The Faith of Abraham*

Tuesday, Hebrews 11:23-28, *The Faith of Moses*

Wednesday, Hebrews 11:29-40, *The Faith of Others*

Thursday, Hebrews 12:1-6, *The Example of Jesus*

Friday, Hebrews 12:7-13, *The Example of Jesus*

Saturday, Hebrews 12:14-17, *Warnings against Rejecting God's Grace*

How did the people mentioned in these readings express their faith?

**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?

What do you think God's heavenly sanctuary is like?

What do you want it to be like? Is it right here and now?

Where do you find sanctuary?

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

Take time to spend in your sanctuary this week. Spend the time in your sanctuary

getting  
know

# Announcements

to

yourself or speaking with God.

**Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.**

May God bless you in the earthly and heavenly sanctuaries. Amen.

## **Upcoming Sunday Scriptures**

During the 8:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study, in the Fellowship Hall, we reflect on the coming week's scripture. Join us!

9/06 Hebrews 11:1-16, 12:1-2

9/13 Garden of Eden, Genesis 2:4b-25 (Rally Day! Worship moves to 10:45 a.m.)

9/20 Isaac Born to Sarah, Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

9/27 Jacob Wrestles God, Genesis 32:22-30

## **ABC Sale Concludes Today!**

The sale will again be open today after worship service and all items will be half price. Twenty percent of the proceeds from the sale are being used for local charities and the remaining money will be used for the youth of the church. This year we will split the money between the Youth Room and Godly Play materials. Join us for fun fellowship while discovering wonderful bargains & treasures. Please remember *cash only*!

## **Rally Day is Sunday, September 13**

Rally Day (Sunday, September 13) starts with a potluck breakfast at 9:30 am. During that time we will eat, have fellowship, there will be songs/activities for the children, and folks of ALL ages will have an opportunity to hear about upcoming Christian Education opportunities (i.e. Sunday School, Godly Play, Learning Center, Bible Study, etc.). The theme this year is "Superheroes of the Bible" and everyone is invited to wear any super hero gear they might have....capes will be provided! **We will worship at 10:45 a.m.**

Sunday School will start at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 20. There will be a Pre-

School class (ages 2 & 3), Godly Play (ages 4 years old through 5th grade) and Youth Group Sunday School (grades 6-12). Nursery care is also provided during this time for infants and toddlers.

An extra time of Godly Play will happen each month during worship on the last Sunday of the month. During worship on Sunday, September 27 our Kindergarten children and 3rd Graders will receive a Bible and then all children will be invited to join us upstairs in our Godly Play room for a story and time of wondering until the end of the worship service. Sunday, October 4 the children will lead the worship service with our middle school youth giving the sermon!

### **150th Anniversary Banner Workshop**

After finalizing a design & purchasing the fabric for it, we are finally ready to work on the banner designed to celebrate our 150th Anniversary on this site. All are welcome to help. The 1st workshop will be on Wed, September 2, at 10am in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite sharp scissors as we will be cutting out the letters for the banner. Sewing Machines welcome....there will be some sewing to be done on long, 1/4 inch straight seams. The theme: "The heavens declare the glory of God..." with a detachable panel that says, "Glorifying God since 1865."

If you cannot make this workshop, but would like to work on this banner, please let Dinah know when you might be available to help with this banner. We will have further sessions that will involve hand needlework.

### **Wednesday Afternoon Club (WAC) begins Wednesday, September 16!**

We are beginning our 3rd year of WAC! Children K-5th grade are invited to join us every Wednesday from the time school dismisses (2:05 p.m.) until 5:00 p.m. During this time we will learn about a new super hero of the Bible, play games, make crafts, and much more! Pr. Hannah is still looking for adult volunteers to help with WAC activities! If you are interested in volunteering your time, bringing a snack, or providing transportation for the child from their school to the church, please let Hannah know! You may contact her at: [hannah@amesucc.org](mailto:hannah@amesucc.org) or by calling the church office.

### **Make a Joyful Noise - Share Your God Given Talents!**

We are all abundantly blessed by God, some of us with special talents of the arts. It is

time to get out your instruments, practice your song or dance, brush up your public speaking, write a poem or practice the performance art of your choice. As part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration we will have a "Creating A Joyful Noise" talent show at 7pm, Saturday, September 19 in Fellowship Hall. Kristin Shields is the liaison for the youth members, who can sign up with her. Others can sign up with Tom Meyer, Laura Deal, or Greg Lamont. A sign-up page has also been created on [SigUpGenius.com](http://SigUpGenius.com)

### **Are You Able to Host A Congregational Dinner?**

It is time for our Fall Congregational dinners and we are looking for hosts! Dinners will be arranged for the weekends of September 25, 26, 27 and October 2, 3, 4. What is a Congregational Dinner? It is a time for each of us to get to know one another better, as we sit down to a meal together in someone's home. Individuals or couples graciously agree to host a dinner in their home, and then arrangements are made by Hannah to mingle members and friends of our congregation together to attend & socialize. Please contact Pr. Hannah at [hannah@amesucc.org](mailto:hannah@amesucc.org) if you are interested in hosting!

### **2015 Iowa Conference UCC Annual Business Meeting**

You are invited to attend the 2015 Annual Business Meeting of the Iowa Conference UCC. This is an opportunity to learn about the Iowa Conference and make decisions that link our local churches, associations, committees and commissions, our Conference and the national UCC setting. Leaders will be elected, budget considered & reports given. It will be a day of worship, lunch gathering and plenary.

The meeting will be held Saturday, October 17, 2015 at Plymouth UCC, 4126 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines 50312. Registration / Coffee / Marketplace will begin at 9am, Worship / Meeting will begin at 10:30 - 3pm. Cost is \$25 per person & includes lunch. Parking is free in the church parking lot. Deadline for registration is September 25th. Walk-in's are welcome but there is no guarantee of meal or material availability for those not pre-registered.

### **150TH Anniversary Celebration Luncheon**

Sunday, November 1 @ Noon After Worship in the Fellowship Hall  
Celebrating 150 Years of Faith, Family and Community

### **Save The Date—Theologian-In-Residence Weekend**

Theologian-In-Residence Weekend is scheduled for January 30 & 31, 2016. Barry Lynn will be speaking on "God and Government: Are Religious Liberties Crumbling?"

the central association of the iowa conference  
of the united church of christ invites you to

# The Installation of The Rev. Eileen Gebbie as Pastor of Ames UCC Sunday, September 27 at 3 p.m.



**with guest preacher  
The Rev. Waltrina Middleton**

**ucc national minister  
for youth advocacy & leadership formation  
& leader in the black lives matter movement**



**ames united church of christ  
217 6th street, ames, iowa  
reception to follow  
clergy are invited to wear  
red/celebration stoles or other  
symbols of religious affiliation**

## Calendar for the Week

### Sunday, August 30

10:30 am New Member Class  
10:45 am Campaign Executive Cmte  
10:45 am ABC Sale

### Monday, August 31

5 - 5:30 pm Emergency Residence  
Project (*Barnhart*)

### Wednesday, September 2

8:30 am Morning Bible Study  
9:30 am AM Work Crew  
10:00 am Banner Group  
12:10 pm Peace Bell Ringers  
6:45 pm Choir Practice

### Thursday, September 3

5:00 pm Amos House Planning Meeting

### Saturday, September 5

11:20 am Meals on Wheels (*Clark, Andersen/Potter*)

### Sunday, September 6

9:30 am Worship  
*Hebrews 11:1-16, 12:1-2*

### **Be In Touch**

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