



ames UCC
United Church of Christ

Just Peace, Open & Affirming

217 – 6th 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!**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2015

**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.

CENTERING MUSIC

“Lift High the Cross”

arr. P. Manz

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

With saints and sinners of every age,
we gather to worship God.
With the contented and the complainers,
we gather to worship God.
With the wondering and the wounded,
we gather to worship God.
Together we gather, together we sing,
together we worship God.

***OPENING SONG**

“Lift High the Cross”

NCH 198

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***SUNG PRAYER**

“Take, O Take Me as I am” (2x)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE**

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Hannah Hannover

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, O God,
that we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 107

O give thanks to God, for God is good;

for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of God say so, those redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

they loathed all food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried out to God in their trouble,

and God saved them from their distress!

God sent out God's word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

Let us thank God for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to all people.

And let us offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

Amen and Amen!

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Humanity be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

SERMON "A Snake on a Pole Is Better than a Snake in the Grass"

Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

***SONG** "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

NCH 459

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lowell Mathison at home.

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

Caregivers

The Pastor Search Committee

COMMUNION PRAYER *beginning with:*

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

***SUNG RESPONSE** “Bread, Blessed and Broken” vs. 2

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP *All are welcome at this Table. The bread is free of gluten, soy, and dairy; the cup contains grape juice.*

CLOSING PRAYER

***SONG**

“Sing of the Lord’s Goodness”

Gather 373

*BLESSING

*SENDING MUSIC

“Take, O Take Me as I Am” music printed under OneLicense #A-720517

“Sing of the Lord’s Goodness” printed under LicenSing No. 624477

UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 15- *One Great Hour of Sharing offering* 6:30p Taize Service, sanctuary
12:00p Invitation & Welcome Mtg., 7:00p Chancel Choir rehearsal, Fellowship Hall sanctuary
Evening: Congregational Dinners
No Youth Group

Monday, March 16

6:00p Pastoral Search Committee
Emergency Residence: Starck/Clark

Tuesday, March 17

4:30p Worship Planning mtg.
7:15p Executive Board, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 18

Newsletter Deadline
8:30a Morning Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
12:10p Peace Bell Ringers
2:00p UCC Book Club, Church Library
No WAC
5:45p Lent Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 19

Easter Lily order deadline
No INSIGHT Study Group

Saturday, March 21

9:30a Food at First
Meals On Wheels – Tipton

Sunday, March 22 - Holy Communion

9:30a Learning Center
9:30a Sunday School
10:45a Worship, sanctuary
Texts: Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 12:20-33
12:00p 150th Capital Campaign Executive Committee, Fellowship Hall
No Youth Group

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Learning Center, Sunday, March 22: Cornelia Flora will lead a conversation to tie together the sermon series on race.

Learning Center, Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday Intergenerational Program

FREE PIZZA! INVITATION AND WELCOME COMMITTEE MEETING TODAY!!

The Invitation and Welcome Committee will be having a meeting after church in Fellowship Hall today to brainstorm ideas about how we can make the UCC as inviting and welcoming as possible. Please come join us. Please RSVP to Amy Erica Smith at amyericas@gmail.com so we can order pizza for you.

Help Our Kids Collect Items for MICA!

Our Sunday School children are teaming up with the SOJO Team during Lent to collect items for MICA. The items that have been identified as needs include: calendars, paperback books (adult, young adult, children), greeting cards, and toiletry items (small bottles from hotels work great!). We will collect these items through Easter Sunday, April 5. Our Wednesday Afternoon Club children will deliver the items to MICA as they are collected.

Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers and Taize Services

Each Wednesday through Lent we will have our soup suppers and Lenten services here at Ames UCC. The soup supper begins at 5:45 p.m. and the worship service at 6:30 p.m. During Lent the Chancel Choir will begin at 7:00 p.m. Our Youth Group will be cleaning up following the soup supper again this year to raise money for their summer mission projects and fun. Come enjoy the soup, fellowship, and support our youth!

Sign-Up Online to Help with Sunday Mornings or with Soup Suppers

Want to help with Sunday mornings? We always need readers, ushers, coffee servers, deacons, and greeters. Want to bring some soup to a Lenten Soup Supper, or help with set-up? Either way, just go to the church website (amesucc.org), click on the "Members" tab at the top of the page, and you will see a place on the left side of the page where you can sign up. Easy-peasy, and oh-so-helpful!

UCC Book Club Meets 3rd Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

The Book Club welcomes all readers, and even those who just want to hear the discussion. The group meets in the church library. Our next book will be **Orphan Train: A Novel** by Christina Baker Kline (2013 fiction, 304 pages). *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 Train" tells of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.* Discussion leader: Christa Andersen

LGBTQ Fellowship - "I Am Harvey Milk" March 21 in Des Moines

Join us as we go see the Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus presentation of *I Am Harvey Milk*. The concert will celebrate the legacy of gay rights icon Harvey Milk, weaving the story of Harvey Milk's boyhood to his rise as the first openly gay man elected to office in California. *I Am Harvey Milk* is an emotional celebration of an American icon that's part choral work and part theater piece. Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., Sheslow Auditorium, Drake University, Des Moines. If you are interested in tickets, please contact Bradley Duckstein at bduckstein@gmail.com. Advance tickets are \$20.

H O L Y W E E K S C H E D U L E

March 29 Palm/Passion Sunday

10:45 a.m. at UCC

April 2 Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. at 1st Christian Church

April 3 Good Friday

Prayer Service

Noon at 1st United Methodist Church

Interactive Prayer Stations

12:30–3:30 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. (drop in)

In sanctuary at UCC

Prayer Vigil

1:00 p.m. - Easter Morning (sign up for times)

At 1st Christian Church

April 5 Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Early Service

at UCC (jointly with FCC and FUMC)

Breakfast after service in Fellowship Hall.

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

10:45 a.m. Easter Service at UCC

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 nursery, there are qualified childcare providers during worship for infants and children through kindergarten. Our nursery is located on the second floor on the east side of the church building. A parent or guardian will be required to sign their child in and out. Please feel free to use this service.

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.

Bell Ringing for Peace: Join us every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. in the bell tower to ring the bell for peace and pray for worldwide peace. Ames UCC is a just peace church.

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
Music Director.....Lesley Lackore
Keyboardist.....Karen “Sunny” Stewart

Ministers of Worship & Hospitality:

Deacon.....Ed Goedeken
Ushers.....J. Elaine Hieber, Linda Shenk, John Baty
Tania Tipton
Greeter.....Jane Baty
Liturgist.....Bradley Duckstein
Coffee.....Sally & Jerry Chase, Jan Breitman
Welcome Table.....Barbara & Bill Yungclas