



ames UCC COURIER

United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

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Just Peace, Open & Affirming

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In the Meantime...

I was so glad to hear the vote from last Sunday's Congregational Meeting. It's exciting to imagine the future of this congregation, with a gifted new pastor and fresh ideas. Rev. Gebbie, however, won't start here until July 6. After all the excitement, it can be anticlimactic now to face a two-month lag between when you both said "I do," and when the marriage can actually begin! So what will be happening in the meantime? The answer is, "Plenty!"

I will be with you as your Interim Pastor until June 30, and I will be working to tie up whatever loose ends I can to help give Rev. Gebbie a good start here. Beyond that, your work as a congregation continues, including:

- ◆ **Sunday School Celebration/Graduation Sunday, May 17.** With the launching of Godly Play, this has been a vibrant Sunday School year, worth celebrating!
- ◆ **Pentecost/Confirmation on May 24.** We will celebrate the promise that "Your old shall dream dreams and your young shall have visions" by bringing young people whose faith you have nurtured into full membership. Their vision will help to shape the next chapter in the church's life.
- ◆ **Hobbit's Hill/Youth Sunday on June 7.** We will launch summer with this outdoor service—complete with llamas and goats—as the youth share about their local mission work. Rather than going elsewhere for a Mission Trip, the youth will spend the first week of their summer doing mission projects right here in this community. It's the mission version of a staycation.
- ◆ **Capital Campaign Celebration on June 21.** This will wrap up the fundraising portion of the campaign, and with your generosity it appears nearly certain that the campaign will be a success. I can't tell you how good it feels, as an Interim Pastor, to anticipate leaving with the toughest part of a capital campaign already completed.

There is much to celebrate, and much to be done, as you prepare to welcome your new pastor!

Blessings, Terry

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VBS: "In God we live, move, and exist." Acts 17:28



It's Vacation Bible School (VBS) time!! Join us June 22-26! At G-Force VBS, kids explore how to put their faith into action. In this mission-focused VBS, kids experience God's unstoppable love and discover how to fuel up and move in and through life with God. Our kids will have an exciting week with movement and images of all sorts of kid-friendly transportation, such as skateboards, running shoes, roller blades, and more! Sign up is happening NOW!

We will need many volunteers to make our week a success! If you would like to volunteer your time (leading an activity or being a shepherd to walk around with the children) or are willing to donate snack supplies (a list of what is needed will be available for you to choose from) please contact Hannah at hannah@amesucc.org.



Volunteer Recognition May 17

Join us in worship on Sunday, May 17 when we recognize all the volunteers who have helped make our Christian Education program a success this school year!

Summer Movie Nights



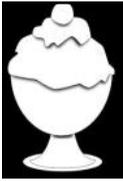
Join us the first Wednesday in June, July, and August at 6:00 p.m. for a family friendly movie in Fellowship Hall! Bring your pillows, blankets, and favorite beverage; the popcorn will be provided! We will watch "FROZEN" on Wednesday, June 3!

Adults Can Learn Something New Every Sunday at Learning Center

Continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m., program at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

- May 3 Matt & Elaine O'Neil will speak on their experience in the Peace Corps and how it changed their lives.
- May 10 Josh Skipworth from the American Friends Service Committee will speak on "Social Justice and the Presidential Campaign: Best Practices for Getting Involved"
- May 17 Breakfast potluck at 9:00 followed by brainstorming programming for next year.





YOUTH NEWS

Ice Cream and BINGO June 1

Please mark your calendars for an Ice Cream Social and bingo extravaganza! The youth will host an ice cream social and bingo night on Monday, June 1 in celebration of the 150th anniversary. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy fellowship, food, and bingo. Please stay tuned for more details!

Youth Mission Week

I'm so excited to announce that this summer the youth will be completing mission work in our own backyard! The first week of June will have our youth working right here in the Ames/Des Moines community giving back to the church as well as the community.

- ◆ June 1: BINGO night and Ice Cream Social @ Ames UCC
- June 2: Youth movie and fellowship night @ Ames UCC
- ◆ June 3: Meals from the Heartland in Des Moines 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- June 4: Weeding at Reiman Gardens
- ◆ June 5: Date night at church! We will provide a free babysitting event for families of the church to drop off their kiddos for a fun night with our youth as caretakers. This will be from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Ames UCC.

If you are interested in volunteering for any event, please contact me at emkenneke@gmail.com. Thanks!! Emily Kenneke

150th CELEBRATION



The 150th Celebration Committee is holding a multi-generational style show, ***A Historical Walk down the Aisle--150 Years of Wedding Celebrations at Ames UCC, Sunday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m.*** The show will feature weddings of members past and present, from 1865 to today and is intended to appeal to men and women, girls and boys. The goal is to take a look at church history from a different perspective and in a fun way. While this multi-generational event includes many members, youth and children, there still are many ways you can participate: Put Sunday, May 17 on your calendar; and then RSVP to the church office. Volunteer or encour-

age your family members to participate as a model. We need ushers, candle lighters, bridesmaids and flower girls, groomsmen and ring bearers, brides and grooms. Contact us if you have or know anyone who has wedding accessories—i.e. flower girl baskets, ring bearer pillows. In addition to models, we need hair stylists, make-up artists, dressers; people to provide flowers, arrange flowers, make bouquets, corsages and boutonnieres; individuals to provide publicity, design programs, and members to provide refreshments—i.e. ribbon sandwiches, decorated cupcakes, mints, nuts, punch and coffee. (*We will credit all supporting organizations or businesses in the program.*) There is a role for everyone. Contact Jan Bauer at (515) 292-3739 or bauerjan@yahoo.com to volunteer today. Thanks for your help! See you at the show!

WORSHIP & MUSIC

3rd Annual Worship at Hobbits Hill

It's that time of year again, and the llamas and goats are calling! This year's Worship at Hobbits Hill will be June 7, beginning at 10:45 a.m. Join us for a festive outdoor worship experience and potluck celebration! Many volunteers are needed; if you are interested in lending a helping hand, please contact Bradley Duckstein at bduckstein@gmail.com or (515) 971-2886. Keep an eye out for more details in the bulletin and email announcements to come!



Communion Dates Changed



Communion for the months of May and June has been changed. On May 24, we will celebrate Eucharist on Confirmation Sunday. On June 28, we will have communion as part of the Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore's last service with Ames UCC.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & OUTREACH

Invest in the Vision! Give to the Strengthen the Church Offering on Pentecost, May 24

Want to help plant new congregations, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in youth and young adults all over the country? Then give your generous support to the Strengthen the Church Offering, which is used nationally by the United Church of Christ to extend God's extravagant welcome to all.



MEMBER SERVICES

Women's Fellowship Wednesdays, May 13 and 27 at noon



All the women of the church are invited to bring your lunch to Fellowship Hall for a discussion of various topics and to share joys and concerns. Join us on Wednesday, May 13 at noon to share information about collections we have. Any collections are welcome and if possible bring a sample of your collection and share how you started your collection. On May 27, we will discuss any joys and concerns among our members. Hope to see you there. --Barbara Faidley

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 on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.

Author Neil Nakadate will be at the meeting May 20 when we talk about his book Looking After Minidoka: an American Memoir (2013 nonfiction, 213 pages) Discussion leader:

Nancy Marks (Copies are available in the Ames Public Library Book Club collection. Books may be checked out for six weeks.)

During World War II, 110,000 Japanese Americans were removed from their homes and incarcerated by the U.S. government. In this memoir, the "internment camp" years become a prism for understanding three generations of Japanese American life, from immigration to the end of the twentieth century.

June 17 -- The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd (2014 fiction, 373 pages) Discussion leader: Nancy Marks

The novel begins on Sarah Grimke's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave. The book follows the next 35 years of their lives. Inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke (a feminist, suffragist and abolitionist), Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the inner lives of the characters, both real and imagined.

July 15 -- Select titles for upcoming book club year



Mark Your Calendars and Bring Your Stuff for the ABC Sale August 28 and 29

Save the dates of August 28 and 29 on your calendar for the annual Attic to Basement Church rummage sale at Ames UCC. The week before will be busy as we get Fellowship Hall ready for the sale. That's August 23 through 28 when we will need lots of volunteers. Starting in June we will be meeting upstairs in room 209 to sort and price items. Our regular meeting time will be on Wednesdays from 10:00 to noon. We hope that a number of you will be able to join us on Wednesday mornings. Thanks to all who have already brought things in for the sale. This is greatly appreciated. Let your friends know that we are interested in more donations. What is in that garage, store room, closet or basement that you really don't need any longer? Please bring your items to the church and leave them under the coat racks at the back entrance to the church. If you have any question about the sale, call or e-mail.



Barbara Faidley: (515) 233-3874 or barbara@faidley.org

Barbara Yungclas: (515) 292-9274 or wryungclas@aol.com

Cornelia Flora: (515) 232-7664 or cflora@iastate.edu

Web Site of the Month

ucc.org is the official website of the United Church of Christ. It has a number of interesting features. You can find out more about our denomination and its outreach nationwide. Different menus on the website offer a great deal of information. This ranges from why we are called the THE CHURCH OF FIRSTS, News and Events about UCC in the news and why and how we Advocate for Justice. You can also sign up for [Keeping You e-Posted](#). This is a weekly, coordinated e-magazine of news, featured items, resources, worship materials, and justice-action items which are sent via email each Tuesday.



There is also a menu item listed as FEED YOUR SPIRIT. There is a brief daily thought of the day called "Morning Whispers." There is a longer article called "Still Speaking Weekly" and there is a daily devotional section. You can read it on the UCC site or you can sign-up to have it sent to you each day. There is also a Daily Devotional Archive that lists the devotions by author, Bible verse and topic of interest. This is a website that is worth checking out. Have fun exploring.

--Barbara Faidley



Book Review



"The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History" by Robert M. Edsel with assistance from Bret Witter

As the Allied Armed Forces of World War II advanced onto the European Continent through Italy, there was concern about the destruction of art and significant historical buildings and monuments as well as national and private art collections in France being stolen by the invading Nazis. This book is the story of a group of men from 13 nations, most of whom were middle-aged family men who left successful careers and volunteered for service in the newly created Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section, or MFAA. Most of these men had expertise as museum directors, curators, art scholars and educators, artists, architects, and archivists. Their job description was simple: to save as much of the culture of Europe as they could by educating leaders of combat forces as to which monuments and buildings should be saved if possible and recovering art and artifacts stolen by the Nazis. This special group had a mandate from President Roosevelt and the support of General Eisenhower, but were not provided authority, transportation or supplies. However they understood the threat to the cultural and artistic achievements of European civilization and had the determination to be successful. These unlikely heroes joined the allied fighting forces risking and sometimes losing their lives. In a race against time to save the cultural treasures of Europe from destruction, each man gathered scraps and hints to construct his own treasure map using records recovered from bombed cathedrals and museums, the secret notes and journals of Rose Valland, a French museum employee who secretly tracked Nazi plunder through the rail yards of Paris, and even a tip from a dentist during a root canal. As a result of the dedication and perseverance of these men, many of the historical monuments and buildings were saved from destruction by allied bombing and much of the stolen artwork was recovered from salt mines in Germany and Austria. --Review by Allen Trenkle

New "Light" Summer Reading Group

Gordon Knight and Amy Erica Smith are planning a summer reading group starting the week of May 11--think Monty Python mixed with despair, the afterlife, and glorification of God. We plan to read *Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God*, by Marilyn McCord Adams, and *Sum: Forty Tales from the Afterlives*, by David Eagleman. If you're interested in joining us and up for taking a look at horrendous evil with a dose of good humor, contact Gordon at gknight@iastate.edu, or Amy Erica at aesmith2@iastate.edu.

LIBRARY NEWS



There have been some changes in the church library. We have added a new book shelf so we can expand our collection. We have received a donation of books from Dinah and Bob Kerksieck--Thank you very much. We have also received copies of the book by Linda Shenk's friend who had ALS. I was also able to get a number of current books on religious topics from the Ames Public Library book sale. We are also starting a collection of chapter books for older children. We will be adding to this as time progresses.

There will be a **BOOKS AND BROWNIES** display highlighting some of our new books on May 31 before and after worship. Come visit the table, have a treat and check out our new books.

--Barbara Faidley

Children's Book Review

"The Color of Home" by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Karin Littlewood

As much is seen about immigrants in the news, this is a very appropriate book for children to read. Hassan is newly arrived in American and he misses his home in Somalia very much. Back there, the colors were brighter—the sky was bluer and the sun seemed more yellow. Since he and his family left Africa, everywhere Hassan looks, he sees mostly the color gray. This book also gives insight into his life in Africa in a war-torn country and in a refugee camp. When Hassan goes to school, he paints a picture and the teacher invites an interpreter into the classroom so she can understand the picture that he painted. He makes friends at school and with the help of his parents and teachers, he starts seeing the many different colors that surround him. Beautiful water-colors complement this sensitively told story about a Muslim boy and his family who left behind a war-torn country to find a new place to call home. It is well worth a few minutes to read this story for adults and children.

-- Review by Barbara Faidley



Iowa Conference UCC

**Recharge: 15 hours of worship, learning, conversation and connection
June 5-6 at Scheman Building, Iowa State University**

Recharge yourself and your congregation's ministries at 31 different workshops and conversation opportunities.

Recharge in prayer and song and a festival worship celebration.

Be *recharged* by the message of Shane Claiborne, a founder of The Simple Way, "a web of subversive friends conspiring to spread the vision of 'Loving God, Loving People, and Following Jesus' in our neighborhood and our world."

Recharge in conversations with Conference Minister Rich Pleva, and others who offer the Iowa Conference their gifts of leadership.

Recharge with connections – among the women of the Iowa Conference, among friends old and new.

Recharge in the stirrings of the Holy Spirit, who gathers and gifts the people of God. Attend one day or both.

Registration details at <http://www.ucciaconf.org/opportunities/recharge>

**FROM THE REV. M. LINDA JARAMILLO, UCC EXECUTIVE MINISTER
JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES**

Dear Ames UCC,

We are blessed by your leadership and faithfulness in the life of our beloved United Church of Christ. We are grateful for your congregation's commitment to our church, demonstrated through your generous giving to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).

As you know, over the last several years our church has moved through significant change and challenge. We have been in the midst of transition in governance, ministry alignment, asset management, and missional direction—all with an eye toward increasing efficiency, improving effectiveness in mission and service, and being good stewards of the resources you entrust to us. We are pleased to report that our national ministries are more cohesive and inter-dependent, which has resulted in our staff working closely together to more effectively respond to our mission to serve the church and the world. We celebrate that our 2015 budget is balanced by keeping within a 5% draw rate with plans for a more financially prudent draw rate in the near future.

In the coming months, the United Church of Christ Board of Directors will consider some important actions, including nominating our next General Minister and President and revising our current UCC Constitution and Bylaws. We are looking forward to offering an extravagant welcome to the whole United Church of Christ for General Synod 30 when you arrive to enjoy the hometown of our national headquarters.

We want to extend deep appreciation for your consistent support as an OCWM pace setter! Never doubt that the congregational gifts to the wider UCC ministry help us to change lives. These gifts help us to raise our children in faith, equip leaders, support clergy in ministry, foster healthy and vital congregations, respond to disasters and tragedies, send help around the world, and preach a welcoming and open understanding of Christian faith. The national office is committed to responsible management of our role in the collective work of the Church.

Though change is in the air, the United Church of Christ remains dedicated to its mission to do what is required of us, *"To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God."* (Micah 6:8).

God is still speaking 

Ames Historical Society Lecture Series



All lectures are at Ames City Auditorium, 520 Sixth Street

A \$3 freewill donation is requested at the door to assist with auditorium rental

Thursday, May 28, 7:00 p.m.

The 1940s: Iowa State and a World at War

By Douglas Biggs, Associate Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Kearney

The decade of the 1940s changed the United States and transformed the world. Not surprisingly, these years also saw Iowa State College undergo a metamorphosis. Since the 1890s, ISC had been nationally known for agriculture and veterinary science, but the crisis of war accentuated Iowa State's transition to a nationally known college of science, engineering and technology that joined agriculture as the flagship programs of the institution. Biggs will talk about the war years and their long-term effects on Ames, both on and off campus.

Tuesday, June 16, 7p.m.

Just Passing Through: Noteworthy Iowa State Graduates

By Carole Gieseke and Jim Heemstra, ISU Alumni Association

As a college town, Ames has been a short-term home to many thousands of students who came here to live while earning a degree. Hear remarkable stories of some of the more recent temporary residents from the ISU Alumni Association's Carole Gieseke and Jim Heemstra. They traveled to all 50 states to interview and photograph Iowa State graduates for a special publication and exhibit called "Visions Across America." A display of 20 of Jim's extraordinary photographs will accompany the presentation.



United Church of Christ—Congregational
 217 Sixth Street
 Ames, IA 50010

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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.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!
where you are on life's journey,
No matter who you are or

