



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, November 22, 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.

Today's flowers are in memory of ISU cross country head and assistant coaches Ron Renko and Pat Moynihan; three student-athletes, Susan Baxter, Sheryl Maahs and Julie Rose; student-trainer Stephanie Streit; and pilot Burt Watkins, all of whom died in a plane crash in Des Moines on November 25, 1985. May their names be a blessing.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Most announcements are also in your bulletin and our weekly e-newsletter. To sign up, e-mail 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: People of the city and the field

Many: Come!

One: People of the forest and the lake

Many: Come!

One: People of the mountains and the desert

Many: Come!

One: All are welcome!

Many: All are loved!

HYMN "Glory to God" (twice, insert)

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: As the old hymn sings, "Blessed assurance; Jesus is mine! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; echoes of mercy, whispers of love: this is my story, this is my song." May that story and that song guide us in our worship this day.

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.

One: Let us confess our brokenness.

Many: God, we are so often sour grapes:

doubtful of your presence, uncertain of your power.

**We have put hedges up around our souls
and walls between ourselves and others.**

We are overgrown with disbelief.

**But we return to you again this morning,
reconciling ourselves to your call for mercy and the work of justice.**

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: The vineyard grower knows that there are seasons, both good and bad. One who tills the soil and tends the vine does not give up because of one mite, one scourge. Be comforted and know that your roots are safely in God's soil. 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.

K. Stewart

COME TO-GETH-ER, CHILD-REN, COME TO-GETH-ER NOW.

CE-LEBRATE AND CLAP YOUR HANDS; COME TO-GETH-ER NOW!

HEBREW BIBLE Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5 (Good News Translation)

We use "Hebrew Bible" instead of "Old Testament" out of respect for our Jewish sisters and brothers (it isn't old to them) and acknowledgement of the living voice still found in these ancient stories.

Listen while I sing you this song,
a song of my friend and his vineyard:
My friend had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug the soil and cleared it of stones;
he planted the finest vines.
He built a tower to guard them,
dug a pit for treading the grapes.
He waited for the grapes to ripen,
but every grape was sour.

So now my friend says, "You people who live in Jerusalem and Judah, judge between my vineyard and me. Is there anything I failed to do for it? Then why did it produce sour grapes and not the good grapes I expected?"

"Here is what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge around it, break down the wall that protects it, and let wild animals eat it and trample it down. I will let it be overgrown with weeds. I will not trim the vines or hoe the ground; instead, I will let briars and thorns cover it. I will even forbid the clouds to let rain fall on it."

Israel is the vineyard of the LORD Almighty;
the people of Judah are the vines he planted.
He expected them to do what was good,
but instead they committed murder.
He expected them to do what was right,
but their victims cried out for justice.

The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants.

The spirit of the LORD will give him wisdom
and the knowledge and skill to rule his people.
He will know the LORD's will and honor him,
and find pleasure in obeying him.

He will not judge by appearance or hearsay;
he will judge the poor fairly
and defend the rights of the helpless.
At his command the people will be punished,
and evil persons will die.
He will rule his people with justice and integrity.

HYMN OF PREPARATION “Jesus Took the Bread” (Hymn 343)

HEARTY EUCHARIST

This month our Holy Communion is in the form of a “Hearty Eucharist.” This annual tradition includes a variety of fruits, vegetables, and breads. You will be invited to help yourself after the reading and before the sermon, bringing “feasting on the Word” to life—literally. Next month we will return to our regular third Sunday Communion schedule and service.

SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

If you would like a name on the prayer list, simply contact the pastors.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 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. 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

“Give Thanks” H. Smith, arr. Graham & Angerman
Chancel choir with Pat Spangler, alto

Your gifts go to support the work and mission of our church. Coins and bills are sent to mission partners like Food at First and Youth and Shelter Services. Checks, unless otherwise designated, go to the church proper to help keep our ministries (like worship, youth group, and Godly Play) vital. If you would like to sign up for electronic giving, please contact Katie Bonney for details (office@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323).

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING

“O God, Whose Steadfast Love” (Hymn 426)

BENEDICTION

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

AMES UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Sunday Scriptures

11/29 Josiah's Reform, 2 Kings 22:1-10, 23:1-3

12/6 Isaiah of the Exile, Isaiah 40:1-11

12/13 Rebuilding the Temple, Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-4,10-13

12/20 Zechariah's Song, Luke 1:5, 57-80

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

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

Holiday Hours

All of Ames UCC will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 26. Katie will be out of the office on Monday, November 30. We will also be closed from Monday, December 28 through Thursday, December 31 for Christmas and New Year's. In case of pastoral emergency, please call 515-428-1779. Leave a message and the on call pastoral caregiver will respond as soon as possible.

Books and Brownies

The library work group has been hard at work processing many new books. Come to the Books and Brownies table today before and after church in the Parlor. We will have a few of our new books on display and ready for check-out. Come and find a book to read when you stay at home out of the snow. Enjoy a brownie as you browse the new books. Happy Reading!

Advent Party and Hanging of the Greens - Nov. 29

November 29 is the first Sunday in Advent. Join us at 4:00 p.m. for our annual Advent Party! Children of all ages are invited to join in the fun of making crafts, decorating cookies, eating pizza, and being in fellowship together. At the same time we will be decorating our church for the Christmas season. Many hands will help make light work as we put up the Christmas tree and other beautiful decorations. Pizza (and more!) will be catered from Valentino's and EVERYONE is invited to stay and enjoy the meal together. The meal will be free for children and adults!

Congregational Meeting - Dec. 6

There is a congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, December 6 following worship. Informational packets including the agenda and proposed meeting items are available in the back of the sanctuary and the parlor. If you are signed up for our e-mail announcements, you should also have received an e-mail with these details.

Get Involved with Food at First

Food At First is a community meal program that serves every day. Meals are at 5:45pm, Sunday through Friday. Saturday meals are served at 11:30am, to accommodate a congregational meal at First Christian Church. Ames UCC has a designated day to cook and serve the Food At First meal: every 3rd Saturday of each month.

There are many positions to cover for each meal, including food prep, serving, and clean up. If Saturday morning doesn't match with your schedule, Ames UCC member David White is also head chef Wednesday evenings, and you can sign up for those days. Sign up for this Saturday or any meal here! Thank you for all of your support!

Sunday Service(rs)

We like to say that no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Ames UCC. One of the ways we demonstrate that welcome is through friendly faces and tasty treats. Please help provide both on Sunday as a deacon, usher, or greeter.

Deacon: The deacon attends to a lot of little details like lights, counting attendance, and turning on the recording device for the sermon, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Ushers (4 per service): Hand out bulletins (programs) starting at 10:30 a.m. Help pass the offering plates. Please indicate if you haven't done this before so that you may be paired with an experienced usher.

Greeters (3+ per service): Stand at one of our three doors to welcome all who enter, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Please contact Katie Bonney, our Church Office Administrator, to sign up for any Sunday. (office@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323)

Thank you to the 150th Capital Campaign Executive Committee

Campaign Executive Committee

Pastor, Terry Hamilton-Poore; Campaign Administrator, Diane Birt; Leadership Gifts: co-chairs, Tom Hertz and Charles Kniker; Commitment Callers, Rich Fellingham; Communications Task Group - Printed Materials, Lesley Lackore; Communications Task Group – Publicity, Cornelia Flora; Group Meetings, Sharron Slinger; Hospitality, Jan Bauer; Administrative Support, Larry Trede; Recording, Nancy Heathman; Follow-up, Doug Powell.

Administrative Support task group (Larry Trede chair): Laura Beason, Ed Godeken, Nancy Marks, Bonnie Trede

Commitment callers tasks group (Rich Fellingham chair): Jerry Chase, Paul Clark, Doug Heathman, Bill LaGrange, Paul Lasley, Donna Starck, Bill Youngclas

Communications task group (Lesley Lackore/Neal Flora co-chairs): Amy Pilcher, Lynette Spicer, Sunny Stewart

Hospitality task group (Jan Bauer chair): Christa Andersen, Irene Dohrmann, Terry Potter, Peg Powell, Kristen Shields, Kim and Pat Spangler, Barbara Yungclas

Leadership gifts (Tom Hertz/Charles Kniker co-chairs): Ken Birt, Jim Dickson, Elaine Hieber, Diana McHenry, Phil Spike, Rachael Schelle, Allen Trenkle, Vaughn Spear.



Calendar for the Week

Monday, November 23

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. ERP (*Hanson*)

Tuesday, November 24

3:00 p.m. Farm to Folk
7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, November 25

8:30 a.m. Morning Bible Study
9:30 a.m. AM Work Crew
12:10 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers
1:00 p.m. Newsletter Crew
2:05 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
6:45 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, November 26

Church Office Closed for Holiday

Saturday, November 28

11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels (*Chase*)

Sunday, November 29

9:30 a.m. Learning Center
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Be In Touch with Ames UCC

217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010
515-232-9323

Mondays—Thursdays

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

24-hour pastoral emergencies:
515-428-1779

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