

THE INSTALLATION OF REV. EILEEN GEBBIE



WORSHIP

Building Without Worry

Many of you asked for the text of the “building without worry” litany used in my installation service. It was based on the charge that The Rev. Dr. Theodore Jennings gave to the Chicago Theological Seminary 2012 graduating class. I have since modified it, both in content and format. —Pr. Eileen

Voice 1: Our Good News comes to us through old languages translated across many tongues and cultures. It can be confusing, contradictory, and even painful. Our scripture has been used to justify all manner of atrocities and ignorance. Need we worry?

Respondent: Do not worry: the Word is stronger than the contempt shown it. If we clothe ourselves in its poetry and anoint our lives with its tales, we will radiate the light and truth of God’s holy word.

Voice 2: Our world, nation, towns, and even our own churches, harbor cruel edges of racism, xenophobia, and white supremacy. Need we worry?

Respondent: Do not worry: the God that freed the Israelites, the God that cared for Hagar the slave, the God that empowered the Canaanite woman to challenge even Jesus gives us strength to name such violences and the certainty that they will end.

Voice 3: But what of homophobia and heterosexism and transphobia? Where is the God of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament for those whose sexuality and gender expression seem damned? Need we worry?

Respondent: Do not worry: God is not trapped in scripture but alive in the same divine process of creation scripture describes. We must love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. Learning to love ourselves, as God loves us, is the first step to fulfilling this greatest commandment.

Voice 4: Girls continue to be trafficked for pleasure and women are only rarely treated equally in leadership, the workplace, in media, or in school. Need we worry?

Respondent: Do not worry: Woman Wisdom was with God before creation and Mother Mary nurtured Jesus Christ. With their guidance and inspiration, we can make certain that all girl children are safe and discrimination becomes a shameful embarrassment.

Voice 1: But surely there are limits to what we can do. Fear of the stranger, the foreigner, the immigrant seems to be an all-time high. Need we worry about increased border paranoia and social group isolation?

Respondent: Do not worry: Time and again the divine enters into the world as a stranger, be it as angels disguised as travelers or an ordinary man who refuted the power of an empire. Our fear is no match for such power.

Voice 2: Our society highly values some abilities over others. Our streets, buildings and communities are often inaccessible to and uncomfortable for people whose bodies or minds move differently than the majority. Need we worry?

Respondent: Do not worry: After Easter, Jesus showed his altered body to those who doubted, saying, "Touch me." After journeying to and beyond the cross, we know intimately how fleeting is our so-called ability, and no door or conversation will ever be closed again.

Voice 3: Despite what we have learned from World War One, World War Two, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Cuba, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, and more, chemical warfare, nuclear arms production, old-fashioned arms dealing, and surveillance technologies flourish. Need we worry?

Respondent: Do not worry: These wars are new only in their scale and cruel inventiveness. The Prince of Peace grows in strength each time we choose humanity over nationality, humility over localized pride.

Voice 4: But what of our planet? Oceans poisoned and trashed, forests burning, storms flooding, food undergoing chemical corruption, and bees dying: need we worry?

Respondent: Do not worry: Creation is older than us, and stronger, too. She will show us how to steward her resources and all of her children.

Beloved community: we have much work to do and the stakes are as high as they can be. We risk the cross when we follow The Way of Jesus. And yet we need not worry! We are, in our very essence, creatures of relationship, peace, justice, and creativity. We need not practice war, discrimination, or nationalism any more. We need only die to them and rise again at the banquet. Let your godspark shine like the dew of the lilies and soar as free as the sparrow! AMEN.

Cans for Communion Starting in Advent

On the third Sunday of each month we gather together to feast at God's open table. It is a time of reconciliation and renewal, leaving us stronger and spiritually fed.

However, many people in our community (even in our church) struggle with being actually fed. In Story County, 15% of individuals have either low or very low food security. As Iowa State researchers describe, "Low food secure households have difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members. In very low food secure households, the food intake of some household members is reduced and normal eating patterns are disrupted at times during the year due to limited resources."

Starting Sunday, December 20, the Social Justice team and I invite you to bring canned and other non-perishable goods to our Communion table. Simply place them on or around the table before you take part in the meal. If you are able, bring extras to share with those who are unable to contribute. After worship we will take everything to Food at First for distribution in the community. God's table is larger than we can imagine. Let us set more places each and every time we feast.

-Pr. Eileen

Source: http://www.icip.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/poverty/poverty_19169.pdf

Wear Sports Gear to Worship on November 15th!

Come to worship on Sunday, November 15th wearing a t-shirt, sweatshirt, or jacket in support of your favorite sports team!

Hearty Eucharist

On Sunday, November 22, in preparation for Thanksgiving, Ames UCC will partake in a Hearty Eucharist. This annual tradition will include a variety of fruits, vegetables, and breads, making the Eucharist *hearty*. Please mark your calendars and plan on coming to celebrate as we begin a season of gratitude and togetherness!

If you are able to provide food or assistance with preparations or decorations, please contact Bradley Duckstein at 515-971-2886 or bduckstein@gmail.com – many hands make light work! Sign up will also be available in the parlor.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & OUTREACH

Christmas Rummage Sale

We had a successful sale of all of our Christmas donations. I would like to thank everyone who helped out in any way. First we have to thank everyone who gave such gorgeous Christmas items for the sale. We have had workers who have come every Wednesday morning to help sort, price and box all the items. A special THANK YOU to Barbara Yungclas, Barbara Hauerrberg, Lynette Spicer, Ginny Shenk and Tania Tipton. We have also had some drop-in workers who have come for a week or two. We had all those helping hands on the Sunday before the sale to move everything from the Choir Room to Fellowship Hall. Thanks to the work crew and my husband for helping set-up tables and put chairs away. Our Fellowship Hall workers came and made the displays very festive looking. Then we had the workers on the day of the sale. Finally, we had the workers who came in to help pack up the items remaining and getting them to local re-sale shops. Many hands don't just make light work - they make FUN work as we share in fellowship together.

After the sale for the church congregation on Sunday morning, we had an open house for Food at First Patrons or anyone needing some extra help. All the leftover items were offered for free. At this point we have made \$1,050 on the sale. Remember that 20% of that money goes to local charities.

How many times have you heard or read the term ‘affordable housing’ in Ames recently?

There’s one big reason elected officials, administrators and candidates for Ames City Council talk about affordable housing: AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy).

Ames UCC is a member of AMOS which means we have committed to work with the other member institutions on local social justice issues. With 28 churches, synagogues and advocacy organizations in metropolitan Des Moines and Ames, we channel individual energy into a responsible and powerfully-organized force for the common good. (Ten of the 28 member institutions are in Ames.) AMOS is an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation, the nation’s oldest and largest organizing network.

AMOS uses a 3-step process:

1. Through face-to-face, one-to-one meetings, AMOS members build relationships with members of their communities.
2. AMOS identifies people’s common concerns and pressures through those face-to-face meetings and small-group conversations. Investigative issue teams then research the facts and develop solutions to the problems on which stakeholders and powerbrokers can actually act.
3. AMOS then brings the power of organized people to those decision-makers for implementation.

To learn more –

- see amosiowa.org
- Come to Making Ames Affordable for All: A Lunch and Learn on Housing Trust Funds hosted by the AMOS Affordable Housing Team in Ames on Tuesday, November 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Ames City Hall. Lunch is provided, RSVP by November 6 to Jan Flora, floraj@iastate.edu.
- Contact Pr. Eileen, who worked for a sister affiliate and is eager to enhance the “relational culture” of Ames UCC.

Ryan Berg, Author of *No House to Call My Home*, Speaking at ISU November 9th

Come hear Ryan Berg, Iowa native and author of *No House to Call My Home*, speak about his book and experiences as a counselor with LGBTQ teenagers in foster care in New York City. A panel discussion with Ryan will follow, including Donna Red Wing of One Iowa, Penny McGee of Iowa KidsNet, and Julia Webb of Youth & Shelter Services. Following the panel presentation, a reception with refreshments will be served; books will be available for sale and signing. This event will be held in the Great Hall of Iowa State University’s Memorial Union, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Ames UCC is a sponsor of this event.

Bell Ringing for Peace

Join us every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. in the bell tower to ring the bell and pray for worldwide peace. Ames UCC is a Just Peace Church, encouraging the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Advent Party & Hanging of the Greens - November 29th

Join us on Sunday, November 29 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!

2015 Children/Youth Christmas Program

“She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—because there was no room for them to stay in the inn.”

The 2015 Children/Youth Christmas program will focus on “Making Room” - preparing hearts, minds, and spirits to welcome Jesus in the many forms and places in which we encounter him. This year’s program explores the nativity scriptures, contemporary accounts of our neighbors without refuge, and the words of our children and youth as they experience the story of Christmas. As part of this endeavor, we will be constructing several large scale puppets to bring to life a contemporary “nativity scene.” Our first puppet build date will be Sunday, November 8 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Anyone – young in age, or young in heart – is welcome and encouraged to come join us as we build, create, and make room for a new telling of our Christmas story.

Learning Center

The Learning Center meets weekly at 9:30 a.m. Sundays in the Fellowship Hall. It is a forum for learning and discussing a wide variety of topics. Each week’s program has different speakers or leaders from within or without the congregation. Come a few minutes early to join us for coffee at 9:15. This month’s programming:

Nov. 1: Come visit with former pastors who will be here for the 150th Celebration.

Nov. 8: George Belitsos will talk to us about his work as Director of Youth & Shelter Services.

Nov. 15: We will hear from Sipele Quezada who works with homeless youth in the Ames schools.

Nov. 22: Jan Flora will update us on AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy).

Nov. 29: No program Thanksgiving weekend.

MEMBER SERVICES

New Church Pictorial Directory—November 17th-21st

Life Touch Photographers will soon be taking our pictures for a new pictorial directory! Sign up for your appointed time after worship in the parlor or call Katie Bonney in the church office (515-232-9323.) Everyone who has their picture taken will receive a free 8x10 and a church directory, which

will be delivered to the church in February. If you order photos, they will arrive by Dec 11th, in time for Christmas! Submitted photos do cost the church \$10 each, so please have your photo taken if you are able; if you are unable, let us know.

Women's Fellowship

In November, there will only be one Women's Fellowship meeting because of the Thanksgiving holiday. This meeting will be held Wednesday, November 11 from 12 noon to 1.00 pm. Since the day before our meeting is "Young Readers Day" we are asking someone from Raising Readers of Story County to come and visit with us. They have many different programs that they sponsor and maybe our group could support them in some way. I am sure there are also ways that we could volunteer. Please come to this interesting meeting and show support of this excellent program in Story County.

Library News

Library Work Group: Do you like books? Would you like to enjoy some fellowship? We could use you in our Library Work Group. Come join us in the Church Parlor on the first and third Wednesday of November. The dates in November are Nov. 4 and Nov. 18 at 1.30 pm --3.30 pm We are still getting pockets, cards and stamping all of our new books. After that we will be sorting and marking all the Christian Children's books. We never run out of things to do. If you would like to join us please call Barbara Faidley at 233-3874 or e-mail her at barbara@faidley.org.

New Items: Are you waiting for church to start and you are there early? Check out the library. We have an entire collection of the magazine "Our Iowa". They are available for you to look at in the library. We have audio CDs of the Great Courses available that could be taken on a long car trip.

The children have discovered the many new children's books that have been added to the shelves. Come check out a book and take it home. If you have a child who is reading chapter books we have a new collection of those also. We have a number of "The Magic Tree House Book" series and a number of animal chapter books. These chapter books are on the small book shelf on the left as you walk into the library.

Brownies and Books: Watch the announcements for the next date for a display of our new library books and some brownies to eat as you browse through the new books.

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 second Friday of each month at 1 p.m.

November 13 –God and Government: Twenty-Five Years of Fighting for Equality, Secularism, and Freedom of Conscience by Rev. Barry Lynn (2015 nonfiction, 334 pages)

Discussion leaders: book club planning members

The Rev. Barry Lynn has been the executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State since 1992. He is the Ames UCC Theologian in Residence January 30-31, 2016. In this lively book, he has compiled his writings from various sources to explore in depth the many ways religious extremists have attempted to erode individual liberties.

December 11 – Discussion – What are you reading? What do you recommend?

An open discussion in which readers can share what they are reading and recommend.

PROPERTY & OUR CAMPUS

The 150th Capital Campaign officially ended the active/open campaign phase in June 2015. We had our last campaign executive committee meeting in September and said our farewells to Priscilla Bizer, the UCC national consultant from Capital Campaign Services who guided us through the process. As of September 30, 2015 members and friends of Ames UCC have pledged and donated \$840,470 to the 150th Capital Campaign. Our campaign costs were \$11,226 and design costs in preparation and support of the campaign were \$22,895.

We are now into the construction phase of priority 1 (Improve Facility/Deferred Exterior Maintenance) and priority 2 (Youth room renovations). The construction costs of these two priorities are now expected to run \$120,244. If priority's 3-6 run close to the original estimates we are well into funding priority 6. When campaign, pre campaign design, priority 1 and 2 construction and 20% of construction costs for outreach are tallied we have \$184,426 committed or spent. This leaves \$656,044 remaining for building and outreach priorities. Priorities 3-6 were estimated to cost \$683,750 (including the 20% of total costs to go to outreach).

Priority 3: East Entrance Enclosure; \$156,250

Priority 4: Sanctuary Enhancements; \$153,750

Priority 5: Upgrade Sanctuary Ceiling and Lighting; 117,500

Priority 6: Extension of Parlor to North; \$256,250

We hope to be able to close this gap of \$27,706 so that we can complete priority 6 of the building phase and provide a total of \$171,390 toward outreach.

Initial outreach expenditures of \$19,530 were approved by the congregation on January 25, 2015 as part of approving the contract with UCC Capital Campaign Services, this will be paid monthly through the national office and the funds will be given in the name of Ames UCC for Our Churches Wider Mission \$9,765; Theologian in Residence, \$4882.50; Renovation of a unit at the Emergency Residence Shelter \$4,882.50. A congregational vote will be held on December 6, 2015 to approve the priorities for the remaining outreach funds expected of over \$146,000. The Social Justice/ Outreach Team has prepared a proposal that will be shared broadly soon. We hope that you will come to the congregational meeting to hear the details and vote.

Join me in thanking the Campaign Executive Committee which has completed their task: Jan Bauer; Rich Fellingham; Cornelia Flora; Terry Hamilton-Poore; Nancy Heathman; Tom Hertz; Charles Kniker; Lesley Lackore; Doug Powell; Sharron Slinger; Larry Trede.

Also, I sincerely appreciate Doug Powell for his continuing leadership as Follow-up chair and for his unwavering service in coordinating with the architect, John Lott, Benjamin Design Collaborative, P.C. and contractors. May God guide him as he ushers the execution of the plans for the Ames UCC 150th Capital Campaign to a successful outcome.

Thanks to all the members and friends of Ames UCC who have made this campaign a success.

Diane Birt, Campaign Administrator,
150th Capital Campaign

ODDS & ENDS

Book Review by Barbara Faidley

“AND SARAH LAUGHED: The Status of Woman in the Old Testament” by John H. Otwell. As our scripture readings have been from the Old Testament and will continue to be for the near future this book seemed very appropriate for review. The book demonstrates the significance of the role of women and the high regard in which they were held in ancient Israel, and refutes the common misconception that the Old Testament subordinates women to an inferior position. The author is a Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California. He describes the standing of women in the Old Testament based upon more than 700 Scriptural passages in which a woman or women are mentioned. In each chapter he describes the women’s role in various aspects. In the subtitle, status is defined as relative standing. The basic groups within which relative standing are defined are the family and the community. Within the family, the status of woman can be defined in relationship to parents and husband, siblings and children. In the community as a whole, a woman’s standing may be described in terms of her relationships to males and to other women. The relationship of the woman to God is the final arbiter of her status..

Children’s Book Review by Christa Andersen

In the Trunk of Grandma’s Car The Story of Edna Ruth Byler and Ten Thousand Villages by Donna J. Stoltzfus and illustrations by John Andrew Sumereau

As a volunteer at the local fair-trade store, Worldly Goods, I came upon this book. I wanted to learn about the beginnings of Ten Thousand Villages, and it was helpful. For children, however, this is the story of a grandma who was “just a woman trying to help other women”. What’s not to love about a grandma who arrived for a visit with the trunk of her car loaded with handmade toys and crafts from all over the world that she sold at churches. Children and adults can read this book, enjoy the illustrations and learn about one woman’s dream which has grown to make a difference in the lives of people throughout the world. The end of the book answers questions about fair trade and Ten Thousand Villages.



As we want to grow in faithfulness to God and in our giving to God’s church and world, during 2016, I/we plan to give:

\$ _____ weekly, \$ _____ monthly, or \$ _____ quarterly

For a total annual pledge of \$ _____

Since this is an estimate of what I/we plan to give to the church for the next year, if my/our financial circumstances change, I/we can change this estimate by notifying the church office.

Name(s)

Address

- I would like more information on **electronic giving**.
- I would like to visit with someone about opportunities for **planned giving** to the church.

Tear out this pledge card and mail or bring it to the church office.

Calling All Pledgers!

Each week in worship we receive a call to give generously to the life and mission of our church. We do this in worship to emphasize the spiritual element of giving from our “first fruits,” as the Bible says. We also do it to remind ourselves and each other that our financial gifts, our money, is needed to make church happen: salaries for the staff who create and lead worship, cash to pay for the heat, reserves in case the elevator breaks. (We also give away about nine percent of what we receive.)

On a less frequent basis we, the leaders of the Financial Stewardship team, also ask for you to make a pledge. Pledges are our promise for how much we will give to the church for the coming year. The church budget is determined by those pledges.

This fall we decided to have a “softer” pledge drive. I have heard back from you that it may have been too soft, without enough emphasis on the date when pledges were due (October 4). As a result, **only about half of those of you who pledged last year have done so this year.**

So, let me clear: now is the time! Pledge cards are in the bulletins and this newsletter. You don’t even need a pledge card: just send Pr. Eileen or Nancy Heathman your amount, if that is easier.

We will be working during the month of November to put together the budget for congregational approval at the Congregational Meeting on December 6. **Your pledges will ensure that we do not need to reduce or cut any ministries, but be able to maintain or even grow them.**

Thank you!
Diana McHenry

Missed Worship?

Sometimes life keeps us away from our church community on Sunday mornings. Audio and text files of Pr. Eileen’s sermon, as well as PDF versions of the bulletin, can be found on our church website at <http://www.amesucc.org/sermons>

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

Katie Bonney,
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office@amesucc.org

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Lesley Lackore, Music Director
llackore@gmail.com

Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Keyboardist
kstewart@ames.k12.ia.us

Jean Watts, Youth Director
jean@amesucc.org



1942—South Door of Ames Church

HUMOR IN OUR WORLD

The pastor’s announcement before the offering: "I would like to remind you that what you are about to give is tax deductible, cannot be taken with you, and it is considered in the Bible that the love of it is the root of all evil."



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

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- Caring Network.....Christa Andersen
- Christian Education.....Genya Coffey
- Financial Stewardship.....Doug Powell
- Invitation and Welcome.....Bill Yungclas
- Member Services.....Jan Bauer
- Property.....Ken Birt
- Social Justice and Outreach.....Kim Spangler
- Worship & Music.....Bradley Duckstein
- Association & Conf Delegate.....Jim Peake
- Clerk.....Lynette Spicer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,



UCC ames

United Church of Christ

