



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, October 18, 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 Dale Shenefelt (prayers), Eileen Gebbie (sermon and Children's Celebration).

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: We are your people—no matter the circumstances of our lives in pastor or present times. There are many options before us, but not all lead to the abundance of life you have to offer. May we cling to your promise that you are always there with us.

Many: **Wipe away our tears and give us the joy of your love.
Open our spirits to the possibilities of new faith experiences.
Amen!**

HYMN "Community of Christ" (Hymn 314)

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, holy, holy, we know you are with us all the days of our lives, when we are faithful and when we stray. Let us feel that resounding truth 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.

**Many: O God, constant and compassionate, you protect those who trust in you.
Each new day you call us to venture from our homes and families
and to follow you into difficult places
among people we may consider strangers.
But we often fear change and only go among strangers when pressed.
Forgive us for not seeing how your way wanders among all.
Forgive us for staying only on our street corner.**

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: We, like Ruth, will find God's blessing in the wandering in our lives, no matter how small our journey may be. We are always sheltered under God's wings, our true home in faith. 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



HEBREW BIBLE The Book of Ruth: A Reader's Theater

New Revised Standard Version, modified for inclusive language. 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.

Our players today, in the order in which they read, are Linda Shenk (narrator), Sharron Slinger (Naomi), Amanda Petefish-Schrag (Ruth), Eileen Gebbie (Orpah and Woman), Dan Coffey (Boaz), and Bill Yungclas (Foreman and Kinsman and Elders).

HOMILY AND SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Communion table is open to all: young and old, faithful and dubious. No one will be turned away. We serve the bread and the juice through "intinction," which means dipping the bread into the juice. The bread is free of gluten, soy, and dairy; the cup contains grape juice.

Invitation

One: Come, you who are homeless and hungry, you who have safety and food, come. Jesus calls us to dine as friends, come, God's feast of welcome awaits us.

Prayer

One: Let us pray.

**Many: God of Naomi, God of Ruth, and God of Boaz
strengthen us this day to stand with those in need
to give generously of what we have.
Help us expand our understanding of family
so that we may ensure that no one goes unloved,
no one is left unprotected.**

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Let us pray.

**Many: May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith,
increase our generosity and unify our hearts,
we pray in the name of Jesus, the Rising One. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

"Whither Thou Goest"

Otto/Schütz

Thank you for giving what you can. All cash gifts will go to supporting our community justice 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.

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.

AMES UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Sunday Scriptures

10/25 David Anointed King, 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5

11/1 Kingdom Divided, 1 Kings 12:1-17

11/8 Elijah at Mount Carmel, 1 Kings 18:20-39

11/15 Hosea, Hosea 11:1-9

Holiday Bazaar - October 24th

So many people were generous with donations for our Attic to Basement Sale that we were unable to display it all, so we are having a Holiday Bazaar for holiday-related items. Join us on Wednesday morning in the Choir Room from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to sort and price the items. The sale will be on Saturday, October 24th from 8am to noon. Note: all cash sales.

Faith in Action - Oct. 29

On Thursday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m., the Ames Progressive Alliance is hosting a forum for candidates for our City Council. Our church will be participating in the event through AMOS, the alliance of 28 faith- and community-based institutions of which we are a member (see more here: <http://amosiowa.org/who-we-are/>). We will be bringing a question about affordable housing. Please join fellow UCC-ers Terry Potter, Diane Birt, Pastor Eileen, and more, in showing strong community support for decent and affordable housing for all who wish to make Ames their home. There is strength in numbers, particularly when those numbers are embodied by each of you (with your comma pins on!). And, if you come at 5:30 p.m., you can enjoy a social hour!

All Saints - Nov. 1

On Sunday, November 1 we will lift up the names of those we have lost over the last year. Please contact Pr. Eileen by Thursday, October 29 with the name(s) of your loved one(s): 515-232-9323 or eileen@amesucc.org.

150th Anniversary Celebration - Nov. 1

Please join us on Sunday, November 1 at 10:45 a.m. for our 150th Anniversary Celebration Worship and Luncheon. Worship will feature Collegiate Brass, a new hymn by The Rev. Charles Kniker and Dr. Lynn Zeigler, and a processional of special guests. The Rev. Eileen Gebbie, our first female senior pastor, will preach. Be sure to RSVP for the luncheon (\$5/person with children 3 and under free) after worship on October 18 or 25. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Panel on Mortality and Religion - Nov. 2

On Monday, November 2nd, Pr. Eileen will be participating in an interfaith panel on faith traditions and mortality. The panel will include representatives from Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and the "nones." The panel is at 7:00 p.m. in the Farwell T. Brown Auditorium at the Ames Public Library.

Central Association of Iowa Conference Fall Meeting - Nov. 7

The fall meeting of the Central Association will be held Saturday, November 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Ankeny UCC. Lunch will be served with freewill donation. Ames UCC member George Belitsos, board member of the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking, will be speaking at the meeting. RSVP to Pr. Eileen by noon on October 29th to attend: 515-232-9323 or eileen@amesucc.org

Pictorial Directory Photoshoot - Nov. 17-21

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 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 December 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.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, October 19

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tuesday, October 20

3:00 p.m. Farm to Folk

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, October 21

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

8:30 a.m. Morning Bible Study

9:30 a.m. AM Work Crew

10:00 a.m. Work on Bazaar

12:10 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers

2:05 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club

6:45 p.m. Choir Practice

Saturday, October 24

8:00 a.m. - Holiday Bazaar

12:00 p.m.

11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels (*O'Neal*)

Sunday, October 25

9:15 a.m. Coffee

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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