



ames

UCC COURIER

United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

ISSUE 268
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Just Peace, Open & Affirming

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www.amesucc.org

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO RALLY DAY 2015!



WORSHIP

Beloved community,

I am writing this letter early in the morning after my – our – service of installation. The joy of the day just wouldn't let me sleep!

It began with our regular Sunday worship. So many of us came to praise God and explore faith that we ran out of bulletins. Four of our children received Bibles. We learned a calypso-style song that still sounded authentic coming from our Midwest-style selves.

The afternoon installation felt like coming home. Across the sanctuary I could see familiar faces and new. Many community leaders and clergy took time out of their Sunday afternoons to offer their partnership and show solidarity with our church.

And Pastor Waltrina's sermon? Artful in its imagery, powerful in its message. May we receive agitation as a blessing, just as Jesus did with the Canaanite woman.

Then it was off to the reception: wow! Delicious vegetables and gorgeous fruit wands, coupled with not one but two delicious cakes. I heard several people comment that the place settings and decorations were fit for a wedding.

Which, in many ways, it was. As pastor, church, and Association, we exchanged vows of fidelity and truthfulness. May we live into them with grace and compassion.

At right is a list of everyone I can think of who helped to make the day so special. I am certain I did not see everyone who was involved, particularly with the reception, so please let me know if I have left you or anyone else out.

Yours in church, yours in the world, yours in faith,



Pr. Eileen

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

Planning Team: Eric Abbott, Elaine Hieber, Lynette Spicer, Linda Shenk, Allen Trenkle

Worship Leaders (before and during, up front and behind the scenes): All of the above plus Ayisha Al-Hassan, Carla Barnwell, Judith Blair, Katie Bonney, George Britton, Mary Jane Button-Harrison, Jerry Chase, Aidan Cook, David Cook, Laura Deal, Bradley Duckstein, Hannah Hannover, Nathan Hannover, Dinah Kerksieck, Jennifer Gelwick-Luecke, Lesley Lackore, Greg Lamont, Fred Lewis, Jeremy McMahon, Tom Meyer, Mary Mulford, Laurie Olk, Rich Pleva, Terry Potter, Kristin Shields, Bill Slinger, Carol Smith, Pat Spangler, Phil Spike, Sunny Stewart, Tania Tipton, Waltrina Middleton, David White, Richard White, Greg Wool, Fei Yi, and Bill Yungclas

Reception hosts (creation and clean-up): Matthew Ellinwood, Mim Fritz, Michael Johnson, Laurie Olk, Kristin Shields, Sunny Stewart, Barbara Yungclas, and Bill Yungclas

SOCIAL JUSTICE & OUTREACH

Attic to Basement Rummage Sale

Donations were generous, shoppers were numerous and workers were everywhere in our church community. Thanks to all of you. You all made the 2015 sale the best ever! The final amount collected was \$3,962.25. That amount is incredible. We met a need and after the sale was over we opened our doors to those in need to come and take what they needed at no cost. We helped furnish two or three apartments on that day. All the extras were packed up and given to OVERFLOW, a re-sale shop that sends their proceeds to projects in Africa. The rest of the items went to the Salvation Army who do so much for people in need. THANKS AGAIN to everyone who helped in any way with the sale!

Holiday Bazaar

Because people were so generous with their donations for the Attic to Basement sale, we didn't have enough space to display all of it. We held back the Christmas and holiday related items to sell in a Christmas Bazaar. We will also be selling a few donations that would be perfect as Christmas gifts. The sale work crew is still meeting every Wednesday morning from 10:00 a.m. to noon to sort and price items. Come join us and have fun while we work. We are now meeting in the choir room! The Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 24th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. We chose this day because it is the day our neighbors at the Methodist Church are having their Annual Fall Sale. This gives people a chance to shop at two churches downtown on the same day. We will be asking people to help at the sale and help prepare the Fellowship Hall the week before the sale. Come join the work fun and come shop on October 24th. For more information contact Barbara Faidley at 233-3874/ barbara@faidley.org, or Barbara Yungclas at 292-9274.

Save The Date—Theologian-In-Residence Weekend

Theologian-In-Residence Weekend is scheduled for January 30 & 31, 2016. Barry Lynn will be speaking on “God and Government: Are Religious Liberties Crumbling?” Please mark your calendars for this very important event that you will not want to miss!

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

Rally Day

Thanks to all of you that made our Rally Day so much fun! You can see pictures of some of our superheroes on the front of this newsletter, and on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall. You will notice that each week a new superhero from the Bible will be added to the bulletin board. That superhero is the person our children have learned about during Wednesday Afternoon Club (WAC) and in our Pre School Sunday School class during the week!

Interested in learning more about Godly Play at Ames UCC?

All children ages 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to join us in the Godly Play room each week during Sunday School (9:30 a.m.) for a new story. Children also have the opportunity to join us during worship on the last Sunday of each month following Children’s Celebration.



Genya Coffey has put together a beautiful website to share with you what Godly Play is and how it is used at Ames UCC. You can see pictures of our children experiencing the stories and read about our experiences we share together in that sacred space. Go to <http://amesuccgodlyplay.weebly.com/our-blog/> to check it out!

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, tea, or hot chocolate at 9:15.

This month's programming:

- Oct. 4: An illustrated report on a Road Scholar trip to Scotland will be presented by the Pohms, Spikes, and Tiptons.
- Oct. 11: Dave White and other volunteers will inform us about the Food at First program in which our church participates.
- Oct. 18: Rachel Schell will update us on how the money raised for outreach by the 150th Capital Campaign will be spent.

God Talk with Pr. Eileen

First Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the demi-parlor (the east side of the parlor, across from the small kitchen). Bring your questions, doubts, and certainties!

10/4/15: God in the World

11/1/15: Heaven

12/6/15: Prophecy

1/3/16: Miracles

2/7/16: Divinity of Jesus

3/6/16: Sin

4/3/16: Discipleship

5/1/16: Faith

MEMBER SERVICES

Bible Study

Come join us for Wednesday morning Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. each week in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. Scripture studies for this month: 10/7 Deuteronomy 5:1-21, 6:4-9; 10/14 Ruth; 10/21 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 6:1-5, Psalm 150; 10/28 1 Kings 12:1-17.

150th Anniversary Celebration Tickets On Sale

On Sunday, November 1st, Ames United Church of Christ is ending its 150th anniversary celebration with a dinner and program following the worship service. Starting Sunday, October 4th, the 150th committee will be selling tickets in the parlor every Sunday in October. Tickets are \$5; children 3 and under are free. Vegetarian options are available. Please designate when purchasing your tickets. Tickets need to be purchased prior to November 1st.

Tranquillity Jo was born in Waterloo but moved to Roland when she was four. “I lived in London, England for a semester while studying at DMACC for Social work to be a child's counselor. I try to be outgoing. But with Fibromyalgia and POTS (Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome) it's kind of hard at times. Thanks for being the church family and support I was looking for and letting me be a full member at the Ames UCC!” Tranquillity joins our church as a full member through affirmation of faith.

Ben Schrag and Amanda Petefish-Schrag are relatively recent transplants to Ames by way of Missouri, and are thrilled to have found a church home at Ames UCC. Their daughter Celia is a 4th grader at Meeker elementary school. She loves art, music and is committed to learning the secret language of cats. Their son Eli is a 2nd grader at Meeker. He is contemplating becoming an artist or a cowboy, or possibly both “depending on how much a horse costs.” Ben enjoys participating in the local music scene as a singer/songwriter, and works for the Iowa State “Water Rocks!” water conservation/stewardship program. Amanda is on the theatre faculty at Iowa State, and also works professionally as a director, playwright, and puppeteer. Amanda and Celia join our church as full members through affirmation of faith. Ben and Eli are becoming friends of Ames UCC.

Dale Shenefelt and Donna Shenefelt met in college and have been married for 57 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. Two grandchildren live here and our other daughter and her family live in Arizona. Dale is a seminary graduate and an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, where they will both maintain full membership. Dale writes, “When I got here and spent some time, I felt at home. We recently located at Green Hills in a town home. I have had a number of responsibilities and have received several awards for leadership and service with Lions service club. We will continue our relationship with them. I have been a photographer and belonged to an art gallery in Omaha's Old Market area and a wedding Photographer.” Donna shares, “While Dale was in seminary in Chicago, I taught school in the lower elementary grades, then was a stay at home Mom for several years. When I began working again, I took classes to become a Media Specialist and worked at that for 18 years before retiring. We are beginning to feel at home in Ames and Ames UCC church. You have made us feel welcome here.” Dale and Donna join our church as an associate members through affirmation of faith.

Fei Yi came from Sichuan province, China and moved to Ames since 2012. Fei works as a graduate assistant in the Department of Psychology at Iowa State University while working on her doctoral degree. She enjoys writing, crafting, gardening, and reading books of Jiddu Krishnamurti. She also takes care of two pet rodents. Jeremy McMahon is originally from South Dakota and has been a resident of Ames for two years. Jeremy works as an Environmental Engineer for Stanley Consultants, an engineering firm in downtown Des Moines. Jeremy enjoys outdoor recreation and leisure as well as auto mechanics. Fei and Jeremy are becoming friends of Ames UCC.

PROPERTY / OUR CAMPUS

We are still seeking bids to complete the renovation of the Choir Room. It will involve rebuilding a retaining wall and ceiling and finishing the floor. Contractors have started excavation for drain repair and egress window for the Youth Room. Following the completion of the drain tile repair and the egress window-well enclosure, work will begin on the NW retaining wall. Roof contractors will work on the “flat roof” in September or early October, weather permitting.

Fall Church Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, November 7th. There is not a home football game, and it is “Free Brush and Yard-Waste Day” for Ames.

ODDS & ENDS

Book Review by Barbara Faidley

“The Faith Club” by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. This book is about 3 American women searching for faith and mutual respect. This book weaves the story of these three women, their 3 religions and their urgent quest to understand one another.

After September 11, Ranya Idliby, an American Muslim of Palestinian descent, faced constant questions about Islam, God and death from her children, who were the only Muslims in their classrooms. She reached out to two other mothers to write an interfaith children’s book that would highlight the connections between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. After just a few meetings, however, the women realized that they themselves needed an honest and open environment where they could admit and discuss their concerns, stereotypes, and misunderstandings. This is a memoir of spiritual reflections in 3 voices. The book has spawned interfaith discussion groups in churches, temples, mosques and other community settings. It will make you feel as if you are eavesdropping on the authors’ private thought, provocative discussions, and often-controversial opinions and conclusions.

Children’s Book Review by Barbara Faidley

The book I am reviewing is one of a series of information books for children that has just been added to the Church Library. The series is QEB Animal Lives. We are reviewing “Lions” by Sally Morgan. This series offers an exciting insight into the world of animals, investigating the topics of conservation, life cycles, animal adaptation, and survival. Each book is fully illustrated with stunning photographs and includes world locator maps that show the animal’s habitat. Each 2 page spread covers a certain aspect of that animal. Here is sample of the table of contents (Living in a pride, beginning life, lion senses, hunting, etc.) On each 2 page spread there is a Lion Fact printed in a bright yellow circle. One fact printed in this book: THE LION’S ROAR CAN BE HEARD 5 MILES AWAY. Come check out these interesting information books. The church library has the complete series. Titles in the series: Lions, Penguins, Whales, Snakes, Owls

Welcome Katie Bonney!

On my arrival at the church I began to work with members of our Personnel Committee—Phil Spike, Lynette Spicer, and Terry Potter—on a job description for our office position that would meet the current and future needs of the church. We ultimately developed a combination of communication and administrative duties, including some financial tasks to support our Treasurer.

We then advertised the position in several locations. Phil and I conducted three interviews.

I am very pleased to introduce to you our new Church Office Administrator, Katie Bonney.



Katie is a recent graduate of Iowa State University, where she studied Sociology and English. She finds intersection in these two fields in the way our social world can be influenced by literature and communication. Katie is most interested in facilitating written communication, both on a personal and organizational level. She looks forward to bringing her interest in rhetoric and communication to bear on Ames UCC's written media and online presence.

In addition, because Katie's schooling required a fair amount of data and statistical analysis, I am confident she will be a quick learner on our financial duties. Katie even volunteered to photograph some of our events and gatherings.

Katie began work with us on Tuesday, September 8th. Our regular church office hours are now 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (closed for a 30 minute lunch midday).

Feel free to stop by the office to welcome her to the church!

Thank you, all,
Pr. Eileen

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

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Church Office Administrator

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Jim Dickson, Treasurer

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Hannah Hannover,

Minister to Children & Families

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Nancy Heathman, Financial Secretary

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Lesley Lackore, Music Director

llackore@gmail.com

Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Keyboardist

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Jean Watts, Youth Director

jean@amesucc.org



1911.—South Door of Stone Church.

HUMOR IN OUR WORLD

The little boy’s prayer: “Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mommy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and my cat and me. Oh, please take care of yourself, too, God. If anything happens to you, we’re gonna be in a big mess.”



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

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Invitation and Welcome.....Bill Yungclas
Member Services.....Jan Bauer
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Worship & Music.....Bradley Duckstein
Association & Conf Delegate.....Jim Peake
Clerk.....Lynette Spicer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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where you are on life's journey,

No matter who you are or



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