



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, September 6, 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 Eileen Gebbie (sermon), Hannah Hannover (Children's Celebration), Jim Peake (scripture), and Fei Yi (prayers).

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Most announcements are in your bulletin and our weekly e-newsletter. To sign up for the weekly e-mail announcements please contact office administrator at 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: Today we are reminded of the faithful who have preceded us so that we may remember to care for those who are yet to come.

Many: May we, in this hour, commit ourselves to living lives that are pleasing to God with all the faithful, yesterday, today and forever.

HYMN

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God,” Hymn 295

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: O Precious God of all times and of all people, we seek your presence and your blessing as we sing your praises with Hallelujah! We recognize ourselves as your beloved: we are the faithful doubters, we are the questioning seekers, we gather in this sacred place to be witness to your love.

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: Author of Creation, all good comes from you.

**Many: When we turn away,
you call us home and patiently await our return.**

One: We gather in your presence, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, people from every tribe and nation, every kindred and tongue, to lift our voices in praise, to be transformed into your saints, to be sent out to share with others in the eternal banquet.

**Many: Hear the praises we offer,
work in us and through us.
You alone are holy,
you alone are the Most High,
you alone are worthy of our praise.**

One: Glory to you O God. Praise be to your child, our brother, who died and lives again. Glory to the Spirit who raises-up us all, today and ever more.

Many: Amen!

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: Beloved in Christ, God has such love for us and knows the joys and sorrows of our hearts. Be assured that God cares and has already forgiven whatever needs to be forgiven. God's love transcends life, death, and the life eternal.

All: 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.

**In Christ there is no East or West
in Christ no South or North.**

**But one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth!**

CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT

Hebrews 11:1-16, 12:1-2 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks.

By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to

return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION “This Little Light of Mine”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”, L. Scott/J. Hopkins
Bradley Duckstein, tenor

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

“For All the Saints,” Hymn 299

BENEDICTION

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

Announcements

FELLOWSHIP

Please join us next door in 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.

Upcoming Sunday Scriptures

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

9/13 Garden of Eden, Genesis 2:4b-25 (Rally Day! Worship moves to 10:45 a.m.)

9/20 Isaac Born to Sarah, Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

9/27 Jacob Wrestles God, Genesis 32:22-30

10/4 Moses & God's Name, Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-10

ABC Sale was a Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Attic to Basement Church Sale a huge success. Because of countless donations and lots of hard work from many, many volunteers, our sale was totally awesome! We thank all who donated the "lots of stuff"....all who worked so diligently to sort, organize, price & display the "lots of stuff" and all who came (& told people who came) and bought the "lots of stuff" with lots of cash money! We are pleased to report this as our most successful sale ever.....our final total \$3,906.25. Twenty percent of the proceeds from the sale will go to providing gas vouchers for those in need while eighty percent will be divided equally between the youth room renovation and getting more Godly Play materials for our Sunday School. Thank you so very much to everyone who made this possible!

150th Anniversary Banner Workshop

The 1st workshop to begin the banner celebrating our 150th Anniversary on this site was held today with great success. If you did not make this workshop but would like to work on the banner, please let Dinah Kerksieck (515) 233-3550 know when you might be available to help. We will be scheduling further sessions, some that will involve hand needlework. The theme: "The heavens declare the glory of God..." with a detachable panel that says, "Glorifying God since 1865."

Women's Fellowship - September 9th

Women of the church, you are invited to a gathering on Wednesday, September 9th, 12noon - 1pm. Please bring something to eat while we visit & get to know each other. We will also start working on our recipe collection. This Wednesday we are asking everyone to bring 1,2 or 3 favorite cookie recipes. Bring a printed copy with your name and any comments about the recipes and we will print them up so everyone attending will get a copy of all the recipes. Samples are not necessary but we certainly would not turn any away. We will also be discussing what Women's Fellowship should look like this year. Everyone's input is welcome and encouraged. Hope to see everyone.

Book Club - September 11th

Book Club will meet Friday, September 11 at 1pm in the church library.

Rally Day is Sunday, September 13

Rally Day (Sunday, September 13) starts with a potluck breakfast at 9:30 am. During that time we will eat, have fellowship, there will be songs/activities for the children, and folks of ALL ages will have an opportunity to hear about upcoming Christian Education opportunities (i.e. Sunday School, Godly Play, Learning Center, Bible Study, etc.). The theme this year is "Superheroes of the Bible" and everyone is invited to wear any super hero gear they might have....capes will be provided! **We will worship at 10:45 a.m.**

Sunday School will start at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 20. There will be a Pre-School class (ages 2 & 3), Godly Play (ages 4 years old through 5th grade) and Youth Group Sunday School (grades 6-12). Nursery care is also provided during this time for

infants and toddlers.

An extra time of Godly Play will happen each month during worship on the last Sunday of the month. During worship on Sunday, September 27 our Kindergarten children and 3rd Graders will receive a Bible and then all children will be invited to join us upstairs in our Godly Play room for a story and time of wondering until the end of the worship service. Sunday, October 4 the children will lead the worship service with our middle school youth giving the sermon!

Wednesday Afternoon Club (WAC) begins Wednesday, September 16!

We are beginning our 3rd year of WAC! Children K-5th grade are invited to join us every Wednesday from the time school dismisses (2:05 p.m.) until 5:00 p.m. During this time we will learn about a new super hero of the Bible, play games, make crafts, and much more! Pr. Hannah is still looking for adult volunteers to help with WAC activities! If you are interested in volunteering your time, bringing a snack, or providing transportation for the child from their school to the church, please let Hannah know! You may contact her at: hannah@amesucc.org or by calling the church office.

Make a Joyful Noise - Share Your God Given Talents!

We are all abundantly blessed by God, some of us with special talents of the arts. It is time to get out your instruments, practice your song or dance, brush up your public speaking, write a poem or practice the performance art of your choice. As part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration we will have a "Creating A Joyful Noise" talent show at 7pm, Saturday, September 19 in Fellowship Hall. Kristin Shields is the liaison for the youth members, who can sign up with her. Others can sign up with Tom Meyer, Laura Deal, or Greg Lamont. A sign-up page has also been created on SigUpGenius.com

Are You Able to Host A Congregational Dinner?

It is time for our Fall Congregational dinners and we are looking for hosts! Dinners will be arranged for the weekends of September 25, 26, 27 and October 2, 3, 4. What is a Congregational Dinner? It is a time for each of us to get to know one another better, as we sit down to a meal together in someone's home. Individuals or couples graciously agree to host a dinner in their home, and then arrangements are made by Hannah to mingle members and friends of our congregation together to attend & socialize. Please contact Pr. Hannah at hannah@amesucc.org if you are interested in hosting!

Service of Installation on Sunday, September 27 at 3 p.m.

An installation marks the formal beginning of the relationship between pastor and parishioners. In it, our Central Association of the Iowa Conference of the UCC will lead us in making a covenant of mutual ministry with each other.

In addition, we will name our relationship with the wider UCC and Ames itself. We are inviting representatives of our faith and communities partners to be present and recognized during the service.

Our guest preacher for the afternoon will be The Rev. Waltrina Middleton, UCC National Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership. Rev. Middleton is also active in the Black Lives Matter movement, a movement that became even more painfully real on the murder of her cousin, The Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, at Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston, SC. Rev. Middleton will also participate in our Learning Center before the regular morning's worship and stay to meet with our youth after the installation. You may read more about Rev. Middleton below.



I do hope you will be able to attend. Please bring friends. We will gather for a reception after. *Childcare will be available throughout.*

Yours in faith, Pr. Eileen

The Rev. Waltrina Middleton serves as National Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership Formation with the United Church of Christ denomination based in Cleveland. In this work, Middleton serves more than 5,000 congregations and organizes youth programs and outreach for the denomination's 1-million membership, lifting up topics ranging from homelessness and hunger to suicide prevention and from racialized violence to LGBTQ youth advocacy.

Middleton was recently recognized by Rejuvenate Magazine as one of its 40 Under 40 Professionals to Watch in the Non-Profit Religious Sector. This summer, she was

awarded the Jonathan M. Daniels Memorial Fellowship by the Episcopal Divinity School. She is the inaugural Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. Fellowship Scholar and one of the inaugural William "Bill" Lucy Social Justice and Globalization Fellows, both received while matriculating as a Master of Divinity Student at Chicago Theological Seminary where she graduated with distinction. Her master's thesis explored Reconciling a God of the Oppressed: A Look at Sexual Abuse, Rape, Incest and Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation Within the Black Church. She is also an alumna of DePaul University and Howard University.

The Rev. Middleton has been actively engaged in social justice issues domestically and globally as they pertain to youth and young adults. Her advocacy work includes organizing in Cleveland, Washington, DC, Ferguson and beyond to address a systemic culture of violence rooted in racism, classism and state-sanctioned violence against marginalized communities. She is presently a doctoral candidate at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, researching and writing on Reclaiming the Womanist Divine. She is a preacher, poet and community organizer committed to human rights and actualizing the vision of a Beloved community. Middleton will travel to Jordan and Palestine this fall where she will continue to bridge cultural gaps across the globe through a project that explores activism and lament through poetry and creative arts.

CROP Walk - October 11th

The 2015 CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 1pm sign-in; 1:30pm walk. The approximately 5 KM walk & will go through the ISU campus, starting & ending at the Maple Shelter in Brookside Park. Funds raised through the CROP Walk help to fund food programs sponsored by Church World Service as well as seven local

food programs. Twenty-five per cent of all funds raised are returned to the local food programs. The 2014 Walk raised \$26,823.87 with 18 groups participating. Anyone interested in participating can pick up an information / sign-up packet at the church office or contact Rachel Schelle at 515-450-3137.

150TH Anniversary Celebration Luncheon

Sunday, November 1 @ Noon After Worship in the Fellowship Hall
Celebrating 150 Years of Faith, Family and Community

Welcome, Katherine 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, Katherine 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, on both the 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 will begin work with us on Tuesday, September 8, spending two days in training with our current temp, Gini Hill. Our regular church office hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays (closed for a 30 minute lunch midday).



Calendar for the Week

Katie will join us in worship on Sunday, September 10, September 10 stop by on a Monday, September 11, her to our church. Please also be sure to stop by for the meeting. ~~ABORTION DAY THE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED~~

Thursday, September 8

12:00 pm Men's Fellowship
3:00 pm Farm to Folk

Wednesday, September 9

8:30 am Morning Bible Study
9:30 am AM Work Crew
12:00 pm Women's Fellowship
12:10 pm Peace Bell Ringers
6:45 pm Choir Practice

Friday, September 11

1:00 pm Book Club

Saturday, September 12

11:20 am Meals on Wheels (Clark)

Sunday, September 13

9:30 am Potluck breakfast
& Christian Education Preview
10:45 am Church Worship Service

Be In Touch with Ames UCC

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

Mondays—Thursdays

8:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

24-hour pastoral emergencies:
515-428-1779

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