



## **Ames United Church of Christ Sunday, September 27, 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 Barbara Faidley (scripture), Eileen Gebbie (sermon), Hannah Hannover (Children's Celebration), Joshua Pilcher (prayers), and Kristin Shields (stewardship moment).*

## **GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Most announcements are also in your bulletin and our weekly e-newsletter. To sign up, e-mail [office@amesucc.org](mailto: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: The day breaks

**Many: And God does not let us go.**

One: The hour calls

**Many: And God does not let us go.**

One: The evening falls

**Many: And God holds us fast.**

One: Let us turn to God in worship

**Many: God, who never turns from us.**

## **HYMN**            “Great Is Your Faithfulness” *(see 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.*

**Right side:     You see our struggles,  
                         You see our difficulties.**

**Left side:        You see our possibilities,  
                         You see our promise.**

**Right side:**     **Connect the dots for us, O God.  
Soften the hard spots with your blessing.**

**Left side:**     **Call us in our wandering to hear you say our names.  
Satisfy our longings as with loaves and fishes and manna from heaven.**

**One:**            For you are a good God, a God present in the scramble, and in the end,  
you always, always have a blessing.

**Many:**           **For this and so much more,  
we give you thanks, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **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 together.

**Many: God of all mercy:**

**I confess that sin grips me and I cannot break free.**

**The sins in my mind, on my lips, in my acts done or even ignored**

**Stand between me and you.**

**My entire heart is not always yours.**

**My love of neighbor falls short.**

**In the name of Jesus, have mercy on me.**

**Grant me your renewing forgiveness.**

**Lead me on your paths of righteousness,**

**And I shall delight in you**

**And I shall follow you**

**Giving glory to your holy name.**

**Through Jesus Christ. 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.*

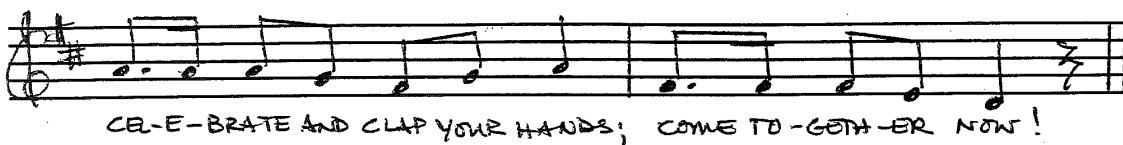
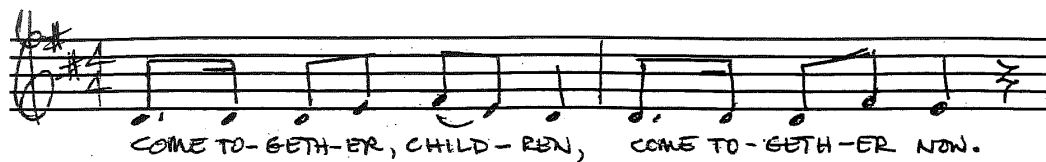
One: The God who gives, gives all. The God who loves, loves all. The God who forgives, forgives all.

Through Christ, our sins, every one of them: the sins of commission, the sins of omission, the sins we confessed with contrition – all are forgiven.

**All: By the grace of God, we are forgiven. Alleluia!**

## CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION WITH GIFT OF BIBLES

*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.*



## HEBREW BIBLE

Genesis 32:22-30 (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.*

That same night Jacob got up, took his two wives, his two concubines, and his eleven children, and crossed the Jabbok River. After he had sent them across, he also sent across all that he owned, but he stayed behind, alone.

Then a man came and wrestled with him until just before daybreak. When the man saw that he was not winning the struggle, he hit Jacob on the hip, and it was thrown out of joint. The man said, "Let me go; daylight is coming."

"I won't, unless you bless me," Jacob answered.

"What is your name?" the man asked.

"Jacob," he answered.

The man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob. You have struggled with God and with men, and you have won; so your name will be Israel."

Jacob said, "Now tell me your name."

But he answered, "Why do you want to know my name?" Then he blessed Jacob.

Jacob said, "I have seen God face-to-face, and I am still alive"; so he named the place Peniel.

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF REFLECTION**     "All My Hope On God Is Founded" (*see insert*)

## **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.**

## **PRESENTATION OF GIFT**

*On October 29, 1969, the Church Council of Ames UCC established the W. Murray Allan Tuition Scholarship Fund to benefit students attending Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS). Over the years the funds were sent to CTS and, with support from the Allan family, other educational endeavors. This year the Christian Education team is returning to the practice of partnering with CTS. To that end, today we present a check of \$4,505.76 for needs based scholarships to the CTS Vice President for Advancement, Rhonda Brown.*

## **STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

*On Sunday, September 13, 20, and 27 we will receive testimony regarding the value of our time, talent, and treasure to our church and wider community. On Sunday, October 4 we will receive your pledges of each for the coming year.*

## **OFFERING**

*“The Bible Tells Me So”*

arr. Lloyd Larson

Quartet

*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**

*“Take My Life, That I May Be” (see insert)*

## **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.*

## **SEE YOU AT 3 P.M.**

*Please be sure to return to church for the 3 p.m. installation of Pr. Eileen. Childcare will be provided. Help us welcome members of City Council and area mission partners, as well as clergy and religious leaders from the UCC and other traditions. The Rev. Waltrina Middleton will be our preacher. And then we will all eat cake!*

# AMES UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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!

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

10/11 Hear O Israel, Deuteronomy 5:1-21;6:4-9

10/18 The Book of Ruth

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

## Installation of Rev. Eileen Gebbie Today at 3!

The installation of our new pastor, The Rev. Eileen Gebbie is fast approaching. The service, featuring the United Church of Christ Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership Formation and #BlackLivesMatter Leader, Rev. Waltrina Middleton, will be held the afternoon of Sunday, September 27th at 3pm. Come celebrate the installation of our new minister and join in the work of our local and national United Church of Christ!



## Newsletter Folding Team - September 30th

Looking for another way to volunteer around the church? On the last Wednesday of the month at 1pm, a group of church members meets to help fold and process the newsletter for sending. We would welcome your help this month or any month! Contact the office if you plan to attend.

### **God Talk - October 4th**

Join Pr. Eileen at 9:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month for an open-ended conversation about hot topics in faith and theology. We will meet in the "demi-parlour" (the east end of the parlour). No question is too strange, no doubt too shocking, no certainty too bold!

### **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.

### **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. We decided to have another sale with all the Christmas items that were donated. So we are continuing our Wednesday morning sale work parties. All of our donations have been moved to the Choir Room so if you have time, join us on Wednesday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon to sort and price the items for our Christmas Bazaar. The Sale will be on Saturday, October 24th from 8am to noon.

### **New Church Pictorial Directory - November 17th - 21st**

Mark your calendars to sit for photos for a new church pictorial directory! Look out for more information in the bulletin and weekly e-announcements on sign up and pricing. There are many ways you can volunteer to help make this run smoothly. Contact the church office for more information.





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# GOD-TALK 1ST SUNDAYS 930 AM

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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



# Ames United Church of Christ

## Fall Pledge Campaign

*I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2, NRSV)*

Those of you who compare the annual campaign letters (and I am sure that someone does) will recognize the scripture quotation above is the same as last year's. And how true it is!

Please take just a moment to think about all the wonderful blessings that we have experienced in the life of our church over the last year:

- We have celebrated our 150th anniversary as a congregation through special events, like the "bridal show", and historic liturgical elements in worship.
- Pastor Terry Hamilton-Poore bridged the interim between settled pastors with energy, imagination and love.
- Pastor Eileen Gebbie is now leading our worship services and spiritual activities with fresh eyes and energy.
- We have completed the first phases of the 150th Capital campaign and construction for our improved youth room are underway.
- We continue to welcome new members into the congregation: 14 on Sept. 13th!
- We continue our important work in the community, through AMOS, Food at First, Meals on Wheels, and Planned Parenthood, just to name a few.

All of this happens because of you, your time, your talents, and your treasure. As we enter the Annual Fall Pledge Campaign for 2016, we invite you to reflect on what sort of commitment of financial support your household is able to make. Although the 2015 budget year felt like a challenge, when presented with a vision for the church, you more than met it. For 2016, thanks to the thoughtful planning and care of your Team leaders, the budget that we will present on December 6 after worship is only 3% over that of 2015.

Sometimes the blessings of a life with God seem to come out of nowhere. At other times, we are actively engaged with the holy in order to bring them to life. Please pray with the scripture above over the next two weeks. Listen for where God and your own heart is calling you to be as a recipient of blessings and a co-creator of them.

Together, we are worshipping God, supporting each other in our needs, and being a visible presence for progressive faith in the larger community. We are not the “great nation” referenced by scripture so much as a great band of disciples seeking to build God’s kin-dom, the Beloved Community.

In faith,

Diana McHenry, Chair  
Terry Potter, Vice Chair  
Financial Stewardship Team

## Calendar for the Week

### Monday, September 28

\*Pr. Eileen Out of Office

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence  
Project (*Watts*)

### Tuesday, September 29

3:00 p.m. Farm to Folk

### Wednesday, September 30

\*Pr. Eileen Out of Office (CTS)

8:30 a.m. NO BIBLE STUDY  
9:30 a.m. AM Work Crew  
10:00 a.m. Work on Bazaar  
12:10 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers  
1:00 p.m. Newsletter Team  
6:45 p.m. Choir Practice

### Thursday, October 1

\*Pr. Eileen Out of Office (CTS)

No Scheduled Activities

### Friday, October 2

No Scheduled Activities

### Saturday, October 3

11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels (*Dirks & Andersen-Potter*)

### Sunday, October 4

9:30 a.m. God Talk  
9:30 a.m. Learning Center  
10:45 a.m. Church Worship Service

### **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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