



JAMES UCC COURIER

JUNE 2016

Pentecost with Ames United Church of Christ



As part of Ames UCC's 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign, the congregation pledged to donate 20% of all funds raised. On Sunday, May 15, 2016, we presented a check of \$40,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa. This amount will allow HfH to purchase a lot and gutted house in west Ames, which we will then help rebuild from the fall of 2016 through spring of 2017.

WORSHIP

Serving on the Worship and Music Team (WAM)

by Linda Shenk

As I sat down to write a little something for this newsletter, I started thinking about what I love about helping with the worship services. Granted, some of my attention when I am a deacon of the day involves, for example, nervous glances at the sound system cabinet or a “whoops, here come the worship leaders and I have no one ready to ring the bell,” but largely, even these moments bring with them something truly meaningful. When I help out with worship, I have extra reminders of all the hands who help make worship so meaningful—all the ways we each bring a piece of God with us to the service. I pay extra attention to the warm greetings of the ushers; I see the willingness and often the teamwork as an older youth helps lead a younger child in acolyting for the first time; I watch the glee as the rope for the bell pulls a child up off the ground a few feet; I take count of the folks sitting in the pews, giving me a chance to see everyone there—one-by-one. So, maybe helping with worship has become an exercise of mindfulness, reminding me of the small moments of the divine we each bring to the service.

What WAM is up to these days...

by Linda Shenk

Planning our annual outdoor service at Hobbit's Hill—with warm thanks to George Belitsos and Peter Wolfe for inviting us to worship in their wonderful space again this year.

Working with members of Property and Executive Board to devise procedures for emergency situations. Particular thanks to Nanette Heginger, Elaine Hieber, Greg Lamont, Terry Potter, Linda Shenk, Kim Spangler, and Justin Watts for beginning this process that will lead to an ad hoc Safety Team, of sorts. As this group works on aspects of detailing procedures and gathering emergency supplies, please know that we are in need of such things as

- a few battery-operated radios
- flashlights/lanterns
- blankets
- clean tarps

If you have extras of any of these items at home, please feel free to bring them to church and give them to Linda Shenk.

Purchasing two new first aid kits for the church. One is now in the large kitchen in the cabinet right above the land-line phone, and the other is placed with the AED in the church office.

Working with office staff to create emergency information stickers to be placed around the church building.

Thanks so much to these folks who served in worship as ushers and greeters in April: Ellen Barnhart, Carla Barnwell, Abby Buchele, Nancy Clark, Barbara Faidley, Burton Heginger, Eli Heginger, Nanette Heginger, Elaine Hieber, Joel Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Emily Kenneke, Greg Lamont, Sue Lamont, Karen Lasche, Peg Powell, Dale Shenefelt, and Donna Starck.

Plan Your own Funeral* with Pr. Eileen

*or memorial service

Saturday, June 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with lunch (and childcare, if requested).

The days after death can be (usually are) very stressful for survivors. They have many decisions to make and people to call. Help make their work a little easier by setting down in writing some of your preferences for how you would like your body handled and your life celebrated.

During this workshop, we will look at and sing hymns, review classic scripture choices, consider the benefits of sharing memories and homilies, hear each other's opinions on full burial versus cremation, and much more. Each of us will have worksheets to make notes and even decide on preferences. You may decide to take it home to do more reflecting or leave a copy at the church right away.

RSVP to Pr. Eileen by Wednesday, June 1, including your needs for child care and whether you need a vegetarian meal option: eileen@amesucc.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE & OUTREACH

Green Team

by Jeremy McMahon

The Green Team subcommittee to the Social Justice and Outreach committee has official been launched. The climate change documentary film "This Changes Everything" kickoff event had 12 attendees of which 10 people joined the Green Team. We have had a successful collection of batteries and florescent light bulbs for hazardous waste disposal. We plan to be involved in the Habitat for Humanity house remodel throughout this next year to assist in making it a high efficiency home, which will reduce the carbon foot print of the home while reducing the home owner's annual energy costs. A program coordinator with Iowa Interfaith Power and Light has met with the group to advise us on how to form a green team and promote their environmental programs. This is an exciting time as the Green Team forms their mission and objectives for the year. If you are interested in being more involved with the Green Team please email the coordinator Jeremy McMahon at jjmcmahon82@gmail.com.

Refugee Sponsorship

by Diane Birt

SOJO is looking into what would be required for Ames UCC to sponsor a refugee family. If you have contacts or suggestions that would help us in such a journey please contact Diane Birt (dbirt.ames@gmail.com). One aspect we are exploring is whether refugee sponsorship might be an AMOS priority and then more than one family could be brought to Ames. Bringing more than one family would likely help the families adapt and may help service providers. Jan Flora will explore AMOS interest in refugee sponsorship at the next AMOS Cluster meeting.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Learning Center

Learning Center weekly discussion forum will return with our other Sunday School programming in the fall. Please look forward to joining us again in September!



Summer Meditation Group

As many of our regular learning and growth opportunities take a break for the summer to refresh and renew, let's take an opportunity to refresh and renew ourselves through weekly meditation.

Within this group, we will explore our own understanding of meditation and prayer, and take part in varied styles of meditation. This exploration can help find what works best for each person individually, and provide an opportunity to focus our attention in new ways.

We will meet in the youth room from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. before worship starting Sunday, June 5, and continue through the summer until Rally Day (September 11). Feel free to join us any Sunday. Childcare will be available.

Katie Bonney will lead the group initially, with the goal of developing other leaders (and leadership resources). If you would like to help with that element now, please contact her at kebonney0@gmail.com, 515-537-3545). If you have any resources on meditation or prayer that are particularly useful to you, feel free to contact Katie to share those resources or discuss them during the meeting.

If mobility issues prevent you from attending in the youth room, please let Katie know and we will find another space.

(Note: Katie is offering this to us as a member of our church, not as part of her duties as our Office Administrator. Thank you, Katie! -Pr. Eileen)



Join us and volunteer for VBS this summer!

We will be catching the wave of God's love this year at Vacation Bible School June 27-30! If you are 3 years old through completing 5th grade you are invited to join us for four days of songs, stories, crafts, games, and much more! We will meet each day at First United Methodist Church (across the

street) from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Thursday, June 30 at 6:30 p.m. everyone is invited to attend a VBS celebration! The children will sing songs they have learned throughout the week and our older kids will share about the mission projects they worked on.

Please let Hannah know if you are interested in attending or volunteering your time! You can also sign up to volunteer at <https://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/AmesVBS2016>

Ames UCC is collecting supplies for snacks again this year. Hannah has a list available of everything that will be needed. If you are willing to donate something to help with the snacks, please email her at hannah@amesucc.org.

MEMBER SERVICES

Women's Fellowship

In June we will meet on June 8 and June 22. Barbara Hauerrberg will be our hostess on June 8. Lisa Heddens has been invited to our fellowship time to tell us about People Place. We share the building with this organization. Take this opportunity to find out what their mission is and how they use the space in our building and what other activities that they sponsor. Hope you can join us for an information packed meeting. June 22 is our Joys and Concerns meeting. We meet from 12.15 pm to 1.15 pm and we bring our lunches. This group is open to all women in the church.

Attic to Basement Church Sale Donations

by Barbara Faidley

We are accepting donations now for our annual sale. Donations can be taken to the choir room. You get to the choir room by using the elevator to the Basement or taking the stairs that are close the church library. Donations of all types are accepted. We take books, home décor, kitchen items, dishes, tapes, DVDs, CDs, tools, sports items, jewelry, garden items (tools and décor), toys, puzzles, collectibles or vintage items, office supplies, all holiday items (Christmas, Easter, Halloween, snowmen), linens, pillows. Just about anything you might like to get rid of, we will accept. WE ACCEPT NO CLOTHING. Scarves and accessories we will accept. Closer to the date of the sale we will also take larger furniture. The sale has been set for Friday, July 29 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, July 30 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Barbara Faidley at 233-3874 or barbara@faidley.org.

ABC Sale Work Group

Every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon a group of people meet in the choir room to clean, sort and price the items for the ABC Sale. All help is welcome. The more hands we have the faster the work goes and the more fun we have. We work together for 2 hours and have great fellowship at the same time. Please join us any Wednesday. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Ice Cream Social

Ice cream and music equal a wonderful way to spend a summer evening! Member Services invites you to a concert at Roosevelt Park. Please bring your lawn chair or blanket. Sundaes and watermelon will be served.

What: Summer concert and fellowship

Where: Roosevelt Park at 9th and Roosevelt Ave (the old Roosevelt School)

When: Sunday, July 17th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Library News

by Barbara Faidley

Thank you to Laurie Olk and Pauletti Lasley for donations of books to our church library. Donations are always welcome. We have almost completed our sorting of adult books in the library. Now we will move books onto new shelves so they more visible and easily accessible with categories labeled on the shelves. We welcome anyone who would like to work in the library on Thursday afternoon from 1:00- 3:00 p.m. The finance committee has advised us that someone gave the library a monetary donation. I would like to thank our anonymous donor. With these funds we will be able to buy some more up to date books on the topics of interest of the people in this church. Do you have any suggestions of books that would be good for the library to have. Please tell me about the book and we will consider purchasing it. I hope everyone is enjoying our new, improved library. We have tried to create a warm, cozy place to look at books or just relax or have a small group meeting. If you have not been in the library lately come in and check it out.

Church Directory Contact Information Corrections

Please submit any corrections you may have to the church directory to Katie Bonney in the church office (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org). The following congregants have asked for corrections to be shared:

The Binder family do not have a landline phone. Janet's cell number is 515-965-1215, which is incorrectly listed as their home phone, with her cell number incorrect.

Allen Trenkle's cell number is 515-460-2728. This number was erroneously listed as Janet Binder's cell number in their entry.

Doug Powell's cell number is 515-229-2581.

Terry Potter's cell number is 515-357-0616.

ODDS & ENDS

Ames UCC Communications Survey

Beloved community, the following survey is designed to help me and our office administrator Katie Bonney understand the best ways to reach you with news and announcements about our church. The results will help us reach you more effectively and make best use of Katie's production hours. You can complete that survey by visiting:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YX6QL5Y>

Alternatively, this survey has been available in your bulletin. Please look in your bulletin for Sunday, June 5 or contact Katie Bonney in the church office at 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org to receive a paper version of the survey. Please complete and return the survey by Monday, June 13.

- Pr. Eileen

Book Review

by Barbara Faidley

The Green Team of the church sponsored a movie near the end of April. The movie was "This Changes Everything". During a discussion after the movie, we discovered that the movie is based on a book by Naomi Klein who was the narrator of the movie. The book is THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING: CAPITALISM vs THE CLIMATE. The church library now has a copy of the book ready to be checked out. Along with the book is also a study guide. Following is a few comments by reviewers of the book.

"Naomi Klein is a genius. She skillfully blends politics, economics and history and distills out simple and powerful truths with universal applicability. "

"Gripping and dramatic. . . (Klein) writes of a decisive battle for the fate of the earth in which we either take back control of the planet from the capitalists who are destroying it or watch it all burn"

This author is known for her activism and her reporting on corporate malfeasance. From the book there is only one truth you need to know:

Denying climate change is profitable, and as long as it remains profitable, the environment degrades.

The book does not just look at the USA but other countries and ways they are fighting to protect the environment. Check it out. It is well worth your time and effort.

Children's Book Review

by Barbara Faidley

As the church starts working on the ABC Sale, I could not resist doing a review on the following book. This is one of the new donations to the library.

"Yard Sale" by Mitra Modarressi. Everybody loves a yard sale, even in sleepy Spudville. On a bright spring day, the whole town turns out for Mr. Flotsam's great deals, and they all go home happy. But the next morning, Mr. Flotsam's neighbors learn they've gotten a lot more than they bargained for. The whole neighborhood is up in arms. But gradually the townspeople begin to appreciate their quirky purchases. Read the book and find out what everyone bought and how it changed their lives. You never know what you will find to buy at any sale. It is a fun book with fun illustrations to add to the appeal.

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STAY IN TOUCH

Stay in touch with us throughout the month! Please join us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @AmesUCC, or send an e-mail to office@amesucc.org to receive our weekly e-mail announcements.

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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