



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, August 6, 2017**

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 deacon for today is Linda Shenk; our greeters and ushers are Barbara Hauerrberg, Steve Rogers-Smith, Donna Starck, and Samantha Sydnes. Steve Rogers-Smith is scheduled for building lockup.

GREETINGS

Most announcements are in your bulletin, our weekly e-newsletter, and our quarterly print newsletter. To sign up for the last two, contact Katie Tschopp at either 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org.

CALL TO WORSHIP Jim Coppoc

A formal, and mutual, invitation to move into the worship experience.

One: Be strong in the Lord and the strength of God's power.

Many: **The Spirit will keep us standing firm.**

One: Pray at all times, keep alert, and persevere.

Many: **We will speak boldly the mystery of the Gospel.**

HYMN "Come, My People" (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.

One: Creator God, teach us not to be defensive, but to stand in the strength of your Gospel, the good news of 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: We confess our brokenness before God and one another. Loving God,

Many: You have offered us the world

**and yet we turn to our own distractions,
believing we know better.**

**We have not lived as your beloved children,
born of one spirit and belonging to one family.**

**Instead we cut ourselves off from what is unfamiliar,
intimidating or different.**

Forgive us for our limited vision.

Forgive us for not trusting in you

and your promise to never give up on us. 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: We have been born into God's family, an identity which cannot be taken from any one of us or any other part of Creation. God is love, God is patient, God is merciful. We owe eternal thanks to the lover of our souls for continually reaching for us and holding us fast in an embrace of forgiveness. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love.

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.



GOSPEL

Ephesians 6:10-20 (New Revised Standard Version,
modified for inclusive language)

This is a letter is most likely actually a sermon that was circulated between Christian communities in Asia Minor in the first century. Paul's name was added later to give it more authenticity.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds,” Hymn 393

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

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/trespasses as we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us. 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 “Sonatina, Op. 71, No. 1 Mauro Giuliani
Tom Meyer, Guitar

In 2017, nine percent of our total budget will help fund local, regional, and national charitable programs. On the third Sunday of each month, when we have Holy Communion, loose change and bills are designated for a Communion Fund, which supports Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance (75%) and our in-house Pastoral Emergency Fund (25%). During the summer our Chancel Choir takes a well-earned break and we have the opportunity to receive the musical gifts of other members of our community.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING “I’m Gonna Live so God Can Use Me” (insert)

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off. Afterward, please join us next door in the parlor for coffee, tea, treats, and community.

May the Lord Bless You and Keep You

You have made another good woman cry, Ames UCC.

She called to ask me about resources to help make rent. She’s always worked and worked hard. She’s never asked for help. But a couple of life changes outside of her control was leaving her short for the month – and her kids, too. I told her about Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance but that we, her own church, would also be glad to help. That’s when the tears started.

Each month when we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, we have the opportunity to bring food to God’s table that the Worship team or the Wednesday Afternoon Club then deliver to Food at First. We also have the opportunity to give to our church’s Communion Fund. All offerings that day which are marked for the Communion fund, as well as loose change and bills, go to Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance (75%) and our in-house Pastoral Emergency Fund (25%).

So on behalf of all of the women and men and children that you authorize me to help through the Pastoral Emergency Fund, I say thank you and God bless you as you have so blessed others. -Pr. Eileen

PS: If you’d like to give to our fund directly, feel free to any time. Otherwise, our next celebration of Holy Communion is Sunday, August 20.

ERP Homeless Shelter Meal Providers Needed

At Ames UCC we have been providing Monday night meals to the homeless shelter (Emergency Residence Project) located at 225 S. Kellogg Ave. since the mid 90's. Would you like to help serve our community?

Expectations:

1. Provide a simple main dish and salad/vegetable for 6-10 men.
2. Drop off the meal around 5:30PM. If 5:30 won't work, arrangements can be made to drop off your meal at an alternative time. You may stay and eat with the group.
3. A yearly schedule and instructions will be mailed to you. You will usually be given two dates in a year. If your assigned date does not work, call/email someone else on the list and exchange dates or call me to fill in.

If you have questions and/or want to sign up, please email ellenbarnhart@hotmail.com or call me at 232-3855 (home) or 231-9433 (cell) before September 5. Thank you! -Ellen Barnhart

Women's Fellowship Pool Party – 8/9

All women of the church are invited to an Open House/Swim Party on Wednesday, August 9 at the Stone Brooke Club House and Pool. This is located at 3816 Fletcher Blvd. The hours for the event will be from 5–8 p.m. For those of you who can't make our normal lunchtime meetings, this is an opportunity for you to get to know the other women of the church. You can come in your swim wear or can change at the club house. If swimming is not your thing, we have an air conditioned room in the club room that will be available to us. The group suggested that we bring our own food. If you want to share something please make it finger foods. Trudy Dirks and Barbara Faidley will be the hostesses.

Ames UCC Blood Drive – 8/11

Ames UCC and our youth group will be hosting a blood drive with LifeServe Blood Center in our Fellowship Hall Friday, August 11 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You can sign up online for a slot at <http://bit.ly/2tINzEz> or contact Jean Watts (jean@amesucc.org, 515-337-2487) for more information. Cookies and childcare will be available!

Calendar for the Week

Monday, August 7

8:30 a.m. ABC Sale Tear Down
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Clark/Starck)

Friday, August 11

3:00 p.m. Blood Drive

Sunday, August 13

10:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, August 8

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, August 9

8:30 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
5:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship Pool Party

Be In Touch with Ames UCC

217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010

515-232-9323

Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Tues-Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

24-hour pastoral emergencies:

515-428-1779

Lee Bauer, Treasurer

lee_bauer@yahoo.com

David Cook, Sexton

cookdavi@gmail.com

Eileen Gebbie, Minister

eileen@amesucc.org

Hannah Hannover,

Minister to Children & Families

hannah@amesucc.org

Nancy Heathman, Financial Secretary

heathman@mediacombb.net

Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director

llackore@gmail.com

Karen "Sunny" Stewart, Keyboardist

karen.stewart@ames.k12.ia.us

Katie Tschopp,

Church Office Administrator

office@amesucc.org

Jean Watts, Youth Director

jean@amesucc.org