



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, August 20, 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 Christy Oxendine, Steve Rogers-Smith, Kristin Shields, and Donna Starck. Barbara Faidley is scheduled for building lockup. Pr. Eileen is away on vacation; Pr. Hannah's sabbatical continues until September 4.

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 Nancy Dunn

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

One: First I saw the strong and the mighty one, and I said to myself,
Many: Surely this is God's chosen!

One: But God passed by. Then I saw the wise and the ancient one, and I said to myself,
Many: Surely this is God's chosen!

One: But God passed by. Then I saw the beautiful and the clever one, and I said to myself,
Many: Surely this is God's chosen!

One: But God passed by. Then came the small, the meek, the vulnerable one-- the child. And I said to myself,
Many: Can this be God's chosen?

One: Can God see value in something so unimpressive, so insignificant, so easily broken?
Many: And God said "Yes!"

One: For while we see what's on the outside, God sees through to our souls.

**Many: We see with our eyes,
but God sees with the heart.
Let us prepare our hearts
for worship and praise this morning!**

HYMN "Praise to the Living God," Hymn 8, verses 1 & 2

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: God, you see us. You see our struggles, you see our difficulties.

**Many: You see our possibilities,
You see our promise.**

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

**Many: 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, 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: God is present to us, but we don't always feel it. God is good to us, but we can't always accept it. There are things within and around us that attempt to step between us and our relationship to God's goodness. There are things that we think, things that we do, that act to separate us from God. The church calls that "sin" and we usually call it brokenness. Let us confess our brokenness before God and one another.

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.**

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. 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.

Where two or three are gathered in your name,
You are there, You are there.

HEBREW BIBLE Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 (New Revised Standard Version) Jim Peake

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.

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

SERMON "Do What is Right," The Rev. John Chaplin

John Chaplin is a 5th generation Iowan, whose great-great grandparents homesteaded land in Delaware County. A graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy, he continues to practice pharmacy part-time at Health Connections (Principal Financial). John has been licensed as a pastor in the Central Association since 2001, in various settings that have included interim assignments in the Red Oak and Mason City UCC congregations. Within the LGBTQ community he has served as officiant and support for many couples with the momentous advent of marriage rights for same sex couples. On Jan. 21, 2017 John was ordained in the United Church of Christ. He currently serves as adjunct minister for LGBTQ Concerns & Community Outreach at Urbandale UCC. He and his partner Michael are co-parents to an adorable mixed breed Labrador named Patriot. John is appreciative of this faith community's welcome, both today, and in the past when he has preached or sung with the Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus!

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Praise to the Living God," Hymn 8, verses 3 & 4

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE OFFERING OF FOOD AND GIFTS

Our Communion table is open to all: young and old, faithful and dubious. No one will be turned away. We serve the bread and the juice through "intinction," which means dipping the bread into the juice. Your server will offer each to you with the phrases "the Bread of Life" and "the Cup of Blessing." If you are unable to come forward but would like to participate in the meal, simply wait for your row to be empty, then raise your hand. A server will come to you. The bread is free of gluten, soy, and dairy. If you have brought canned goods for the Food at First pantry, please set them at the Communion table before being served.

Invitation

One: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**Many: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food,
we come to this table to know the risen Christ
in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

Blessing of the Feast

One: Holy God, loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made.

We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, through whom we know your healing grace. We praise you for his birth, life, death, and resurrection mystery, and for the calling forth of your church to be the builders of beloved community in this world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

Many: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine.

Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table

that our eyes may be opened,

and we may recognize the risen Love in our midst,

in each other, and even in our selves.

Amen.

One: Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said:

Many: "Take and eat, all of you:

This is my body, surrendered for you."

One: And pouring the wine:

Many: "Take and drink, all of you:

This is the seal of a new covenant,

my poured-out life."

Sharing of the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Many: We give thanks, almighty God,

that you have refreshed us at your table

by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.

Strengthen our faith,

increase our love for one another,

and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

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 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ,” Hymn 347

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.

Upcoming Scriptures

8/27 Rev 21:1-6; 22:1-5

9/3 Hymn Sing

9/10 Rally Day, Genesis 1:1-2:4a

9/17 Luke 19:1-10

Thank You to UCC’s Traci Blackmon – TODAY

Our national minister for justice and witness, The Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon, was on the front lines of both at the recent Charlottesville race riot. You may have seen her pulled away for safety while in the middle of a national TV interview. We are a denomination of only 5,000 churches, yet she has made our voice of equality and love heard loud and clear. So let’s make sure she hears, loud and clear, our gratitude and support. This is particularly important for us as a majority-white church just a state away from her home congregation in Florissant, MO. If you have brought cards and letters addressed to Dr. Blackmon to church this Sunday, August 20, please place them in the box in the parlor. I will also leave blanks for you to write on the spot. You might also add a few words about how you work for racial justice. –Pr. Eileen

An Announcement About Announcements

On Sunday, August 27 we will resume oral announcements before worship. At 10:30 a.m. a lay leader will invite anyone with a brief word for the life and work of the church to come forward to the mic, share their name and their message. After those announcements are complete, the memorial bell will ring and Pr. Eileen will welcome us to our service of worship.

Chancel choir dessert social next Wednesday – 8/23

Join the chancel choir for dessert in the church parlor at 6:45 pm on Wednesday, August 23! We're looking for new members...we're friendly, fun and we make great desserts! Come get to know us before rehearsals begin on August 30!

Severe Weather Drill – 8/27

The Worship and Music Team will hold a Severe Weather Drill on Sunday, August 27. We would like people in the congregation to know in advance where our shelters are located and what you should do there. We will ask the front half of the church to exit out the side door into the parlor, down the hallway, past the east door and down the stairs to the hallway outside of the youth room. The back half of the sanctuary will exit out the back door into the hallway and down the stairs to the West Basement (old choir room). Those people who cannot handle stairs will go to the third shelter area which is in the hallway near the large bathroom. These people need to stay to one side so those people going to the shelter near the youth room can get through. When you reach your designated area, there will be a deacon there to explain the supplies and recommended procedure during a tornado. As soon as that is accomplished, everyone is free to go the parlor for coffee. We would like everyone at church on that day to participate in the drill. You may be at the church someday during a real tornado warning and need to know what to do. Thank you for your cooperation.

Theologian in Residence: Save the Date – 1/26-1/28

Plans are well under way for 2018’s Theologian in Residence program, which will be held the weekend of January 26-28. This year's guest theologian will be the Rev. Dave Csinos, a former youth pastor and now a professor of Practical Theology at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Dave is the president of Faith Forward, an organization supporting research and analyzing future trends in faith formation. Interested in keeping up with the plans of the TIR Committee? Visit amesucc.org/tir and sign up for the new Theologian in Residence email mailing list.

Cans at Communion & the Pastoral Emergency Fund

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%).

Our Pastoral Emergency Fund goes to the direct payment of bills for housing, health care, transportation, and other basic necessities. We do not give out any cash or gifts to individuals. Most of the beneficiaries are members of our church community and a smaller number from Ames at large. If you need help, please ask me. Your church is here for you.

Communion Sundays are also an opportunity to bring gifts for the Food at First Free Pantry.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and tangible expressions of God's love!

Pr. Eileen

Calendar for the Week

Monday, August 21

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Beason/Goedeken)
5:30 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations Committee
6:00 p.m. SoJO Meeting
6:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, August 23

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: Bible 101
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Dessert Social

Sunday, August 27

10:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, August 22

Pastor's Reading Day

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

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.

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