



**Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, January 29, 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 Donna Starck; our greeters and ushers are Barbara Faidley, Debi Ford, Nancy Marks, and Steve Rogers-Smith. We have no one scheduled today for building lockup.*

**GREETINGS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kevin Binder

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

One: The Sabbath was made for us.

**Many: Let us make ourselves worthy of Sabbath through prayer and praise! Amen.**

**HYMN**

“Enter, Rejoice and Come In,” Hymn 73

*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: Almighty Grace, Your ways are higher and better than ours. Point our hearts toward you, that the compassion of Jesus would always be our goal. 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. Light of the world,

**Many: Your patience with us is never ending.**

**You have shown us wonders,**

**yet we are so often complacent.**

**You have showered us with mercy,**

**yet we withhold mercy from others.**

**You have given us everything,**

**and we act as though we were entitled all along.**

**Forgive us these and all our secret sins.**

**You know our hearts;**

**we implore you to make us whole again. 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 words of Jesus are trustworthy: Faith can make you well. May our hearts overflow with gratitude at the gift of God's mercy, and may we also be merciful in our turn. In the name of Jesus, 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

Eileen Gebbie and Hannah Hannover

*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.*

## GOSPEL Luke 6:1-16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Sue Lamont

*Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke." We will stay in this book of the Bible until after Easter.*

*The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV) was published in 1989 and has received the widest acclaim and broadest support from academics and church leaders of any modern English translation. The NRSV stands out among the many translations because it is "as literal as possible" in adhering to the ancient texts and only "as free as necessary" to make the meaning clear in graceful, understandable English. It draws on newly available sources that increase our understanding of many previously obscure biblical passages. These sources include new-found manuscripts, the Dead Sea Scrolls, other texts, inscriptions, and archaeological finds from the ancient Near East, and new understandings of Greek and Hebrew grammar.*

One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." He got up and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

## SERMON

### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Membership is not required to participate in the life of faith at Ames UCC, with two exceptions: serving as the Chair of a leadership team (and so a member of our Executive Team) and voting during business meetings. To learn more, contact Pr. Eileen (eileen@amesucc.org) or sign up through her for the next Membership Exploration Luncheon on Sunday, March 26 right after worship. Attendance does not mean you are then required to join.*

Nicole Gaudino is becoming a full member through affirmation of faith.

Emily Kenneke is transferring her full membership from Edwards Congregational UCC in Davenport, IA.

Ann Reinhardt is transferring her full membership from Plymouth UCC in Des Moines, IA.

Katie Seifert is becoming a friend of the church.

*Invitation*

*Affirmation of Commitments*

*Thanksgiving*

*Response of Covenant*

One: Ames United Church of Christ, what promises do you make?

**All: In the name of God and with God as our witness,  
we promise to be in community with one another  
as we strive to be faithful disciples of Jesus,  
whom we proclaim as the Christ, God's anointed.  
We profess our belief in God who created and is still creating us.  
We hold as our vision for the world Jesus' vision of shalom,  
where all are welcomed, where justice reigns,  
where all are provided for, and where peace prevails.  
We affirm that we can only be faithful disciples in community  
with others who share that vision and who work to achieve it.  
Therefore, we promise, insofar as we are able,  
to attend the services of this church,  
to volunteer our time to its mission,  
and to contribute financially to its work.  
Finally, we earnestly pray for the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit  
that God might bless all that we do together.**

*Welcome and Reception*

One: Let us, the members of Ames United Church of Christ express our thanks, and welcome, and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church.  
Amen! Thanks be to God!**

**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

"Let All the People Praise Thee"

Natalie Sleeth

*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%).*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**HYMN OF SENDING** "God of Grace and God of Glory," Hymn 436, verses 1, 2, and 5

### BENEDICTION

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

# ANNUAL MEETING

and potluck: today!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck and our annual meeting after worship. Find updated information packets in the back of the sanctuary.

January 29, 2017

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

*Almighty God, your ways are higher and better than ours. Point our hearts toward you, that the compassion of Jesus would always be our goal. In his name, Amen.*

Reflect: Reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath." Luke 6:5*

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

*And so it begins: Jesus' ongoing quarrel with the Pharisees, expert keepers of the law. What could be more frustrating than a wildly popular evangelist with a habit of making his own rules in the service of ultimate love?*

Consider: Consider this theme for the week's text.

*The Sabbath was made for the wellness of humanity.*

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: Healing on the Sabbath, Luke 6:1-16

Monday: Jesus Teaches and Heals, Luke 6:17-26

Tuesday: Love for Enemies, Luke 6:27-30

Wednesday: Love for Enemies, Luke 6:31-38

Thursday: Love for Enemies, Luke 6:39-42

Friday: A Tree and Its Fruit, Luke 6:43-49

Saturday: Jesus Speaks in Parables, Luke 8:1-3

**God's Story**<sup>TM</sup>  
**Our Story**

*How does Jesus model love for enemies?*

Connect: Connect in conversation with others.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- What laws in your community have been created to serve people? What laws have been created for people to serve? Where are freedoms limited and where are they granted? What might you do to ensure freedom to all?
- When and for what have you been forgiven? Was forgiveness offered unconditionally or with limitations? Have you let go of the burden of guilt or shame? How might you let go of shame and live in the unconditional forgiveness of Jesus?

Do: By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

*Pray for an enemy every day this week – not that they become better people – pray that God will bless them. At the end of the week, notice how, if at all, your attitude toward them has changed.*

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

*Love your enemies. Let your enemies love you. Amen.*

### **Upcoming Scriptures**

2/5 Luke 7:1-17

2/12 Luke 7:18-35

2/19 Luke 7:36-50

2/26 Luke 9:28-45

### **Childcare at Bible Study!**

Our Bible study on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. now has childcare available for those who need that support in order to participate.

### **Thank you, Team Members!**

Today during worship we recognize elected members of our leadership team whose terms are complete and will not continue. Thank you to Ayisha Al-Hassan, Jan Breitman, Abby Buchele, Jim Dickson, Elaine Hieber, Bruce Hanson, Tranquillity Jo, Gordon Knight, Paul Lasley, Jeremy McMahon, Laurie Olk, Terry Potter, Peg Powell, Linda Shenk, Bill Slinger, Kris Strum, and Larry Trede! On Sunday, February 5 we will install all incoming elected team members, both new and continuing.

### **Field Trip: Ta-Nehisi Coates – 1/30**

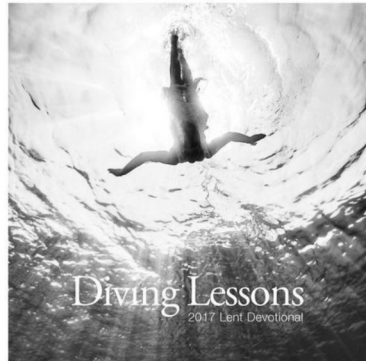
Our denomination has a long history on standing on the side of racial justice and freedom. Please join me and Barbara Faidley for ISU's "A Deeper Black: Race in America" with Ta-Nehisi Coates on Monday, January 30 at the Memorial Union.

*Ta-Nehisi Coates is a national correspondent at The Atlantic, where his cover story on slavery and race, "The Case for Reparations," struck a national chord. His latest book, Between the World and Me, is written in the form of a letter to his teenage son about the challenges he will face growing up black in America. Coates is also the author of The Beautiful Struggle, a memoir about growing up in Baltimore.*

We will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the food court on the first floor, then head up to the Great Hall. The event starts at 7 p.m. –Pr. Eileen

## AMOS Core Team Training – 2/4

Learn the art of organizing, deepening relationships, engaging in radical conversation, and acting together to live out our public mission to be the body of Christ in the world! This training will be from 10a to 2p (with lunch) on Saturday, February 4 with AMOS lead organizer Liz Hall. Past successes from this type of training include the creation of Project Iowa, Primary Health Care, and an ongoing effort to increase funding for affordable housing in Story County. Even more importantly, institutions like ours that learn such skills become more robust, efficient, relational, and sustainable. RSVP to Pr. Eileen, including your childcare needs, by 2/1: [eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org), 515-232-9323.



## Early Deadline for Stillspeaking Lenten Devotional – 2/6

The UCC's Stillspeaking Writers Group's Advent devotional sold out well before Advent itself. Their Lenten devotional will be called "Diving Lessons," described as a fresh collection of unique Lenten devotions that includes an insightful scripture verse and prayer for each day of Lent. Please let me know if you want one (or more) for \$5 by Monday, February 6. Thank you! –Pr. Eileen ([eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org), 515-232-9323)

## White Privilege Curriculum - Train the Trainers

Many of you know that the national setting of the UCC has recently released a study curriculum on "White Privilege." There is interest among the staffs of the UCC Conferences in the West Central Region to identify individuals - lay or clergy - to be trained to prepare congregations to use the curriculum. If being trained for that task interests you, please be in touch with Jo Ordway ([jo@ucciaconf.org](mailto:jo@ucciaconf.org)) at the conference office. And let me know, too! –Pr. Eileen

## Calendar for the Week

### Monday, January 30

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Spicer)

### Tuesday, January 31

4:00 p.m. Christian Education  
5:30 p.m. Worship and Music

### Wednesday, February 1

8:30 a.m. Bible Study  
12:00 p.m. Peace Bell Ringers  
2:05 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Club  
6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 2

1:00 p.m. Library Work Group

### Saturday, February 4

10:00 a.m. AMOS Core Team Training  
11:20 a.m. Meals on Wheels

### Sunday, February 5

9:15 a.m. Learning Center  
9:15 a.m. Godly Play and Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

## 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

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