



**Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, June 25, 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 Dan Coffey; our greeters and ushers are the Coppoc family, Debi Ford, Dale Shenefeld, and Lynette Spicer. No one 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](mailto:office@amesucc.org).*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Hannah Hannover

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

One: Sometimes worship is a parade, a celebration,

**All: A gathering of people expressing their joy.**

One: Sometimes worship is an adventure, a quest,

**All: A gathering of people searching for meaning.**

One: Sometimes worship is a bath, a dip into grace,

**All: A gathering of people seeking relief from guilt.**

One: Sometimes worship is a funeral, a fast,

**All: A gathering of people finding comfort in their grief.**

One: Come with open minds, open hearts, open arms;

**All: That we all might find that for which we have come,**

One: And that, as well, we all might be surprised.

**All: Amen.**

One: Our Lord is good!

**Many: Showering us with love and faithfulness!**

## HYMN “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” Hymn 25

*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, we need peace – so we come for quiet. We need joy – so we come for singing. We need to let things go – so we come for forgiveness. We need hope – so we come for scripture and community. We come to receive the blessings we long for, and your unexpected gifts. 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.  
Merciful Creator,

**Many: We bring our flawed and weary selves before you.  
We cry at the pain we see in the world:  
that which has been brought upon us,  
which we bring upon others,  
and which we bring upon ourselves.  
We know that healing is possible,  
but we often choose suffering instead.  
Visit us with your mercy and reconciliation,  
that we might know joy once more. 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: Weeping may last the night, but joy comes with the morning. Receive the word of our Lord’s forgiveness and know that it is real—here and now. You have been restored. Your life is a testimony to God’s healing power. In Christ’s name, 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 ga - thered in your name,  
You are there, You are there.

## CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT

Philippians 1:3-11

Allison Anderson

*The Letter of Paul to the Philippians is just that: a letter from Paul, while in prison, to the early Christian community in Philippi (in Macedonia).*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

**SERMON** "The Importance of the Invisible" The Rev. Dr. Rich Pleva

**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

*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** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," Hymn 43

## BENEDICTION

*From the Latin of "well" and "to speak," this is one final good word to send us off. On Easter Sunday we do this as a community. Afterward, please join us next door in the parlor for coffee, tea, treats, and community.*

*The floral arrangement today is **in honor of** our two members who are delegates to the upcoming General Synod meeting of the United Church of Christ in Baltimore, Diana McHenry and Allison McHenry, and also **in memory of** Theodore S. Kniker, father of Charles Kniker, who was a delegate to the General Synod in 1957 that merged the Congregational-Christian churches and Evangelical & Reformed churches. Theodore Kniker died of a heart attack while on his way to that meeting sixty years ago.*

**Pr. Eileen on Vacation – 6/18-29**

Pr. Eileen will be on vacation from June 18-29. In case of pastoral emergency (hospitalization, death, deployment, and the like), please call (515) 428-1779.

**Pr. Hannah’s Sabbatical – 6/26-9/4**

Many blessings on your sabbatical, Pr. Hannah! Pr. Hannah will be away from June 26 through September 4.

**Women’s Fellowship – 6/28**

The June meeting of our Women’s Fellowship is on Wednesday, June 28. We will be meeting in Fellowship Hall at 12.15 pm for a “Joys and Concerns” get together. All women of the church are invited to attend. We will be talking about the rest of the summer and some possible meeting options. Come join us and join in the discussion. We would love to hear what all of us are planning for the summer. Remember to bring your lunch. Hope to see you there!

**Calendar for the Week**

Monday, June 26

*Pr. Eileen continues to be away through June 29*

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Duckstein)

Wednesday, June 28

10:00 a.m. ABC Sale Work Group  
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing  
12:15 p.m. Women’s Fellowship

Thursday, June 29

6:30 p.m. SoJO Meeting

Tuesday, June 27

12:00 p.m. Men’s Fellowship  
7:00 p.m. Worship and Music

Sunday, July 2

9:30 a.m. July Worship with FCC at Ames UCC



**Ames United Church of Christ**

**JULY 2017 WORSHIP**  
**at 9:30 a.m.**

7/2: First Christian Church joins us at Ames UCC

7/9: First Christian Church joins us at Ames UCC

7/16: We join FCC in their sanctuary (corner of 6th & Clark)

7/23: We join FCC in their sanctuary (corner of 6th & Clark)

7/30: Worship with First Christian Church, First Baptist Church, and Ames UCC at Brookside Park

**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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