



**Ames United Church of Christ**  
**Sunday, May 28, 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 Tom Meyer; our greeters and ushers are Janet Binder, Kevin Binder, Joel Johnson, and Bill LaGrange. No one is scheduled for building lockup.*

**GREETINGS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jim Coppoc

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

One: We are all children of God through faith.

**Many: We have clothed ourselves with Christ. Alleluia! Amen!**

**HYMN**

"In Christ There Is Not East or West," Hymn 394

*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 of unity and justice, you care less about our ancestry and more about the state of our hearts. Cover us with the garment of your healing and prepare us for effective witness in your world. In Jesus' name, 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. Rising Christ,  
**Many: Even as we rejoice at your resurrection,  
we confess our shortcomings.  
We have often been ruled by our fear,  
concerned more with looking good  
than proclaiming good news,  
with being right than living as a community  
modeled on your righteousness.  
Please forgive our clumsy attempts at responding to your gifts,  
and bring us back into the light of new life. 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: God in Christ is gracious and merciful, and does not hold our mistakes against us. Let us rejoice once more at his promise to deliver us from all that enslaves, and let us rest in the assurance of grace, which has always and will always be ours. Alleluia! 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.*



**CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29 (NRSV) Bradley Duckstein**

*The book of Galatians is actually a letter from Paul, an early Jewish post-Easter follower of Jesus, to the Jesus Way/Christian community in Galatia (now part of Turkey) in the late 40s to early 50s CE. The primary concern is the relationship between people who are Jewish, those who are not (aka Gentiles), and the expression of God found in Jesus Christ.*

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing? —if it really was for nothing. Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed. Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until

faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

SERMON

SONG OF RESPONSE                      “Lonely Spark” by Ben Schrag  
with Matt Schrag and Amanda Petefish-Schrag

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**                      “This Is My Song”                      Lloyd Stone, Georgia Harkness  
Pat Spangler  
*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%).*  
  
*At the third verse, Pat will signal the congregation to join in singing as printed below.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**HYMN OF SENDING**      “God, We Thank You for Our People,” Hymn 376 vv 1&4

## 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.*

## Upcoming Scriptures

6/4    Acts 2:1-21

6/11   Psalm 100

6/18   Worship at Hobbit’s Hill

6/25   The Rev. Dr. Rich Pleva, Conference Minister

# PENTECOST

## JUNE 4, 2017

join us and  
wear red: hats, wigs,  
clothes, etc.



### **Strengthen the Church – 6/4**

On Sunday, June 4, Ames UCC will collect for the Strengthen the Church (STC) offering with congregations across the national United Church of Christ. STC is a special mission offering that helps to expand support for new churches, new ministries, and new leaders. An envelope is available in your bulletin for you to prayerfully consider how you might contribute next week.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Capital Campaign Construction Surveys Due Back – 6/12**

The 150<sup>th</sup> Capital Campaign Task Force is looking for your input on options for proceeding with spending the balance of the campaign funds. The survey results will help us decide which options to bring for a vote at a congregational meeting in late August or this fall. The Task Force believes these options capture both the spirit of the original Campaign goals and the aims of the congregation to improve our facility.

To complete the survey online, visit <http://bit.ly/2qMALu3>. If you would prefer to fill out a paper version, copies are available in the back of the sanctuary or in the church office. All results must be submitted by **June 12**. We are encouraging everyone who participates in the life of the church to fill out the survey. At the congregational meeting, only members are allowed to vote.

If you have any questions please contact any of the task force members: Ken Birt (chairman), David Cook, Jennifer Gelwick-Luecke, Elaine Hieber, Josh Pilcher, Doug Powell or Justin Watts

### **Thank You For a Successful Fire Drill**

The fire drill was successful and we moved out of the building quite quickly. Thank you to all those who helped by opening doors, directing people, and more. They were Ken Birt, Paul Clark, Dan Coffey, LeVern Faidley, Debi Ford, Eileen Gebbie, Jennifer Gelwick-Luecke, Hannah Hannover, Barbara Hauerrberg, Greg Lamont, Sue Lamont, Greg Luecke, Tom Meyer, Steve Rogers-Smith, Lynette Spicer, Phil Spike, Donna Starck, Jean Watts, Justin Watts, and Bill Yungclas.

### **Thank You For Helping to Provide Our Extravagant Welcome**

We use many volunteers each Sunday morning to give our members and our visitors an extravagant welcome. During the month of May, these are the people who volunteered: Janet and Kevin Binder, Ken Birt, Jerry Chase, Barbara Faidley, Mim Fritz, Jennifer Gelwick-Luecke, Barbara Hauerrberg, Joel Johnson, Sue Lamont, Bill LaGrange, Karen Lasche, Alison McHenry, Diana McHenry, Tom Meyer, Art and Bernie Pohm, Steve Rogers-Smith, Kim Spangler and John and Marge Uitermarkt. THANK YOU

### **ABC Sale and Work Days**

Donations are needed for the sale. We have sorted everything that has come in so far and we are starting to price those items. We need lots more items to make this year's sales as successful as last year. Bring your donations to the West Basement in the Elevator Lobby. NO KEY? No problem. Contact Katie Tschopp during church office hours or Barbara Faidley (233-3874) at other times.

Join us on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon to sort and price items for the sale. Lots of fun and fellowship and work accomplished every Wednesday.



## Calendar for the Week

### Monday, May 29

*Church Office Closed for Memorial Day*

5:30 p.m.      Emergency Residence  
Project (Hieber/Wood)

### Wednesday, May 31

8:30 a.m.      Bible Study  
10:00 a.m.      ABC Sale Work Group  
12:00 p.m.      Bell Ringing

### Tuesday, May 30

9:30 a.m.      Staff Meeting  
7:00 p.m.      Christian Ed  
7:00 p.m.      Worship and Music

### Sunday, June 4

*Pentecost Sunday: WEAR RED!*  
10:30 a.m.      Worship

### **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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