



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, November 12, 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 Jan Breitman, Debi Ford, Liz Mendez-Shannon, and Justin Watts. No one is scheduled for building lockup.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, says the Lord,
Many: And let the one who believes in me drink.

One: Out of the believer's heart...
Many: Shall flow rivers of living water.

HYMN "Like a Tree Beside the Water" (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: God of mercy, your vision of justice for all is at the center of our faith. Clear our eyes to see it newly as something worth striving for, as messy and difficult as it may be. Renew our zeal for your gospel for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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. Faithful God,
**Many: Your promises have never wavered,
and yet we are not always willing to believe them.
We descend into our own despair,
unable to see past our immediate concerns.
We drag others down with us
and live to complain and commiserate.
We ignore the miracles in front of our face.
Forgive us for living such small lives, O Lord,
and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. 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 is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! For this we give you thanks, O Lord. Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the One who promised from of old to set us free, and who seeks and finds us to this very day. 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.

K. Stewart

COME TO-GETH-ER, CHILD-REN, COME TO-GETH-ER NOW.

CE-LE-BRATE AND CLAP YOUR HANDS; COME TO-GETH-ER NOW!

HEBREW BIBLE Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24 (New Revised Standard Version)
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.

The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of King Uzziah of Judah and in the days of King Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

And he said:

The LORD roars from Zion,
and utters from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds wither,
and the top of Carmel dries up.

Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Let Justice Flow Like Streams” (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

PRAYERS 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 as we forgive our debtors. 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 “Roll Down, Justice!” Mark Miller
Chancel Choir

*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%). **The latter is currently overdrawn due to substantial needs within our own church family.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING “Justice, Like a Base of Stone” (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.

Ducts, roofing, sound

Over the last week, repairs and replacement of our sanctuary ducting and roof have continued well. We have also found a new sound company to help get the system we just purchased a year ago to work as intended: in the sanctuary, parlor, and through a hearing assist system. I hope to have a timeline for that by Thanksgiving. –Pr. Eileen

This Week on Wednesday – 11/15

This fall, we have a new set of opportunities for faith formation and fellowship on Wednesdays, building on our existing midweek gatherings. Please join us this week for:

- 8:30 a.m. AM Bible Study (Gospel of Thomas 2/2)
- 12:00 p.m. Peace Bell Ringing in the bell tower
- 2:00 p.m. Book Club
- 2:00 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Club
- 6:30 p.m. PM Bible Study (Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14)
Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Youth Group

Childcare is available for morning Bible study and our evening programming.

Find a bookmark in the pews listing upcoming Bible study topics, and learn more about our Wednesday events in the rest of the announcements.

Note: There is no Bible study on the first Wednesday of each month.

Free While Supplies Last: Advent Devotionals – 11/12, 19, 26

Pick up your own United Church of Christ Advent devotional in the parlor before or after worship on Sunday, November 12, 19, or 26. A donation of \$5 would be great, but not necessary. No one's spiritual journey should come at a price.

DACA Potluck Dinner – 11/17

Please join us on Friday, November 17, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall as we learn about and discuss DACA and other the issues that our undocumented brothers and sisters are facing. We will hear from Ms. Jeanette Vizguerra, who sought sanctuary from immigration officials with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Denver, Colorado earlier this year. We will also hear from Gabriela Flora, who works on immigration with the American Friends Service Committee in Denver. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and utensils if possible. If you are able to volunteer at this event, please contact Anna Johnson at annali.johnson@gmail.com.

Balls of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love – 11/19, 26, 12/3, 12/10

During Advent we will have the opportunity to fill and decorate hollow Christmas tree ornaments using the four themes of Advent, then hang them on our tree during worship. Take as many as your family/household feels moved to fill. Below is the schedule for picking them up and then bringing them back.

Hope: pick up 11/19, hang 11/26

Peace: pick up 11/26, hang 12/3

Joy: pick up 12/3, hang 12/10

Love: pick up 12/10, hang 12/17

Fellowship with Holy Transfiguration – 11/19

On Sunday, November 19 after worship we will walk down the block to Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church (621 Kellogg) for our fellowship hour. This will be a chance to get to know their congregation, with whom we are now partnering on a "tiny food pantry."

Explore Membership at Ames UCC – 11/26

Join Pr. Eileen and current church members to learn more about the theology and polity (governance) of Ames United Church of Christ as well as what formal membership means, all over a tasty lunch. Participation in the lunch does not mean a commitment to join. Childcare will be available on request.

Membership Exploration & Luncheon

Sunday, November 26 from right after worship until 1:30 p.m. (at the latest)

New Member Sunday

Sunday, December 3 in worship

RSVP to Pr. Eileen (eileen@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323) by Monday, November 20.

Advent Party – 11/26

After we've celebrated the first Sunday in Advent in worship on November 26, come back at 4:00 p.m. for the Advent Party and Hanging of the Greens. We will have Christmas crafts in the Fellowship Hall for children of all ages, and an Outrageous Sweater Contest! Many hands are needed to help put up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and our other beautiful Christmas décor. Pizza will be delivered around 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Christmas Choir Rehearsals Start – 11/29

Many of us have too much to do and cannot take on a long term commitment. To that end, on Sunday, December 17, we will have a special musical offering by a "Christmas Choir:" regular choristers plus any additional worshippers who would like to join in for a spell. Rehearsals will be Wednesday 11/29, 12/6, and 12/13 from 6:30-7:50 p.m., plus the morning of Saturday, 12/16. For more information, contact choir director Lesley Lackore (llackore@gmail.com).

Thank you for making our Holiday Hoopla and Cookies Sale such a success!

After our sale on Sunday morning, the sale was deemed VERY SUCCESSFUL. With all the donations that were made and all the cookies that were made (62 kinds) we made \$1,722.25. This is the most we have ever made on our holiday sale. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE! Proceeds will go to support our new Wednesday evening programming and the Pastors Emergency Fund.

Thank you to everyone who made cookies for the sale! We had 62 delicious kinds of cookies made by 44 people. They are: Allison Anderson, Ami Frank, Ann D'Arcy, Annie Lemme, Barbara Faidley, Barbara Hauerrberg, Bonnie Hawbaker, Carol Smith, Charles Kniker, Debi Ford, Diane Northington, Donna Shenefelt, Donna Starck, Edna Wiese, Ellen Barnhart, Galina Spike, Ginny Shenk, Irene Dohrman, Jan Breitman, Janet Binder, Jean Watts, Jerry Chase, Judy Blair, Karen Lasche, Kristen Shields, Laurie Olk, Lesley Lackore, Lynette Spicer, Lori Peake, Malinda Bauer, Marge Uitermarkt, Martha Geist, Mary Mulford, Mim Fritz, Nancy Dunn, Nancy Marks, Pat Spangler, Peg Powell, Sally Chase, Sharon Slinger, Steve Rogers-Smith, Sue Lamont, Tracey Johnson, Trudy Dirks.

Thank you to everyone who helped to organize and staff! Many people helped sort all of our donations during our Wednesday morning get togethers. Others worked at setting up the sale in Fellowship Hall. Others worked to organize all the cookies as they were brought in. Others worked the day of the sale and finally others helped to pack up all the left over items and take them to other charities, helped carry things downstairs and put Fellowship Hall back in order. The following people did one or many of the above activities: Ellen Barnhart, Jan Breitman, Jerry Chase, Sally Chase, David Cook, Irene Dohrman, Barbara Faidley, LeVern Faidley, Debi Ford, Ami Frank, Barbara Hauerrberg, Catherine James, Nancy Marks, Peg Powell, Steve Rogers-Smith, Ginny Shenk, Kristen Shields, Pat Spangler, Kim Spangler, Lynette Spicer, Donna Starck, Sunny Stewart, Tania Tipton, Katie Tschopp Bill Yungclas, Barbara Yungclas. Thank you for all the hard work and fellowship we shared.

Advent & Christmas

Each year we celebrate Christmas Day on December 25 and Advent on the four Sundays beforehand. This year Christmas Day is on a Monday, which means that the fourth Sunday of Advent is on a Sunday. Rather than pack the fourth Sunday of Advent and our Christmas Eve celebrations onto one day, I've decided, along with fellow staff and the leadership of our Worship and Music Team, to begin Advent one week early. So even though Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, we will only have the evening service on that day, not one in the morning. Details are below. –Pr. Eileen

Sunday, 11/26: Advent 1 (Hope) with Advent Party at 4 p.m.

Sunday, 12/3: Advent 2 (Peace)

Sunday, 12/10: Advent 3 (Joy) with our children leading worship and caroling

Sunday, 12/17: Advent 4 (Love) with our Chancel Choir leading worship and Holy Communion

Sunday, 12/24: Christmas Eve worship at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion

Monday, 12/25: Christmas Day worship at 10 a.m. in our pajamas

Calendar for the Week

Monday, November 13

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Hanson)
5:30 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting
7:15 p.m. Financial Stewardship

Tuesday, November 14

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship
6:00 p.m. SoJO
7:00 p.m. Worship and Music

Wednesday, November 15

8:30 a.m. AM Bible Study (Gospel of Thomas 2/2)
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club

2:00 p.m. Book Club
6:30 p.m. PM Bible Study (Jeremiah 21:1, 4-14)
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Friday, November 17

6:00 p.m. DACA Potluck Dinner

Saturday, November 18

9:30 a.m. Food at First

Sunday, November 19

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk
9:15 a.m. Animate: Faith Series
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
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:

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