

I Kings

**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, October 28, 2018**

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, ushers, and greeters for today are Greg Lamont and the children of Ames UCC. Chris and Andrea Klocke are providing coffee fellowship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING MUSIC

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Will Hannover

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

One: If you will walk in my ways,

Many: **Your will be done, O Lord.**

One: Keeping my teachings,

Many: **Your will be done, O Lord.**

One: Then I will love you your whole life.

Many: **Your will be done, O Lord.**

HYMN "Clap Your Hands" (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

Brecken Johnson

God is always with us, so this “invoking” or invitation to God, is really an invitation to ur own selves to become aware of that constant presence.

One: O Lord, your wisdom is often beyond our grasp. Give us discerning minds to know your will, and willing hearts to carry it out, for the sake of your son Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oscar Chelcea

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: Knowing that God remains faithful, even when we do not, we confess our shortcomings and sins before God and one another. Faithful God,

**Many: With our thoughts, words, and actions,
we regularly break the covenant you have made with humankind.
Redirect our hearts and minds,
and forgive us of our sin,
so that we might live in faithfulness to you
and kindness with each other.**

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

Oscar Chelcea

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, loving, and forgiving. Receive this day forgiveness and live anew in the covenant made by a faithful God, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Oliver Watts

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love.

CHILDREN’S CELEBRATION WITH SPECIAL MUSIC

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.

Come to-gets - er child - ren, come to-gets -er now.

Cel - e-brate and clap your hands; come to-gets -er now!

Special music “Will the Circle Be Unbroken” with new lyrics by Maya Shannon, Julia Shannon, Annelise Johnson, Persephone Pepe, and Gabe Hanson. Join us on the chorus:

**Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by
We have a church that’s filled with kindness
Faith and hope and love inside**

HEBREW BIBLE 1 Kings 3:4-15 Elliott Coffey & Fionn Coppoc
The Message Translation

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 king went to Gibeon, the most prestigious of the local shrines, to worship. He sacrificed a thousand Whole-Burnt-Offerings on that altar. That night, there in Gibeon, God appeared to Solomon in a dream: God said, “What can I give you? Ask.”

Solomon said, “You were extravagantly generous in love with David my father, and he lived faithfully in your presence, his relationships were just and his heart right. And you have persisted in this great and generous love by giving him—and this very day!—a son to sit on his throne.

“And now here I am: God, my God, you have made me, your servant, ruler of the kingdom in place of David my father. I’m too young for this, a mere child! I don’t know the ropes, hardly know the ‘ins’ and ‘outs’ of this job. And here I am, set down in the middle of the people you’ve chosen, a great people—far too many to ever count.

“Here’s what I want: Give me a God-listening heart so I can lead your people well, discerning the difference between good and evil. For who on their own is capable of leading your glorious people?”

God, the Master, was delighted with Solomon’s response. And God said to him, “Because you have asked for this and haven’t grasped after a long life, or riches, or the doom of your enemies, but you have asked for the ability to lead and govern well, I’ll give you what you’ve asked for—I’m giving you a wise and mature heart. There’s never been one like you before; and there’ll be no one after. As a bonus, I’m giving you both the wealth and glory you didn’t ask for—there’s not a king anywhere who will come up to your mark. And if you stay on

course, keeping your eye on the life-map and the God-signs as your father David did, I’ll also give you a long life.”

Solomon woke up—what a dream! He returned to Jerusalem, took his place before the Chest of the Covenant of God, and worshiped by sacrificing Whole-Burnt-Offerings and Peace-Offerings. Then he laid out a banquet for everyone in his service.

SERMON Annelise Johnson, Maya Shannon, Julia Shannon, Anna Nadolny, and Eli Schrag

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Down to the River to Pray”
Song leaders Annelise Johnson, Julia Shannon, Maya Shannon, arr. Jim Coppoc

**As I went down to the river to pray
Studyin’ about that good ol’ way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Lord, show me the way**

**Oh, _____*, let’s go down
Let’s go down, let’s go down
Oh, _____*, let’s go down
Down to the river to pray**

*fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, sinners

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/the cosmos, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom/kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven/the
cosmos. 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 "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Joel Raney
Chancel Choir with Kristin Shields, soprano

In 2018, ten percent of our total budget helps 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 our in-house Pastoral Emergency Fund. You can also designate your gift to the Pastoral Emergency Fund directly. If you would like to sign up for automated giving, contact Katie Tschopp at 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org.

It's not too late to submit your commitment for Ames UCC's 2019 budget. Find a pledge card in the back of the Fellowship Hall or visit amesucc.org/pledge.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING "This Little Light of Mine" (insert)

BENEDICTION Anna Watts

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

Calendar for the Week

Monday, October 29

Pr. Eileen away through

Tuesday, October 30

Wednesday, October 31

9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Cleaning
10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
2:00 p.m. Wednesday
Afternoon Club
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, November 4

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee with our Saints

Children's Activities in the Church Library

The church library remains open during sanctuary renovations. Find children's activities and books in the library before worship to bring into the Fellowship Hall for use during our worship service.

Cards of Care

Have you ever felt scared and alone, grieving and heartsick? Did someone reach out to you at just the right time? Please join me and a small group of congregants in being present for each other during such times through greeting cards (actual paper in the actual mail). If yes, please let me know and I will add you to our list of fellow "care card-ers." And if you know of someone who might appreciate a little postal love from their fellow seekers, please let me know. –Pr. Eileen (eileen@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323)

Pr. Eileen out – 10/23-30

I will be on vacation from the 23rd through the 30th. Pr. Hannah will be available for pastoral care needs.

Finishing up the Sanctuary Renovation

Please come to help Ken Birt and David Cook with the final touching up in the sanctuary this week, including touching up the pews' wood stain, and getting things cleaned and set to return to the sanctuary. Contact Ken Birt (515-238-1699, ken.birt.118@gmail.com) if you can help.

Sanctuary Scrub – 10/31

Although the floor finishers used a dustless system, our sanctuary will still need a good, deep spiffing up once the pews are back in. Please join me at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 31 for vacuuming, dusting, and a bit of scrubbing.

-Pr. Eileen

Marking All Saints Day – 11/4

On Sunday, November 4 we will celebrate All Saints Day in two different ways. First, we will continue the tradition reading the names, in worship, of all those we love but who died in the previous year. Please submit those names to me by today, Sunday, October 28 (515-232-9323, eileen@amesucc.org).

Second, everyone is invited to participate in a photo display. Please place framed photos of loved ones, whether they died in the last year or much earlier, along with their names and relationship to you in the box labelled for this purpose in the parlor today or with Katie in the office during regular business hours (Mon. 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.; Tues.–Thurs. 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. , 12:30–4:30 p.m.). I will display them all throughout the parlor, where we will have our coffee hour after worship that day.

If you are not comfortable leaving a photo in advance, just bring it on the 4th, but send me the name of the person you wish to honor by the 28th so that I may have a label made up and out in the parlor when you arrive.

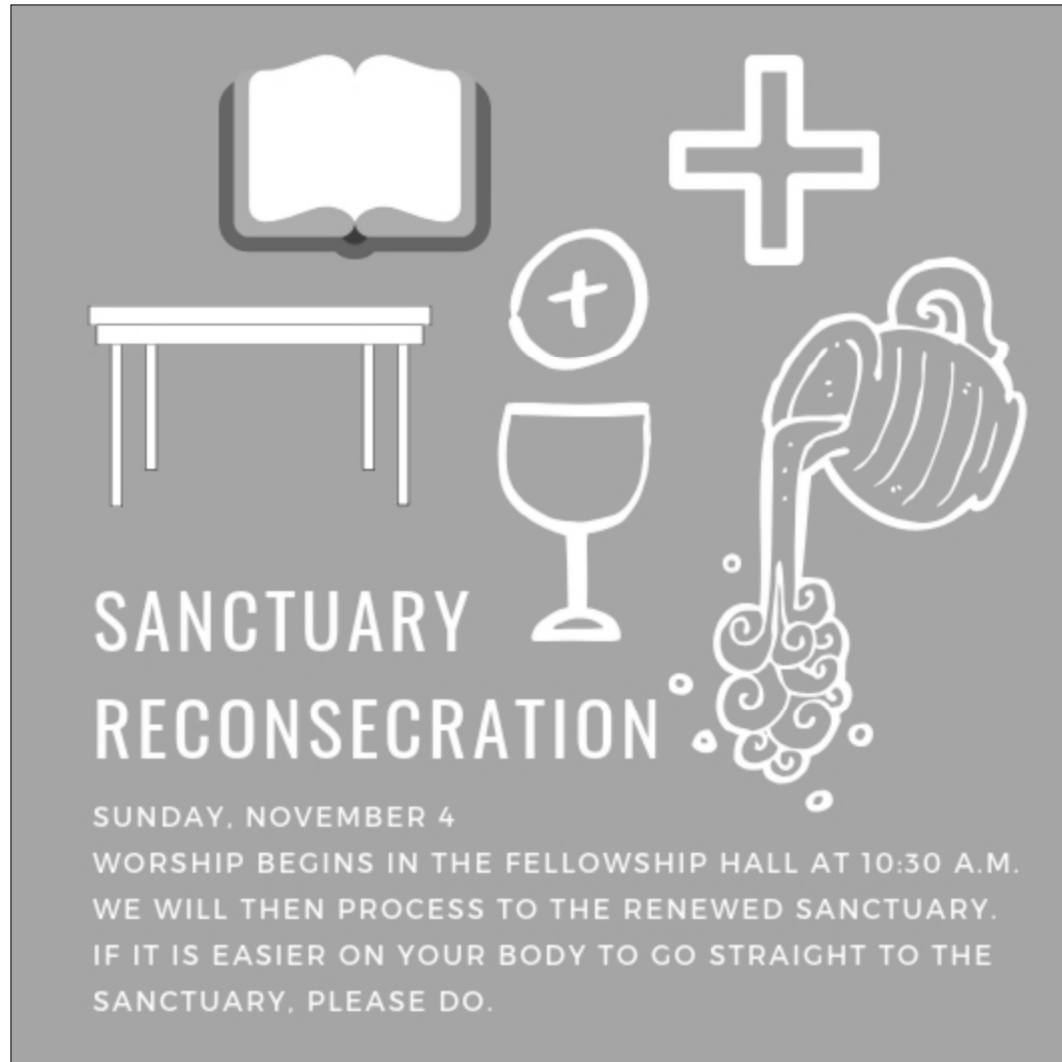
Thank you for sharing your heart,
Pr. Eileen

1,000 Stories Holiday Book Drive

Raising Readers in Story County would like to provide 1,000 books to Salvation Army Families of Story County area this holiday season. You can help!

Through December 7th you can gift new children's books by dropping them off in the collection box in the parlor, or at any of the other drop off locations listed on the box!

Your gift will help hundreds of children of Story County discover new worlds, learn new things, and experience amazing adventures through books.



Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

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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Ames UCC Team Leadership

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Lynette Spicer, Clerk
Diana McHenry, Church Representative

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Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

Christian Education
Allen Trenkle

Financial Stewardship
Bradley Duckstein, Joel Johnson

Social Justice and Outreach
Anna Johnson, Linda Best

Property
Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk

Worship and Music
Barbara Faidley, Tom Meyer

Get in touch with a team leader with the information in your church directory.
Contact Katie Tschopp (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org) if you need a copy.