

Ames United Church of Christ Sunday, November 11, 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 Dan Coffey, Boyd Dohrmann, Irene Dohrmann, Dale Shenefelt, and Donna Shenefelt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A note about today's service: As his internship with us progresses, David Sheridan is taking opportunities to lead different and more parts of worship services. Today, for example, he will lead almost every element, as I or Pr. Hannah would normally do. These are the kinds of practical tasks of such ministry that are not often addressed in seminary and so are essential to his time here with us. –Pr. Eileen

CENTERING MUSIC

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: With what shall I come before the Lord?

Many: Burnt offerings? Young calves?

One: With what will the Lord be pleased?

Many: Thousands of rams? Rivers of oil?

One: How about my firstborn child?

Many: The fruit of the body for the sins of the soul?

One: No. The Lord requires only this:

Many: Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

HYMN "Praise to the Living God," Hymn 8

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, you come to call not the righteous, but the broken and the

betraying. Count us among your redeemed people, that our lives might proclaim your grace in all we say and do. In the name of Jesus,

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: For the sake of justice and kindness, we confess our brokenness

before God and one another. Merciful God,

Many: Too often we come before you

with our pious actions and empty words.

We fail to live with kindness, justice, and humility.

We turn on our neighbors and build up for our selves.

Forgive all that we have done and failed to do

and transform us into people you are proud to call your own.

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:

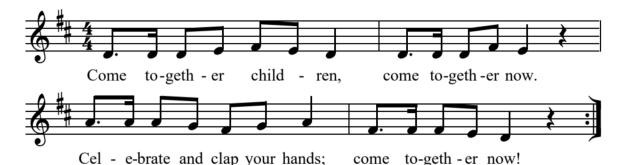
The abundant grace of our God does transform lives from the inside out. Receive today acceptance and recognition of your failings, but no rejection for them. Be transformed in your bodies, souls, and minds. Be molded into God's renewed creatures, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.



HEBREW BIBLE

Micah 5:2-5a, 6:6-8

Linda Best

New Revised Standard Version modified for inclusive language

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.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth to me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore God shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of the kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

And (the Anointed One) shall stand and feed flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord God.

And they shall live secure, for now (the Anointed One) shall be great to the ends of the earth;

and (the Anointed One) shall be the one of peace.

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of the soul?" You have been told, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION "The Lord is God" (insert)

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 "What Does the Lord Require of You" Jim & Jean Strathdee Pop-Up Choir

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 sanctuary or visit amesucc.org/pledge.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING "Take My Life, That I May Be" (insert)

BENEDICTION

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

Calendar for the Week

Monday, November 12

5:30 p.m. Serving a Meal at the

ERP (Shedd)

Tuesday, November 13

Pastoral Study Day

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, November 14

10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

12:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

2:00 p.m. Wed. Afternoon Club

6:30 p.m. Unscripted

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Saturday, November 17

9:30 a.m. Volunteer to Serve and

Clean Up at Food at First

Sunday, November 18

9:15 a.m. Godly Play

9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk

9:15 a.m. Learning Center

10:30 a.m. Worship

Fire Drill - TODAY

Today the Worship and Music Team will hold a fire drill after worship. We have 3 major exits from the sanctuary: the sacristy doors, the bell tower doors, and the main west doors. All of these exits have stairs, so if your body does not allow you to use stairs, including if you are using a walker or cane, please exit through the east doors via the ramp. During a fire, the elevator cannot be used safely.

More instructions will be shared by the WAM team after the service. Our goal for the fire drill is to know how to clear the building in case of an emergency. The children in the nursery will also be taking part in the fire drill. Thank you for your cooperation.

Women's Fellowship - 11/14

All women of the church are invited to Women's Fellowship on Wednesday, November 14 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. This will be our only meeting in November because of the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be having a Joys and Concerns meeting with an emphasis on Thanksgiving and Gratitude. We will be doing at least 2 activities that will be a fun way to get to know each other better. Please remember to bring your lunch and join us for fellowship and sharing.

Unscripted: Calmly Connecting with God and Others – 11/14, 11/28

Feel stressed and too busy? On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45, "pause" to participate in group spiritual practice, experience music, share conversation, and pray. We can't add minutes to your day, but maybe growing closer to God will give you a new perspective. Questions? Contact Nancy Dunn (515-490-2083, ndunn949@gmail.com), Andrea Klocke (515-988-9422, andreaklocke@gmail.com), or Linda Hanson (515-520-2583, linda.hanson2011@gmail.com).

Winter Ames UCC Courier Newsletter

Have you received your winter newsletter from Ames UCC? Though we mailed out the newsletters at the end of October, all the election-related mail caused some delays. If you haven't received yours yet, contact Katie Tschopp (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org) in the church office for a new digital or mailed version.

Update on Sanctuary Sound

Our current sanctuary sound system hasn't been able to keep up with the growth in our church (more bodies absorb more sound) so earlier this week Church Office Administrator Katie Tschopp and I met with a sound engineer who will develop suggestions. Unlike previous vendors, he spent over three hours in our space asking questions, describing observations about our space and current equipment, and taking measurements. I expect to receive a proposal within two weeks, which I will then take to our Executive Team.

-Pr. Eileen

Happy Baptismal Anniversary, Josh!

The United Church of Christ celebrates two sacraments, rituals of the invisible grace of God made visible: Baptism and Holy Communion. Our church celebrates Holy Communion about once per month, but baptism only once in our lives.

So as not to lose touch with those waters of life, we remember baptismal anniversaries here. We also remember the promises we have all made to those who have been baptized in our presence, here or elsewhere.

This week we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of Joshua Pepe. Thank you for joining the body of Christ through this family of faith, Josh!

To have yours lifted up, whenever and wherever it was, simply send the date to Pr. Eileen.

Thank you, Greg, and Welcome Back, Dave!

During the renovation of our sanctuary, our sexton David Cook has used his 14 hours per week to support Ken Birt and the other congregants who have revamped our floors, pews, and lighting. With that work complete, he returns to his regular duties. This means it is also time to thank Greg Widener for covering basic cleaning duties, for a small stipend, over these several months. Thank you, Greg!

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)

Youth Group Homemade Christmas Cookie Fundraiser

The Youth Group has a lot of fun activities planned for this coming spring and summer, including a camping trip to Pilgrim Heights and General Synod in June. To defray the cost of these trips, the youth are baking Christmas cookies! You can place your order after church on the following Sundays: 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, or 12/2 or email Megan Henson (megan@amesucc.org) for more information.

Cookie Tray (3 dozen cookies, choose three kinds) \$16 Cookies by the Dozen \$6 (each dozen packaged separately)

Choose from frosted and unfrosted Sugar Cookies, Chocolate Crinkles, Snickerdoodles, Russian Teacakes, Spritz Cookies, and Candy Cane Cookies.

Please place your order by Sunday, December 2 at the latest. Pick up is Sunday, December 9 from after worship until 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Payment is due at pick up. If you would like to order but aren't able to make this pick up date, please contact Megan to make other arrangements. Thank you!

Save the Date: Theologian in Residence 2019 at Ames UCC

Humans migrate. All our ancestors were immigrants. Biblical faith requires welcoming strangers and caring for travelers in need. The upcoming 35th Theologian in Residence Weekend focuses on the current conversation about immigration, from the legal facts to the Biblical perspective.

Hear from theologian Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy and others. Take part in a workshop. Learn about real-world experiences and solutions that can help us move from concern to compassionate action.

Friday, March 1, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Iowa State University Memorial Union Pioneer Room Dialogue: Rev. Dr. Vásquez-Levy and Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller

Saturday, March 2, Ames United Church of Christ 9:15 – 12:00 p.m. Speaker Rev. Dr. Vásquez-Levy 12:45 – 2:15 p.m. Workshops (Helping Fractured Families; Public Policies)

Sunday, March 3, Ames United Church of Christ 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. Panel: Immigrants and Helpers 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Worship with Rev. Dr. Vásquez-Levy preaching

Online registration for Theologian in Residence opens at amesucc.org/tir in January. There are many ways to be involved in this learning opportunity through your attendance or volunteer service! Contact Katie Tschopp (office@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323) for more information.

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff Megan Henson, Youth Director megan@amesucc.org 217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010 515-232-9323 Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. David Sheridan, Seminary Intern Tues-Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. limnolaw@aol.com David Cook, Sexton Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director cookdavi@gmail.com llackore@gmail.com Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister Karen "Sunny" Stewart, Instrumentalist eileen@amesucc.org sunny@amesucc.org Hannah Hannover, Katie Tschopp, **Church Office Administrator** Minister to Children & Families hannah@amesucc.org office@amesucc.org

Ames UCC Team Leadership

Allen Trenkle

Rachel Schelle, Moderator

Allen Trenkle, Interim Moderator

Lynette Spicer, Clerk

Diana McHenry, Church Representative

Building Relationships

Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

Property

Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk

Christian Education

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.

Worship and Music

Barbara Faidley, Tom Meyer