



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, July 15, 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 Janet Binder, Kevin Binder, Greg Lamont, and Sue Lamont. Ben Schrag and Kristin Shields are providing coffee fellowship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING SONG “Spirit, Open My Heart” (insert)

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Steve Rogers-Smith
A formal, and mutual, invitation to move into the worship experience.

One: Everyone who loves is born of God.

Many: **God is love!**

One: Whoever does not love does not know God.

Many: **God is love!**

One: As God loved us, so let us love one another.

Many: **God is love!**

HYMN “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You,” Hymn 4
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 love, you have shown us the true nature of compassion in your incarnation and resurrection, your coming and your returning. Instill in us a desire so deep that we cannot resist it: to live in your love and embody your grace.

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.
Loving God,

**Many: Forgive us, for we have sinned.
We pretend to know what love is,
but neglect to show it to our sisters and brothers.
We hide the truth from ourselves,
but we cannot hide from you, O God,
who see and know everything.
Be merciful and gracious to us
and let us never take for granted your favor.
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: If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in ignorance, we lie and do not do what is right and true; but if we walk in the knowledge as God is in that knowledge, we have fellowship with one another, and the love of Jesus redeems us from all distress. May you know this forgiveness and trust in the one who grants it.
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 “See, Serve, and Love” by K. Stewart

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.

The musical score is written for a single voice in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a sharp sign, and a common time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note on G4, followed by quarter notes on A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics "Ev' - ry day, in ev' - ry way; see, serve and love." are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Above the repeat sign are two first endings: "1." and "2.". The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes on D5, E5, and F#5, followed by a quarter rest and a quarter note on G4. The lyrics "love. Pro -" are written below. The third staff continues the melody with quarter notes on G4, A4, and B4, followed by a quarter rest and a quarter note on C5. The lyrics "claim it, re - joice in it, and live it ev' - ry day!" are written below. The final staff continues the melody with quarter notes on D5, E5, and F#5, followed by a quarter rest and a quarter note on G4. The lyrics "Ev' - ry day, in ev' - ry way; see, serve and love." are written below. The score ends with a double bar line.

CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT 1 John 4:7-21 (New Revised Standard Version, modified for inclusivity) Pr. Hannah

This is part of the section of letters to early Christian communities that appears after the gospels.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent (Jesus) into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent (Jesus) to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us this Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Creator has sent the Child as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their siblings, are liars; for those who do not love a sibling whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their siblings also.

SCRIPTURE IN SONG 1 John 1:1-4, written by Ben Schrag

SERMON Pr. Mary Jane Button-Harrison, First Christian Church

HYMN OF REFLECTION "I Came With Joy," Hymn 349

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
WITH THE OFFERING OF FOOD AND GIFTS**

Our Communion table is open to all: young and old, faithful and dubious. No one will be turned away. We serve the bread and the juice through "intinction," which means dipping the bread into the juice. Your server will offer each to you with the phrases "the Bread of Life" and "the Cup of Blessing." If you are unable to come forward but would like to participate in the meal, simply wait for your row to be empty, then raise your hand. A server will come to you. The bread is free of gluten, soy, and dairy. If you have brought canned goods for the Food at First pantry, please set them at the Communion table before being served.

Invitation

One: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

Many: **In company with all who hunger for spiritual food,
we come to this table to know the risen Christ
In the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

Blessing of the Feast

One: Holy God, loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, through whom we know your healing grace. We praise you for his birth, life, death, and resurrection mystery, and for the calling forth of your church to be the builders of beloved community in this world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

Many: Come, Holy Spirit, come.
Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine.
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table
that our eyes may be opened,
and we may recognize the risen Love in our midst,
in each other, and even in our selves.
Amen.

One: Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said:

Many: “Take and eat, all of you:
This is my body, surrendered for you.”

One: And pouring the wine:

Many: “Take and drink, all of you:
This is the seal of a new covenant,
my poured-out life.”

Sharing of the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Many: We give thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 “Beloved, Let Us Love One Another” Pepper Choplin
FCC/UCC Summer Choir

In 2018, ten 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 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.

Checks made out to First Christian Church, or cash placed in envelopes labeled for First Christian Church, will go there. All other gifts will remain at Ames UCC.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As part of our weekly dedication of our time, talent, and treasures, today we also dedicate the letters we have prepared, through Bread for the World, to go to our local congressional representative and senators, urging investments in programs that improve the lives of people struggling with hunger, malnutrition, and starvation, in the United States and around the world.

HYMN OF SENDING “Take My Gifts,” Hymn 562

BENEDICTION

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

Thank You for Contributing to Ames UCC's Solar Packs

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our June fundraiser for Ames UCC's purchase of the City of Ames solar packs. The Social Justice and Outreach team is glad to announce that we raised enough funds to purchase of **eight solar packs** for Ames UCC. We are so glad that Ames UCC can join in this community effort to support solar energy, and we are deeply grateful for the support from our wonderful congregation.

Ice Cream Social at Roosevelt Park – 7/15

Sunday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets for Roosevelt Park's Summer Sundays concert series and enjoy fellowship and free ice cream sundaes. This Sunday features Ben Schrag and the Cautionaries. Ben and the Cautionaries play from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. If weather looks like it might cause a location change, check Ames UCC's Facebook page after 5:00 p.m.

Submit an Article for the Fall Ames UCC Newsletter – 7/18

The due date for this fall's edition of the Ames UCC Courier is Wednesday, July 18. Submit an article about an upcoming event, your church team, or your experience as a congregant in the church. This season's articles will fall under the categories of "Community," "Generosity," "Relationships," and "Worship."

Do we have your address to send you a print copy of the newsletter? If your address or other contact information needs to be updated, get in touch with Katie Tschopp (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org) in the church office.

Work and Shop at the Attic to Basement Sale

This year's Attic to Basement Sale will be held Friday, August 3 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

There's many ways you can help make the ABC sale a success:

- Come when you can to join in the pricing and sorting of items on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Volunteer to work on sale days as a cashier, watch the hold table, help visitors, and more.
- After the sale on Monday, August 6, help box up leftover items and distribute them to charities around Ames.

To volunteer, contact Barbara Faidley (515-233-3874, barbara@faidley.org)

Save the Date for Work and Ice Cream – 7/28

On Saturday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m. come help move all the ABC sale items from the West Basement to the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. After the hard work, enjoy fellowship together over ice cream and homemade cookies in the church parlor.

Ames UCC Pride T-Shirts

I have a shirt from the national church that features a simple line of rainbow commas. It is no longer available, but I've received so many compliments that I've designed a version just for us: A blue unisex American Apparel shirt with rainbow commas and Ames United Church of Christ below. I was not able to design a v-neck for women and still have the shirt be American made (we can't celebrate our pride through sweatshop labor). The final price per shirt will depend on how many of us order them, but plan on \$19-25. American Apparel shirts run small, so you may consider going up a size. Please give me your order by Monday, July 23 (eileen@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323). I'll give you the final pricing that day. -Pr. Eileen

Blast Back to School Fair Supplies

This year Ames UCC will be supporting the Story County Blast Back to School Fair through donation of school supplies. **You are invited to participate by providing either monetary donations, or donations of 12-packs of Crayola colored pencils.** Donations can be left at the church office or given to Linda Hanson. We are providing 450 packs of colored pencils.

Blast Back to School takes place on August 10, 2018 and aims to relieve the burden of back to school expenses for local families of K – 12 students in a festive and engaging environment (translation: bouncy house, face painting and Kona ice) and is sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Story County, Volunteer Center of Story County, Primary Health Care, Ames Community School District, YSS, Cornerstone Church and community volunteers. Each child will receive basic school supplies and backpacks while supplies last (last year we provided supplies to 800 young people!), to help them start their 2018-19 school year. Primary Health Care provides physicals in their new mobile health unit (it is unbelievably cool...).

In exchange for our participation, we will be given a booth at the event which allows us to tell children about Wednesday Afternoon Club, youth group and other events sponsored by our church for children and youth. Both Pastor Eileen and Pastor Hannah will be at the event!

Thanks in advance for your support!

Prayer & Practice: Sunrise & Sunset

Humanity is just one creature among many, among more than we even yet know. Yet we know we are the loudest of all species, the one consuming the greatest number of resources. To hear the voice of God and remember that the trees are as beloved as we, try using sunrise and/or sunset as a time of prayer. Print out an annual calendar of times for each, then watch the skies as we rotate to or from our great star. Let the amount of time the transition takes be an offering of silence and an act of grateful humility. -Pr. Eileen Gebbie

Calendar for the Week

Monday, July 16

Pr. Eileen away on vacation through Thursday, July 19

Sexton David Cook away on vacation through Saturday, July 26

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

Tuesday, June 17

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, July 18

Fall Newsletter Articles Due

9:00 a.m. ABC Sale Work Time

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

Saturday, July 21

9:30 a.m. Food at First

Sunday, July 22

9:30 a.m. Worship at Ames UCC

10:30 a.m. AMOS Core Team

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.

David Cook, Sexton
cookdavi@gmail.com

Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister
eileen@amesucc.org

Hannah Hannover,
Minister to Children & Families
hannah@amesucc.org

Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director
llackore@gmail.com

Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Instrumentalist
sunny@amesucc.org

Katie Tschopp,
Church Office Administrator
office@amesucc.org