



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, July 22, 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 Boyd Dohrmann, Irene Dohrmann, Barbara Hauerrberg, Steve Rogers-Smith, and Kim Spangler. Nancy Dunn and Ben Schrag are providing coffee fellowship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING SONG "Spirit, Open My Heart" (insert)

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Pr. Eileen
A formal, and mutual, invitation to move into the worship experience.

One: Where you go, I will go.

Many: The Lord, our God, is faithful.

One: Your people shall be my people.

Many: The Lord, our God, is faithful.

One: Your God shall be my God.

Many: The Lord, our God, is faithful.

HYMN "To Abraham and Sarah (I Will Be Your God)" (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: Hopeful God, you are our eternal hope, from the dawn to the dusk of our lives. Bless our efforts to walk in your path, and pardon us when we go astray, as we seek always to be fully yours. 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.
Merciful God,

**Many: Forgive us, for we have been faithless.
Daily you offer us chances to serve you, and we decline them.
We turn inward and ignore your world in need.
We hoard time, energy, and resources.
Have mercy on us and bring us back into 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: God is faithful, just and kind, and will not forsake us, even when we go astray. Hear the words of forgiveness offered to you, that your sins are remembered no more and your creator restores your life for the sake of Jesus your savior. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE IN PUPPETRY Ruth 1:1-22

Amanda Petefish-Schrag and Ben Schrag have built a “crankie” to help tell the story of Ruth. Audrey Susai, Vivian Cook, Lena Menefee-Cook, and Amanda Petefish-Schrag (designer) will serve as puppeteers and readers. All children and youth are welcome to come forward for a closer view.

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from

marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” She said to them,

“Call me no longer Naomi,
call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.
I went away full,
but the LORD has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi
when the LORD has dealt harshly with me,
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

SCRIPTURE IN SONG Barb Fisher, Vivian Cook, Lena Menefee Cook,
Ben Schrag (writer)

SERMON The Rev. Mary Jane Button-Harrison,
Pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Will You Come and Follow Me” (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 “Wherever We Go, We Will Serve the Lord” G. Norbet
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

HYMN OF SENDING “Guide My Feet” (insert)

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off. Please join us in the parlor next door for a grand opening of the new space. Enjoy coffee, tea, treats, and community.

RAGBRAI Emergency Weather Shelter

The Exec Board approved a request from Ames Main Street to be a designated emergency weather shelter for the RAGBRAI downtown events on Tuesday, July 24. The plan is to watch the weather report on Tuesday. If it looks like severe weather is a probability, we will make some telephone calls and post on the Fellowship Hall Facebook group asking for those who are available to meet at the church.

We will need a couple of folks at the door(s) preventing people from bringing alcohol into the church. It would also be good to have some of us around to answer directional questions and ensure our property stays intact during the chaos.

Please pray for a safe event and clear skies!

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.

Please try to bring any last minute donations for the sale as soon as possible so everything can be sorted and priced!

Barbara Faidley will be signing people up to help work the sale after worship today, Sunday July 22. Helpers are needed to make the sale a success:

- Join other ABC sale prep workers anytime Wednesday, July 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Thursday, July 26 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to get everything ready to move.
- Help price and sort items the week before the sale.
- Work a shift as a cashier or at the hold table during the sale.
- After the sale on Monday, August 6, clean up and help box up leftover items and distribute them to charities around Ames.

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

No Women's Fellowship – 7/26

Due to conflicts with the Attic to Basement Sale prep, there will be no Women's Fellowship on Wednesday, July 26. Please join us during one of the ABC sale work times for fun and fellowship together!

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. If it rains Saturday night, join us at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning after worship in the park instead.

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

Prayer & Practice: The Psalms

The psalms are the oldest part of our Bible. Likely hymns and prayers for worship, they include every conceivable human emotion and the language to share it with God, from joy to anger and everything in between. Praying with the psalms is the simple act of reading one, repeatedly, out loud or in silence, at least three times, pausing at words or phrases that pull at your heart strings. You might open with, "Gracious God, I offer this prayer" and conclude with the Lord's Prayer. -Pr. Eileen Gebbie

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)

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!

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DID YOU KNOW?



**SHARED EXPERIENCES,
LIKE INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE,
FOSTERS COMMUNITY AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT
WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER
AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL SPACES.**



John Roberto, editor of "Lifelong Faith"



Ames United Church of Christ

Calendar for the Week

Monday, July 23

Sexton David Cook away on vacation through Saturday, July 28

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Clark/Starck)

Thursday, July 26

1:00 p.m. ABC Sale Work Time

Saturday, July 28

6:00 p.m. Move ABC Sale Items

Tuesday, July 24

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Sunday, July 29

9:30 a.m. Worship at Brookside Park with First Christian Church and First Baptist Church

Wednesday, July 25

9:00 a.m. ABC Sale Work Time
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
1:00 p.m. Newsletter Crew

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.

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Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director
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Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister
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