



**Ames United Church of Christ**  
**Sunday, August 12, 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 Jim Coppoc, Kermit Dirks, Trudy Dirks, Steve Rogers-Smith, and Linda Shenk.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL**

**CENTERING MUSIC**      "Now Thank We All Our God"      arr. G. F. Kaufmann

**GREETINGS**

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

One:      God has looked upon us with favor!  
**Many:      Praise the name of the Lord!**

One:      God has done great things for us!  
**Many:      Praise the name of the Lord!**

One:      God has remembered the promises made to us!  
**Many:      Praise the name of the Lord!**

**HYMN**      "Now Thank We All Our God," Hymn 419  
*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."*

**LITANY OF FAITH** “The Things That Count” by Ellen Wheeler Wilcox

*Typically during this portion of the service, we join in a formal, corporate prayer of confession and assurance of pardon. Today we have a poem in the form of a litany, a poem that gets to the acts that fall short of covenant and reminders of how to do a little bit better. So, confession and assurance in a slightly different format.*

One: Now, dear, it isn’t the bold things,  
Great deeds of valour and might,  
That count the most in the summing up of life at the end of the day.

Many: **But it is the doing of old things,  
Small acts that are just and right;**

One: And doing them over and over again, no matter what others say;  
In smiling at fate, when you want to cry, and in keeping at work when  
you want to play—

Many: **Dear, those are the things that count.**

One: And, dear, it isn’t the new ways  
Where the wonder-seekers crowd  
That lead us into the land of content, or help us to find our own.

Many: **But it is keeping to true ways,**

One: Though the music is not so loud,  
And there may be many a shadowed spot where we journey along  
alone;  
In flinging a prayer at the face of fear, and in changing into a song a  
groan—

Many: **Dear, these are the things that count.**

One: My dear, it isn’t the loud part  
Of creeds that are pleasing to God,  
Not the chant of a prayer, or the hum of a hymn, or a jubilant shout or  
song.

Many: **But it is the beautiful proud part  
Of walking with feet faith-shod;  
And in loving, loving, loving through all, no matter how things go  
wrong;**

One: In trusting ever, though dark the day, and in keeping your hope when  
the way seems long—

Many: **Dear, these are the things that count.**

**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 4:1-22

*Amanda Petefish-Schrag and Ben Schrag have built a “crankie” to help tell the story of Ruth. Amanda will operate the puppetry along with Audrey Susai, Lena Menefee-Cook, Vivian Cook, and Megan Henson. All children and youth are welcome to come forward for a closer view.*

Meanwhile, Boaz had gone to the gate and sat down there. And now the redeemer whom Boaz had mentioned passed by. He called, “Come over and sit down here, So-and-so!” And he came over and sat down. Then Boaz took ten elders of the town and said, “Be seated here”; and they sat down.

He said to the redeemer, “Naomi, now returned from the country of Moab, must sell the piece of land which belonged to our kinsman Elimelech. I thought I should disclose the matter to you and say: Acquire it in the presence of those seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you are willing to redeem it, redeem! But if you will not redeem, tell me, that I may know. For there is no one to redeem but you, and I come after you.” “I am willing to

redeem it,” he replied. Boaz continued, “When you acquire the property from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabite, you must also acquire the wife of the deceased, so as to perpetuate the name of the deceased upon his estate.” The redeemer replied, then I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own estate. You take over my right of redemption, for I am unable to exercise it.”

Now this was formerly done in Israel in cases of redemption or exchange: to validate any transaction, one man would take off his sandal and hand it to the other. Such was the practice in Israel. So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Acquire for yourself,” he drew off his sandal. And Boaz said to the elders and to the rest of the people, “You are witnesses today that I am acquiring from Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon, as my wife, so as to perpetuate the name of the deceased upon his estate, that the name of the deceased may not disappear from among his kinsmen and from the gate of his home town. You are witnesses today.”

All the people at the gate and the elders answered, “We are. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built up the House of Israel! Prosper in Ephrathah and perpetuate your name in Bethlehem! And may your house be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah—through the offspring which the Lord will give you by this young woman.”

So Boaz married Ruth; she became his wife, and he cohabited with her. The Lord let her conceive, and she bore a son. And the women said to Naomi, “Blessed by the Lord, who has not withheld a redeemer from you today! May his name be perpetuated in Israel! He will renew your life and sustain your old age; for he is born of your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons.”

Naomi took the child and held it to her bosom. She became its foster mother, and the women neighbors gave him a name, saying, “A son is born to Naomi!” They named him Obed; he was the father of Jesse, father of David.

This is the line of Perez: Perez begot Hezron, Hezron begot Ram, Ram begot Ammi-nadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, Nahshon begot Salmon, Salmon begot Boaz, Boaz begot Obed, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

**SCRIPTURE IN SONG**      “Ruth 4” by Ben Schrag, performed with Barb Fisher, Eric Shares, and Val Shedd

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF REFLECTION**      “In the Bulb There is a Flower,” Hymn 433

**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

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

arr. D. Wood

*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](mailto:office@amesucc.org).*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## HYMN OF SENDING

“Blessed Assurance” (insert)

## BENEDICTION

*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a welcome reception in honor of Megan Henson, our new Youth Director.*

*Flowers this morning are in celebration of Barbara and LeVern Faidley’s 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. White gladiolas were used at their wedding 50 years ago.*

## 9:30 a.m. Worship Through August

Our 9:30 a.m. summer worship schedule continues through August. On Sunday, September 2 (Labor Day Weekend) we will return to 10:30 a.m. Stay tuned for updates on our Sunday, September 9 Rally Day plan.

## Blessing of Backpacks – 8/19

Kids and teachers, bring your backpacks for a blessing during worship on Sunday, August 19 at 9:30 a.m.

## Readers for Worship – Please Say Yes

Look, our pulpit literally has your name on it. Please sign up to lead/read our opening prayers and scripture in worship. Neither perfection nor comfort in front of people is required. Please say yes. -Pr. Eileen ([eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org), 515-232-5323).



## Thank you for making the Attic to Basement Church Sale a success!

The Attic to Basement Sale took in \$3,065.50 and provided free items to nine people during the Free to Those Who Need portion of the sale. Thank you to all the people who make this sale a success through work and through shopping! When we work together as a church we can do great things. 20% of these proceeds will go to ACCESS (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support) in Ames, with the rest going to the Building Escrow Fund for the future needs of the church building.

### Thank you from the Worship and Music Team

Many people throughout the year help make our worship services run smoothly and provide a welcome to newcomers and members of the church. Thank you to the following people who volunteered in the months of June and July: Eric Abbott, Kevin Binder, Janet Binder, Jerry Chase, Sally Chase, Jim Coppoc, Kermit Dirks, Trudy Dirks, Boyd Dohrmann, Irene Dohrmann, Barbara Faidley, LeVern Faidley, Mim Fritz, Barbara Hauerrberg, Emily Kenneke, Greg Lamont, Sue Lamont, Nancy Marks, Tom Meyers, Steve Rogers-Smith, Kim Spangler, and Justin Watts



### Prayer & Practice: Color

Adult coloring books are here to stay! And they prove to be a good way to calm our minds and focus our attention, which are both key to developing a robust prayer life. The national UCC has some good titles that help teach about our particular branch of the Christian family tree ([uccresources.com](http://uccresources.com)) and the Inspire series of scripture with coloring and journaling prompts is also good (though you will notice some theological differences). Sometimes prayer gets so shrouded in seriousness or the mystical that we forget the playfulness of God and the silliness of our scripture, like God and Leviathan and Balaam and his ass.

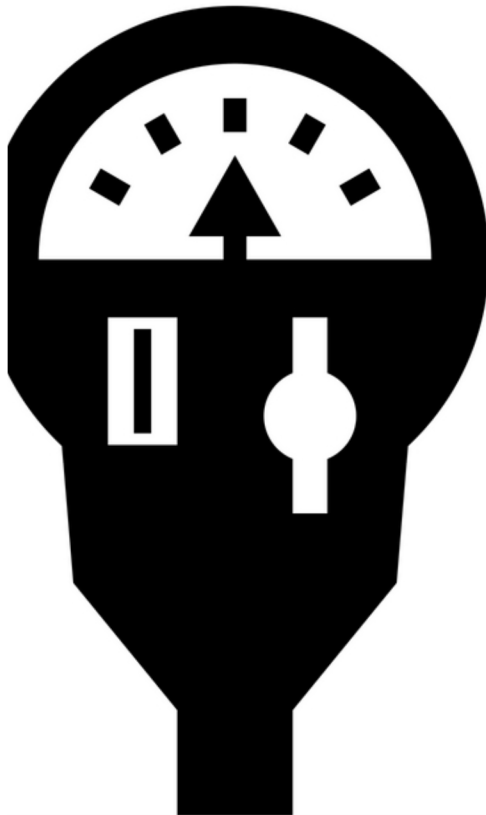
-Pr. Eileen Gebbie

### Meet Megan Henson, our New Youth Director

Megan is an Iowa City native and has been a proud member of the Congregational Church United Church of Christ since birth. She moved to Ames after graduating from the University of Iowa with a bachelor's degree in Studio Arts. Since then, she has held numerous positions working with the youth of Ames. She is an empathetic listener, a bridge builder, a cat whisperer, and a notoriously messy artist. She is always in the mood for a good cup of coffee and conversation. She prides herself on recognizing individuals and their strengths, seeing how everything is interconnected, and practicing radical love and acceptance. She is excited to work with the youth ministry, to laugh and be outrageous, to snack, and to build lasting relationships. She lives with her fiancé, Mat, and cat, Munster.



# Reminder



**Per new city rules,  
the church parking  
spots are now for  
permit-displaying  
cars only.**

**Parking in those  
spaces at any time  
(even in the evening)  
will result in a ticket.**

**The only exception is  
Sunday.**

## Calendar for the Week

### Monday, August 13

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence  
Project (Lamont)  
7:15 p.m. Financial Stewardship

### Tuesday, August 14

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

### Wednesday, August 15

10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday  
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

### Saturday, August 18

9:30 a.m. Volunteer at Food at First

### Sunday, August 19

9:30 a.m. Worship  
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.

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