



hesed or *chesed*

Loving-kindness,
Long-acting love,
Steadfast love,
Devotion,
Covenantal devotion,
The love that will not let you go

Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, August 5, 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 Emily Kenneke, Karen Lasche, Steve Rogers-Smith, Kim Spangler, and Lynette Spicer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" arr. P. Manz

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Pat Spangler
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 "God Made from One Love" (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: Faithful God, your promises can be trusted and your word is true.
Keep us ever mindful of the blessings we enjoy as your children, and use them to bless others in turn. For the sake of the ever-rising Christ, 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 us all, that our sins are remembered no more and our creator restores our lives for the sake of Jesus, our healer. 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 3:1-18

Amanda Petefish-Schrag and Ben Schrag have built a “crankie” to help tell the story of Ruth. After Pr. Eileen summarizes what has happened, and what is to come, Amanda will operate the puppetry along with Audrey Susai, Lena Menefee-Cook, and Vivian Cook. The accompanying piece of music is by Baby Dee and titled “Unheard of Hope.”

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and he was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came stealthily and uncovered his feet, and lay down. At midnight the man was startled, and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman! He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin.” He said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman. But now, though it is true that I am a near kinsman, there is another kinsman more closely related than I. Remain this night, and in the morning, if he will act as next-of-kin for you, good; let him do it. If he is not willing to act as next-of-kin for you, then, as the LORD lives, I will act as next-of-kin for you. Lie down until the morning.”

So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before one person could recognize another; for he said, "It must not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." Then he said, "Bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley, and put it on her back; then he went into the city. She came to her mother-in-law, who said, "How did things go with you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, saying, "He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, 'Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'" She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest, but will settle the matter today."

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" (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 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" arr. C. Callahan
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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING "Go, My Children, with My Blessing," Hymn 82

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.

Flowers on the chancel this morning are in celebration of Barbara and LeVern Faidley's 50th wedding anniversary. White gladiolas were used at their wedding 50 years ago.

Prayer & Practice: The Divine Hours

The divine hours (or divine offices) are Christian prayers intended for set periods from rising until retiring. A good introduction to the practice is Phyllis Tickle's "The Divine Hours: Pocket Edition." The language may not entirely match your theology but the rhythm and discipline may set the stage to develop your own daily cycle of prayers. -Pr. Eileen Gebbie

Our New Youth Director Megan Henson

We are delighted to announce that, after a 7 month search, we now have a new Youth Director, Megan Henson, pictured here accepting our offer. You may recognize Megan from her work at the Ames Public Library. Megan will begin next week, with her first Sunday on August 12. Stay tuned for her bio, contact information, and the like. Please plan to attend a welcome reception after worship on the 12th.



Thank you, all, for investing in this expanded position, but most importantly, in our youth!

Attic to Basement Church Sale Clean Up

Thank you for helping make this year's Attic to Basement Church Sale a success! Now that the sale is over, we have to clean up what's left. We will start work on Monday, August 6 at 8:30 a.m. and continue until everything is gone. If you have a truck or large vehicle, please come help deliver leftover items to other charitable organizations around Ames.

You're Invited: Barbara and LeVern Faidley's 50th Anniversary Party

Barbara and LeVern Faidley will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary with an Open House on Saturday, August 11 from 4 – 7 pm at the church. We would like our church family to celebrate with us so everyone from the church is welcome. Please come and enjoy a meal and a photo show of some of the events of our 50 years. Please RSVP to the following website: <https://50th.faidley.org> or to Barbara at barbara@faidley.org by Tuesday, August 7.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, August 6

8:30 a.m. Clean up for the ABC Sale
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Watts)

Thursday, August 9

Lesley Lackore's Ames UCC Anniversary

Sunday, August 12

9:30 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, August 8

10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship

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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