

**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, September 16, 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 Debi Ford, Mim Fritz, Barbara Hauerrberg, Linda Shenk, and Lynette Spicer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" arr. P. Manz

GREETINGS

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

One: We step out in trust, not knowing where we go.
Many: God is faithful!

One: We follow your lead, O Lord, even when we don't understand.
Many: God is faithful!

One: Bring us to the place where your promise is fulfilled.
Many: God is faithful!

HYMN "The God of Abraham Praise," Hymn 24
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, Abram and his family trusted you with their lives and all that they owned. May we also place our days within your hands, sure of the promise you have made us: to go before us, beside us, and after us with your indefinable protection. In Jesus’ name, 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 how we have betrayed and forgotten our wholeness before God and one another. Faithful God,

**Many: You have called us to places unknown
and have promised to be our guide.
Yet we prefer to find our own way and do our own thing,
taking credit when things go well
and blaming others when they don’t.
We resist putting our trust in you.
We forget your covenant with us.
And we suffer for it.
Turn us around to walk where you are leading.
Forgive us for wandering from the path.
In Jesus’ name. 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.

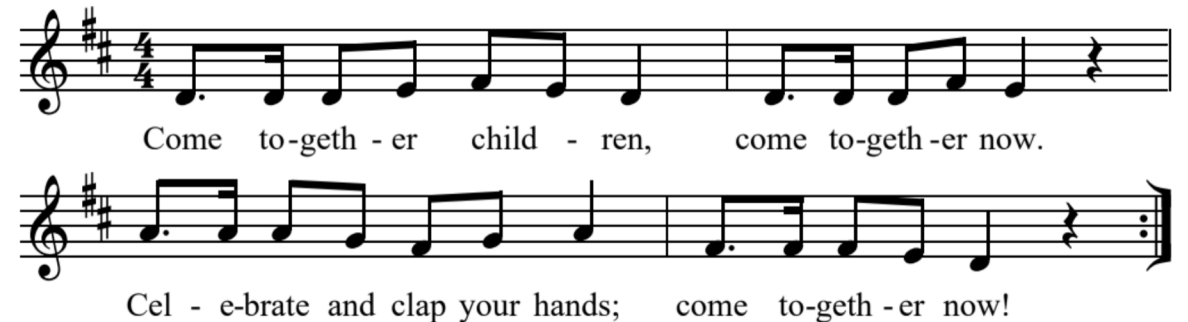
One: God is faithful at all times, to all who seek guidance, waiting patiently for those who have not. May you know the grace which has been freely offered to you, and the special blessing which God continually grants to all, even when unasked. Receive the presence of your loving creator, for the sake of Jesus 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 “Come Together Children” K. Stewart WITH THE PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

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 image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Come to-geth - er child - ren, come to-geth - er now." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Cel - e-brate and clap your hands; come to-geth - er now!" The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for children's participation.

Kindergarten: Mariela Briseno, Lucy Hannover
3rd Grade: Sam Becker, Oscar Chelcea, Elliott Coffey, Fionn Coppoc, Stella Klocke
High School Youth: Ben McHenry, Aidan Shenk Cook, Will Coppoc, Emma Johnson, Aria Pilcher, Jacob Buchele, Marlys O'Neal, Kathryn Shields

HEBREW BIBLE Genesis 12:1-9 (Robert Alter's translation) Jeremy Best

We us "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.

And the Lord said to Abram, "go forth from your land and your birthplace and your father's house to the land I will show you. And I will make you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you, and those who damn you I will curse, and all the clans of the earth through you shall be blessed." And Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him and Lot went forth with him, Abram being seventy-five years old when he left Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew and all the goods that had gotten sand the folks they had bought in Haran, and they set out on the way to the land of Canaan, and they came to the land of Canaan. And Abram crossed through the land to the site of Shechem, to the Terebinth of Morah. The Canaanite was then in the and. And the Lord appears to Abram and said. "To your seed I will give this land." And (Abram) built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. And he pulled up his stakes from there for the high country east of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east, and (Abram) built there an altar to the Lord, and he invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed onward by stages to the Negeb.

SERMON

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Come to the Table of Grace" (insert)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right, it is good, and it is joyful to give thanks to you, God of mystery and miracle. When there was only darkness,

Many: you made light.

One: When we cried out to you from captivity,

Many: you claimed us as your own.

One: When we forgot our love for you,

Many: you did not forget us,

One: sending your prophets to turn us around and renewing your promises with a bow in the sky, the parting of the sea, your own Son. And so we praise you, tuning our voices to the angels' songs::

Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and light,
this heavenly earth is full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are those who love in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Setting the Table

One: Thank you for Jesus—for his teaching and healing, his challenging and feeding, his living and dying and rising, and rising, and rising again, that all the world made know newness of hope. We thank you that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and shared it with his friends and enemies alike, saying, take, eat—my body breaking because of you. Thank you for the way he took the cup, the new covenant sealed in his love. Whenever you eat and drink, he said, do it in remembrance of me. With thanksgiving we take this bread and wine, gifts of the good earth, dedicating ourselves to your service.

Many: **Dying, you destroy fear;
rising, you restore hope.
With you, we open the table.**

Sharing the Feast

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: **Through the power of your Spirit unite us with Christ
and with one another
as we work and wait in hope,
confident in that day when with Christ
we will have truly set the table for all.
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 "When We Gather at the Table" Joseph M. Martin/Joel Raney
Chancel 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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" (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, September 17

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Chase)

Tuesday, September 18

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, September 19

10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
2:00 p.m. Wednesday
Afternoon Club
6:30 p.m. A Little Bit of Everything
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 23

Neighbors in Need Offering
9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. 2019 Dream Budget Q&A

Commit to Create: Building Relationships

Did you know that for the price of just two Venti Salted Caramel Mocha Frappuccinos, everyone who comes to Learning Center and worship on a Sunday morning gets coffee, tea, water, and treats? We get equally good “deals” on the cost of fellowship events like soccer in the park, pastoral care and visitation ministries from Prs. Hannah Hannover and Eileen Gebbie and the Matthew 25 Ministers, and the relational culture we have learned to implement and value through our membership in AMOS.

Pledge cards for our 2019 Dream Budget are in the bulletin. If you did not receive a copy of that budget and related brochure, find one in your pew, in the back of the sanctuary, or contact Katie Tschopp (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org). On Sunday, October 14 we will formally receive all pledges in worship, but you are welcome to submit it earlier via the offering plate.

Help Sort the Holiday Hoopla – 9/19

The Holiday Hoopla and Cookies Sale which Ames UCC normally hosts in October will not be held this year because we will be worshipping in the Fellowship Hall at that time. Holiday donations that came in for this sale need to be sorted and boxed for next year! Please come help on Wednesday morning, September 19 at 9:00 a.m. and join in the work and fellowship.

A Little Bit of Everything – 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, 12/5

Did you know that the legal name of our local church is “United Church of Christ – Congregational”? And that our original name was “First Congregational Church”? What do those titles mean? Why have they changed over time? And what makes the United Church of Christ different from the Church of Christ, the Church of God in Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the United Church of God?

This program year, on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (the same time as Youth Group and Chancel Choir), I’m offering a class about the history, practices, and theology (theologies) of the United Church of Christ through video, conversation, and activities. We will open with a prayer practice and close by joining the Chancel Choir and Youth Group for song and prayer.

No homework, no RSVP, just come. Childcare for kids through 5th grade is available. Pr. Eileen

Neighbors in Need Offering – 9/23

On Sunday, September 23, Ames UCC will take part in the Neighbors in Need offering of the United Church of Christ. The Neighbors in Need offering supports the national United Church of Christ’s ministries of justice and compassion within the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). There are 20

UCC churches on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. To learn more about Neighbors in Need, visit ucc.org/nin.

Ames Pridefest & Pridefest Worship – 9/29 and 30

On Saturday, September 29 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Ames UCC will have a double-wide booth at the second annual Ames Pridefest (on Douglas at the Library) filled with prizes (sponsored by our own Marcus Johnson and The Mucky Duck Pub), our smiling faces, and God’s love. Please stop by!

On Sunday, September 30 at 2 p.m. at Collegiate United Methodist, we will co-host the first annual Ames Ecumenical Pridefest with Collegiate, First Baptist, First Christian, and Unity of Ames. Pr. Eileen will preach. If you plan to attend, and have the gift of baking, please bring cookies to share at the reception afterward.

We have a vital role we in reversing the centuries of damage Christianity has inflicted on children of God who are LGBTQIA+. Come, celebrate God’s rainbow!

Ames UCC Pride Shirts are Happening!

After a long stall due to pricing, I’ve found a new vendor locally and will have rainbow comma pride t-shirts just in time for the second annual Ames Pridefest. They come in heather blue, crew and v-neck, and will be \$15 each. To reserve yours, e-mail me at eileen@amesucc.org. I will let you know when they arrive. I’ll also have them available for purchase at church events. -Pr. Eileen

Fill Up Our Ames Pridefest Goody Bags

At our booth at Ames Pridefest on Saturday, September 29, we will be handing out goody bags that include information about Ames UCC. There’s a box in the parlor for donations of individually wrapped candy to include in those goody bags. If you’d rather put yourself to work than bring candy, come help stuff bags from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26. We plan to make 500 bags to hand out, so we need plenty of candy and plenty of help! Have questions? Contact Katie Tschopp (office@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323).

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

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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Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Instrumentalist
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Katie Tschopp,
Church Office Administrator
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Ames UCC Team Leadership

Rachel Schelle, Moderator
Lynette Spicer, Clerk
Diana McHenry, Church Representative

Building Relationships

Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

Christian Education

Allen Trenkle

Financial Stewardship

Bradley Duckstein, Joel Johnson

Social Justice and Outreach

Anna Johnson, Linda Best

Property

Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk

Worship and Music

Barbara Faidley, Tom Meyer

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.