



Ames United Church of Christ Sunday, September 23, 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 Doug Powell, Peg Powell, Rachel Schelle, Dale Shenefelt, and Donna Shenefelt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC “We Are Travelers”

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP David Sheridan
A formal and mutual invitation to move into the worship experience.

One: Sometimes bad things can work for good.

Many: **Rejoice and be glad!**

One: Sometimes disappointment leads to greater joy.

Many: **Rejoice and be glad!**

One: Praise God who turns our mourning into dancing.

Many: **Rejoice and be glad!**

HYMN “God of Abraham and Sarah”

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.”

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

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.

Come to-geth-er child -ren, come to-geth-er now. Cel-e-brate and clap your hands; come to-geth-er now!

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.

HEBREW BIBLE Genesis 39:1-23 Linda Best

New Revised Standard Version, edited for clarity

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.

Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the Lord was on

all that he had, in house and field. So Potiphar left all that he had in Joseph’s charge; and, with him there, Potiphar had no concern for anything but the food that he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking. And after a time Potiphar’s wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, “Lie with me.” But he refused and said to Potiphar’s wife, “Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her. One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, Potiphar’s wife caught hold of his garment, saying, “Lie with me!” But Joseph left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

When Potiphar’s wife saw that Joseph had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, she called out to the members of her household and said to them, “See, my husband has brought among us a Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice; and when he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside.” Then she kept Joseph’s garment by her until Potiphar came home, and she told him the same story, saying, “The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to insult me; but as soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside.”

When Potiphar heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, “This is the way your servant treated me,” he became enraged. And Potiphar took Joseph and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison. But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; God gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. The chief jailer committed to Joseph’s care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The chief jailer paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph’s care, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.

SERMON

OFFERING “We Are Your Church” Tina English, arr. John Purifoy
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.

Today we receive the Neighbors in Need offering. NIN 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.

TAKING LEAVE OF THIS SANCTUARY

Renovation to our lights, floor, and pews require that we leave our sanctuary for a few weeks. We will worship in the Fellowship Hall from Sunday, September 30 through Sunday, October 28. On Sunday, November 4 we will begin worship in the Fellowship Hall, then process back to the sanctuary.

One: Let us give thanks to God for blessings bestowed on our congregation in this sanctuary.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: Let us give thanks for the teaching, service and witness to our faith which has taken place from generation to generation within these walls.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For all those servants of God who have led your family of faith in worship, who have preached your Word, and who have administered the sacraments in this sanctuary,

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For the sacred song and music, for drama and story which have helped your people see the hope and direction of Christian living,

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For all those who have come to this place seeking you, and who, in worshiping you in spirit and in truth, have found your grace.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For those who have brought their children here for baptism and learning.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For those who have come to pledge their love to one another in your presence.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For those who in Christian faith and trust have celebrated the mortal life of a loved one and commended them to your keeping in this place.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For the forgiveness of sins confessed, for burdens made easier to carry, for distressed and troubled hearts that have found peace.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For lives which in worship have been inspired to new heights of love and of service.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For fellowship and friendships which have been nurtured through our activities in this building.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: For all this building has meant to our members and friends, who over the years have come here to find you, God.

Many: **We thank you, God.**

One: Bless us we pray, as we go from here, and as our sanctuary is renewed, that we may be bound together in the glorious adventure of creating from brick and mortar a place of love and peace.

Many: **Now unto you God,
we dedicate ourselves again,
as we leave this sanctuary for our temporary worship home.
May the presence of Your Holy Spirit guide and inspire us
in all that is to come.
Amen.**

Our recessional will begin with the removal of our sacred symbols. Please remain seated during this time, singing “As We Leave This Place, We Do Not Leave Each Other,” also written by Ben Schrag, printed below.

1. Bonnie Trede carries the Christ candle, a symbol of the light of Christ in our lives, is lit at the start of every worship except for the four weeks of Advent. A new Christ light is lit on Christmas Eve.
2. Susan Jones carries the Bible, dedicated to the church some time between 1952 and 1964.
3. Paul Lasley carries the Cross, a memorial he made in memory of Carl Rusk.
4. Nick Howell and Brad Dell carry the baptismal font, where we all start our Christian journey.
5. Will Coppoc, Norah Klocke, and Adeline O’Neal carry the Communion table, where we receive bread for that journey.

Once the Communion table is at the back of the sanctuary, the ushers for the day will excuse you row by row, starting at the front and at the middle. Those of you in the front half, or with mobility concerns, please use the arched side door. Those of you in the back half, please use the back door.

On our way to the Fellowship Hall we will sing “We are Traveling...(Siyahamba),” printed to the right.

CONSECRATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

One: Let us now consecrate our Fellowship Hall for worship and celebrate its holy use.

O eternal God, mighty in power and of incomprehensible majesty, whom the heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands, you have promised your special presence whenever two or three are assembled in your name to offer praise and prayer.

By the power of your Holy Spirit consecrate this house of your worship. Bless us and sanctify what we do here, that this place may be holy for us and a house of prayer for all people.

Save us from that failure of vision which would confine our worship within these walls, but send us out from here to be your servants in the world, sharing the blessings of Christ with the world he worked to redeem.

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, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom/kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts/trespasses as we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us. 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.

HYMN OF SENDING

"Hamba Nathi/Come Walk With Us"

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 refreshments and fellowship.

Commit to Create: Our Campus

Did you know that for just \$265 per day we are able to maintain our historic building and witness in downtown Ames, with all day use for the church and People Place, the Lutheran Services of Iowa ministry for parents with young children? For that same price at the Memorial Union we would only get a small meeting room, a nook, and a cranny (their actual room names)!

If you did not receive a copy of that budget and related brochure, 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.

Pr. Eileen on Retreat – 9/23-25

After worship today I will be driving to the Creighton University Retreat Center for the opening retreat of Prairie Fire. Prairie Fire is a two-year program of spiritual formation and practiced, inspired by the Benedictine tradition. My training and previous work experience to date prepared me to be a preacher, teacher, and congregational leader; Prairie Fire will enhance my ability to be your spiritual guide. I will have the option, after the first two years, of taking part in a third year to become a certified spiritual director. After this initial retreat, I will meet with my cohort on one Saturday each month (offset by a Thursday off so that I do not shortchange my time with my family). Thank you for affording me time and funding for continuing education! -Pr. Eileen

Women’s Fellowship – 9/25

This week on Wednesday, September 26, Women’s Fellowship will welcome Lisa Heddons to our meeting. She is the director of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness of Central Iowa). She will talk about her organization and what it does and have time for questions. Please come and give her an Ames UCC welcome. The meeting is from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. so please bring your lunch to Fellowship Hall.

Unscripted: Calmly Connecting with God and Others – 9/25

Feel stressed and too busy? A new group will be starting September 26, meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45. Join us for a midweek "pause" to participate in group spiritual practice, experience music, share conversation, and pray. We can't add minutes to your day, but maybe growing closer to God will give you a new perspective.

Questions? Contact Nancy Dunn (515-490-2083, ndunn949@gmail.com), Andrea Klocke (515-988-9422, andreaklocke@gmail.com), or Linda Hanson (515-520-2583, linda.hanson2011@gmail.com).

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!

Are You First Aid Certified?

In case of an emergency, the deacon responsible for the worship service would appreciate knowing if there is anyone in the congregation that is certified in First Aid. If you have taken the training and are certified in First Aid, please contact Barbara Faidley (515-233-3874, barbara@faidley.org). Hopefully we will never need to use your skills, but it would still be helpful to know. Thank you!

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

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Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
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Lynette Spicer, Clerk
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Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

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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.