

EXODUS

**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, September 30, 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 Eric Abbott, Herb Best, Linda Best, Pat Spangler, and Donna Starck. Coffee fellowship is provided by Rachel Hanson and Annie Lemme.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC “We Are Travelers” (insert)

This song by Ben Schrag will accompany us through our time worshipping in the Fellowship Hall.

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Emma Henry

A formal, and mutual, invitation to move into the worship experience.

One: Out of Egypt I have called my people.

Many: **We will trust in God who preserves us.**

One: The armies advance and trouble multiplies.

Many: **We will trust in God who preserves us.**

One: The water ahead looks deep and dangerous.

Many: **We will trust in God who preserves us.**

HYMN “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer” (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 ur own selves to become aware of that constant presence.

One: God, your chosen people had no choice but to trust you and you delivered them. Keep our eyes fixed on you when the waters rise, and the troubles of our lives seem insurmountable, for you are our hope and our guide. 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. Gracious God,

**Many: We are not always patient
to wait for your words and your actions in our lives.
We whine and complain,
and we try to control those things which are out of our control.
We manipulate, cheat, and extract all we can for our gain.
Forgive us.
Transform our hearts, our minds, and our behaviors
so that we might be more like you.**

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: We are blessed to be loved by a fierce and passionate God who will stop at nothing to claim us as God’s own. In God’s goodness, today, we are transformed into new creations. 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

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 the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Come to-gets - er child - ren, come to-gets - er now.

Cel - e-brate and clap your hands; come to-gets - er now!

HEBREW BIBLE

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-18, 21-29

Phil Spike

Robert Alter translation

We use "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 it was told of the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart about the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we sent off Israel from our service?" And he harnessed his chariot, and his troops he took with him. And he took six hundred picked chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over it all.

And Pharaoh drew near, and the Israelites raised their eyes and, look, Egypt was advancing toward them, and they were afraid, and the Israelites cried out to the Lord. And they said to Moses, "Was it for lack of graves in Egypt that you took us to die in the wilderness? What is this you have done to us to bring us out of Egypt? Isn't this the thing we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone, that we may serve Egypt, for it is better for us to serve Egypt than for us to die in the wilderness?'" And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Take your station and see the Lord's deliverance that He will do for you today, for as you see the Egyptians today, you shall not see them again for all time. The Lord shall do battle for you, and you, you shall keep still."

And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Speak to the Israelites, that they journey onward. As for you, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and split it apart, that the Israelites may come into the midst of the sea on dry land. As for me, look, I am about to toughen the heart of the Egyptians, that they come after them, and I shall gain glory through Pharaoh and through all his forces, through his chariots and through his riders.

And Moses stretch out his hand over the sea, and the Lord led the sea with a mighty east wind all night, and He made the sea dry ground, and the waters were split apart. And the Israelites came into the sea on dry land, and the waters a wall to them on their right and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued and came after them, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his riders, into the

sea. And it happened in the morning watch that the Lord looked out over the camp of Egypt in a pillar of fire and cloud and He panicked the camp of Egypt. And He took off the wheels of their chariots and drove them heavily, and Egypt said, "Let me flee before Israel, for the Lord does battle for them against Egypt." And the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters go back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and over their riders." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea went back toward morning to its full flow, with the Egyptians fleeing toward it, and the Lord shook out the Egyptians into the sea. And the waters came back and covered the chariots and the riders of all Pharaoh's force who were coming after them into the sea, not a single one of them remained.

SERMON

David is a member of Urbandale UCC and a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree at Chicago Theological Seminary. He is with us through Pentecost 2019 to fulfill his field education requirement.

HYMN OF REFLECTION

"In Egypt Under Pharaoh" (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

“We Have Faith, Which is Hope”

Ben Schrag

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

“Hamba Nathi” (insert)

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off. Please join us for coffee, tea, treats, and community.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, October 1

Church Office Closed:

Katie Tschopp out

Wednesday, October 3

10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

2:00 p.m. Wednesday

Afternoon Club

5:15 p.m. Congregant Dinner

6:30 p.m. A Little Bit of Everything

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 7

9:15 a.m. Godly Play

9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk

9:15 a.m. Learning Center

10:30 a.m. Worship

Commit to Create: Christian Education

In 2018 our Christian Education budget, including the cost of having a clean, heated/air conditioned and insured building to hold opportunities in as well as staff leadership and nursery care, was just under \$58,000. That sounds like a lot of money, right? But here’s what it afforded us:

- Nursery care for 52 Sunday worship services
- Nursery care for 60+ adult educational/formational opportunities
- 35 sessions of Godly Play for children in kindergarten through 5th grade
- 35 sessions (3 hours each!) of the Wednesday Afternoon Club for children in kindergarten through 5th grade (and all of the supplies required)
- 35 Sunday morning trips to Café Diem for our youth group
- 35 Wednesday evening youth group gatherings for spiritual development
- 1 mission-type event per year for the youth (with some added funds raised)
- 35 Sunday morning Learning Centers
- 45 weekly morning scripture/theological studies
- 20 evening scripture/theological studies
- 26 Men’s Fellowship gatherings and 26 Women’s Fellowship gatherings
- 4 Pizza-N-Potluck nights
- 5 Lenten Soup Suppers
- Our Rally Day party with crafts for the kids and treats for all
- Our Drag-o-Ween party for kids who are LGBTQIA+ and their friends
- Our Advent Party with crafts for the kids and meals for all
- The Annual Theologian in Residence program (the building portion, all of the rest is paid for outside of the budget)
- Safe Church criminal background checks for all adults who work in your children’s and youth ministries
- Daily e-devotionals (remind.com/amesucc/join)

Pledge cards for our 2019 Dream Budget are in the bulletin. 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.

Ames Pridefest Worship – TODAY

This afternoon, 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!

Kids' Books in the Church Library

The church library will remain open during our renovations. The children's activity tubs and the children's book shelf from the sanctuary are now in the library. Children can come before church to get some activities or books and take them into Fellowship Hall to use during our worship service.

Treats for Coffee Fellowship

Interested in providing treats for Coffee Fellowship? The Building Relationship Team would like to encourage you to volunteer on SignUpGenius (link in the sidebar of every weekly enews). This is now a separate opportunity from coffee preparation and serving.

Congregant Dinners Start in October

Coming to church on Wednesday nights for Unscripted, A Little Bit of Everything, Chancel Choir, or Youth Group? Join fellow learners and singers for dinner and fellowship from 5:15-6:30. The Building Relationship team will provide a simple meal during October (excluding October 31). Our hope is to make these mid-week opportunities even more rich, convenient, and (ful)filling. There is no charge for the meal, but a free will offering will be accepted to help with costs. Our collective participation and the 2019 budget will determine the future of this opportunity.

A Little Bit of Everything – 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?

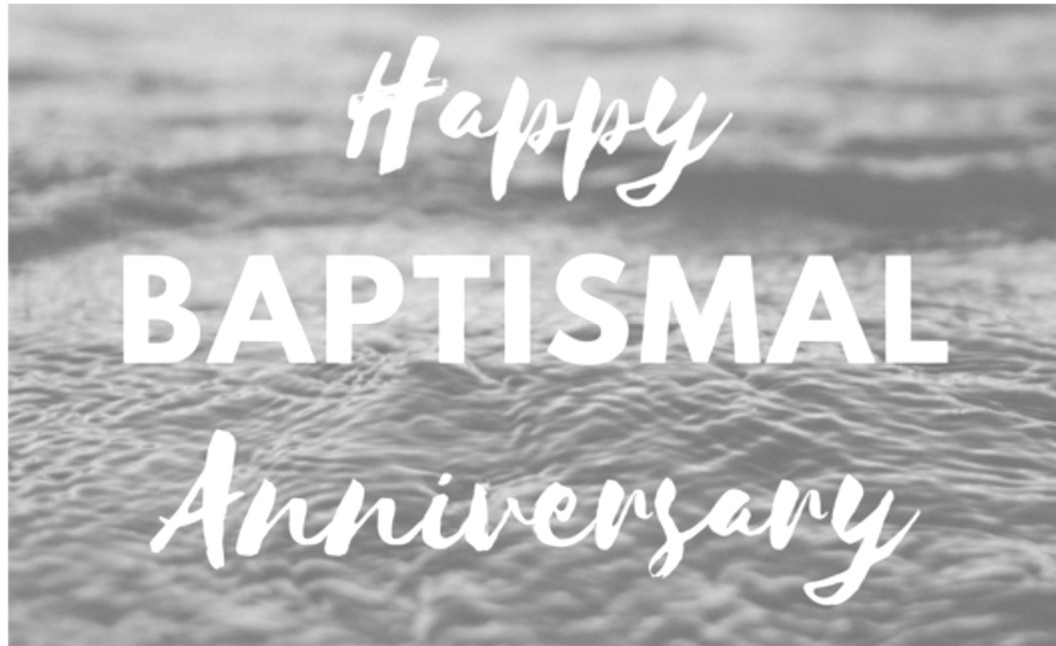
This program year, on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (the same time as Youth Group and Chancel Choir), I'm offering a class about the history, practices, and theology (theologies) of the United Church of Christ through video, conversation, and activities. We will open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

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Happy Baptismal Anniversary

The United Church of Christ celebrates two sacraments, rituals of the invisible grace of God made visible: Baptism and Holy Communion. Our church celebrates Holy Communion about once per month, but baptism only once in our lives. So as not to lose touch with those waters of life, we remember baptismal anniversaries here. We also remember the promises we have all made to those who have been baptized in our presence, here or elsewhere. This week's anniversary is Rachel Schelle! To have yours included, whenever and wherever it was, simply send the date to Pr. Eileen.

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010
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Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Tues-Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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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.