



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, April 15, 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 Nick Lyon, Ann Reinhardt, Steve Rogers-Smith, Pat Spangler, and Lynette Spicer. The Klocke family is providing coffee fellowship. Laurie Olk is scheduled for building lockup.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Most announcements are in your bulletin, our weekly e-newsletter, and our quarterly print newsletter. To sign up for the last two, contact Katie Tschopp at either 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org.

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: People of God, listen, for the great I AM is speaking.

Many: Here I am, Lord!

One: Drop everything and hear what I AM is saying!

Many: Here I am, Lord!

One: Get up and go— I AM will tell you what to do.

Many: Here I am, Lord!

HYMN

“God Is Here! As We Your People Meet,” Hymn 70

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: Mysterious Lord, you choose and use the one humanity judges most unlikely for your work. Show us the path you have prepared for us, and give us all your strength and courage to follow. 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: Let us confess our bad choices, our shortcomings, and cruelty before God and one another:

Many: **Though you have made all things new, we still cling to the old.
Forgive us when we doubt your presence, resist your call,
and lose heart in the face of challenges.
Remind us that you are bigger than our problems,
our petty concerns, and foolish preoccupations,
and restore us with your all-consuming love. 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: Jesus is risen, and yet rising, indeed. Neither our brokenness nor our evil has the power to separate us from the loves that rebukes death and endures eternally. In love, we are forgiven. 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. We sing the song below as they come forward.



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

GOSPEL John 15:16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Gospel means “good news,” making the full title of this book of the Bible “The Good News of Jesus Christ according to John.”

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the LORD will give you.

SERMON Ben D. Anderson, Minister of Disabilities Education and Advocacy for the United Church of Christ

Ben D. Anderson was commissioned by the Ministry committees of his First Congregational Church UCC in Rapid City, SD, the Ministry Committee of the South Dakota Conference (August 16, 2016) and Ministry Committee of the Black Hills Association (October 9, 2016) as a minister of disabilities education and advocacy for the United Church of Christ. Learn more at http://bendanderson.com/about_ben.htm

HYMN OF PREPARATION “As We Gather at Your Table,” Hymn 332

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE OFFERING OF FOOD AND GIFTS

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.

Invitation

One: Come! If you are hungry, there is food to eat. Come! If you are thirsty, there is water to drink. It is food for those who hunger for justice, and water for those who long for life in all its fullness. Come! Eat and drink to proclaim the feast of God's kin-dom where all are welcome and no one is left out.

Prayer

One: God, our Mother and Father,

Many: You have given us this earth rich and vibrant.

Its renewing life sustains us.

Its unfailing goodness nourishes us.

Blessed be your name.

One: Jesus, our Guide and Healer,

Many: You ate with friends and enemies.

At a meal you brought the gift of hope.

At a meal you gave the word of life.

Blessed be your name.

One: Spirit, our Comforter and Disturber,

Many: You do not leave us on our own.

Here are companions to know our joy.

Here are companions to share our sorrow.

Blessed be your name.

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast Spirit.

**Many: May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith,
increase our generosity and unify our hearts,
for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. 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

"Holy Now," by Peter Mayer
Brett Brinkmeyer

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

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing," Hymn 76

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.

Now Hiring: Youth Director

Details available at amesucc.org/youth-director. Please share broadly.

Confirmation for High School Students

Youth who will be in high school during the 2018-19 school year are invited to participate in Confirmation with Prs. Hannah and Eileen. This experience will be separate from Youth Group and will, should the confirmand decide to, culminate in a confirmation of baptismal vows during worship in May 2019.

The tentative requirements for participation are:

- Attend eight sessions (90 minutes to two hours) on one Sunday each month from September through May, except December. Confirmands may miss one.
- Attend worship at least 15 times.
- Spend time with a mentor in the congregation.
- Participate in a joint service project (which can include the service work in Youth Group proper).
- Make at least two visits to a home-bound congregant with the pastors or the mentor.

If you are interested, please let either pastor know. The final registration materials will be sent out in June due by July (there is no cost).

Hallway Flooring Installation This Week

Starting Monday April 16 installation of the new flooring in the hallway, restroom and small kitchen will begin. Access to Fellowship Hall and the kitchen from the east entrance will not be available for at least a couple of days during the week of April 16th.

The east entrance will be open for Sunday service April 22.

Executive Board Meeting – 4/17

The next Executive Board meeting is on Tuesday, April 17 at 7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Paper copies of the agenda, reports, and attachments are available today for pick up in the small kitchen window. Executive Board meetings are open to all congregants. Only voting board members may vote. Questions or comments may be submitted to Moderator Rachel Schelle (515-450-3137, rachel.l.schelle@gmail.com).

2018 Spring Cleaning Work Day – 4/21

Now that Spring officially has arrived, the Property Team is eagerly thinking about that time-honored tradition of spring cleaning. In spring and fall, we use workdays to focus on seasonal cleaning and maintenance, inside and out. With a few extra hands these jobs go fast! Spring cleaning also is a great way to learn more about our church, both our members as well as our building. We hope you seize this opportunity and join us.

Please come complete a few cleaning tasks on Saturday, April 21st from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you cannot attend Saturday's Workday, but still would like to help, tasks can be assigned and completed at your convenience. Sign up on our SignUpGenius at <http://bit.ly/2JEiHFC>.

RYE 2018 – 6/19-6/22

The Ames UCC youth group will be attending the West Central Regional Youth Event. This event is open to all youth in middle school and high school. Youth from the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ will come together for 4 days on June 19th-22nd at Grinnell College. Our days will consist of worship, workshops, socializing, service projects, and fun! Detailed information can be found at www.rye2018.org. Please contact Jean Watts (jean@amesucc.org) about registration.

Church Library News

Since Room 104 has already been painted we are just waiting for the new carpeting before the BIG MOVE occurs. The current church library will move into Room 104 soon, so we are starting to pack up some boxes to get ready for the move. The children's books will remain on display and on shelves until directly before the move, so the library will remain open with a few empty shelves and some very full boxes. Books are still available for check out. Come see us using the door by the stairs.

Free Study Bibles

How many of you still have a Bible that you received at your first Holy Communion or Confirmation or other childhood event? I do! For how many of you is that your *only* Bible?

This year we have funds budgeted to provide a few free Bibles to those in our church community who may not be able to afford a good study Bible—one with essays, maps, and footnotes. If that is you, please pick up a copy of the fourth edition (one newer than mine!) of *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha* from the Fellowship Hall.

And, for those of you who are interested, my favorite study Bibles are:

The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha, Fourth Edition (Oxford University Press, 2010)

The Jewish Study Bible, Second Edition (Oxford University Press, 2014). This does not include the gospels or the Christian letters.

The Jewish Annotated New Testament, Second Edition (Oxford University Press, 2017). This does not include the Hebrew Bible.

Synopsis of the Four Gospels (American Bible Society, 2010). This only has the gospels but lays them out side by side on the page for comparison.

Thank you for studying with me! —Pr. Eileen

Thank You for Contributing to Our Extravagant Welcome

The season of Lent and then Easter is always a busy time of the church year. The Worship and Music team wish to thank everyone who helped provide an extravagant welcome during March and for Easter: Eric Abbott, Janet Binder, Abby Buchele, Andrea Buchele, Catherine DeLong, Kermit Dirks, Trudy Dirks, Barbara Faidley, LeVern Faidley, Cornelia Flora, Erin Frank, Sarah Frank, Mim Fritz, Barbara Hauerrberg, Bonnie Hawbaker, Liz Kolbe, Greg Lamont, Karen Lasche, Nancy Marks, Tom Meyer, Diane Northington, Laurie Olk, Art Pohm, Bernie Pohm, Steve Rogers-Smith, Rachel Schelle, Ben Schrag, Dale Shenefeld, Ginny Shenk, Kim Spangler, Pat Spangler, Lynette Spicer, Jean Watts, Justin Watts. Special thanks to Steve Rogers-Smith for acting as usher during all of our Wednesday services during Lent.



DEVOTIONALS

RECEIVE REMINDERS OF
GOD'S LOVE AND PRESENCE,
IN POETRY AND PROSE,
VIA TEXT OR E-MAIL.

GO TO
REMIND.COM/JOIN/AMESUCC

Calendar for the Week

Monday, April 16

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Chase)

Tuesday, April 17

5:30 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting
7:15 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 18

8:30 a.m. Bible Study (Secret Book
of John 2/3)
10:00 a.m. ABC Sale Work Time
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club

6:30 p.m. Bible Study
(Acts 16:16-34)

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Saturday, April 21

9:30 a.m. Food at First

Sunday, April 22

9:30 a.m. Godly Play

9:30 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk

9:30 a.m. Learning Center

10:30 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Absent Spouses
Social Club

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.

24-hour pastoral emergencies:

515-428-1779

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cookdavi@gmail.com

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