



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, April 22, 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 the Coppoc family, Anna Johnson, Steve Rogers-Smith, Rachel Schelle, and Dale Shenfelt. Laura Beason and Ed Goedeken are 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: This is the house of God.

Many: We are here, ready to worship.

One: This place is holy in the eyes of our Lord.

Many: We have come to offer our praise.

One: Let us come before God with singing,

Many: And enter the house of the Lord with thanksgiving.

HYMN "From All that Dwell Below the Skies," Hymn 27

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 Lord, you have seen your servants through every trial. Stir up even today the power of your Gospel to transform, renew and lead us to the renewal of beloved community. By the power of Jesus, 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. God of Life,

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 love 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first two phrases of the song: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The second staff contains the next two phrases: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.' The melody is simple and repetitive, suitable for children's participation.

CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Acts of the Apostles is the first book in the Christian Testament after the four gospels. It was written as a companion to the Gospel of Luke.

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night (the jailer) took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. (The jailer) brought (the apostles) up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION "Praise to the Living God," Hymn 8

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 "Make My Life an Alleluia" Ruth Elaine Schram
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 "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds," Hymn 393

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

You are welcome to sit for the postlude or stay and talk or head out for coffee. Mark will not be in the least bit offended, either way. "It's sending music!," as he likes to say.

Contact for Pastoral Emergencies

I have had to shut down our pastoral emergency phone line because of changes on Google's end in functionality. In the future, please use my cell or Pr. Hannah's as printed in the church directory. (If you need a directory, contact Katie at office@amesucc.org or 515-232-9323). Call at any time if you or a member of your immediate family have been arrested, are being rushed to the hospital, have been a victim of violence, are going into premature labor, are suddenly deployed for active military duty or if you are overwhelmed with despair. Otherwise, please use discretion when using these personal numbers, particularly in the evening or on our weekends (Fridays and Saturdays). Thank you! -Pr. Eileen

Women's Fellowship – 4/25

Join us for Women's Fellowship on Wednesday, April 25 at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. April is Volunteer Month. Bring your lunch and come learn about the volunteer activities that women in the church participate in. Share your own volunteering stories, too! Upcoming Women's Fellowship events include a service project, and a discussion about day trips in Iowa.

Hear The Rev. Traci Blackmon on Monday, May 7 – Register by 4/25

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Interfaith Alliance of Iowa banquet and awards service on Monday, May 7 in Des Moines:

"Rev. Blackmon became nationally recognized as a prominent voice for social change in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown, Jr., in Ferguson, MO, just miles from her church. She immediately got involved in organizing the Black Lives Matter movement, effectively assisted and collaborated with the people in the community working for justice. She was appointed to the Ferguson Commission by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships for the White House by President Barack H. Obama."

If you would like to go with me, tickets are \$100 each (\$800 for a table of eight). If we register together, we will be able to sit together, so I'm glad to process the registration and then be reimbursed. Please let me know by Wednesday, April 25 if you would like me to register you as part of our table.

This is sure to be a memorable and moving evening, especially for those of us in the United Church of Christ. –Pr. Eileen

In case spring or summer ever arrive: UCC t-shirts

The national UCC has put their "Be the Church" t-shirt on sale. Let's take advantage of the moment to nab some for ourselves. They are black, 100% preshrunk cotton, short-sleeved t-shirts. "God is still speaking" tagline in red and tan on front. The back features, in tan print, 10 powerful statements that describe what it means to "Be the Church":

- Be the Church
- Protect the environment.
- Care for the poor.
- Forgive often.
- Reject racism.
- Fight for the powerless.
- Share earthly and spiritual resources.
- Embrace diversity.
- Love God.
- Enjoy this life.



The shirts come in unisex small, medium, large, XL, 2XL through 3XL and the cost is \$17 per shirt (\$16.20 + \$0.80 for shipping).

Please let me know by Monday, May 7 what size(s) you would like. Payment may be made via check or cash in the offering plate or at pick up once they arrive. —Pr. Eileen

Upcoming Learning Center Topics

April 29, AMOS, A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy

Ben Schrag and other members of the Ames UCC AMOS core team will talk about current efforts to strengthen the work by UCC members as well as the focuses of the entire Ames team of ten congregations and two nonprofit organizations. AMOS is an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation, the nation's oldest and largest organizing network.

May 6, God Talk: What is religious freedom?

The Rev. Charles Kniker will facilitate a discussion on why religious freedom is essential. Why does it merit such heightened concern by citizens and policymakers?

Cards of Care

Have you ever felt scared and alone, grieving and heartsick? Did someone reach out to you at just the right time? Please join me and a small group of congregants in being present for each other during such times through greeting cards (actual paper in the actual mail). If yes, please let me know and I will add you to our list of fellow "care card-ers." And if you know of someone who might appreciate a little postal love from their fellow seekers, please let me know. –Pr. Eileen (eileen@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323)

Bring Items and Volunteer for the Annual Attic to Basement Sale

Please leave donations for the Attic to Basement Sale on the table in the elevator vestibule of the West Basement. Workers will take it from there to sort into categories. Remember, we cannot accept clothing. Everything else is welcome. Please wait to bring your larger items until closer to the date of the sale. The sale is scheduled for August 3 & 4.

Ready to help sort these donations? The west basement is organized and all the sorting tubs are ready. Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. We will work no later than 12:00 p.m., but feel free to come and leave early! Get to know a great group who have lots of fun while getting things done along the way.

Parlor Wall Color - 150th Capital Campaign Renovation Implementation Team

The committee is aware that concerns have been expressed regarding the color selection for the parlor walls. Based on the advice of our highly regarded interior designer, we believe we should stay with this selection until the furniture, carpeting and other renovations are complete.

The color scheme was selected to complement the new furniture and carpet, as well as to enhance the beautiful stained-glass windows. We did express the concerns we heard from members of the congregation to the designer who visited the parlor on Tuesday. She believes the "finished look" will be great.

We have heard your concerns and are asking that you wait until the total plan is in place. After giving the new look some time, if need be, we will reassess the color of the walls.

During the course of this project the team has conducted opportunities for comments and discussion. We have been open with the plan, providing various presentations including diagrams and samples of all flooring, fabrics, furniture and wall colors for interested members to review. We will continue to listen to your comments.

Team members:

Ken Birt (ken.birt.118@gmail.com), David Cook (cookdavi@gmail.com), Elaine Hieber (jehieber@gmail.com), Greg Luecke (grluecke@iastate.edu), Laurie Olk (olkart@yahoo.com)

QUESTIONS
DOUBTS
HISTORIES

bible
study

FELLOWSHIP
PRAYER
GROWTH

CHECK THE CHURCH CALENDAR
FOR WEEKLY DETAILS:
AMESUCC.ORG/CALENDAR.HTML

Calendar for the Week

Tuesday, April 24

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, April 25

8:30 a.m. Bible Study (Secret Book
of John 3/3)

10:00 a.m. ABC Sale Work Time

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

12:15 p.m. Women's Fellowship

2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club

6:30 p.m. Bible Study
(Acts 17:16-31)

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, April 29

9:15 a.m. Godly Play

9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk

9:15 a.m. Learning Center:
AMOS Core Team

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.

David Cook, Sexton
cookdavi@gmail.com

Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister
eileen@amesucc.org

Hannah Hannover,
Minister to Children & Families
hannah@amesucc.org

Mark Kretsinger-Harries,
Substitute Instrumentalist
m.kretsinger.harries@gmail.com

Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director
llackore@gmail.com

Katie Tschopp,
Church Office Administrator
office@amesucc.org

Jean Watts, Youth Director
jean@amesucc.org