



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, April 29, 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 Brent Brinkmeyer, Karen Lasche, Tom Meyer, Carl Tipton, and Tania Tipton. Jerry and Sally Chase 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: From the fullness of our God we have all received,
Many: **Grace upon grace.**

One: The covenant indeed was given through Moses;
Many: **Its grace and truth were affirmed through Jesus Christ.**

One: No one has ever seen God.
Many: **But God has been made known to us by the Christ and the Spirit.**

HYMN "God, Our Author and Creator," Hymn 530

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: God of all nations, your word reaches every corner of the earth. Open our ears to your word, and our hearts to those around us who do not speak of it as we do, 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 our brokenness 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.



CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT Acts of the Apostles 17:16-31

(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.

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the (Jewish people) and the (other) devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this babblers want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in

it, the God who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is served by human hands, as though God needed anything, since Godself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for and find God—though indeed the Lord is not far from each one of us. For ‘In God we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are God’s offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now the Lord commands all people everywhere to repent, because God has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man appointed, and of this God has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Blessed Assurance” (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 “The King Shall Come” arr. Mark Kretsinger-Harries
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 “When in Our Music God is Glorified,” Hymn 561
Today is Mark Kretsinger-Harries’ last Sunday with us as Sunny Stewart will formally return from medical leave next week. Let’s sing this as a celebration of all musicians who heed God’s call to church ministry.

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

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, tea, CAKE, and the chance to thank Mark.

Love Offering for the Pilchers – TODAY

On Sunday, April 22, Joshua Pilcher received two new lungs. He and his wife Amy will remain at the University of Iowa Hospital until at least May 23. Their children have stayed here in Ames under the care of friends.

Down the line we will be able to help the Pilchers with our usual “meal train,” but for now their greatest need, beyond prayer and love, is funding to offset Amy’s long stay in Iowa City. Today we will receive a “love offering” to help with that cost. As you are able and inclined, I invite you to place in the offering plate either

1. Cash in envelopes labelled “Pilcher” or
2. Checks made out directly to Amy Pilcher.

I will take it all to Amy next week.

Not all of us are able to afford to participate in this way, but all of us can help by holding the family in our prayers. I also encourage you to send cards or e-cards using the options below.

Postal mail:

Joshua Pilcher
c/o UI Hospitals and Clinics
200 Hawkins Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52242

E-mail a Patient:

<https://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/Programs/Volunteerservices/emailpatient.asp>

If you want to be sure to be on the “meal train” list later on, contact Kristin Shields (sleepycat@hotmail.com).

Thank you for being the body of Christ for Josh and his family as his own body heals. —Pr. Eileen

Now Hiring: Youth Director

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

Upcoming Learning Center Topics

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?

May 13, Breakfast Potluck and Planning for future Learning Center programming

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

The Church Library is Closed for Moving

Until further notice, the “old” church library will be closed as we pack up to move shelves and books to the “new” church library in Room 104. Children’s books will still be available in the back of the sanctuary. Those books are always available for check out. If you want to check one out to take home while the library is closed, please give the book card to Barbara Faidley or one of the deacons. Thank you for your understanding while this transition is being made.

Bring Your Items for the Attic to Basement Sale

We have all of our tubs ready for sorting so can take all of your donations for our annual Attic to Basement Sale. We accept all items from the Attic to the Basement, including the garage and garden. We do not take computers or printers as there is no demand for them. We do not take clothing but we do accept clothing accessories, like scarves, hats, belts, etc. You can also bring in your holiday items at this time and they will be sorted and used at our Holidays Sale in October. Bring all of your donations to the West Basement and leave them on the table in the elevator vestibule. Thank you for making a sale such a success each year. If you know anyone that is moving, let them know about our sale and give them my name and number. —Barbara Faidley (233-3874, barbara@faidley.org)

AMOS Economic Summit & Assembly with candidates for public office – 6/2

With all the sound bites on the news lately, we’ve sure been hearing a lot about taxes. But how much do we really know about who benefits and who pays? It’s time for a grown-up conversation about taxes in Iowa.

Join AMOS leaders and institutions for an Economic Summit on Sunday June 2nd as we get beyond the sound bites and partisan rhetoric to:

- Learn about our state and local tax systems, asking “Who benefits? Who pays?”
- Hear from the team of AMOS leaders who have spent three months researching taxes in Iowa

- Look at specific funding strategies to address the pressures on our families and neighbors, including mental healthcare, education and workforce, and housing and neighborhood improvements
- Engage candidates for public office and ask for their support of our agenda

AMOS Economic Summit & Assembly with candidates for public office

Saturday, June 2nd

11:30am Lunch & Registration

12-4pm Summit & Assembly

Norwalk Christian Church, Norwalk, IA

RSVP to our Core Team, including whether you would like to carpool and any dietary restrictions:

Amanda Petefish-Schrag: petefishschrag@gmail.com

Anna Johnson: annali.johnson@gmail.com

Ben Schrag: mr.half@gmail.com

Catherine DeLong: delong.catherine@gmail.com

Christy Oxendine: christy.oxendine@gmail.com

Diane Birt: dbirt.ames@gmail.com

Jan Flora: floraj@iastate.edu

Linda Hanson: linda.hanson2011@gmail.com

Nancy Dunn: ndunn949@gmail.com

Neal Flora: cflora@iastate.edu



Calendar for the Week

Monday, April 30

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Spangler)
- 6:00 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Wednesday, May 2

- 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. Absent Spouses Social Club
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, May 6

- 9:15 a.m. Godly Play
- 9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk
- 9:15 a.m. Learning Center: What is religious freedom?
- 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

Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director
llackore@gmail.com

Karen "Sunny" Stewart, Instrumentalist
sunny@amesucc.org

Katie Tschopp,
Church Office Administrator
office@amesucc.org

Jean Watts, Youth Director
jean@amesucc.org