



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 9, 2018**

Welcome to Ames UCC! 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.

ABOUT WORSHIP AT AMES UCC

Our church is the inheritor of many powerful worship traditions and the adopter of new, moving innovations. But whichever element serves the needs of the day (in terms of scripture, season, or society), each service is developed by members of the church and staff to function as a journey. Our journey takes the individual toward God, into the body of Christ, and then back out to the world with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Along the way we may laugh, we may cry, we may experience deep silence. In each, we embody and come to know more deeply what it means to be a Christian in such a time as this: a servant of 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.

Our deacon, ushers, and greeters for today are Tom Meyer and the Ames UCC Youth Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS SUSPENDED FOR ADVENT

During Advent and Lent we suspend oral announcements as a way to mark these seasons of contemplation and preparation. Please refer to your bulletin and the weekly e-news for updates. If you are not subscribed to the latter, e-mail Katie Tschopp (office@amesucc.org).

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Aidan ShenkCook

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

One: You are the light of the world.

Many: **A city built on a hill cannot be hid.**

One: No one puts a lamp under a bushel basket,

Many: **But on the lampstand, and it lights all the house.**

One: In the same way, let your light shine,

Many: **That others may see and glorify God in heaven.**

HYMN “Angels, from the Realms of Glory,” Hymn 126 verses 1 and 2
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.”

ADVENT WREATH: The Candles of Hope and Peace Norah Klocke &
Anna Nadolny

One: Our homes and our world are under siege with information:
Television and telemarketing; blogs and texting. So much information
often bearing too little wisdom. Angry voices compelling hate; quiet
voices counseling complacency; mechanical voices offering “deals —
Too much information! Too little wisdom!

**Many: Confusions surrounds us;
Truth gets lost.**

One: We call out in our confusion:

**Many: Where is your Wisdom, O God?
Where is the word that leads to life?**

One: We remind ourselves of our ancient story: John, Zachariah’s son, out
in the desert at the time, received a message from God. He went all
through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of
life-change leading to forgiveness of sins, as described in the words of
Isaiah the prophet: “...prepare God’s arrival! Make [God’s] road
smooth and straight!”

Let us light this second candle of Advent, a candle of Peace. In its
light, let us think, quietly and peacefully, about what voices of true
life-change and forgiveness are speaking in our world right now.

**Many: Let this candle of Advent Peace
shine in our hearts all week
and remind us to enter times of quiet and peace in order to listen,
through the noise of our lives,
for the call to prepare for the Holy One.**

SUNG RESPONSE “Rise Up Hope and Peace Eternal” (insert)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love.

HEBREW BIBLE Isaiah 9:6-7 (Good News Translation) Sarah Frank

A child is born to us!
A son is given to us!
And he will be our ruler.
He will be called, “Wonderful Counselor,”
“Mighty God,” “Eternal Father,”
“Prince of Peace.”
His royal power will continue to grow;
his kingdom will always be at peace.
He will rule as King David's successor,
basing his power on right and justice,
from now until the end of time.
The LORD Almighty is determined to do all this.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

<i>Narrator 1: Annelise Johnson</i>	<i>Baby Jesus: Martha Schelle</i>
<i>Narrator 2: Eli Schrag</i>	<i>Angels: Erin Bauer, Amy Bauer,</i>
<i>Narrator 3: Stella Klocke</i>	<i>Eleanor Paull, Amelia Sheridan</i>
<i>Narrator 4: Eliana Briseno</i>	<i>Shepherd 1: Will Hannover</i>
<i>Narrator 5: Oscar Chelcea</i>	<i>Shepherd 2: Brecken Johnson</i>
<i>Angel: Erin Frank</i>	<i>Shepherd 3: Oliver Watts</i>
<i>Caesar: Elliott Coffey</i>	<i>Shepherd 4: Adam Chelcea</i>
<i>Joseph: Fionn Coppoc</i>	<i>Shepherd 5: Adler Sheridan</i>
<i>Innkeeper 1: Ben Best</i>	<i>Sheep: Kate Hannover</i>
<i>Innkeeper 2: Madelyn Caufield</i>	<i>Wisegirl 1: Mariela Briseno</i>
<i>Mary: Anna Nadonly</i>	<i>Wisegirl 2: Lucy Hannover</i>
<i>Donkey: Gabe Hanson</i>	<i>Wisegirl 3: Annalynn Watts</i>
<i>Animals: Noah Best, Winter Hanson,</i>	
<i>Galahad Pepe</i>	

HYMN “Away in a Manger” (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 for-
give 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

In 2018, ten percent of our total budget helps 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 at any time. If you would like to sign up for automated giving, contact Katie Tschopp at 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org.

The Christmas Fund is one of the United Church of Christ's five yearly national special offerings. Donations to this offering provide financial assistance to retired UCC clergy and lay employees, groups that are historically (and often still) underpaid and unable to save for retirement. This offering funds pension and health premium supplementation, Christmas “thank you” gift checks, and even emergency grants for active or retired clergy and employees.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Clair Lewis

HYMN OF SENDING “Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” Hymn 154

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.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, December 10

5:30 p.m. Serving a Meal at the
ERP (Flora)
7:15 p.m. Financial Stewardship

Tuesday, December 11

12:00 p.m. Men’s Fellowship

Wednesday, December 12

10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:00 p.m. Women’s Fellowship
2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
6:30 p.m. Christmas Choir
6:30 p.m. Unscripted
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Christmas Cards in the Parlor – TODAY

Please sign the Christmas cards in the parlor and join in sending good wishes to those in our community who are unable to be with us in worship, or struggling with a recent health issue.

Devotionals from Me to You

Sign up for poetry, scripture, and inspiration via text messaging or e-mail. They will never arrive before 9 a.m. or after 8 p.m. Appropriate for all ages. Go to remind.com/join/amesucc. -Pr. Eileen

Saturday, December 15

9:30 a.m. Food at First

Sunday, December 16

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
10:30 a.m. Worship
3:00 p.m. Caroling

Alternative Gifts Market – TODAY, 12/16

Visit the Ames Alternative Gifts Market in the parlor after worship this Sunday, December 9, or next, December 16. Alternative gifts are an opportunity to learn about and support projects around the world that relieve poverty and suffering. You can also visit the Alternative Gifts Market at Wheatsfield on Saturday, December 15. To learn more, visit Ingrid Anderson in the parlor or check out alternativegifts.org.

AMOS-wide Assembly – TODAY

Join fellow AMOS member institutions in Ankeny, Ames, Norwalk, and the Des Moines metro as we celebrate our work together this year and plan action for 2019.

AMOS Delegates Assembly
Sunday, December 9, 3-4:30 p.m.
Ankeny Presbyterian Church
317 SE Trilein Dr. Ankeny, IA

Women’s Fellowship – 12/12

All women of the church are invited to join us for a festive holiday gathering on Wednesday, December 12 at 12:00 p.m. in the Fire Side Room at Northcrest. Enter Northcrest from the 20th St. entrance, then turn left at the first street and the Fire Side Room is the first building on the right-hand side of the street. Please bring your lunch and any cookies you would like to share. We are also doing a simple ornament exchange. Please wrap your ornament and spend no more than \$5. Hope you can join us for this festive time of fellowship, sharing, and laughter!

Learning Center: The Refugee Crisis – 12/16

What is The Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance (AIRA) doing locally at churches and in community organizations? Diane Birt will provide an update.

Caroling – 12/16

Meet at the church on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m. and then head off to sing the classics for members of our church who are not able to easily leave their homes. RSVP to Pr. Hannah (515-232-9323, hannah@amesucc.org).

Giving Tree – through 12/20

The generosity of our church never ceases to make my heart sing. Many items have already been selected from our giving tree by the East entrance. Return the wrapped or unwrapped gift(s) to the large box in the Fellowship Hall or the church office (Mondays 9a to 12p, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9a to 4p), by Thursday, December 20. Thank you! -Pr. Eileen

Christmas Books

Throughout the church there are children's Christmas books on display. All of these books are available for checkout from the church library. Sign your name and date on the card inside the book and leave the card in the library card box. Bring the book back the following week or two and leave it in the return book basket in the library. Enjoy some good Christmas literature at home and some quality time with your children. There are some nonfiction and fiction books for adults about Christmas also. These are also available for checkout.

Thank You for Your Extravagant Welcome

The following people were greeters and ushers during the month of November. Thank you for providing an extravagant welcome to visitors and members alike.

Kevin Binder, Janet Binder, Diane Birt, Jan Breitman, Dan Coffey, Boyd Dohrmann, Irene Dohrmann, Mim Fritz, Barbara Hauerrberg, Sue Lamont, Nick Lyon, Dale Shenefelt, Donna Shenefelt, Linda Shenk, Lynette Spicer

Thank You for Your Advent Cheer

The Worship and Music team wish to thank everyone who came to decorate the sanctuary and the parlor on Sunday afternoon. When we work together as a community we do BEAUTIFUL WORK. The decorations are outstanding. Thanks again.

Reminder: Contributions for December

A contributions for the 2018 financial year must be POSTMARKED in December or in the office before the 31st. A check left at the office after the 31st but dated December will not be counted toward 2018.

Advent & Christmas 2018

Advent 2: Peace

Sunday, December 9

Light the second candle on our Advent wreath and learn the Christmas story through our children.

Advent 3: Joy

Sunday, December 16

Light the third candle on our Advent wreath and receive a gorgeous offering from our Christmas Choir. We will not have Holy Communion until Christmas Eve.

Advent 4: Love

Sunday, December 23

Light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath and celebrate another baptism.

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

Our traditional service of scripture, song, Holy Communion, and sharing God's light at 7 p.m.

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

Toll the bell and celebrate the dawning of Jesus' story at this simple service at 9:30 a.m. If you are anxious about getting kids dressed, or even yourself, don't be. Come as you are.



Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

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

Megan Henson, Youth Director
megan@amesucc.org

David Sheridan, Seminary Intern
limnolaw@aol.com

Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director
llackore@gmail.com

Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Instrumentalist
sunny@amesucc.org

Katie Tschopp,
Church Office Administrator
office@amesucc.org

Ames UCC Team Leadership

Rachel Schelle, Moderator
Allen Trenkle, Interim Moderator
Lynette Spicer, Clerk
Diana McHenry, Church Representative

Financial Stewardship
Bradley Duckstein, Joel Johnson

Social Justice and Outreach
Anna Johnson, Linda Best

Building Relationships
Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

Property
Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk

Christian Education
Allen Trenkle

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.