



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 4, 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 for today is Kim Spangler; our greeters and ushers are Allison Anderson, Neal Flora, Martha Geist, and Barbara Hauerrberg. No one 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

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams,
Many: So do our souls long for you, O God.

One: The hour is coming, and is now here.
Many: It is the time to worship God in spirit and truth.

HYMN "Crashing Waters at Creation" (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 our own selves to become aware of that constant presence.

One: Lord of all nations, you are the life-giving water we seek. Give us this water always that we may no longer thirst after that which does not satisfy. We ask this in the name of the One who revives us daily, Jesus Christ. 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 brokenness before God and each other. Merciful Lord,

Many: We come before you with heavy hearts.

We do not always follow our Jesus's lead.

We insist on our own way, putting worldly things before you.

**We doubt, we discriminate; we scatter—
preferring our ignorance to the brilliance of your truth.**

**For all this we ask your mercy and forgiveness,
that our hearts may be awoken again. 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: As a loving shepherd gathers sheep, so God protects and cares for us. Let us rejoice that we receive forgiveness, a welcome on our return. 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.



O - pen your hearts, O faith -ful peo -ple, o - pen your ears and



hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O faith - ful peo - ple,



God has come to you. God has spo-ken to the peo-ple, hal-le-lu -



jah! God has spo-ken words of wis-dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

GOSPEL John 4:5-21, 23-30 (New Revised Standard Version, modified for clarity and to address passages that can be used for anti-Semitic purposes)

Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to John." We will stay in this book of the Bible until after Easter.

(Jesus) came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of

Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship God in spirit and truth...God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah (the Anointed) is coming" (who is called Christ). "When Christ comes, Christ will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go," Hymn 485, vv. 1-3

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.

MISSION MOMENT

Today we present a check for \$20,000 to Heartland Senior Services, which they will place in their "Help Will Come" fund with the Story County Community Foundation. These funds are a portion of the 20% raised in our 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign, which have been allocated for giving throughout the community. Previous gifts include \$22,000 to Primary Health Care, \$15,000 to Emergency Residence Project, \$13,000 to Food at First, \$40,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa, \$12,000 to Project Iowa, and \$6,000 Boys & Girls Club of Story County.

OFFERING

“I Worship You, Almighty God”

Sondra Corbett Wood, arr. Mary McDonald

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

“You Walk Along Our Shoreline,” Hymn 504

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off. Afterward, please join us next door in the parlor for coffee, tea, treats, and community.

Join us next Sunday, February 11 after worship for the annual congregational meeting and potluck!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 11

The potluck begins after worship in the Fellowship Hall. At 12:15 p.m. we will move into the business meeting of the church. This will include a one hour presentation by Carla Cain and Pr. Diane McClanahan of the Des Moines Pastoral Care and Counseling Center on the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey we took last fall and what the outcomes tell us about ourselves.

Childcare will be available throughout. Please bring food as you are able. If you are not, please do bring yourself. There's always plenty to share.

Welcome, Mark!

Our instrumentalist, Sunny Stewart, will be on medical leave for all of February, March, and April. Filling her organ bench will be Mark Kretsinger-Harries. Mark is a professional church musician living in Ames. He has previously served Lutheran, United Methodist, and UCC congregations in Kansas and Pennsylvania, as well as the *Aestas* summer community choir which he founded and directed in State College, PA. Mark earned both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Kansas where he studied church music, choral conducting, organ, and handbells. He moved to Ames in 2017 with his wife Anne who is a new Assistant Professor in the ISU English department. Welcome, Mark – and get well, Sunny!

Donate Salt & Pepper Shakers to Food at First

“Food at First was going to purchase Salt and Pepper shakers, but why not ask friends of FAF if they have extra shakers? So, please look in your cupboards, see what you have to donate. Any type, or kind of Salt & Pepper shakers. Metal, plastic or glass. If you have extra Salt or Pepper you want to donate that would be great too. While you are at it, bring ToGo containers to Food at First. Tupperware, rubber maid, or cottage cheese or butter containers with matching lids.”

<https://foodatfirst.wordpress.com/2018/01/28/shakers/>

Lent and Lunch

From Ash Wednesday, February 14, through Wednesday, March 21 we will gather in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. for worship (peace bell, song, prayer) followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall (bring your own). Last year we usually wrapped up at 1 p.m., but come and go as your work schedule allows.

Valentine's Day Potluck – 2/14

Beloved of God, let's make a date with each other on Valentine's Day! Come to a potluck at 6 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall then move into the sanctuary at 7 p.m. for our ecumenical Ash Wednesday service with First Christian and First United Methodist. Everyone is lovable and capable of sharing love - let's celebrate both together!

Celebrate International Women's Day – 3/4

International Women's Day is celebrated worldwide on March 8. This year, Ames UCC will be celebrating it on March 4. As part of this celebration, I would like to make a game about the incredible women in our church. We will make statements about different women in our church and the list of women who made them will be at the bottom of the page. We will see how well we can match the statements to the women they are about. All women in the church are invited to submit a statement of some unknown fact about themselves to be included in our game! Please submit your information to Barbara Faidley (515-232-3874, barbara@faidley.org) by Feb.11. Join in the fun and celebrate the incredible women in our church. –Barbara Faidley

Thank you, Jean!

Jean Watts has been our Youth Director for the last three years. In that time she took a large group to the UCC's National Youth Event in Florida, slept overnight in the stadium for Reggie's Night Out, organized a blood drive, worked with us on how to meet the scheduling needs of families without diminishing the program's depth, and endured the startling and painful cyber attack on our church last October (Jean's name and work contact information was on all of the material that the bullies saw). She has also loved our youth and celebrated their lives and growth.

However, with the expansion of the position to 20 hours per week this coming August, Jean has decided not to continue in this role. Her last day will be in July, after the Regional Youth Event.

We will begin to advertise the expanded position in a couple of weeks and leave it open until we find the right person.

We will certainly have a formal recognition of all that Jean has given our church and youth this spring, but please join us in thanking her for her steadiness and love right now: jean@amesucc.org.

Thank you, Jean!

Prs. Eileen Gebbie and Hannah Hannover

Thank you for your help!

Many people helped provide an extravagant welcome to our congregation during the month of January. The Worship and Music team wish to thank them for helping us do our job and for helping create a welcoming atmosphere in our church. Thank you to: Allison Anderson, Diane Birt, Catherine DeLong, Kermit Dirks, Trudy Dirks, Barbara Faidley, Mim Fritz, Ed Goedeken, Liz Kolbe, Karen Lasche, Tom Meyer, Christy Oxendine, Steve Rogers-Smith, Donna Starck, Dale Shenefelt and Lynette Spicer.



Ames United Church of Christ

150TH ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHARITABLE GIVING

COMPLETED GIFTS (2016-18)

\$22,000 to Primary Health Care
 \$15,000 Emergency Residence Project
 \$13,000 Food at First
 \$40,000 Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa:
 \$12,000 Project Iowa
 \$6,000 Boys & Girls Club of Story County
 \$20,000 Heartland Senior Services

PENDING GIFTS

\$12,000 Pilgrim Heights
 \$10,000 Threshold Learning Center
 \$7,000 Rosedale Youth Shelter
 \$10,000 Ames UCC
 Theologian in Residence Endowment

AMESUCC.ORG

Calendar for the Week

Monday, February 5

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
 Project (Clark/Starck)

Wednesday, February 7

8:30 a.m. First Wednesdays
 Study Group
 12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
 2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, February 11

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
 9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk
 9:15 a.m. Learning Center
 9:15 a.m. Animate: Practices
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 11:30 a.m. Potluck
 12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting

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.
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