



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, January 7, 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 Tom Meyer; our greeters and ushers are Catherine DeLong, Liz Kolbe, Karen Lasche, and Dale Shenefelt. Barbara Faidley 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: Come and see!

Many: Look—here is the Lamb of God!

One: Come and see!

Many: We have found the Anointed One!

One: Come and see!

**Many: We have found the Son of God,
the Child of Humanity, the Bearer of Beloved Community!**

HYMN “Arise, Your Light is Come,” Hymn 164

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: Holy Lord, your word is compelling and your authority apparent. Draw us to yourself, and lead us forth in faith, to follow in your servant footsteps. 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 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. As patient as a parent for a wayward child, so is God’s mercy 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 1:29-51

(New Revised Standard Version, with modifications for clarity)

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.

The next day (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was

before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John (the Baptist) again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard (John) say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" (Jesus) said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (Andrew) first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the teachings and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry," Hymn 351

COMMISSIONING THE MATTHEW 25:36 VISITATION TEAM

Usually at this time we share our joys and concerns. Today, however, we are commissioning two new Matthew 25:36 Ministers, Amy Erica Smith and Steve Rogers-Smith, and recommission those who are continuing in this ministry of visitation and relationships: Debi Ford, Kim Spangler, Pat Spangler, Sandy Ballard, Phil Spike, Barbara Yungclas, Bill Yungclas, and Barbara Hauerrberg. Each is following Jesus' call: "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." If you would like to learn more about this ministry, contact Pr. Eileen.

One: Dear friends, today we recognize the ministry of Amy Erica, Barbara H., Barbara Y., Bill, Debi, Kim, Pat, Sandy, and Steve and to commission them to a special task along the Way of Jesus Christ...In the name of this congregation...

Many: We commission you to this work

and pledge to you our prayers, encouragement, and support.

**May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you,
that in this and in all things you may do God's will
in the service of Jesus Christ.**

One: Almighty God, look with favor upon Amy Erica, Barbara H., Barbara Y., Bill, Debi, Kim, Pat, Sandy, and Steve who today (re)affirm(s) their commitment to be a visible presence of this church and our God to those who cannot be with us in this house of prayer. Give each of them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocations of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ

Many: Amen.

OFFERING

“Down to the River to Pray”

offered by Fionn Coppoc, Jim Coppoc, and Jazlene Webb

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: 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, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom/kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 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.

HYMN OF SENDING

“I Am the Light of the World,” Hymn 584 verses 2-4

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.

Thank you, Sunny!

On January 3, we celebrated Sunny Stewart's long service to us as our instrumentalist and organist. She's been with us on and off for 27 years. Thank you, Sunny!

Communion Cloth

Many Communion Sundays I take the table cloth and napkins we have used home to launder and press. I enjoy this because I love God's table and setting it well, and I love to think about the generations of church people who have taken such care before me. But then I worry that I am taking away the opportunity to experience the same from all of you. We only have Communion about 14 times each year (once per month plus a couple extras), so if you would like the opportunity to take a month or two or more, please let me know. –Pr. Eileen

Occasional Text Devotionals

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

Women's Fellowship – 1/10

The first Women's Fellowship of the new year will be on Wednesday, January 10 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please note the time change. We will chat for a few minutes until the people who ring the bell can join us. For this meeting, we will try meeting in the parlor meeting as the Fellowship Hall is quite cold. All women of the church are welcome. Please bring you lunch, share what has been happening in your life lately and join the discussion about future meetings. We welcome any ideas. See you Wednesday!

Chili and Pie Fest – 1/14

Gather with us on Sunday, January 14 after church in Fellowship Hall for our Chili and Pie Fest hosted by the Member Services Team. Chili, soups, and pies of all kinds are encouraged and welcome. Get out your favorite recipe or try a new one. Our members will be happy to try them all. Everyone is welcome. We will have plenty of food. Hope to see you there.

How is the Opioid Epidemic Affecting Story County? – 1/14

Join us for Learning Center on Sunday, January 14 at 9:15 a.m. Linda Hanson, Clinic Director at Primary Health Care (PHC) in Ames, will share her experience at a nonprofit community health center dedicated to serving those who experience barriers to receiving health care. PHC welcomes people regardless of their ability to pay focusing especially on the underinsured and uninsured. The clinic strives to find and successfully treat medical, dental and mental health conditions before they become serious. PHC medical clinics provide primary care, sick care (urgent care), family planning, women's health care, behavioral health care, and immunizations for children and adults.

Join us for Animate: Practices – 1/14-2/25

A class where there is no homework, no right or wrong answers - come when you can make it. Watch our weekly presenters, reflect through journaling and discuss if you wish. Join us in Room 104 at 9:15 a.m. for one session or all! Upcoming weekly topics are listed below. –Ellen Barnhart

January 14: Food | Eating, w/th Jesus | Sara Miles

Sara believes that French fries can be as holy as organic kale when they are offered and shared in acts of love and fellowship. This point can get lost in our conversations about the “right” kind of food.

January 21: Worship | Seeking God's Presence | Mike Slaughter

For many Christians, worship is synonymous with going to church. Mike challenges us to think about worship as a much richer practice, one we can follow on our own and in community.

No Class January 28 (Theologian in Residence Weekend)

February 4: Sacraments | A Tapestry of Traditions | Phyllis Tickle

For many of us, the sacraments have become just another part of our church routine, like hymns and prayer. But Phyllis asks us to revisit the ancient meaning of these experiences and consider what we are really up to as we take part in these practices.

Day on the Hill with the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking – 1/17

The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery asks all allies to participate in the "Day on the Hill" on Wednesday, January 17th. Governor Kim Reynolds will be declaring January as "Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month." We invite you to attend the proclamation signing at the Governor's Formal Office at 10:30 a.m. This will be followed by several Outstanding Anti-Trafficking Service Awards, including CISN chair, Mike Ferjak and Kellie Markey, founder of Dorothy's House.

Register Now for Theologian in Residence Weekend – 1/26-28

This year's Theologian in Residence is Dave Csinos. Dave is Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He also serves as founder and president of Faith Forward, an ecumenical organization for innovation in ministry with children and youth. Since its inception, Faith Forward has become one of the leading movements for progressive formation among thoughtful children's and youth ministry practitioners. Dave writes widely about faith formation, children's ministry, youth ministry, and culture, and his books include Children's Ministry that Fits, Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus, and the Faith Forward book series. Register and learn more about the program at amesucc.org/tir and take a look at the insert in your bulletin.

Thank You

The Worship and Music Team would like to thank the following people who helped as greeters, ushers, and deacons during the months of November and December: Janet Binder, Kevin Binder, Jan Breitman, Dan Coffey, Kermit Dirks, Trudy Dirks, Nancy Dunn, Barbara Faidley, LeVern Faidley, Debi Ford, Mim Fritz, Barbara Hauerrberg, Andrea Klocke, Chris Klocke, Greg Lamont, Sue Lamont, Nancy Marks, Diana McHenry, Liz Mendez-Shannon, Tom Meyer, Steve Rogers-Smith, Rachel Schelle, Ben Schrag, Amanda Petefish-Schrag, Ceilia Schrag, Eli Schrag, Linda Shenk, Kim Spangler, Lynette Spicer, Donna Starck, Carl Tipton, Justin Watts. You all made people feel welcome in our space and helped during worship. Thank you again.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, January 8

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Duckstein)
7:15 p.m. Financial Stewardship

Tuesday, January 9

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship
7:00 p.m. Theologian in Residence

Wednesday, January 10

8:30 a.m. AM Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
6:30 p.m. PM Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, January 14

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Chili and Pie Fest

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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