

**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, January 21, 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 Barbara Faidley; our greeters and ushers are Ed Goedecken, Nick Lyon, Christy Oxendine, and Doug Pepe.

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: Unless the Lord builds the house,
Many: Those who build it labor in vain.

One: Come, let us gather in the holy sanctuary.
Many: We bring our hopes, our praise, our sorrow God.

HYMN "God Is Here," Hymn 70

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: Merciful Lord, you are at once full of mercy and righteousness. Rouse us from complaisance and light your fire within us again, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

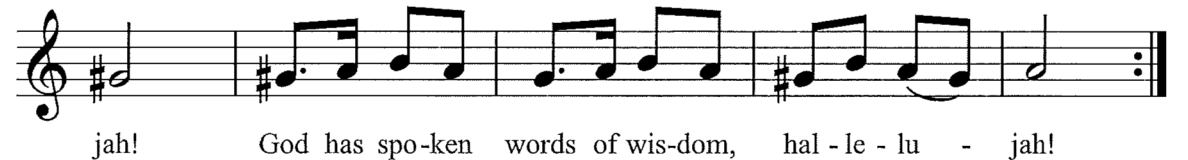
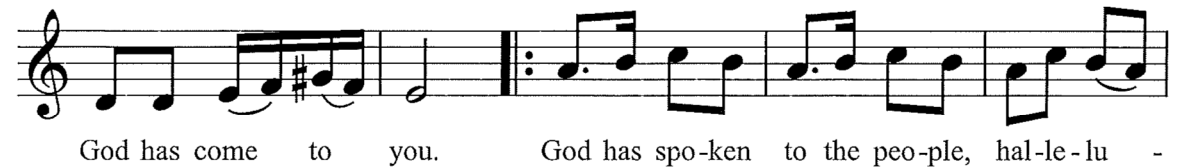
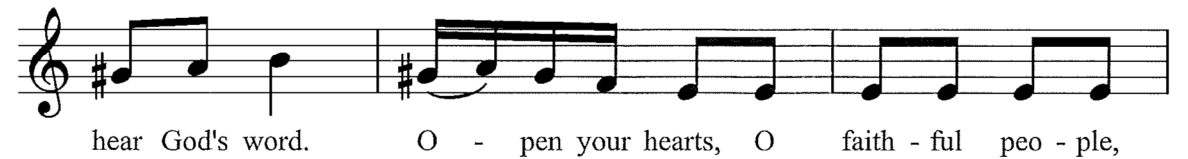
One: As a loving shepherd gathers sheep, so God protects and cares for us. Let us rejoice that we receive forgiveness, a welcome on our return. Amen.

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.



GOSPEL John 2:13-22

(New Revised Standard Version with modifications for clarity and to address elements that might 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.

The (Jewish festival of) Passover was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making God’s house a marketplace!”

His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The (people) then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The (people) then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON

HYMN OF PREPARATION "I Come With Joy," Hymn 349

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE OFFERING OF FOOD AND GIFTS

Our Communion table is open to all: young and old, faithful and dubious. No one will be turned away. We serve the bread and the juice through "intinction," which means dipping the bread into the juice. Your server will offer each to you with the phrases "the Bread of Life" and "the Cup of Blessing." If you are unable to come forward but would like to participate in the meal, simply wait for your row to be empty, then raise your hand. A server will come to you. The bread is free of gluten, soy, and dairy. If you have brought canned goods for the Food at First pantry, please set them at the Communion table before being served.

Gather

One: May God be with you

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the God we love.

Many: We freely give God thanks and praise.

One: Holy are you, Eternal One. You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth setting light into being, casting the stars in the sky, founding the evolving earth, and all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power, and great is your wisdom. You look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures. You visit upon the downtrodden with presence, grace, and the promise of eternal justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus, who reached into unexpected places, calling women beyond the limits of their times, equipping men for nurturing love, welcoming children into your holy embrace.

Words of Institution

One: And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion, The light of the world took bread, broke and gave it to the disciples, saying:

**Many: "This is my body, broken because of you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."**

One: And, in like manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks give it to them saying,

**Many: "This is the cup of the new covenant
poured out for you and for all people
for the healing of all rifts.
Do this, as often as you drink of it,
for the remembrance of me."**

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Many: We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.
We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.
May we bask in this glow
Now and forevermore. Amen.**

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 "In This Moment of Remembrance" Dale Wood
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 "Let Us Tongues and Talents Employ," Hymn 347

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.

Curtis and Malinda Bauer will celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday, January 23rd. Please join them in the parlor for cake and coffee after worship.

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!

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 group of congregants in being present for each other during such times through greeting cards. It does not matter whether you know the recipient personally, or not. What matters is a willingness to be a representative of the love of God we share at all times and in all places. If yes, please let me know and I will add you to our list of fellow "care card-ers." When I am given permission to pass on a need (a health crisis, a death), I will do so. And if you know of someone who might appreciate a little postal love from their fellow seekers, please let me know. –Pr. Eileen

The Secret Book of James – 1/24 & 31

Our study of the Nag Hammadi scriptures continues during the 8:30 a.m. Bible study on Wednesdays January 24 and 31. I will have copies on the first day. Childcare for kids younger than first grade is available. Please come! –Pr. Eileen

Women's Fellowship – 1/24

All the women of the church are invited to our Women's Fellowship meeting on Wednesday, January 24. Diana McHenry will be joining us to talk about the Iowa Conference and the changes that are happening to the state-wide UCC organization. This was a suggested topic from our first meeting in January. Suggestions for programs are taken seriously, so please suggest an idea. We will probably meet in Rm.104 as that seemed to be the warmest place. A notice on the east door will direct you to our location. Please bring your lunch and lots of questions for Diana and join in our fellowship time.

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

Registrations for this weekend's Theologian in Residence are due January 23! Register online at amesucc.org/tir or contact Katie Tschopp in the church office (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org)

Children's Ministry That Fits seeks to describe children's experience in worship and ways to keep them involved on Sunday morning. What do children want to discuss? What do they believe? What moves them to think, feel, wonder and act? (From forward by Joyce E. Bellous)

Csinos went to the source, interviewing a group of selected children about their experiences with God and church over a six-month span. He started to observe four distinct ways, or "spiritual styles," through which young people encounter and begin to know God. David termed these ways as "spiritual styles." The study and explanations of these four spiritual styles—word, emotion, symbol, and action—form the heart and substance of this book. They describe ways that humans express their spirituality and capture their experiences across many religions. The author hopes that parents, ministers, and members that work with children in church will benefit from the study of these four styles "to raise children who are spiritually attuned to encounters with the living God. "

Children's Ministry That Fits: Nurturing Children's Spirituality and *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus* are both on display in the parlor and available for check out from the church library.

Potluck for All! – 1/31

Come to a midweek intergenerational feast of potluck on Wednesday, January 31 from 5-6:30 p.m. Arrive whenever works for you and your family. Leave as you need – or stay for youth group, Bible study, or choir rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. You are welcome to bring a main dish, side, or dessert. Milk, water, and some pizza will be provided by the church, so you don't have to bring anything if you are not able to. But if you can, please do. And if you can't make it this one, mark your calendars for the final one of the program year: April 25, 2018.

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

Ames UCC Disabled Parking Volunteers

Ames UCC has been working with the city and is excited to offer at least four more disabled parking spaces along Kellogg Avenue for Sunday morning services as well as a drop-off area between the curb-cut on the corner and the permanent disabled parking space. We need your help to make this new parking system work. You can help by volunteering to:

1. Roll the signs out of storage in the basement and place them on the curb along Kellogg Avenue on Saturday nights or early Sunday mornings
2. Remove the parking signs from the curb after worship service, and then roll them back into storage.

To volunteer, sign up at <http://bit.ly/2Di4ivc> or contact Jan Bauer.

THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE

JANUARY 26-28, 2018



Will Our Faith Have Children? Faith Formation and the Future of the Church

Dr. Dave Csinos, a former children's pastor and now a professor of Practical Theology at Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Dave is the president and founder of Faith Forward, an ecumenical organization supporting research and analyzing future trends in faith formation.

Registration closes January 23

REGISTER NOW
amesucc.org/tir

Friday, January 26

- 6:00 p.m. Catered Meal
- 6:45 p.m. "United in Mission: How Spiritual Styles Equip Families and Congregations for Faith Formation" (childcare provided)

Saturday, January 27

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. "Re-Imagining Faith Formation" with Q&A time
- 10:45 a.m. "Why Our Faith Needs Children" with Q&A time

Sunday, January 28

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum Q&A time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship with Dr. Dave Csinos preaching

217 Sixth Street
515-232-9323
amesucc.org



Calendar for the Week

Monday, January 22

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Coyle)

Tuesday, January 23

- Registration due for Theologian in Residence*
- 12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, January 24

- 8:30 a.m. AM Bible Study
- 12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
- 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

Friday, January 26

- 6:00 p.m. Theologian in Residence

Saturday, January 27

- 9:00 a.m. Theologian in Residence

Sunday, January 28

- 9:15 a.m. Godly Play
- 9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk
- 9:15 a.m. TIR Adult Forum
- 10:30 a.m. Worship

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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