



*34 Years of Theologians in Residence*

**Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, January 28, 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 Donna Starck; our greeters and ushers are Kermit Dirks, Trudy Dirks, Karen Lasche, and Dale Shenefelt. Ken Birt is scheduled for building lock up.*

**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](mailto:office@amesucc.org).*

**RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL**

**GREETINGS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

One: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

**Many: How vast is the sum of them!**

One: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

**Many: Wonderful are your works; of this we are certain.**

**HYMN** "All Are Welcome" (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: Light of the World, nothing can be hidden from you. Shed light on all the corners of our lives, and make us honest to bring our whole selves to you. 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. 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.*

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine!

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, let it

shine, let it shine, let it shine!

## GOSPEL John 3:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

*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.*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jewish people. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

**SERMON** Dr. Dave Csinos, Theologian in Residence

**HYMN OF REFLECTION** “Like a Tree Beside the Waters” (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** “Let the Children Come” J. Paul Williams & Joseph Martin  
Chancel Choir with David White, bass

*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](mailto:office@amesucc.org).*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN OF SENDING** “These Treasured Children” (insert)

### **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.*

### **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!

### **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. Childcare will be available.

### **Gift to Heartland Senior Services – 2/4**

During worship on Sunday, February 4 we will present a gift 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 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign, which have been allocated for giving throughout the community.

### **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](mailto:barbara@faidley.org)) by Feb.11. Join in the fun and celebrate the incredible women in our church. –Barbara Faidley

**Do you attend church without your spouse?**

Finding myself coming to church "alone" when I have someone I deeply love in my life can be sometimes painful and difficult, other times inspiring and enriching, and always a lesson in humility and grace. I'll be happy to coordinate and lead gatherings of those in similar situations for discussion and support. Whether you find yourself in a spiritually divided home, or in a spiritually differentiated relationship of any kind, feel free to email me at [brett.c.brinkmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:brett.c.brinkmeyer@gmail.com), or talk to me after church if you're interested. We'll talk (and hear) about the challenges and blessings of deeply knowing and being in relationship with someone who believes differently than we do, pray, and "God knows" what else! Times and dates will be determined when interest can be assessed - thanks in advance for your vulnerability!  
–Brett Brinkmeyer

**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.

**Calendar for the Week**

Monday, January 29

5:30 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations Committee  
6:00 p.m. Social Justice and Outreach Team

Sunday, February 4

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

Wednesday, January 31

8:30 a.m. AM Bible Study  
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing  
2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club  
5:00 p.m. Pizza and Potluck  
6:30 p.m. PM Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

**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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