



**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, May 13, 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, ushers, and greeters for today are Janet Binder, Barbara Faidley, Gina Handy, Melia Handy, and Barbara Hauerrberg. Mim Fritz is providing coffee fellowship. Kevin Binder is scheduled for building lockup.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" arr. K. Stewart

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

Many: **Who emptied himself that we might know fullness.**

One: At the name of Jesus every knee shall bend,

Many: **And every tongue shall sing God's praises.**

HYMN "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" (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: Loving God, you are both humble and highly exalted. Hold before us your ultimate example of service and surrender, setting the standard for love that knows no boundaries, 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: We confess our brokenness before God and one another. God of Life,

Many: **Though you have made all things new, we still cling to the old.**

**Forgive us when we doubt your presence, resist your call,
and lose heart in the face of challenges.**

**Remind us that you are bigger than our problems,
our petty concerns, and foolish preoccupations,
and restore us with your all-consuming love. 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: Jesus is risen, and yet rising, indeed. Neither our brokenness nor our evil has the power to separate us from the love that rebukes death and endures eternally. In love, we are forgiven. 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 Philippians 2:1-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

The book of Philippians is actually a letter from Paul, an early Jewish post-Easter follower of Jesus, to the Jesus Way/Christian community in Philippi, and a major Macedonian city, in the late 40s to early 50s CE.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the (Creator).

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for (God's) good pleasure.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION "How Deep the Silence of the Soul," Hymn 509

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 "I Believe This Is Jesus" arr. Victor C. Johnson
Chancel Choir with Katie Tschopp, soloist

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 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," Hymn 43

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of "well" and "to speak," this is one final good word to send us off. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, tea, treats, and community.

May schedule

My schedule at the end of May will be a little different as I take a few vacation days around full Wednesdays and Sundays at church. -Pr. Eileen

Raise Your Voice & Fight Hunger: Join in Our Offering of Letters – 5/13, 20, 27

Ames UCC supports Bread for the World's advocacy effort to end hunger as part of our yearly charitable giving. Before and after worship in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday May 13, 20, and 27, join the Social Justice and Outreach Team in supporting Bread for the World's 2018 Offering of Letters. This is an opportunity to submit letters to our local congressional representative and senators, urging investments in programs that improve the lives of people struggling with hunger, malnutrition, and starvation, in the United States and around the world.

Our efforts to meet immediate hunger needs through collections for food pantries and the free meal program at Food at First here in Ames are very important. Our advocacy effort with Bread for the World's Offering of Letters puts the focus on systems that allow hunger and poverty to persist. Together our collective gifts offer a powerful statement of faith in action.

Executive Board Meeting – 5/15

The next Executive Board meeting is on Tuesday, May 15 at 7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Paper copies of the agenda, reports, and attachments are available today for pick up in the small kitchen window. Executive Board meetings are open to all congregants. Only voting board members may vote. Questions or comments may be submitted to Moderator Rachel Schelle (515-450-3137, rachel.l.schelle@gmail.com).

Strengthen the Church – 5/20

On Sunday, June 4, Ames UCC will collect for the Strengthen the Church (STC) offering with congregations across the national United Church of Christ. STC is a special mission offering that helps to expand support for new churches, new ministries, and new leaders. Visit ucc.org/ocwm_special-support to learn more about the national UCC's five yearly special offerings and our congregation's commitment to be "5 for 5."

AMOS Economic Summit & Assembly with candidates for public office – 6/2

With all the sound bites on the news lately, we've sure been hearing a lot about taxes. But how much do we really know about who benefits and who pays? It's time for a grown-up conversation about taxes in Iowa.

Join AMOS leaders and institutions for an Economic Summit on Sunday June 2nd as we get beyond the sound bites and partisan rhetoric to:

- Learn about our state and local tax systems: "Who benefits? Who pays?"
- Hear from the team of AMOS leaders who have spent three months researching taxes in Iowa
- Look at specific funding strategies to address the pressures on our families and neighbors, including mental healthcare, education and workforce, and housing and neighborhood improvements
- Engage candidates for public office and ask for their support of our agenda

AMOS Economic Summit & Assembly with candidates for public office

Saturday, June 2nd

11:30am Lunch & Registration

12-4pm Summit & Assembly

Norwalk Christian Church, Norwalk, IA

RSVP to our Core Team, including whether you would like to carpool and any dietary restrictions, by contacting Ben Schrag (mr.half@gmail.com).

Worship Workshop: Ordinary Time – 6/10

What is worship? Why do we do what we do when we do it? How do we know what to do when and how does the hymnal work? Who writes the prayers? Join Pr. Eileen for a workshop that will be both informative and active as we collectively plan the worship services for the Sundays below. The theme will be Stewardship.

8/19/2018: Matthew 6:19-34 (Psalm 51:6-9) with Holy Communion

8/26/2018: Mark 10:17-31 (Psalm 51:10-12)

9/2/2018: Luke 12:13-34 (Psalm 51:15-17)

RSVP to Pr. Eileen by Monday, June 4, including any childcare needs. Please bring your own lunch.

Vacation Bible School "Rolling River Rampage" – 6/18-21

Join us from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day for stories, games, snacks, music, crafts, science and more! Children age 3 through 6th grade invited to attend. Youth and adults are needed to help with the different activities!



If you are interested, please let Pr. Hannah know! If you would like to help with snack donations, please email Pr. Hannah (hannah@amesucc.org) to get a list of the items needed.

Save the Date/Sign Up to Help – Pridefest 9/29/2018

Our church will once again have a booth (or three??) at Ames' Pridefest. If you'd like to be involved in planning our space, set up, hosting, or clean up, please let me know. We will start planning in July. -Pr. Eileen



DID YOU KNOW?
ON THE THIRD SATURDAY
OF EACH MONTH
WE PROVIDE THE FOOD PREPARATION,
SERVICE & CLEAN UP FOR THE
FOOD AT FIRST
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL.

Please sign up to participate.
The time commitment varies,
so go to <https://goo.gl/7cTrXT>
for more details.



Calendar for the Week

Monday, May 14

Pr. Eileen out

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Hanson)

7:15 p.m. Financial Stewardship

Tuesday, May 15

Pr. Eileen out

7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, May 16

8:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:00 a.m. ABC Sale Work Time

12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing

1:00 p.m. Newsletter Crew

2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club

5:30 p.m. Choir Picnic

6:30 p.m. Bible Study:
Nag Hammadi

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Thursday, May 17

Pr. Eileen out

Saturday, May 19

9:30 a.m. Food at First

Sunday, May 20

9:15 a.m. Godly Play

9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk

10:30 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Absent Spouses
Social Club

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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