

ORDINARY TIME	June 3 through November 24 Color: Green
REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY	November 25 Color: White
ADVENT	December 2 through 23 Color: Blue
CHRISTMASTIDE & EPIPHANY	December 24, 2018 through January 6, 2019 Color: White
ORDINARY TIME/ SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY	January 7 through March 2 Color: Green
TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST	March 3 Color: White
LENT	March 6 through April 14 Color: Purple
THE TRIDUUM	April 18, 19, and 20 Color: Black
EASTERTIDE	April 21 through June 8 Color: White
PENTECOST	June 9 Color: Red

Ames United Church of Christ Sunday, November 25, 2018

Welcome to Ames UCC! 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.

ABOUT WORSHIP AT AMES UCC

Our church is the inheritor of many powerful worship traditions and the adopter of new, moving innovations. But whichever element serves the needs of the day (in terms of scripture, season, or society), each service is developed by members of the church and staff to function as a journey. Our journey takes the individual toward God, into the body of Christ, and then back out to the world with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Along the way we may laugh, we may cry, we may experience deep silence. In each, we embody and come to know more deeply what it means to be a Christian in such a time as this: a servant of 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.

Our deacon, ushers, and greeters for today are Janet Binder, Kevin Binder, Barbara Hauerrberg, and Lynette Spicer. Linda Best and Brooklyn Snyder are providing coffee fellowship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brett Brinkmeyer

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

One: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
Many: **and before you were born I consecrated you.**

One: You shall go to all to whom I send you,
Many: **and you shall speak whatever I command you.**

One: Do not be afraid, for I am with you.
Many: **I have put my words in your mouth.**

HYMN “In Christ There Is No East or West,” Hymn 394
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: O Lord, you desire just actions and not words alone. Grant us the strength to walk our talk, and prove faithful followers of the Lord of justice, 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: For the sake of justice and kindness, we confess our brokenness before God and one another. Merciful God,
Many: **Too often we come before you
 with our pious actions and empty words.
 We fail to live with kindness, justice, and humility.
 We turn on our neighbors and build up for ourselves.
 Forgive all that we have done and failed to do
 and transform us into people you are proud to call your own.**

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: The abundant grace of our God does transform lives from the inside out. Receive today acceptance and recognition of your failings, but no rejection for them. Be transformed in your bodies, souls, and minds. Be molded into God’s renewed creatures, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 WITH RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER
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.

Come to-geth - er child - ren, come to-geth - er now.

Cel - e-brate and clap your hands; come to-geth - er now!

The polity of the United Church of Christ requires that ordained pastors who are not serving in churches, but are working in ministry, be a member of a local church. Today we are lucky to receive as a member The Rev. Melissa Sternhagen, who works in hospice and bereavement care. If you are interested in membership, please plan to attend a new member meeting on Sunday, January 13 (having gone through seminary and ordination, Rev. Sternhagen is amply oriented to the UCC!). The liturgy of membership will be in worship on Sunday, January 27, just in time to have voting privileges at that day’s Annual Meeting.

Invitation

Affirmation of Commitments

Thanksgiving

Response of Covenant

Pr. Eileen: Ames United Church of Christ, what promises do you make?

All: **With God as our witness,**
we promise to be in community with one another.
We hold as our vision for the world Jesus' vision of shalom,
where all are welcomed, where justice reigns,
where all are provided for, and where peace prevails.
And we earnestly pray for the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit
that God might bless all that we do together.
Finally, we earnestly pray
for the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit,
that God might bless all that we do together.

HEBREW BIBLE Jeremiah 1:4-10, 7:1-11 (NRSV) Allison Anderson
We use "Hebrew Bible" instead of "Old Testament" out of respect for our Jewish sisters and brothers (it isn't old to them) and acknowledgement of the living voice still found in these ancient stories.

Now the word of the Lord came to me (Jeremiah) saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out a hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord."

For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever.

Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, "We are safe!"—only to go on doing all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? You know, I too am watching, says the Lord.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION “My Shepherd is the Living God,” Hymn 247

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 2018, ten percent of our total budget helps 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 at any time. 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 “Amen” (insert)

BENEDICTION

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

Calendar for the Week

Monday, November 26

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Serving a Meal at the ERP (Clark/Starck)
6:00 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Tuesday, November 27

Pastoral Study Day
12:00 p.m. Men’s Fellowship
5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Team

Wednesday, November 28

10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
6:30 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Unscripted
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Saturday, December 1

10:00 a.m. Wreathmaking Workshop

Sunday, December 2

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Coffee Talk
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
4:00 p.m. Advent Party

Join the Christmas Choir

Rehearsal for Ames UCC's Christmas Choir begins Wednesday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. Join and participate in the special choral performance on Sunday, December 16. For more information, contact Choir Director Lesley Lackore (llackore@gmail.com).

Devotionals from Me to You

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

Treats for Coffee Fellowship

Interested in providing treats for Coffee Fellowship? The Building Relationship Team would like to encourage you to volunteer on SignUpGenius (link on our website and in the sidebar of every weekly enews). This is now a separate opportunity from coffee preparation and serving.

Giving Tree – 11/25 through 12/20

Our church will again participate in a giving tree for children whose families have fewer resources. Please look at the bulletin board in the hallway (just inside the east entrance) and select one or more tags. Return the wrapped or unwrapped gift(s) to the large box in the Fellowship Hall or the church office (Mondays 9a to 12p, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9a to 4p), by Thursday, December 20. Thank you!

Unscripted: Calmly Connecting with God and Others – 11/28

Feel stressed and too busy? On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45, "pause" to participate in group spiritual practice, experience music, share conversation, and pray. We can't add minutes to your day, but maybe growing closer to God will give you a new perspective. Questions? Contact Nancy Dunn (515-490-2083, ndunn949@gmail.com), Andrea Klocke (515-988-9422, andreaklocke@gmail.com), or Linda Hanson (515-520-2583, linda.hanson2011@gmail.com).

Wreath Making Workshop Led by Ami Frank – 12/1

Come join Ami on Saturday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m. and learn to make a fresh holiday wreath to festoon your home! Please bring wire cutters and work gloves if you have them. Materials will be provided, but if you have extra fresh evergreen branches to contribute, please bring them along! Consider making a donation of \$9 to cover the cost of the frame and wire.

This workshop is best suited to adults and children 9+ with adult help. RSVP to Kristin Shields (sleepycat@hotmail.com) by November 30.

Announcements Suspended for Advent – 12/2

During Advent and Lent we suspend oral announcements as a way to mark these seasons of contemplation and preparation. Please refer to your bulletin and the weekly e-news for updates.

Congregational Meeting – 12/2

Each year in December, Ames United Church of Christ comes together to approve the budget and elect officers, team leaders, and our Iowa Conference of the UCC Association and Conference delegates for the coming year. This meeting is called by the Executive Board, as per our church bylaws.

All members, friends, and family of the Ames United Church of Christ are invited to attend the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 2, immediately following worship. Please join us! (Note that only full members are able to vote at congregational meetings, though all are welcome to attend.) We will have two agenda items: elected leadership and the 2019 budget.

Copies of the agenda, nominations, and proposed budget information are available online and in the back of the sanctuary. Additional copies will be available at the meeting.

Advent Party – 12/2

After we've celebrated the first Sunday in Advent in worship on December 2, come back at 4:00 p.m. for the Advent Party and Hanging of the Greens. We will have Christmas crafts in the Fellowship Hall for children of all ages. Many hands are needed to help put up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and our other beautiful Christmas décor, then share in pizza after the work is complete. All are welcome!

Youth Group Homemade Christmas Cookie Fundraiser

The Youth Group has a lot of fun activities planned for this coming spring and summer, including a camping trip to Pilgrim Heights and General Synod in June. To defray the cost of these trips, the youth are baking Christmas cookies! You can place your order after church on the following Sundays: 11/18, 11/25, or 12/2 or email Megan Henson (megan@amesucc.org) for more information.

Cookie Tray (3 dozen cookies, choose three kinds) \$16
Cookies by the Dozen \$6 (each dozen packaged separately)

Choose from frosted and unfrosted Sugar Cookies, Chocolate Crinkles, Snicker-doodles, Russian Teacakes, Spritz Cookies, and Candy Cane Cookies.

Please place your order by Sunday, December 2 at the latest. Pick up is Sunday, December 9 from after worship until 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Payment is due at pick up. If you would like to order but aren’t able to make this pick up date, please contact Megan to make other arrangements. Thank you!

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

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Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Tues-Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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Ames UCC Team Leadership

Rachel Schelle, Moderator
Allen Trenkle, Interim Moderator
Lynette Spicer, Clerk
Diana McHenry, Church Representative

Building Relationships
Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

Christian Education
Allen Trenkle

Financial Stewardship
Bradley Duckstein, Joel Johnson

Social Justice and Outreach
Anna Johnson, Linda Best

Property
Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk

Worship and Music
Barbara Faidley, Tom Meyer

Get in touch with a team leader with the information in your church directory.
Contact Katie Tschopp (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org) if you need a copy.