

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

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2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

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Seminary Sunday

Ames UCC Team LeadershipAllen Trenkle, Moderator
Lynette Spicer, Clerk
Diana McHenry, Church Representative
Eric Abbott, Church Representative**Building Relationships**

Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

Christian Education

Allison Anderson

Financial Stewardship

Bradley Duckstein

Social Justice and Outreach

Linda Best, George Belitsos

Property

Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk

Worship and Music

Barbara Faidley, Steve Rogers-Smith

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.**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 17, 2019**

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.

Throughout February, UCC churches are celebrating Seminary Sunday, a day to remember our connection to and dependence on theological education. In our congregation, this means that our seminary intern David Sheridan will continue to hone his “pastorcraft” by leading the majority of the service. We also welcome to the pulpit Kelsey Plummer, a student at Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS), where David is also enrolled and from which I and many of our previous pastors graduated. Please see Kelsey’s bio further in the bulletin. Our financial support of CTS, Eden Theological, and United Theological, as well as our willingness to be a teaching congregation, are a true investment in the present and the future of the church universal. —Pr. Eileen

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, Nick Howell, and Allen Trenkle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Pr. Eileen

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

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord!

Many: Happy are those whose strength is in you, O God.

One: My soul longs for the rooms of the Lord.

Many: Happy are those whose strength is in you, O God.

One: Even the sparrow finds a home at your table.

Many: Happy are those whose strength is in you, O God.

Burning the Fronds – 2/27

On Wednesday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the courtyard we will burn last year's Palm Sunday palm fronds in preparation for Ash Wednesday, March 6. Please come.

How we live out our church's public mission in the world

AMOS 2-Day Training

March 8-9, 2019

Grace United Methodist Church

3700 Cottage Grove Avenue in Des Moines

Friday, March 8th

3:00 p.m. - Registration

4:00 - 8:30 p.m. - Training Sessions (Dinner Included)

Saturday, March 9th

8:15 a.m. - Coffee/Light Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Training Sessions (Lunch Included)

Please plan to attend all the sessions, as they build on one another.

This training is for new and veteran leaders in AMOS member institutions, and institutions exploring membership in AMOS. Taught by experienced organizers in AMOS's sister organizations in the IAF network, the training will focus on the conceptual foundations and practical skills of broad-based organizing. Topics will include power, sustainable leadership, relational meetings, and organizing to strengthen institutions, among others.

Childcare is available throughout. There is a cost of \$20 to attend, but that can be refunded if you participate in the workshop's entirety. Meals are included.

RSVP to Ben Schrag (mr.half@gmail.com) or Pr. Eileen (eileen@amesucc.org) or register online at www.amosiowa.org/training-registration.html

Pr. Eileen On Retreat

Pr. Eileen will be on retreat the week of Monday, February 18. Pr. Hannah is available for pastoral care.

Reel Connections Film Viewing: The U-Turn – 2/19

As a prelude to Ames UCC's Theologian in Residence Weekend, join Ames UCC and the Ames Public Library for a viewing of *The U-Turn: A Transformational Journey* on Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m. Cornelia and Jan Flora will lead a discussion. This documentary by Luis Argueta narrates the journey of the immigrant workers from Guatemala who broke the silence about the abuses they endured at the Agriprocessors meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa and the community that would not abandon them. Sonia Parras Konrad, a dedicated Des Moines lawyer, obtained U-visas (for abused individuals) for over 179 Guatemalan women and child workers and their families who otherwise would have been deported.

The film is sponsored by Ames UCC and the Ames Public Library, with support from the APL Foundation. Both Sonia Parras and Luis Argueta will participate in person on Saturday of the Theologian in Residence Weekend at Ames UCC on March 2.

“White Fragility” Panel featuring Pr. Eileen – 2/24

Discuss issues of race and white fragility at the Ames Public Library on Sunday, February 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. Local panelists, including Pr. Eileen will address questions based on *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. Then, facilitators will help small groups talk about thoughtful, personal questions about our assumptions on race. (You may participate in the discussion even if you have not read the book!) This panel discussion and inclusive community conversation supports the Iowa State University Committee on Lectures event featuring author Robin DiAngelo February 26 at the ISU Memorial Union.

HYMN “From All That Dwell Below the Skies,” Hymn 27

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 God, your ways are beyond our understanding and your mercy is wide enough to include everyone. May we lay aside our temptation to judge, and instead step into your heavenly kin-dom on earth. 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: We confess our shortcomings before each other and God.
Patient God,

**Many: You have taught us how to be your faithful people.
And yet we persist in going our own way,
doing our own thing,
and minding our own business
when we ought to be about the business of your kin-dom.
Forgive our selfish neglect of others and ourselves.
Bring us back into wholeness with our siblings in creation.
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.

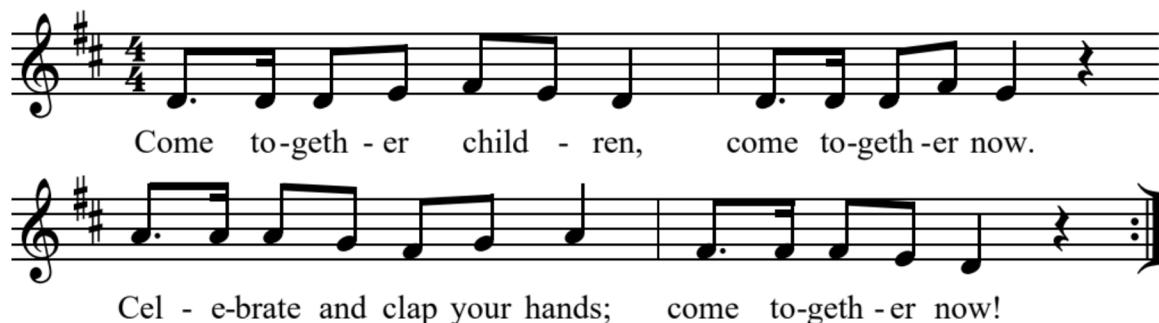
One: God is merciful, patient, kind, and forgiving. May we give now as we have received: generously and extravagantly. Amen.

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.



Come to-gether child - ren, come to-gether now.
Cel - ebrate and clap your hands; come to-gether now!

PSALM 84:1-7 David Sheridan

Robert Alter translation, modified for inclusive language

Translator Robert Alter describe the psalms as “the most urgently, personally present of all the books of the Bible...(u)ntold numbers have repeatedly turned to Psalms for encouragement and comfort in moments of crisis and despair,” despite having been composed long ago (1600 and 1200 BCE) for and by a community in the ancient Near East.

How lovely Your dwellings,
O Lord of armies!
My being longed, even languished,

OFFERING “How Lovely Is Your Dwelling” Jean Janzen/Es ist Ein Roz Chancel Choir

In 2019, nine 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, which goes to rental, medical, and similar direct assistance. 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 “All Are Welcome” (insert)

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off.

Calendar for the Week

<u>Monday, February 18</u>		<u>Wednesday, February 20</u>	
		10:45 a.m.	Study for Sunday
		12:00 p.m.	Bell Ringing
<i>Pr. Eileen on retreat through Thursday, February 21</i>		12:00 p.m.	Women’s Fellowship
		2:00 p.m.	Wed Afternoon Club
5:30 p.m.	Emergency Residence Project (Alt)	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:30 p.m.	Unscripted
		6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
<u>Tuesday, February 19</u>		<u>Sunday, February 24</u>	
6:30 p.m.	Reel Connections: U-Turn	9:15 a.m.	Godly Play
7:15 p.m.	Executive Board	9:15 a.m.	Youth Group
		9:15 a.m.	Learning Center
		10:30 a.m.	Worship
		11:30 a.m.	Building Relationships Team
		2:00 p.m.	“White Fragility” Panel feat. Pr. Eileen

the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and shared it with his friends and enemies alike, saying, take, eat—my body breaking because of you. Thank you for the way he took the cup, the new covenant sealed in his love. Whenever you eat and drink, he said, do it in remembrance of me. With thanksgiving we take this bread and wine, gifts of the good earth, dedicating ourselves to your service.

**Many: Dying, you destroy fear;
rising, you restore hope.
With you, we open the table.**

Sharing the Feast

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Through the power of your Spirit unite us with Christ
and with one another
as we work and wait in hope,
confident in that day when with Christ
we will have truly set the table for all.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh
sing gladness to the living God.
Even the bird has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for itself,
That puts its fledglings by Your altars,
Lord of armies, my king and my God.
Happy are those who dwell in Your house,
they will ever praise You.
Happy the fold whose strength is in You,
the highways of the heart,
Who pass through the Valley of Baca,*
they make it into a spring—
yes, the early rain cloaks it with blessings.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-35

New Revised Standard Version, modified for inclusive language
Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew." We will study Matthew through Easter.

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to the sower, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' The sower answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to the sower, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.”

SERMON Kelsey Plummer, Chicago Theological Seminary Student
Kelsey Plummer, our Seminary Sunday preacher, is a current Chicago Theological Seminary student, almost halfway through her Master of Divinity degree. Working as a full-time Hospice Chaplain for Hospice of the Midwest, Kelsey spends her days driving through central Iowa meeting with patients and families who are living with terminal illness. Kelsey is an individual who strives to see beauty in the ordinary and utilizes her role as a Chaplain to provide spiritual support and validation of patients’ experiences through their final days. When Kelsey isn’t studying or Chaplain-ing, she and her spouse Jon love to welcome friends to their home for game nights, cooking great food, and great conversation. And, when this Iowa weather allows, they love to spend as much time as they can outside, especially with their two pups.

HYMN OF PREPARATION “Come to the Table of Grace” (insert)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right, it is good, and it is joyful to give thanks to you, God of mystery and miracle. When there was only darkness,

Many: you made light.

One: When we cried out to you from captivity,

Many: you claimed us as your own.

One: When we forgot our love for you,

Many: you did not forget us,

One: sending your prophets to turn us around and renewing your promises with a bow in the sky, the parting of the sea, your own Son. And so we praise you, tuning our voices to the angels’ songs:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and light,
this heavenly earth is full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are those who love in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Setting the Table

One: Thank you for Jesus—for his teaching and healing, his challenging and feeding, his living and dying and rising, and rising, and rising again, that all the world made know newness of hope. We thank you that on