



**Ames United Church of Christ
Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.**

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, Mim Fritz, and Allen Trenkle.

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is the holiest day of the Christian year. At the same time, it is the one most fraught with confusing and even off-putting theology. We hope that during this celebration you will find ample room for your soul's understanding of God's relationship with us through Jesus Christ. God is still speaking and we are committed to listening to both God and each other.

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

EASTER ACCLAMATION

David Sheridan

One: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HYMN "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," Hymn 233

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: Risen One, Good Friday grief has given way to Easter joy! Cheer our hearts with the good news of power like a resurrection, O Lord, and join us in proclaiming it to the world. In your name we pray, 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 shortcomings and failure to live in covenant before God and each other. Lover of life,

**Many: You have created and redeemed all things
yet we often live as though it makes no difference for us.
We choose to remain stuck in old patterns,
cling to the familiar and safe,
and refuse opportunities to step out in courage and faith.
Forgive our cowardice, stubbornness, and willful disobedience.
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 loves 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

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

Pr. Hannah

New Revised Standard Version, modified for inclusive language and clarity of action

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.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel’s appearance was like lightning, with clothing white as snow. For fear of the angel the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his male disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met the women and said, "Greetings!" And the women came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

SERMON

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day," Hymn 241

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.

Invitation

One: Come! If you are hungry, there is food to eat. Come! If you are thirsty, there is water to drink. It is food for those who hunger for justice, and water for those who long for life in all its fullness. Come! Eat and drink to proclaim the feast of God's kin-dom where all are welcome and no one is left out.

Prayer

One: God, our Guardian and Creator,
**Many: You have given us this earth rich and vibrant.
Its renewing life sustains us.
Its unfailing goodness nourishes us.
Blessed be your name.**

One: Jesus, our Guide and Healer,
**Many: You ate with friends and enemies.
At a meal you brought the gift of hope.
At a meal you gave the word of life.
Blessed be your name.**

One: Spirit, our Comforter and Disturber,
**Many: You do not leave us on our own.
Here are companions to know our joy.
Here are companions to share our sorrow.
Blessed be your name.**

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast Spirit.
**Many: May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith,
increase our generosity and unify our hearts,
for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen and Rising One. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

OFFERING "African Alleluia" arr. Patrick Liebergen
Chancel Choir, Kristin Shields & Terry Potter, soloists

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: 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.

HYMN OF SENDING "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," Hymn 240

If you would like to participate in the choral benediction, please come forward during this hymn. Choir Director Lesley Lackore will provide you with music.

CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION

Hallelujah Chorus from "The Messiah" G. F. Handel

From the Latin of "well" and "to speak," this is one final good word to send us off. On Easter Sunday we do this as a community. Afterward, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, tea, treats, and community.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, April 22

Church Office Closed for Easter Monday
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Flora)

Tuesday, April 23

Pastoral Study Day

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship (at Northcrest)

Wednesday, April 24

Newsletter Articles Due

10:45 a.m. Bible Study for Sunday
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
2:00 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Club
5:00 p.m. Youth Group
6:30 p.m. Unscripted
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 28

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Group
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
10:30 a.m. Worship

Women's Fellowship – 4/23

Join us on a different day for Women's Fellowship in April! On Tuesday, April 23, we will meet at Northcrest. Some residents there are unable to come down to the church for our meetings. They like to get together on Tuesday when Men's Fellowship is happening at church. They have invited Women's Fellowship to join them. We will meet at the regular time from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your own lunch and meet at the front door of the main entrance to Northcrest. Barbara Yungclas will be there to direct us to the location of our meeting.

Unscripted: Calmly Connecting with God and Others – 4/24, 5/8

Feel stressed and too busy? There are 2 more opportunities to participate in group spiritual practice, share conversation, and prayer this spring. On April 24 we will introduce Finger Labyrinths and on May 8th we will explore mandalas. Join us in the church library from 6:30-7:30. 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).

Submit an Article for the Summer Ames UCC Newsletter – 4/24

The due date for this summer's edition of the Ames UCC Courier is Wednesday, January 24. Submit an article about an upcoming event, your church team, or your experience as a congregant in the church. This season's articles will fall under the categories of "Community," "Generosity," "Relationships," and "Worship."

Do we have your address to send you a print copy of the newsletter? If your address or other contact information needs to be updated, get in touch with Katie Tschopp (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org) in the church office.

Suicide Event Rescheduled – 5/1 (originally 4/10)

Soul Shop for Congregations: At any given moment, a significant percentage of people in any congregation are impacted by suicidal desperation, either in their own thinking, in the life of someone they care about, in the traumatic memory of the suicide of a friend or family member, or in their own history of a suicide attempt from which they have emerged. Faith communities can help prevent suicide and address the isolation of suicidal desperation. Soul Shop for congregations is designed to help people to learn about the impact of suicidal desperation in their congregation, practice a simple conversation that can save a life, and gain confidence in the ability to make a difference. Join The Rev. Diane McClanahan, RN, from the Des Moines Pastoral Care and Counseling Center for this important workshop in our Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 1 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

June 24-27 we are going "to Mars and Beyond" for Vacation Bible School (VBS)! Ames UCC along with First United Methodist, First Christian, and St. John's Episcopal will join together for a week of fun! This year VBS will be located at First United Methodist Church (across the street) each day from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. We are looking for adult volunteers to help out! We need a Science Leader, Game Leader, Storyteller, and Group Leaders. If you are interested in helping out please contact Pr. Hannah at hannah@amesucc.org.



FLOWERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE WERE GIVEN BY

Laura Beason and Ed Goedeken

George Belitsos and Peter Wolfe in memory of Gladys Wolfe.

Janet and Kevin Binder in memory of Donna Trenkle, Ann Starck, Glen Binder, and Julie Binder.

Judy Blair in memory of Harry W. Blair, Jeffrey Blair, and Marleen Blair.

Barbara and LeVern Faidley in honor of their newest grandson Corwynn Justus.

Mim Fritz

Marcus and LeAnne Johnson in memory of Marcus' parents and their grandparents.

Elaine Hieber in memory of the Hieber family.

Karen Lasche in memory of Larry Lasche.

Nancy Marks in memory of her mother.

Ruth Mortimer in memory of Randall Mortimer.

Terry Potter and Christa Andersen in honor of Edna Wiese.

Doug and Peg Powell in memory of their parents and grandparents and their dear friend Susan Doyle.

Jackie Reineke in memory of Robert Reineke.

Dale and Donna Shenefelt in honor of their family.

Pat and Kim Spangler

Donna Starck and Paul Clark in memory of Florence Starck.

Carl and Tatiana Tipton in memory of their parents.

Allen Trenkle in memory of Donna Trenkle and Ann Stark.

Ames UCC Staff in honor of Eileen Gebbie and Carla Barnwell.

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010
515-232-9323

Mon-Thurs 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

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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.