

wisdom

Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 10, 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.

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 Jan Breitman, Sue Lamont, Liberato Silva Dos Santos, and Pat Spangler.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Steve Rogers-Smith

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

One: Better is a little that the decent person has

Many: **than the abundance of many deceitful.**

One: For the soul of the deceitful shall be broken,

Many: **and those of the decent know no bruises.**

One: God knows the days of the kind,

Many: **And their legacy will abide forever.**

HYMN “We Sing to You, O God” (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: O Lord, you give good things to all, though some may be too distracted to see. Move our hearts to the same generosity of spirit, and eyes that see, that we might model your grace in our lives. 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.

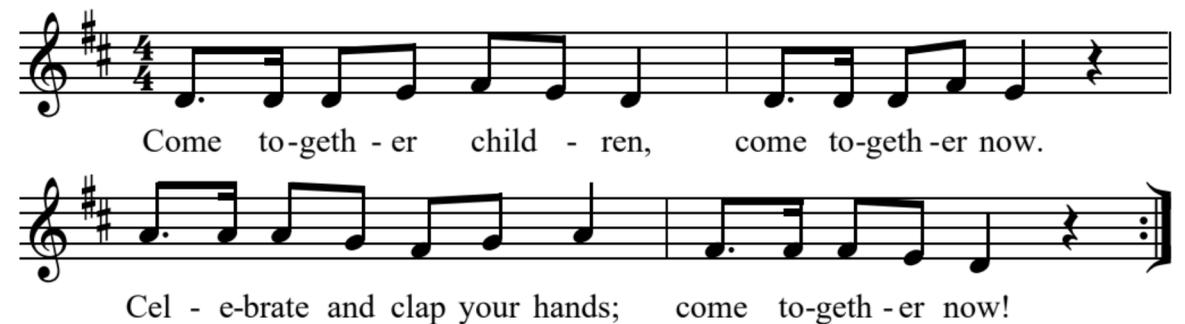
One: God is merciful, patient, kind, and forgiving. May we give now as we have received: generously and extravagantly. Amen.

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.



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the lyrics "Come to-gether child - ren, come to-gether now." The second staff contains the melody for the lyrics "Cel - e-brate and clap your hands; come to-gether now!". The music is simple and suitable for children's participation.

PSALM 37:1-3, 16-18

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.

Psalms have been sung and chanted for centuries in Christian community. Today we will sing part of the psalm as other parts are read.

Trust in the Lord, de - light in the Lord, and
live in the light of the Lord.

Sung response

Do not be incensed by evildoers.
Do not envy those who do wrong.
For like grass they will quickly wither
and like green grass they will fade.
Trust in the Lord and do good.
dwell in the land and keep faith

Sung response

Better a little for the just
than wicked men's great profusion.
For the wicked's arms shall be broken
but the Lord sustains the just.
The Lord embraces the fate of the blameless,
and their estate shall be forever.

Sung response

GOSPEL Matthew 7:14, 24-29

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 stay in this book of the Bible until after Easter.

"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

"Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Creator in heaven give good things to those who ask!

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the teachings and the prophets.

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not

act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Commit Your Way to God the Lord” (insert)

COMMISSIONING THE MATTHEW 25:36 MINISTERS

Today we are commissioning four new Matthew 25:36 Ministers and recommissioning those who are continuing in this ministry of visitation and relationships: Debi Ford, Kim Spangler, Pat Spangler, Sandy Ballard, Barbara Yungclas, Bill Yungclas, Barbara Hauerrberg, Amy Erica Smith, Steve Rogers-Smith, Donna Starck, Paul Clark, Laura Beason, and Christa Andersen. Each is following Jesus’ call: “I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” If you would like to learn more about this ministry, contact Pr. Eileen.

One: Dear friends, today we recognize the ministry of Amy Erica, Barbara H., Barbara Y., Bill, Debi, Kim, Pat, Sandy, Steve, Donna, Paul, Laura, and Christa and to commission them to a special task along the Way of Jesus Christ...In the name of this congregation...

Many: **We commission you to this work and pledge to you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this and in all things you may do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ.**

One: Almighty God, look with favor upon Amy Erica, Barbara H., Barbara Y., Bill, Debi, Kim, Pat, Sandy, Steve, Paul, Donna, Laura, and Christa who today affirm their commitment to be a visible presence of this church and our God to those who cannot be with us in this house of prayer. Give each of them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocations of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ

Many: **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.

OFFERING

“I Sing the Will to Love”

Ben Schrag

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

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” (insert)

BENEDICTION

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

Calendar for the Week

Monday, February 11

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence Project (Breitman)
5:30 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations Committee
7:15 p.m. Financial Stewardship

Tuesday, February 12

Pastoral Study Day

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, February 13

10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship
2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Unscripted

Friday, February 15

8:00 p.m. Youth Group Lock-In

Saturday, February 16

9:30 a.m. Volunteer at Food at First

Sunday, February 10

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

Thank You for Your Patience with Our Sound System

Our sound system is on its last legs. As we wait for the installation of our new one (as late as March), please do not hesitate to move to a different seat or area in the church so as not to strain or be deafened.

Women's Fellowship – 2/13

Join us for Women's Fellowship on Wednesday, February 13 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lori Peake, an experienced quilter, will be bringing quilts to share with us: some completed, some being worked on and others in flux. Lori will also share some of the equipment she uses when she does her quilting. If any of you have questions about quilting bring those with you and Lori will try to answer them. Come with your lunch and enthusiasm to learn about this unique sample of craftsmanship.

Unscripted: Calmly Connecting with God and Others – 2/13

Feel stressed and too busy? On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 (with a break during Lent), "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).

Youth Group Lock-In – 2/15

WHO: Ames UCC Youth Group and friends

WHAT: Play games, eat food, watch movies, talk and maybe sleep(?)

WHEN: Friday, February 15th 8:00 p.m. - Saturday, February 16th 8:00 a.m.

WHY: Because lock-ins are amazing.

HOW: ***Registration Required*** There is no fee for this gathering, but youth must be registered with Megan Henson. Contact her at megan@amesucc.org.

Seminary Sunday – 2/17

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 graduated (as well as many of our previous pastors). Please see Kelsey's bio on the next page. 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. Though I will not be with you in person on Seminary Sunday, as I will be at Creighton University's Retreat Center practicing both Centering Prayer and Ignatian imaginative prayer, I will be with you in that church universal, singing with my soul as you do with your voices. - Pr. Eileen

Kelsey Plummer, our Seminary Sunday preacher, is a current Chicago Theological Seminary student, almost half way 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.



“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.

Thank You For Sharing Your Extravagant Welcome

People in our church provide an extravagant welcome to members and visitors alike. The following people helped provide that welcome as deacons, ushers, and greeters during the month of January: Eric Abbott, Herb Best, Linda Best, Brett Brinkmeyer, Boyd Dohrmann, Irene Dohrmann, Barbara Faidley, LeVern Faidley, Mim Fritz, Melissa Haynes, Sue Lamont, Karen Lasche, Tom Meyer, Doug Powell, Peg Powell, Steve Rogers-Smith, and Linda Shenk The Worship and Music Team wishes to thank you for participating in the life of our church.

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

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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

Financial Stewardship
Bradley Duckstein

Social Justice and Outreach
Linda Best, George Belitsos

Building Relationships
Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

Property
Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk

Christian Education
Allison Anderson

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.