

35th Annual Theologian in Residence Weekend

Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 3, 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 Allison Anderson, Brett Brinkmeyer, Art Pohm, Bernie Pohm, Leah Reeve, and Linda Shenk.

ABOUT THE THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Theologian in Residence is a long-standing Christian education and outreach program at Ames United Church of Christ. Through the weekend, we have heard from theologian Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy and others on this year's topic: "Immigration Matters: Joined Together, Finding Solutions." Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy will share the sermon in worship today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Dan Coffey

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

One: Come away, disciples of Christ, and rest from your labors.

Many: **We are weary from our work.**

One: Come away, disciples of Christ, and leave the demands of the crowds.

Many: **There are always more who need our help.**

One: Come away, disciples of Christ, and be renewed in fellowship with the host of our feast.

Many: **We are hungry and need the table of God to give us strength for the journey.**

One: Come away, disciples of Christ, and draw courage from the one who makes us full.

HYMN “Come, My People, Welcome to Worship” (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 God beyond the ages, you revealed a portion of yourself in Jesus and ask only that we listen to him. Help us to see you throughout our highs and lows, and to find courage in having you by our side. 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: With confidence in God’s gift of wholeness, we confess our times of brokenness before God and one another. Beloved and loving God,

Many: **With our lips, our hands, and our hearts we have hurt many. Show us our errors and teach us to walk in your way of righteousness. By your mercy, help us to redeem, to heal the harms we have caused. 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: Ours is a God of love and redemption. Nothing we can say or do, nor anything anyone else says or does to us, can separate us from the love of God. Receive this day the strength to right all wrongs. 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 THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

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



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

HEBREW BIBLE

1 Kings 19:3-8

Pr. Eileen

Robert Alter translation

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.

And (Elijah) was afraid, and he rose and went off to save himself, and he came to Beersheba, which is Judah's, and left his lad there. And (Elijah) had gone a day's journey into the wilderness, and he came and sat under a certain broom-tree, and look, a divine messenger was touching him, and said to him, "Arise, eat." And (Elijah) looked, and there at his head was a loaf baked on hot coals and a cruse of water. And he ate and he drank and he lay down once more. And the LORD's messenger came back again and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, for your way is long." And he rose and ate and drank and walked in the strength of that eating forty days and forty nights as far as the mountain of God, Horeb.

GOSPEL

John 6:1-13

New Revised Standard Version, modified for clarity

Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to John."

...Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Jewish festival of Passover was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test Philip, for Jesus himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were

seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

SERMON

"Second Helping"

The Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy, President of the Pacific School of Religion and 2019 Theologian in Residence

HYMN OF PREPARATION

"Seed, Scattered, and Sown" (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.

The Communion Prayer

One: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited in to this holy mystery. Come.

Many: We are ready!

One: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty."

Many: We are hungry and thirsty. We come!

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .

Many: “Take, eat.
**This is my body breaking because of what you will do.
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

One: In the same way, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,
**Many: “Take, drink.
This is the seal of a new covenant, my poured-out life.
Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”**

One: God, we bless for you this bread that the earth has given and human hands have made.

Many: May it be for all the Bread of Life!

One: Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

Many: May it be for all the Cup of Peace!

One: Bless us too, that by our eating and drinking we may have love for each other and be servants of Christ’s peace, until the New Day comes and every creature finds an honored place at the Banquet of Life!

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: **Gracious and loving God,
you have made us one in the body of Christ,
and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink.
Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst.
Now send us into the world
to do the work you have given us to do:
to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls,
to free prisoners, and make the powerful care.
Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil,
and to proclaim in all we say and do
the good news of God in Christ. 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

“Born to Be the Bread” Ruth Elaine Schram

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

“Let us Talents and Tongues Employ,” Hymn 347

BENEDICTION

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

Calendar for the Week

Monday, March 4

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Spangler)
5:30 p.m. Worship Staff Meeting
7:30 p.m. SoJO Meeting

Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday

10:45 a.m. Risking
with Amy-Jill Levine
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:15 p.m. Midday Ash Wednesday
Prayer Service
12:15 p.m. Lent & Lunch
7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Ash
Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 10

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Group
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Reception with Holy
Transfiguration Orthodox
Church

Ash Wednesday: Mark & Be Marked – 3/6

Plan to attend one or both of the Ash Wednesday services on March 6:

- Midday (12:15 p.m.) at Ames UCC
- Evening (7 p.m.) at First United Methodist Church (across the street) along with First Christian Church. Pr. Eileen will be preaching. Note: This may be surprising or even feel uncomfortable in light of the recent vote by the international body of the United Methodist Church. However, ours is a faith that often surprises and is not intended to make us comfortable. Unless being in the sanctuary will reopen old wounds of homophobia and transphobia, please plan to come in honor of this long ecumenical partnership and to give witness to our branch of the Christian family tree.

Risking with Amy-Jill Levine

During the regular 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study for Sunday classes during Lent, we will prepare for Holy Week with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's new course, "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week." Dr. Levine is an acclaimed New Testament scholar and past Ames UCC Theologian in Residence.

3/6 Jerusalem: Risking Reputation

3/13 The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger

3/20 Teachings: Risking Challenge

3/27 The First Dinner: Risking Rejection

4/3 The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

4/10 Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

Lent and Lunch

From Ash Wednesday, March 6, through Wednesday, April 10 we will gather in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. for worship (silence, song, prayer) followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall (bring your own). We usually wrapped up at 1 p.m., but come and go as your work schedule allows.

Welcome, Holy Transfiguration Orthodox!

For the last year our church has shared a small food pantry on 7th street with Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, our neighbors at 7th and Kellogg. Just after the partnership began, the Fr. Marty Watts and the congregation hosted us after worship for food and a tour of their sanctuary. Now we have the opportunity to return the hospitality on Sunday, March 10. If you are able to bring extra treats that day, please notify Nancy Dunn (ndunn949@gmail.com) and Ben Schrag (mr.half@gmail.com). Our ecumenical relationships are a powerful testimony to our faith in a "still speaking" God. Please join us for this fellowship as you are able. -Pr. Eileen

Lenten Soup Suppers (& PB&Js, too) – 3/13, 20, 27 and 4/3, 10

Hot soup, tasty bread, fun friends...what's not to like? Our annual Lenten Soup Suppers (March 13, 20, 27, and April 3, 10) are an opportunity to share a simple meal and rich fellowship.

Each week from 5:15-6:15 we will have 5-6 soups (3 vegetarian), as well as bread, vegetables, milk, and PB&Js. Don't worry about getting there right on time - there will be plenty of food if you can't arrive until 5:30 or even 6:00. No time to cook or help? Not to worry....just come and enjoy! Childcare for children through 5th grade will be available from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. each week so parents can go on to attend one of our other offerings.

Become More Centered during Lent – 3/13, 20, 27 and 4/3, 10

After our shared meal, join me on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a time of fellowship, centering prayer, and song. With a prayer time of 20 minutes, we will likely be together for no more than 45 minutes total. We will meet in the parlor.

Women's Fellowship E-mail List

Want to stay up to date on the weekday Women's Fellowship gatherings? E-mail Lynette Spicer at hollysprings50010@yahoo.com and she will add you to the reminder list.

Thank You for Your Extravagant Welcome

The Worship and Music team wish to thank the people in the church that provided an extravagant welcome to members and visitors during the month of February. These people were greeters, ushers and deacons: Jan Breitman, Barbara Hauerrberg, Sue Lamont, Liberato Santos, Kim Spangler, Pat Spangler, John Uitermarkt and Marge Uitermarkt.

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

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Mon-Thurs 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
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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.