

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

**Ames United Church of Christ  
Sunday, March 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 Eric Abbott, Greg Lamont, Bob Kerksieck, Dinah Kerksieck, and Laurie Olk.*

## **ABOUT THE CROSS & HOLY COMMUNION**

*Regular worshippers will notice that our memorial cross and Communion table are missing from the chancel (the front of the sanctuary). They will not return until their time in the story of Holy Week: Maundy Thursday (April 18) for Communion and Good Friday (April 19) for the cross. In the meantime, you will see leafless branches (on the chancel and elsewhere on campus). Throughout Lent we will each have the opportunity to decorate eggs to hang on those branches. On Good Friday, when we commemorate Jesus' death, they will be broken. On Easter Sunday (April 21) they will return to the space on vases filled with flowers, an evocation of the power of the cycle of life.*

## **ORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SUSPENDED FOR LENT**

*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. If you are not subscribed to the latter, e-mail Katie Tschopp ([office@amesucc.org](mailto:office@amesucc.org)). Oral announcements before worship will resume on the second Sunday of Easter (April 28).*

## RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

### CENTERING MUSIC

*Lent is one of many seasons of the church year that developed millennia ago to help guide and nurture our faith. From Ash Wednesday (February 15) to Holy Saturday (March 31), each of us is invited to go deeply into the story of Jesus' public ministry as well as his execution through additional silence and more meditative song. In doing so, we allow the Easter mystery work on us more powerfully.*

### SILENCE (two minutes)

*For many of us, nothing is more challenging than silence. During Lent, we will have three moments of silence, each longer than the next. If you feel squirmy or uncomfortable or distracted, that is normal. Try paying attention to the breath moving in and out of your nose and mouth or repeating one or two words as a meditative prayer.*

"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from the LORD."

—Psalm 62.5

### SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP FOR LENT

*A formal and mutual invitation to move into the worship experience, which we will sing during the season of Lent.*

**All: Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.  
(three times)**

### INVOKING THE HOLY David Sheridan

*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: God, you have remained faithful in our world of transgressions. Make us likewise gracious to those who are in debt to us, showing them the mercy which you offer to all. 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. Throughout this season of Lent we will use a classic prayer of confession from the Book of Common Prayer. You will see that the prayer has us confess sin and then defines that sin: failure to love.*

One: Though Lent is a season of returning, as in turning back, to God, we know God has never turned from us. Confident in that enduring love, we confess our misdirection and forgetfulness before God and one another. Faithful God,

**Many: Jesus was obedient to love in every way,  
even when that obedience led to death.  
As we walk this preparative season with him,  
fill us with awareness of all the ways we have fallen short  
of being faithful, loving servants ourselves.  
Forgive us our shortsightedness, our waste,  
and our criticism of ourselves and others.  
We long for your Jesus' strengths and rely on your loving kindness.  
Amen.**

### SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION (three minutes)

*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: Our God is abounding in steadfast love. You have been reminded of that love and so have another chance to turn away from all which does not give life. Be assured and recognize your God-given wholeness again. 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.*

## PSALM 32

Led by Lesley Lackore and Judy Blair



Stead-fast love sur-rounds those who trust in God.

### *Sung response*

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose brokenness is covered.

Happy are those to whom God imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

### *Sung response*

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of might waters  
shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble.

You surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

### *Sung response*

Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds them and  
those who trust in God.

Be glad in God and rejoice, O righteous;  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

### *Sung response*

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:15-22

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.”*

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Creator in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

## **SERMON**

**SILENCE** (four minutes)

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** Nancy Dunn & Pr. Eileen

*Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved. Throughout Lent, Pr. Eileen will be joined by different congregants in leading the pastoral prayer.*

## **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**

“How Lovely Is Your Dwelling” Jean Janzen/Es Ist Ein Ros  
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](mailto:office@amesucc.org).*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **HYMN OF SENDING**

“Blessed be the Tie that Binds,” Hymn 393

## **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, March 11

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence  
Project (Hanson)  
7:15 p.m. Financial Stewardship

### Tuesday, March 12

#### *Pastoral Study Day*

12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship

### Wednesday, March 13

10:45 a.m. Risking  
with Amy-Jill Levine  
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing  
12:15 p.m. Lent & Lunch  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group  
5:15 p.m. Soup Supper  
6:30 p.m. Centering Prayer  
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, March 16

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

### Sunday, March 17

10:30 a.m. Worship

---

## Lenten Preparation with Megan Henson

Lent is a time of preparation. For forty days we are called to enter into the broken places in our lives and in our world to consider how we might need to change. What is holding us up? What is encouraging transformation? What will allow us to live into the power of a love that transcends death?

At stations around the church, pick an egg that speaks to you, grab a slip of paper, and write down something in your life that needs transformation. Roll it up, slide it in the egg, and hang the egg on a branch.

Together, we will let go of the things holding us up and embrace the powerful love that transcends death. By Good Friday all of our eggs will be in the sanctuary, and by Easter morning they will be transformed and made anew. Change is possible. There is nothing that can separate us from the sustaining love of God.

## Welcome, Holy Transfiguration Orthodox!

For the last year our church has shared a small food pantry on 7<sup>th</sup> street with Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, our neighbors at 7<sup>th</sup> 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 today!

## 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.

3/13 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 – 3/13, 20, 27 and 4/3, 10

Each Wednesday through 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.

## 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. Below is a description of centering prayer from Contemplative Outreach, the leading organization devoted to its promotion and practice.

*Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.*

*Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer - verbal, mental or affective prayer - into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.*

### **Central Iowa Gay Straight Alliance Empowering Queer Youth Conference – 3/16**

Our own Rowan H. is one of the organizers of the upcoming Central Iowa Gay Straight Alliance Empowering Queer Youth Conference. Pr. Eileen will be one of the speakers. All youth are welcome at this completely student-led and organized event. The goal is to empower queer students to take action in their local community and their school. Details and registration here: [bit.ly/NevadaGSA2019](http://bit.ly/NevadaGSA2019)

### **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.

David Cook, Sexton  
cookdavi@gmail.com

Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister  
eileen@amesucc.org

Hannah Hannover,  
Minister to Children & Families  
hannah@amesucc.org

Megan Henson, Youth Director  
megan@amesucc.org

David Sheridan, Seminary Intern  
limnolaw@aol.com

Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director  
llackore@gmail.com

Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Instrumentalist  
sunny@amesucc.org

Katie Tschopp,  
Church Office Administrator  
office@amesucc.org

---

### **Ames UCC Team Leadership**

Allen 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](mailto:office@amesucc.org)) if you need a copy.