

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

**Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 24, 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 Barbara Faidley, Steve Rogers-Smith, Lynette Spicer, Galina Spike, and Phil Spike.

This worship service may be videotaped as part of a seminary class assignment for our intern David Sheridan.

ABOUT THE CROSS & HOLY COMMUNION

Regular worshipers 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). 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 Megan Henson

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: Lord of hosts, you constantly expand the boundaries of your kingdom. Make us joyful participants in your plan to redeem the world, that all people would be one in you. For the sake of Jesus Christ. 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 Jesus' strengths and rely on his 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.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14 Pr. Hannah New Revised Standard Version

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.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

SERMON Seminary Intern David Sheridan

SILENCE (four minutes)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Megan Henson & David Sheridan

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 "Listen with Your Heart" Brad Nix
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 "You Have Gone Down to the Lakeshore" (insert)

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 25

Pr. Eileen away

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Shedd)

Tuesday, March 26

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship
7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, March 20

10:45 a.m. Risking
with Amy-Jill Levine
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:15 p.m. Lent & Lunch

2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
5:00 p.m. Youth Group
5:15 p.m. Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Centering Prayer
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 31

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. Building Relationships
11:30 a.m. Matt 25 Ministers
11:45 a.m. Risking
with Amy-Jill Levine
3:00 p.m. Volunteer at Food at First

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.

Lenten “Give to Someone” Non-Food Drive

During the six weeks of Lent, join the Worship and Music Team in a service project. We would like people to bring in NON-FOOD ITEMS to give to MICA’s food pantry. Instead of giving up something, try giving to someone! Find the shopping cart in the parlor for a list of needed items. Attached to the shopping cart in the parlor is an envelope with coupons to help purchase some items. Please use as many as you like. Be generous and help someone during the season of Lent.

U-Turn Movie Showing & Pizza Party – TODAY

Following worship on Sunday, March 24, the Social Justice and Outreach Team invites everyone to join us in the Fellowship Hall for pizza and a showing of the Luis Argueta film *The U-Turn*. The story starts with the Postville immigration raid and brings us up-to-date with the story of how legal and community volunteers and groups rallied to help the traumatized families.

Risking with Amy-Jill Levine – Wednesdays 3/27, 4/3, 4/10

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.

3/27 The First Dinner: Risking Rejection

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

4/10 Gethsemane: Risking Temptation.

Lent and Lunch – 3/27 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 wrap up at 1 p.m., but come and go as your work schedule allows.

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

Hot soup, tasty bread, fun friends...what's not to like? Our annual Lenten Soup Suppers (March 20, 27, and April 3, 10) are an opportunity to share a simple meal and rich fellowship. Each week from 5:15-6:15 p.m. we will have 5-6 soups (3 vegetarian), as well as bread, vegetables, milk, and PB&Js. 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 – 3/27 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. -Pr. Eileen

Community ID drive at St. Cecilia Catholic Church – 3/30

How do others know who you are, those beyond your circle of friends and work? It’s a daily problem for Iowans who lack a driver’s license or State ID. That problem comes up when they deal with businesses, service providers, and law enforcement, among others. To more fully knit every person into the fabric of our community, some congregations in Story County are launching the Central Iowa Community ID card, a photo ID that is reliable proof of the holder’s identity and residence. Attend the ID card drive Saturday, March 30 at St. Cecilia Catholic Church. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. and orientation from Ames Police and other community leaders begins at 10:00. Plan to devote several hours between orientation, paperwork, and photos. The card costs \$8 (cash only) and has a life of two years. Call (515) 599-8149 or go to <https://sites.google.com/view/communityid/home> for information.

Risking with Amy-Jill Levine – Sundays 3/31, 4/7, 4/14

After worship on the last three Sundays in Lent, 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. Bring a sack lunch (store it in the large kitchen’s refrigerator) and join me in the Fellowship Hall for these 90-minute

classes. Childcare will be provided if requested within a week of each session. No RSVP is otherwise required. -Pr. Eileen

3/31 Jerusalem: Risking Reputation and The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
4/7 Teachings: Risking Challenge & The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
4/14 The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends & Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

One Great Hour of Sharing – 3/31

On Sunday, March 31 Ames UCC will take part with churches across several Christian denominations in the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. This offering supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response.

The national United Church of Christ holds five special offerings throughout the year to support specific ministries. To learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing, check out ucc.org/oghs.

Serve at Food at First on 5th Sundays – 3/31

In addition to Ames UCC's regular 3rd Saturday of the month volunteering at Food at First, join us in taking on 4 additional days per year (the 5th Sunday of the month). The first of these is coming up on March 31. On Sunday, the meal is cooked from about 3 p.m. , and served at 5:45 p.m., followed by clean up. Terry Potter also asks for volunteers to think about becoming a Food at First head chef. Terry would provide training and share the 3rd Saturday and 5th Sunday responsibilities. Contact Terry for more information at 515-337-1347 or terryapotter63@gmail.com.

LGBTQIA Panel Featuring Pr. Eileen – 4/1

Pr. Eileen will be a panelist, along with a local rabbi and priest, at the Iowa Safe Schools 14th Annual Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth on April 1st. No foolin'! Details, including registration if you'd like to attend, is here: iowasafeschools.org/governors-conference-on-lgbtq-youth/

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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Lynette Spicer, Clerk

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Building Relationships

Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

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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.