



ames

UCC COURIER

United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

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**Worship at
Hobbit's Hill
Sunday, June 2**

Instead of worship at McFarland Park, outdoor worship will be at Hobbit's Hill, the home of George Belitsos and his husband Peter Wolfe. Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a fun, relaxed experience and a potluck afterwards. Bring food to share, table service and lawn chairs. Drinks will be provided.

I-Cubs Tailgate & Game

Come tailgate with us and stay to watch the I-Cubs take on Round Rock on June 9 (see inside)

Spring Work Day June 15, 9-12 noon

Your help will be needed in the areas of interior and exterior cleaning, minor repairs and painting. As always, many hands will make light work, so please plan to join us that day!

Combined Worship Services

As we do every summer, we will worship with FCC in July.

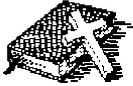
—July 7 & 14 at First Christian Church.

—July 21 & 28 at United Church of Christ

Vacation Bible School
June 24-28
9:00—12 noon
(see inside)

"Everywhere Fun Fair"

FROM THE PASTOR



The best speech I have ever heard was in the summer of 2007. I was sitting in the Hartford Civic Center with ten thousand other people listening to Bill Moyers give the keynote address at the 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ. Moyers was incredible. Before Bill Moyers climbed the rostrum, I was moved nearly to tears by Marian Wright Edelman's speech in favor of extending health care to the children of uninsured parents. Oh, and then some guy named Barack Obama spoke. That was my first experience of General Synod, the biennial gathering of the United Church of Christ.

Although not every gathering is as overwhelming as the fiftieth anniversary celebration, General Synod is the ultimate expression of our denominational life. It is made up of representatives from each of the 38 Conferences, the boards of directors of the national mission boards, and representatives of important special interest groups within the denomination. At the end of June I will be traveling to Long Beach, California to attend the 29th General Synod. In Long Beach, the roughly 750 delegates will vote on the officers of the denomination and at least sixteen different resolutions. This year's resolutions address the reorganization of Conference boundaries, statements on the environment, bullying, taxation, housing, and the support of veterans, to name just a few. You are welcome to visit www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions to find the full text of the current resolutions that will come before Synod. Although I am not a delegate, I can participate in the committee process and would be happy to bring your comments to the Iowa delegation.

There are a few points worth mentioning about the role and impact of General Synod. General Synod is not representative of the local churches. We, as Ames UCC, are represented through the Iowa Conference. This is one of the few non-congregational aspects of our denominational polity. General Synod has power over the national setting of the church and can set priorities for the officers and boards of the national setting. It does not have any power over the local church. General Synod 29 cannot tell us at Ames UCC what to do, but it can suggest things to us for our consideration. Historically, General Synod has played a crucial role in guiding the church and being a strong witness on behalf of social justice. If you look over the resolutions, you will know what I mean.

Fortunately, the UCC Pension Board is paying for me and the other members of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative to attend General Synod so we can stay connected with one another and the wider church. I look forward to reporting back on my experience at Synod sometime in July. This congregation has been heavily involved in the wider church, at the Association, Conference, and National settings. I hope my presence at General Synod will continue to strengthen those connections.

On a separate note, please let me or the church office know if any pastoral concerns arise. I want to be sure that the congregation and I will be there for you.

-Jonathan Page

Executive Board

150th Anniversary Capital Campaign Committee

A capital campaign is being considered in conjunction with Ames UCC's 150th anniversary in October 2015. The committee working on this will be chaired by Amy Johnson, and includes Diane Birt, Nathan Hannover, Doug Powell and Phil Spike.

The proposal is to make improvements and repairs to better position us to move forward in the future. This will include a number of smaller projects that do not fit into the annual operating budget. The committee will be brainstorming and soliciting your ideas. By the January 2014 Annual Meeting, we hope to have a prioritized list of projects with cost estimates for congregational approval. We need congregational input throughout the process. Please give these committee members your ideas.

--Ken Birt, Moderator



Photographer Needed

We are looking for someone with a good eye and a good camera to take photos of life around the church for the website. Contact Jon (jon@amesucc.org)

Christian Education Team

From the Minister to Children and Youth

We will accept applications for the Ames UCC Youth Director beginning August 1. The youth director oversees and supports the activities of 7th grade to 12th grade youth. The director introduces young people to Jesus Christ, disciples them in spiritual growth and trains them in serving God with their lives. The position averages 7 hours of work per week and is salaried at \$4,000 per year. He/she plans and leads Wednesday night youth fellowship and Sunday School before church.

Please pass this information on to anyone you think might be interested in applying.

--Hannah Hannover

Christian Education Meeting



COME ONE, COME ALL: The Christian Education Team is inviting everyone in the congregation who is interested in Christian education to a meeting on **Wednesday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m.** Are you involved in any form of Bible Study? Would you like to have a new Bible Study started at a different time. We want your input. Do you have children in Sunday School? Would you like Sunday School changed or added to in some way. Would you like to have an Adult Sunday School Class? Have you worked with a youth group in the past? Would you like to do it again? How can we enrich the Christian Education program for the youth in our church? Learning Center people, come and talk to us about your future plans.

Share your ideas with us! Come to the meeting. We are open to suggestions. To make Christian Education (all parts of it) better we need input from as many people as possible.. Many of you have come to this church from other churches. Did your past church do something you really liked? Let us know. **Get excited about Christian Education at Ames UCC!**



The church library is off the parlor in the northwest corner of the church.

CLEANING: We are continuing to sort through the books in the church library. Some will stay, some more academic books will be housed in the church office and some will be donated to the rummage sale.

SEEKING DONATIONS: We would like copies of books that the UCC Book Club has read. We would also like to start a collection of biographies. If you have any at home, please consider donating them. Good children's literature (in good condition) is also welcome. Before bringing anything for the library, please contact Barbara Faidley at church, at barbara@faidley.org or at (515) 233-3874.

NEW BOOKS: We have new books that are being processed and will be on the shelves shortly, including some adult fiction by Janette Oke (many of these are large print editions) and various religious topics. The author Fern Kupfer, a guest at the Ames UCC Book Club in May, gave the church library a copy of her book "Leaving Long Island". It is available to check out. It is a very good read and is fun seeing Ames in the book.

BOOKS DURING WORSHIP: There is a children's book rack in the back of the sanctuary. These books can be used during worship. Please return them to the rack at the end of the service. Did you really like one of the books? These books may be checked out of the library. New books will be available every three weeks.

BOOKS IN PARLOR: During the summer we will be displaying books in the church parlor. Some of the books will be those that have been reviewed and will be marked as such. Other books on display will be staff picks. Those are books that Jonathan or Hannah or others really like and recommend. Make sure you look for these books and check one or two out of our updated church library.

BOOK CHECK-OUT: Take the card from the pocket in the book. Write the date and your name on the card. Put the card in the basket on the bookshelf near the phone. A committee member will file the card in our file box. When you return the book please put it in the large basket on the floor that says **BOOK RETURN**. The committee will return the card and re-shelf the book. Please consider the church library for your summer reading. It is getting better every day.

Book Reviews

Children's book After the Flood by Arthur Geisert, 1994, Houghton Mifflin Co.

This is a picture book with one line of text per page. The author is also the illustrator. It is done in full color etching with an enormous amount of detail. How did Noah, his family, and the numerous animals aboard the ark rebuild, once the Great Flood had ended? The author shows his concept of the glorious time after the flood. Each two page spread in the book shows incredible detail. If you are reading this book to your child, there is much to discuss about each of the pictures. One interesting scene is how they used part of the Ark for their family home in their new location and how they got it there. It is a well-done book about the adventure of starting anew.



--Barbara Faidley

The Book of Sorrows, by Walter Wangerin, Jr., 1985, Harper and Row

This is a story about a land of animals going through difficult times. It is after a war against the forces of evil. The winter is bleak and all the animals are having difficulty finding enough to eat. The wise and respected leader is a rooster named Chanticleer.

Don't for a minute think this is just a children's story. It is a spell-binding story about hope, grief, guilt, spirituality and their effects on the social order. It is rich in symbolism.

A father feels guilty and inadequate because he cannot provide enough food for his family. The leader is ashamed because another died attacking the evil being instead of him and because he cannot eliminate the suffering of his followers. Both of these characters have loved ones that would help, but they are unwilling to be consoled by others or to let go of their guilt. This leads to misunderstandings and sorrows for all. The small faults and misunderstandings build up to tragic consequences.

I highly recommend The Book of Sorrows because it is not only a fun story to read, it is also very thought provoking.

-- Ken Birt

Member Services Team

Women's Fellowship will meet June 5 at 12 noon.

Come join the women in the congregation at noon, Wednesday, June 5 in Fellowship Hall. In honor of Father's Day, we'll share stories and memories of our dads and talk about the ways our dads shaped us into the women we are today. NOTE: There will be no women's fellowship in July or August.



Iowa Cubs Baseball Outing Sunday, June 9

Come cheer on the I-Cubs. First pitch is at 1:05 p.m. Before the game, join your UCC friends for a tailgate lunch. We will provide hot dogs, buns and condiments. You bring your drink and a side dish to share. We will meet in the parking lot just north of Sec Taylor stadium around 11:45 a.m.

You receive one free general admission ticket for every 3 canned goods you bring! They will be donated to the Food Bank of Iowa. Come join us!

-- Bradley Duckstein and Kristin Shields

Do you have Ideas for Food, Fun and Fellowship Opportunities?

Please share them! Contact Allison Anderson at (515) 291-6351 or ast1961@gmail.com and we'll get the ball rolling!

Ames UCC Book Club Meets in the Church Parlor at 2 p.m.

June 19 – suggestions of books for book club fall 2013

Past books and books considered are on the web at <http://www.amesucc.org/connect#Book>.



Attic to Basement Sale August 23-24

We are now accepting donations for our annual Attic to Basement rummage sale. Please leave donated items upstairs in rooms 209-211. Note: we are not accepting TV's.

--Cornelia Flora

Property Team

The Property Team Needs Your Help!

The Property Team needs volunteers from the congregation to help with a number of light repair, painting and clean-up projects around the church buildings and grounds. To volunteer for one or more of these projects contact the church sexton, Dave Cook, at (515) 233-2240 or cookdavi@gmail.com.

Fluorescent Lighting Upgrade Teams of two or three volunteers are needed to assist sexton Dave Cook (an electrician by trade) to upgrade the old fluorescent fixtures with new, energy-efficient electronic ballasts and T-8 tubes. Volunteers will be trained by Dave--no special electrical expertise is required.

Removal of Carpeting in the Church Office Building The carpeting is being removed to refinish and/or replace the floor. Three or four volunteers are needed to move furniture to facilitate the removal of the carpeting.

Window and Trim Painting at the Church Office Building Volunteers are needed to scrape, caulk and repaint window frames and trim on the church office building. Volunteers will paint only in safely accessible areas--difficult areas will be contracted out to a professional firm.

Gardening and Landscaping Dinah Kersieck and the LGBTA group have been working on various landscaping and gardening projects around the church. Contact Dinah at dina-handbob@hotmail.com to volunteer.

All-Church Work Day Reserve Saturday, June 15 for the church spring work day. Projects will include vacuuming and/or shampooing the pew pads in the sanctuary, room cleaning on the second floor, and more. All members and friends of the church are asked to help. If you want more details, contact Dave Cook at (515) 233-2240 or cookdavi@gmail.com; or Greg Lamont at (515) 233-3442 or gdlamont7@gmail.com.

I hope many of you can assist in one or more of the above projects.
--Greg Lamont

Social Justice & Outreach Team

Green Justice Team

Mission 4/1 Earth

The United Church of Christ Mission 4/1 Earth campaign provided the opportunity for our congregation to join others nationwide in a sustained, aggressive, and collective mission to care for our Earth. During the 50 days of Eastertide from Easter Monday, April 1, to Pentecost, May 19, more than 50 individuals and families in our congregation engaged in various activities of earth care, sent letters to local, state and national elected officials advocating for environmental concerns, and helped to plant trees both locally and globally.

The national goals called for:

ONE MILLION HOURS of earth care,
100,000 TREES PLANTED and
100,000 ADVOCACY LETTERS.

The Ames UCC goals to contribute to the national effort included:

1,000 HOURS of earth care,
100 TREES PLANTED and
100 ADVOCACY LETTERS.



While national results are still being tallied, we are happy to announce that we surpassed our goals by accumulating:

1,543 HOURS,
169 TREES and
150 LETTERS.

Thank you to all who supported and participated in Mission 4/1 Earth. We hope you will continue behaviors and efforts started during this campaign. The Green Team invites you to get more involved and welcomes your suggestions as we plan to continue our work in the coming months. For more information, contact Donna Starck, djstarck321@yahoo.com.

---The Green Team

A myriad of thank you's--

To the members of our church congregation for the many kindnesses extended to us upon Maury's death.

To all those who were involved with the reception in Fellowship Hall, especially to Barbara Yungclas for her long-time work and devotion chairing the committee.

To Laura LaGrange for returning to be the organist for the services and, as always, bringing us beautiful music.

To Rev. Jonathan Page for the caring and compassion shown in visiting and supporting Maury, for time spent sharing our stories and comforting our family, for preparing such a meaningful memorial service, and for reminding us all of God's reassuring promises.

Thank you sincerely,
Martha Geist and family

UCC

May 21, 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues in Iowa,

Each of the last two nights my wife and I have retired to our basement as warning sirens blared in the city of Ankeny. Some of you likely had the same experience. We and our neighbors were fortunate - damage in our area was light.

But for many people in Moore, Oklahoma, the sense of relief that we feel every time the warning expires was not to be. Neighborhoods were shredded. A school was destroyed, and loss of life and injury were considerable. People of faith have struggled with the problem of evil since time immemorial. But this much is clear: when there is need, followers of Jesus respond.

Please consider a generous gift for response to the Oklahoma tornadoes. Donate and follow news from the UCC national disaster assistance team at <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/oklahoma-tornados.html>

God bless you.

Rich Pleva

Iowa Conference Minister
United Church of Christ

2013 Vacation Bible School Donation Request

Are you interested in helping out with VBS but just can't take off work to volunteer??? Then here is a great and VERY important way you can help make 2013 VBS a success. We have various craft and snack items that we would love to have donated. Next time you are out shopping, feel free to bring this list with you. If you have any questions, contact Hannah. Thank you!!!

2013 VBS Art Supply List

Glue Sticks
Children's Scissors
Sharpie Markers—black and colors
Thick markers
Thin markers

2013 VBS Snack List

Napkins (enough for 120-150 for 5 days)
Plastic Punch cups (enough for 120-150)
Frozen edamame (enough for small portion serving for 120-150)
Rice crackers (enough for a serving for 120-150)
Sweet Potato Chips (enough for a serving for 120-150)
White bread (120-150 slices)
Butter (enough to spread on 120-150 slices of bread)
Cake Decorating Sprinkles (10-12 bottles)
White Flour Tortillas (120-150 large sized flour tortillas)
Fresh Fruit: Watermelon, Strawberries, Raspberries, Blueberries, Grapes, Peaches, Apples (please bring fruit by Monday the week of June 24)

In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability or sexual orientation 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.

United Church Courier

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