



# ames UCC COURIER

United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

**ISSUE 248  
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## October 6 after Worship

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There will be a congregational meeting after worship for the 150th Capital Campaign Committee (Amy Johnson, Diane Birt, Nathan Hannover, Doug Powell and Phil Spike) to report on the feedback they received from the congregation.

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## October is Stewardship Month

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Surprise gifts may be the best gifts of all. So what would happen if you considered all the gifts you have been given a surprise? What if you thought of every good thing in your life as a surprise gift from God?

*"May God . . . who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you . . ."*

- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

On pledge Sunday, October 27, we shall celebrate our pledge campaign during worship and in a potluck for all the church family following the service.

Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Gift-giving can be predictable, an obligation. Or it can be a surprise. What will your giving be?

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## AMOS City Council/Mayoral Candidate Accountability

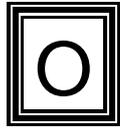
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Housing Team of AMOS in Ames will host an accountability night for candidates for the Ames City Council and mayor on October 14 at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The city of Ames is experiencing an unprecedented housing crunch which has made it virtually impossible for low to moderate income workers in Ames to find affordable places to live. AMOS leaders have developed a white paper and a set of policy solutions to address this growing problem.

The summary sheet is in this newsletter, or contact Jan Flora at [floraj@iastate.edu](mailto:floraj@iastate.edu).

## FROM THE PASTOR



One common thread throughout the New Testament is its call to help those on the margins of society. Like you, I am proud to be involved in a congregation that takes that call seriously. Today in Ames low income people have difficulty finding housing that does not put them in a financially insecure place. AMOS (A Mid Iowa Organizing Strategy) has been working hard to find constructive solutions to this problem, and this congregation has taken a leading role in that effort. Many thanks are due to Lynette Spicer, Diane Birt, and Jan Flora for their hours of involvement. On October 14, our church will host a forum, sponsored by AMOS, for all the candidates for city council. We need your presence that night to demonstrate your support. Please mark your calendar. The forum begins at 7p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Our congregation has long history of involvement in affordable housing issues around Ames. Jean Hempstead was a founder of Story County Housing, now the Story County Community Housing Corporation. Joyce Hertz spent many years with that organization and now Linda Hanson sits on its board. We are a member congregation of Ames Ecumenical Housing, which runs the Keystone and Stonehaven apartments. Jim Peake is our representative on that board and Jim Dickson currently serves as its president. Our congregation also has a seat on the board of Emergency Residence Project, a position which Allen Trenkle ably fills. These are but a few individuals from this church who have dedicated themselves to affordable housing in our city.

The scope of the current problem requires new and creative thinking. This fall is an ideal time for substantive change since every position, save one, on the Ames City Council is up for election. While I know some of you are uncomfortable with political engagement, the reality is that we need smart and compassionate public policy to address the issue. One thing I value about Ames city politics is that they are non-partisan. We have a real opportunity for constructive dialogue, and we must make our voices heard on behalf of low income people in our community.

October is also the time for our yearly stewardship campaign. Every year the congregation asks you to make a substantial financial contribution to the life and ministry of this church. I know those commitments are a great sacrifice for many of y  
 grateful for your ongoing support. We literally could not carry on without your dedication to our mission. This is your church and we rely on each of you to make our collective service happen. I am deeply moved when I think of how much this congregation does for one another and for our community. God is truly with us.

Finally, there are exciting plans afoot for the 150<sup>th</sup> Capital Campaign. The committee has listened to your thoughts and will present some of them at a brief congregational meeting after worship on October 6. I hope you will be there and help us envision what our future will be like.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me with any thoughts or concerns about our communal life. I want to hear from you.

--Jonathan Page

**From the Minister to Children and Youth**

It is exciting to see all of our volunteers helping with Sunday School and WAC! As a congregation we want to make sure that all of the children and youth who are at Ames UCC for any of our activities have loving and safe adults working with them. We run background checks on all of our adults that volunteer to help with any of our children or youth programs. In addition to the background check, you will need to work with Hannah one-on-one to go over our Safe Church policy. There will be an opportunity this winter for anyone that is interested to attend a training session. For now, if you are interested in learning more about what our Safe Church policies are, please see Hannah.

***Things we need:***

- \*Plain white t-shirts sizes small and medium
- \*Old button down shirts to use as paint shirts to protect clothing
- \*Old carpet squares
- \*acrylic paint (assorted colors)
- \*Elmer's glue

Sunday School & Wednesday Afternoon Club (WAC) could use some new art supplies! If you are out and about and feel like picking up something new or have something around your house that you would like to donate, it would be very much appreciated!



### Nursery Care

Nursery care is available in room 212 during Sunday School for children less than two years old. During worship, the nursery is open for any children up through age six.

## Financial Stewardship Team

It is time for our annual envelope addressing party for the fall stewardship campaign! We shall gather on **Wednesday, October 2** at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We have always had a wonderful response to this event. Please join the group to write addresses, stuff envelopes or attach postage for the two mailings from the Financial Stewardship Team. There is good conversation and enjoyable fellowship while we quickly complete a task that gives a personal touch to the requests for support of the church's mission. It is a surprising gift! See you there!

## Christian Education Team

### Learn Something New Every Sunday at Learning Center Adult Forum

The program begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come early for continental breakfast of doughnuts, pastries, bagels, coffee, tea and juice at 9 a.m. The breakfast is supported by a free will offering.

- ◆ Sept. 29: Sharing the World: How People Learn to Share, Paul Lasley and Art Pohm
- ◆ Oct. 6 AMOS: (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) Study and Call to Action: High rents and low wages in *Beautiful Ames* – Jan Flora
- ◆ Oct. 13: Fitness and Health for Life
- ◆ Oct. 20: Journeys of Faith – Kim and Pat Spangler
- ◆ Oct. 27: Obamacare is Coming

### Insight Bible Study Group – Attend One or All

This fall on Thursdays at 3 p.m. in Room 104 (in church) the Insight Bible Study group will look at the historical Jesus the DVD series Saving Jesus Redux, The Historical Jesus: Five Views and Jon's fall sermons, the group will discuss:

- ⇒ October 3 -- The World into Which Jesus Was Born
- ⇒ October 10 -- Jesus' Birth: Incarnation
- ⇒ October 17 -- Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition
- ⇒ October 24 -- Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God
- ⇒ October 31 -- Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
- ⇒ November 7 -- Who Killed Jesus?
- ⇒ November 14 -- The Atonement
- ⇒ November 21 -- The Resurrection of Christ
- ⇒ December 5 -- Why Jesus Is Worth Saving

Insight is a group discovering its faith. There are no right or wrong answers and no homework except for what you want to explore on your own. Everyone is welcomed!!!! If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (515) 232-3855 or send an email to ellenbarnhart@hotmail.com.

--Ellen Barnhart



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

### Library News

# LOOK

for the new books displayed in the parlor. Ellen Barnhart and Philip Spike have made selections for our Picks of the Month books.

With our sermon series on the Historical Jesus and the Insight Bible Study on Jesus, the library has a display of the books we have on the Historical Jesus. Maybe you would like to do some additional reading? Come to library and check out our display on the shelves under the telephone.



### Book Review

#### *"Leaving Long Island...and Other Departures"*

a memoir by Fern Kupfer

This book was donated to the UCC library by the author, an Ames resident and ISU faculty member in the Department of English. The book explores the author's emotional and physical path through finding that she is at elevated genetic risk for ovarian and breast cancer to the removal of her ovaries and breasts. She shows how her family, friends and physicians helped her in this journey. It is exceptionally well written and easy to read. I was particularly interested in her discussion of her friendship and professional relationship with Dr. Tim Leeds since he is my daughter's father-in-law.

Although the topic is heavy, Kupfer does an excellent job of bringing humor and an uplifting theme to her story. She touches on earlier life journeys including a breakup of her first marriage and their navigating having a child with a severe genetic disorder who died at 16 years of age.

I particularly enjoyed how she showed the changes in how we view ourselves. One quote from the book that captures some of this flavor was "Our lives most often surprise us. Just as we get used to being who we are, we become someone else again." Overall "Leaving Long Island..." made me appreciate my many blessings and appreciate the wonderful medical resources we have in Ames.

-- Review by Diane Birt

### Children's Book Review

***"Thank You for This Food"*** by Debbie Trafton O'Neal, illustrated by Nancy Munger



May your pause for prayer before a meal reflect a time of calm in a busy day. Are you looking for a grace for your children or grandchild to use before a meal? This book is a good resource. This book is a new collection of action prayers, songs, and table graces. Each prayer is accompanied by full-color illustrations. Some of the prayers are finger plays and the actions are shown in the illustrations. The song prayers are accompanied by the music score. Some of the more common prayers are written with slight variations that are used by different people.

-- Review by Barbara Faidley

# Property Team

## Mark Your Calendars for Fall Work Day on Saturday, October 12

The work day begins at 9 a.m. There are projects large and small. Specifics can be obtained from Greg Lamont, Property Team Coordinator, or David Cook, Church Sexton.



Annual Church Fire Drill  
is planned for Sunday,  
October 20.

# Social Justice & Outreach Team

## Special UCC Offering October 6

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

**CROP Walk, October 13, 1:00 p.m.** starting at the Maple Shelter at Riverside Park. This year we will raise money in memory of Louise Dengler. Mark your calendars.

Help support Church World Service.





# Oxfam

## OxFam Event October 17

Please mark Thursday, October 17 on the calendar for "Food, Land and Small Planet Producers: An Evening with Frances Moore Lappe, Harriet Nakabaale, and Kijoolu Kaliya." Internationally renowned author of *Diet for a*

*Small Planet* and other books will join women small-scale producers from Uganda and Tanzania in a unique conversation. Meet and greet reception in Fellowship Hall from 6 to 7PM featuring locally produced snacks prepared by Wallace Centers' chef, Katie Routh. Main program will be 7 to 8pm.

## Member Services Team

### Funeral Refreshments Co-Coordinator

The Member Services team is looking for someone to help coordinate refreshments and meals (if needed) after funerals. Barbara Yungclas has done this for years and in the past has had a co-coordinator, but is currently handling this big job by herself. If you would be interested in helping out with this important task, please contact Allison Anderson at [ast1961@gmail.com](mailto:ast1961@gmail.com), Terisa Thomas at [terisathomas@hotmail.com](mailto:terisathomas@hotmail.com), Barbara, Jon or Hannah. This job is so important to our church. Please consider helping out.

### Chili Cook-off and Pie Fest

Dust off your crockpots and start sorting through your recipes; it's time for the annual Chili Cook-off and Pie Fest. In the past the chili has ranged from mild to hot and we expect nothing different this year. The event will be the evening of **November 16**. Prizes will be awarded to the favorite chilies and pies. This is always a gastronomical feast so plan to attend.



# yum!

## Women's Fellowship Brown Bag Lunch October 2

Have you ever wondered why there is so much talk recently about gluten-free diets, gluten intolerance, and celiac disease? Would you like to learn more? Join us Wednesday, October 2 at noon in Fellowship Hall to hear Ami Frank discuss "Gluten-Schmuten; What's all the fuss about?" She will discuss what is celiac disease, things to consider when interacting with gluten free friends/co-workers, and entertain questions you have. Come join us and find out more about this important health issue.

## Coffee Fellowship

Recently it has been more and more difficult to find volunteers to help with coffee fellowship. To reduce the number of volunteers needed, we are going to try some new ideas over the next few months. Please give us your feedback about the changes. Additionally, if you haven't helped with coffee fellowship lately (or at all) and are interested in this important fellowship activity, please contact Allison Anderson at [ast1961@gmail.com](mailto:ast1961@gmail.com) or Terisa Thomas at [terisathomas@hotmail.com](mailto:terisathomas@hotmail.com).



***We'll get you all set up!***

## AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy)

### A Win for Prenatal Care in Ames!!

AMOS hard work on health care access and prenatal care for Ames residents has paid off! Efforts by the Ames community to receive federal funding for a Community Health Clinic were successful. Ames was awarded a federal grant and a community health care clinic will open in Ames in the near future!

The efforts to receive these funds were prompted, in large part, by AMOS lobbying to ensure uninsured pregnant women in Ames have access to prenatal care and labor and delivery at their local hospital. In the interim, AMOS leaders worked out an arrangement with Free Clinics of Iowa, Broadlawns Medical Center and Des Moines University to provide free pre-natal care to these women through a mobile clinic that travels to Ames twice a month. It's anticipated that the new federally funded clinic will now provide care to Ames' poorest residents as well as all other kinds of primary care. The Ames Tribune had an article about it; see <http://amestrib.com/sections/news/ames-and-story-county/ames-clinic-awarded-funding.html> Congratulations to all the Ames AMOS leaders for your persistence and organizing efforts!

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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### STAFF

**Ministers**  
The Reverend Jonathan C. Page, Minister  
Hannah Hannover, Children & Youth Minister

**Youth Director**  
Ella Taggart

**Music Director**  
Lesley Lackore

**Keyboardist**  
Karen Stewart

**Secretary**  
Becky A. Bridges

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Moderator**  
Ken Birt

**Team Coordinator**  
Ellen Barnhart

**Caring Network**  
Kristin Shields

**Christian Education**  
Barbara Faidley

**Evangelism**  
Jan Bauer

**Financial Stewardship**  
Sharron Slinger

**Member Services**  
Allison Anderson

**Property**  
Greg Lamont

**Social Justice and Outreach**  
Kim Spangler

**Worship & Music**  
David White

**Association and Conference Delegate**  
Rachel Jones

**Treasurer**  
Jim Dickson

**Clerk**  
Lynette Spicer