



ames UCC COURIER

United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

ISSUE 246 SEPTEMBER 2013

515-232-9323
www.amesucc.org
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RALLY SUNDAY!

September 8

Put it on your calendar!

The fun begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall with an intergenerational scavenger hunt through the church. Come join a team and explore places in the church you haven't seen before...or maybe haven't seen in a LONG time!

At 10 a.m. enjoy breakfast in Fellowship Hall served by the Youth Group. Meet the new Youth Director and support our youth! While you are eating, you will hear more about all the Christian Education opportunities available for children, youth and adults this fall.

Worship is at 10:45 a.m. Right after worship, join all of the Ames UCC team leaders in Fellowship Hall to learn about the exciting things the teams have planned and ways you can get involved!

Affordable Care Act "Obamacare" Train the Trainer

Ames United Church of Christ,
September 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. in
Fellowship Hall.

AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) needs your help to educate the public on the ACA. If you're willing to be a "community educator" or help coordinate community education on the ACA, then please attend. RSVP to Carolyn Cornette at carolyn-cornette2@msn.com.

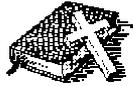
Prophets Course with Charles Kniker

The key figures of an eight-week course this fall will be prophets. Their allies and opponents include an "interesting" cast of characters. The class will meet on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The class begins September 15 in Room 104 and ends November 3.

See inside for exciting Christian Education activities!

Fall Picnic in the Park
September 29
4:00 p.m. at Inis Grove Park

FROM THE PASTOR



September is my favorite month of the year. Yes, my birthday is in September and that helps.

But September has always meant the beginning of fall, back to school, and gearing up to get stuff done. The weather is fantastic. People are excited and happy. What a perfect time to figure out where to get involved at church! As you can see from this newsletter, the church is bursting with activity. You will find out a lot more about what is going on after worship in Fellowship Hall on September 8.

Sunday morning is at the heart and soul of all activities. This fall I will continue to incorporate more visuals into my sermons. As the 150th Capital Campaign considers what the church will be like over the next twenty years, one recurring idea is to put video screens in the sanctuary. This has been done in churches across the country and has consistently been shown to enhance worship. Using PowerPoint in sermons is a new thing for me. I would like to continue to improve the quality of the visuals and ensure that they benefit worship. Please let me know your honest feedback.

The focal point for Sunday morning worship this fall will be a sermon series on the historical Jesus. The search for the historical Jesus, as opposed to the Jesus presented in the gospels, has been going on since the 18th century. This past

summer Reza Aslan published *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, which garnered lots of media attention and has once again brought to light the role of history in the interpretation of our faith. Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, two past Theologians-in-Residence here at Ames UCC, have written several books on the subject. From September 15-October 13, I will lay out the state of the current debate and the implications that it has for our faith as Christians. Don't miss out and be sure to invite friends who might be interested in the series.

Educational programs abound this fall. Please consider joining one or more of the Christian education programs in the church. Charles Kniker will teach a course on the prophets on Sunday morning before church. Ellen Barnhart will continue to lead her group on Thursday afternoons, which will focus on the historical Jesus to coincide with my sermon series. The Learning Center and Wednesday Morning Bible Study will carry on as usual. If you have not visited those in a while, now is the time. Also, in this newsletter you will also find the books that the UCC Book Club will be discussing in the coming months.

The two big highlights of our children and youth program are the launch of a new ministry and the hiring of a new Youth Director. Hannah will organize and oversee a new Wednesday afternoon group for kids in Ames. As you can see from the article in the newsletter, we need your help! This is a wonderful way to expand our outreach to kids and even to welcome non-church folks to join in. Many thanks to Hannah for all her

efforts! Our new Youth Director will be responsible for shepherding our expanding youth program. Introduce yourself to her and wear your nametags to make it easier on her.

The bottom line is clear. It is September, a great time to get involved and to enrich your spiritual life. Find God in new ways. The more you put in the more you will get out.

—Jonathan Page

Executive Board

150th Capital Campaign Committee

Preparing for the Future of the Ames UCC

The 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign Committee needs your input.

The committee is beginning the first step in a multistep process to answer the following question: What can we do today to sustain and grow an active progressive membership for tomorrow?

The committee tried to identify possible categories of improvements:

- ◆ *Modernizing/updating the church property: modernize the sanctuary space, update entries (bell tower and southeast canopy), update the youth room, motion sensing or other “green” projects, improved church signage*
- ◆ *Expand programming (student minister endowment, music program,)*
- ◆ *Outreach projects (invest in facilities for use by community outreach organizations, endowment for outreach program)*
- ◆ *Deferred maintenance (retaining walls, handrails for exterior stairs)*

We would also like to gather some information from you to help guide the committee:

- ◆ *What do you feel are the primary strengths of the Ames UCC that will help it continue for the next 50 years?*
- ◆ *What can be done now to create/enhance strengths of the Ames UCC?*
- ◆ *What changes would make the Ames UCC more attractive to new members?*
- ◆ *Comparing the Ames UCC to other churches you have attended or visited, what changes do you feel would make the Ames UCC more inviting or appealing?*

We have scheduled three short meetings:

August 25: *Meet in the sanctuary following worship*

September 8: *in conjunction with Rally Sunday in Fellowship Hall following worship*

September 15: *at Learning Center 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall*

Please plan to attend at least one of these meetings and give us your ideas. Remember, no idea is a bad idea so please share your thoughts freely!



Congregational Dinners

Congregational dinners are happening
In September.
Please email Hannah at:
hannah@amesucc.org if you are interested
in opening up your home!

Christian Education Team

From the Minister to Children and Youth
Sunday School for Children, Youth and Adults
Begins September 15

Children ages 2 years old through sixth grade will gather each week upstairs in Noah's Park at 9:30 a.m. to sing songs, share joys and concerns and pray together before going to individual classrooms. This year the children will be in three groups. A pre-kindergarten class for children ages two to four will meet in the pre-school room. A kindergarten to second grade group and a third to sixth grade group will use the rotation model and spend Sunday mornings in different rooms each week depending on the activity. Our first story this fall is Noah and the Ark. The Youth Group will meet in the youth room downstairs for a time of learning and discussion.



Get on the Ark with your Favorite Animal
Join us on Noah's Ark! Sunday, September 29 you are invited to climb on the ark with your favorite animal during the Sunday School hour. We will end the Noah's Ark unit with our very own Ames UCC petting ark with your family pets! Come and meet each other's animals and make banana BOAT sundaes! We will gather upstairs in room 213 at 9:45 a.m. If you are interesting in bringing

your pet, contact Hannah for more details!

Following the climb the ark event, join us for a special morning of worship. During the service the Sunday School children will sing, and kindergarteners Sophie Fox, Annelise Johnson, Parker Pingel and third graders Jenna Buchele and Carter Pilcher will be presented Bibles.

Welcome New Youth Director

It is with great excitement that we have hired our new Youth Director, Ella Taggart. Ella grew up in Mound, Minnesota where she was very active in her church youth group and with summer church camp. Ella is a sophomore at ISU studying Political Science. The search committee (Barbara Faidley, Kristin Shields, and Hannah Hannover) was impressed with Ella's maturity, communication skills, experience working with youth that are the same ages as our own youth in the congregation, personal faith exploration, and enthusiasm. You will have a chance to meet Ella and support our Youth Group as they serve breakfast on Rally Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Nursery Care



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

--Hannah Hannover

Youth Group will begin on Wednesday, September 11 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. All youth grades 7 through 12 are invited to join us for a meal and time of fellowship. We are always looking for members of the congregation that are willing to help prepare a meal for our time together.



= Wednesday Afternoon Club

WAC is the newest ministry at Ames UCC. Each Wednesday Ames elementary schools get out at 2:05 p.m. We will pick up children from their schools and bring them to the church for games, a snack, Bible story, crafts and more. (Gilbert school children will be picked up at Gilbert and can join us later in the day when they get out of school.) The activities last until 5 p.m. To begin this ministry, we are just counting on word of mouth to help us grow. Please spread the word by inviting friends, family or neighbors to join us on Wednesday afternoons.

We are looking for adult volunteers to help make this ministry a success! Each week we will need snacks donated and served, game leaders and Bible story leaders! We also are looking for those of you who have a hobby you would be willing to share with the children. Maybe it is an exercise routine you do, a favorite dessert you like to bake, building something with your hands or a special book you want to read. We are very interested in having a time each week with something new for the children to see, learn about, or do!

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer to Help CE

On Rally Sunday, you can sign up to help with Sunday School, providing meals for the youth group and leading sessions during WAC. We are thankful for your continued support to the children and youth of this congregation.

Heroes, Heroines, Heavies (Bad Guys), and Harlots

What do you know about the person and prophetic role of Isaiah? Or Deborah? How about Daniel? Jeremiah? Ruth? Amos? Why were the stories of these and others passed from generation to generation by the Hebrews; then later recorded? How can some merit being called "major" prophets while others were considered "minor" prophets?

So what, you ask? Some may say their circumstances and worldviews aren't relevant for our time. Is that true? We will discuss how their issues are similar to or different from challenges we face. Kings made treaties. Wars, deportations, refugees occurred. Prophets criticized materialism. There were debates about parenting. Loyalty to family and in-laws were challenged. Northern priests protested southern "outside" voices that criticized.

Was worship genuine or merely entertainment? Protests were frequent and intense about the meaning of justice and mercy, the need for war, and the economy.

The key figures of an eight-week course this fall will be prophets. Their allies and opponents include an "interesting" cast of characters. This class is appropriate for families. Middle school, high school and college students should find it interesting. Adult learners, too! Come and learn about the "superheroes" of their day. Their narratives illustrate the triumphs and tragedies of God's "chosen people." The prophets were God's "truth tellers." Can they teach us about how to live our individual and corporate lives today!

The class will meet on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The class begins September 15 in room 104 and ends November 3.

-- Charles Kniker

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. 15 - Preparing for the Future of the Ames UCC--The 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign Committee needs your ideas

Sept. 22 - Exploring the Christian Science Faith

Sept. 29 - Sharing the World: How People Learn to Share, Paul Lasley and Art Pohm

Oct. 6 - AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) High Rents and Low Wages in Ames: So What Else is New?

Oct. 13 - Fitness and Health for Life

Oct. 20 - Journeys of Faith

Oct. 27 - Obamacare is Coming

Insight Bible Study Group Begins September 12

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

1. Intro: Jesus Through the Ages
2. Who Was Jesus?
3. What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)?
4. The World into Which Jesus Was Born
5. Jesus' Birth: Incarnation
6. Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition
7. Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God
8. Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
9. Who Killed Jesus?
10. The Atonement
11. The Resurrection of Christ
12. Why Jesus Is Worth Saving

Contributors from **Saving Jesus** are: Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, Ron Buford, Diana Butler Bass, Minerva Carcaño, John B. Cobb Jr., John Dominic Crossan, Yvette Flunder, James A. Forbes Jr., Matthew Fox, Lloyd Geering, Hans Küng, Amy-Jill Levine, Brian McLaren, Robin Meyers, Rita Nakashima Brock, Culver "Bill" Nelson, Rebecca Ann Parker, Stephen Patterson, Helen Prejean, Bernard Brandon Scott, John Shelby Spong, Dave Tomlinson, Emilie Townes, and Winnie Varghese. The contributors from **The Historical Jesus** are Robert M. Price, John Dominic Crossan, Luke Timothy Johnson, James D. G. Dunn and Darrell L. Bock. Our minister, Jon Page will also provide additional insight through his Sunday morning sermons.

Do not let the above information scare you off!! 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



BOOK REVIEWS

"The Gift of Years, Growing Older Gracefully" by Joan Chittister

"Old age is not when we stop growing. It is exactly the time to grow in new ways. It is the period in which we set out to make sense of all the growing we have already done. It is the softening season when everything in us is meant to achieve its sweetest, richest, most unique self."

Joan Chittister, a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Pennsylvania, illuminates the gift of growing older in her book *The Gift of Years, Growing Older Gracefully*. Chittister ponders topics such as regret, fear, joy, mystery, letting go, forgiveness and legacy. One of the main themes is the call to cherish the blessing of aging as a natural part of life that is active, productive, and deeply rewarding. A gift of additional time to be of service and to fulfill a life purpose that may mean being involved in projects for the general welfare, exploring ethical choices more deeply and bringing experiences to bear on the challenges facing our communities. "A blessing of these years," she writes, "is to have the time to complete in ourselves what has been neglected all these years, so that the legacy we leave to others is equal to the full potential within us." *The Gift of Years* is a collection of reflections, "not meant to be read in one sitting, or even in order, but one topic at a time." These thought provoking reflections will bring laughter and tears! Who knew that Plato said, "When physical eyesight declines, spiritual eyesight increases."!!!!

-- Review by Ellen Barnhart

Children's Book Review

"The Children's Encyclopedia of Bible Times" by Mark Water;
illustrated by Karen Donnelly.

This book helps you learn fascinating facts about the way people lived and the events that occurred in Bible days. Each topic is entered alphabetically in the book. Here of some sample topics: Festivals; Furniture in rich and poor homes; Make-up, hairstyles, perfume and jewelry; Shop and traders; Trees in the Bible. There are many colored illustrations on each page. There is also a Bible search on each page related to the information that is presented, so you can find it in the Bible. Even though this book is designed with children in mind, adults may enjoy reading it just to gain some basic knowledge of Biblical times. The book has a detailed table of contents and an index.

-- Review by Barbara Faidley

Property Team

Wednesday Morning Work Group Begins August 28

For all who are available and interested, please join me in a Wednesday morning work group. We will gather in Fellowship Hall after 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday. Stay as long as you want. We will do some church maintenance and repairs, painting and other projects. The projects will depend on what is needed and what the participants want to take on. I anticipate this becoming a weekly event. Come once in a while or every week, no reservations required or attendance taken. For more information, contact me at (515) 292-9658 or 238-1699 or ken.birt.118@gmail.com.



When: Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. to noon,
starting August 28

Where: Gather in Fellowship Hall

Why: Do some maintenance and repairs

- ***Have fun and fellowship***
- ***Get out of the house***
- ***Kill some doughnuts and coffee***

-Ken Birt

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

The hours have been extended from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as there is a lot of work to be done including clearing out old and obsolete junk, furniture, etc. from the second floor, basements and attic of the church office building and the basement and second floor storage rooms of the church building. There are also some projects left over from the spring that need to be completed before cold weather sets in. There are other projects large and small. Specifics can be obtained from Greg Lamont, Property Team Coordinator; Roger Parmenter, Property Team Vice-coordinator; or David Cook, Church Sexton.



Annual Church Fire Drill
is planned for
Sunday, October 20



Social Justice & Outreach Team

Volunteer to Provide an Evening Meal at the Homeless Shelter

Want to provide a simple meal for eight to ten men about three Mondays a year? Ames UCC provides evening meals for Emergency Residence Project (ERP) at 225 South Kellogg Avenue.

Expectations - provide a main dish and salad/vegetable, eat with the group or drop off the meal around 5:30 p.m. If 5:30 won't work, you can make arrangements to drop off the food at a different time. A yearly schedule and instructions will be mailed to you. If your assigned date does not work for you, just call or send an email to someone on the list to exchange dates.

To volunteer, send an email to ellenbarnhart@hotmail.com or call (515) 232-3855 before **September 15**. For those of you who already provide meals - **THANK YOU!!!**

--Ellen Barnhart



Evangelism Team

The Evangelism Team is excited to introduce the newest members of Ames UCC.

George Belitsos

George is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Youth and Shelter Services, a non-profit agency that provides child welfare and behavioral health services in 20 locations in Central Iowa. As Iowa's first emergency youth shelter, YSS was established 36 years ago while George was an ISU graduate student and volunteering for two years of alternative service as a conscientious objector. He has received numerous awards for his work with Iowa's youth and their families and is widely known as an advocate for Iowa's children. George is married to Dr. Peter Wolfe. They live at Hobbit's Hill, a small farm on the edge of Ames that is home to a large collection of llamas and pygmy goats.

Courtney Cornell

Courtney is a third year veterinary medicine student at Iowa State University. She will receive her degree in 2015. Originally from Troupsburg, N.Y., Courtney graduated from State University of New York at Geneseo in 2011.

Maryanne DiOrio

Maryanne, the youngest of 10 children, was nine weeks old when her mother passed away. Left in the care of an aunt and uncle, she grew up in Providence, R.I. with their four children. Upon graduating from Bryant College in business administration, Maryanne married and moved to Massachusetts where she worked in banking until the birth of twin sons, Danny and Brian (who are now 19 and getting ready for college). Nathan (now 17) is 20 months younger. Maryanne eventually earned a Medical Executive Assistant Certificate. After years of emotional and physical abuse, Maryanne discovered the solace offered to domestic violence victims by Facebook support groups. In such a group, Maryanne met David White. David, in due course, went to Rhode Island to help Maryanne leave, offering her a place to stay, help with health care and a community of support through his church and friends. Presently, David and Maryanne need an affordable place to live in Ames and work in their various callings and community programs such as Food at First.--ANY HELP in getting a place to call home would be so appreciated.

Erica Fjelland

Erica grew up in Slater and lives there today. A divorced mom, she has two living children, James who is 21 years old and Rebecca who is 15, and one stillborn child named Laura. Erica works at a temporary employment agency, Aerotek and is currently at Hach Chemical. She is learning as much as possible so she can find a better job. Sewing, scrapbooking and exercise are hobbies Erica enjoys, and she wishes she had more time for them. Erica chose Ames UCC because it felt like home as soon as she walked in the door. She is happy with her life, but like everyone else wishes she had just a little more money. Someday she hopes to move to Ames, since she has always liked the community and everything she needs is here.

Diana and Kevin McHenry

Diana is from Council Bluffs. Kevin grew up in a small town named Florence in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana, about 20 miles south of Missoula. (There were 32 kids in his class.) Diana attended McPherson College in McPherson for three years before transferring to Washburn University in Topeka, where she received a BA in social work. Although she graduated from Washburn, she has more of a connection to McPherson, a Brethren Church College, because her parents and grandparents went there and she spent her childhood in the Brethren Church and attended events at McPherson College. Kevin earned a BS in math and computer science from Dickinson State University in North Dakota. He also attended the University of Montana. Diana and Kevin met while working on a project in Des Moines in the mid 1990s. They married in Omaha in 1996, and then moved to Denver to work on another project. While in Fort Collins, Colo., Diana and Kevin were active members of Plymouth UCC with Diana serving as moderator of the congregation. After implementing payroll and finance/purchasing systems at Colorado State University, Kevin accepted a position as an IT professional to assist in implementing these systems at Iowa State in 2011. Diana still provides system support for a project in Denver, quite a ways from her social worker roots. The McHenry's have two children, Alison--13 and Ben--9, along with two dogs named Penny and Chief, and a cat named Emily. The family is happy to be in Ames which is closer to Diana's parents in Council Bluffs and friends who live in Kansa City and Minneapolis. Kevin has cousins in Clive, Mason City, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

Amy Erica Smith

Amy Erica moved to Ames just over a year ago with her husband, Tibi Chelcea (pronounced TEE-bee KEL-chuh); their children, Oscar (now 3 years old) and Adam (now 15 months); and their cats Padre and Luther. (The cats, coincidentally, were named for a Catholic priest and the founder of Lutheranism, yet despite the historical antagonism of their namesakes, they get along great.) Amy Erica is an assistant professor of political science at ISU. Tibi continues to work long-distance for a computer engineering company in Portland, Oregon. Prior to Ames, the Chelcea-Smith family spent two years in Nashville where Amy Erica worked at Vanderbilt and Adam was born. Amy Erica and Tibi met in Pittsburgh where Oscar was born and where Amy Erica completed her Ph.D. in political science. The family has widespread and tangled roots. Tibi is Romanian and speaks Romanian with the children, while Amy Erica studies Latin American politics and speaks Spanish and Portuguese in addition to Romanian. Amy Erica and Tibi lived briefly in Brazil and hope to return. All the same, Ames feels like home. Amy Erica, Tibi, Oscar, and Adam are enjoying living in their nice old home in this laidback little downtown in this friendly little city. It is especially nice to be closer to Amy Erica's mom who lives in the Quad Cities and to her aunt and uncle who live in Gilbert.

Laura Swanson

Laura was born and raised in north central Wisconsin in a small town named Elcho. She graduated in 1995 from UW-Stout in Menomonie in hospitality and tourism management. After graduation, Laura lived in the Twin Cities for several years. In 1997 she moved back to Menomonie and married in 1998. She and her husband moved around in Wisconsin for several years, until a new job brought the family to Ames in 2003. Laura was a stay home mom for many years with two children, Nikita who will be 13 and Sawyer who will be 10. She went back to work in 2007, driving a school bus for the Ames School District and became a manager for CIT Charters, Inc. with sales, clerical and drivers in 2009. Laura is recently divorced and just took a position as an office manager with Willbros Group, Inc. in Ames. So she is on a new journey with her life and enjoying it.

D'riece Shirley

D'riece is a sophomore, majoring in kinesiology and health at Iowa State. When he is not studying or spending time with his girlfriend, Devin, D'riece is busy working at HyVee.

Devin Edds

Devin grew up in Shenandoah in southwest Iowa where she was a member of Shenandoah Congregational United Church of Christ. As a pre-med major, Devin is starting her sophomore year at ISU.

Our Newest Confirmands**Heather Egeland**

Heather was baptized at Ames UCC by her parents, Andrea and Todd Egeland. Named after her maternal grandmother, Heather Mathison; her grandfather is Lowell Mathison. Both she and her younger sister, Morgan, have grown up in the church. Heather is a junior at Gilbert High School where she enjoys studying English and psychology. She also likes art and working on the computer.

Brandon Johnson

Brandon and his family are relatively new to Ames UCC, nevertheless, they have been very active members since joining church. Joel and Tracy Johnson are Brandon's parents. The oldest child in the family, Brandon has one sister, Emma, and two brothers, Ryan and Reese. Brandon is a sophomore at Ames High School. English is his favorite class. In his free time Brandon likes to go bowling with his friends.

Austin Rowland

Austin's roots at Ames UCC date back to the 1940s when his maternal great grandparents, Burt and Marylou Moore, were active members. Burt came to Ames as an ISU football coach who stayed on as a faculty member; Marylou was an elementary school music teacher. As the generations before them, Austin and his sister, Jesica, were baptized and raised in the church by their parents, Barbara and Paul Rowland. Now that Austin is a junior at Ames High, he has discovered a love of U.S. history. He is active in track and enjoys football.

Kerry Strum

Kerry was baptized as an infant at Ames UCC by her parents, Kristine and Troy Strum. She and younger brother, Ryan, have been raised in the church, participating in all sorts of church activities. As a sophomore at Ames High School, Kerry finds it hard to choose a favorite class since she loves them all, but she especially likes math. Kerry is a member of several clubs including Key Club, the oldest and largest service program for high school students, and SHEPH (Students Helping to Eliminate Poverty and Hunger). She is running cross country track for the first time this year.

Member Services

Women's Fellowship

September 4 at Noon

All women of the church are invited to Women's Fellowship that meets every month on the first Wednesday at 12 noon. We meet in Fellowship Hall for a brown-bag lunch and a discussion. In September, Hannah Hannover will discuss the new Christian Education programs. Come, ask questions, get the inside scoop about some great new things happening in the church.

We welcome Terisa Thomas as the Vice Coordinator of the Member Services Team. After a quiet summer, the Member Services Team is gearing up for a fun fall!

Coffee Fellowship

There has been some discussion of possibly changing things up a bit with Coffee Fellowship with the ultimate goal of using fewer volunteers per week. If you would like to get together and toss some ideas around, we would be glad to get your input. Allison or Terisa will be in touch with some of the most frequent volunteers to get some ideas.

Do you have ideas for Food, Fun and Fellowship (F3) opportunities? Please share them! Contact Allison Anderson, ast1961@gmail.com or (515) 291-6351 and we'll get the ball rolling!

Upcoming events:



in the Park

We will picnic at Inis Grove Park one Sunday evening September 29. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Chili Cook-Off and Pie Fest

Dust off your crockpots and pie pans. The fifth annual Chili Cook-Off and Pie Fest is coming in early October. We would like to compile the recipes for all the wonderful pies and chilies and have them on the church website.



AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy)

AMOS City Council/Mayoral Candidate Accountability Night

Explore ways to make Ames a more affordable and inclusive community by addressing the lack of affordable housing
Monday, October 14 at 7 p.m. at Ames United Church of Christ.

Book Club

UCC Book Club Begins Meetings in September

The UCC Book Club welcomes all readers and even those who just want to hear the discussion. The group meets in the church parlor on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Please note the books marked with *Multiple copies are available in the Ames Public Library Book Club collection. Books may be checked out for six weeks.

September 18 -- Freedom Road by Howard Fast (1944 novel, 294 pages) Discussion leader: Lynette Spicer

October 16 -- The Master Butcher's Singing Club*by Louise Erdrich (2005 novel, 416 pages) Discussion leader: Paul Clark

November 20 -- Emergence Christianity: What It Is, Where It Is Going, and Why It Matters by Phyllis Tickle, Ames UCC Theologian in Residence 2014 (2012 nonfiction, 212 pages) Discussion leader: Allen Trenkle

December 18 -- The Art of Racing in the Rain*by Garth Stein (2008 novel, 321 pages) Discussion leader: Barbara Faidley

January 15 -- Sarah's Key*by Tatiana de Rosnay (2011 novel, 400 pages) Discussion leader: Nancy Marks

February 19 -- The Year We Left Home: A Novel*by Jean Thompson (2012 novel, 352 pages) Discussion leader: Allen Trenkle 2013 All Iowa Reads book

March 19 -- Parsnips in the Snow: Talks with Midwestern Gardeners by Jane Anne Staw and Mary Swander (1990 nonfiction, 223 pages) Discussion leader: Lynette Spicer

April 16 -- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (2011 nonfiction, 400 pages) Discussion leader: Nancy Marks

May 21 -- Deep Down by Deborah Coates (2013 novel, 304 pages) Discussion leader: Christa Andersen

Find a synopsis of the books at <http://www.amesucc.org/BookClub>.

UCC

You are invited to the UCC Iowa Conference Annual Meeting

Date: October 19

Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Ames UCC

Deadline for registration: September 19

Cost: \$20/person

Agenda and registration information at <http://www.ucciaconf.org/events/event/annual-business-meeting>



P E A C E J A M



Saturday, September 21

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Band Shell Park

**Hear Bands, Poetry Reading and
Taste Bread and Jam on the United
Nations International Day of Peace**

**Sponsored by Ames Public Library
and Ames United Church of Christ**



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

United Church of Christ - Congregational
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