ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY
DEDICATION OF MEMORIALS AND GIFTS November 5
“O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.”

We will observe All Saints Day on Sunday, November 6 during both the 8:30 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. worship celebrations. We will name and remember all members and friends of the church who have died since September 30, 2016 through September 30, 2017. On this day we will also dedicate any memorials and gifts that have been given to the church for service to this congregation and to the glory of God. We invite you to be present for this yearly worship service when we remember our deceased loved ones in a meaningful way.

Remember, too, that you can ALWAYS send a special contribution to acknowledge and honor a loved one for a special occasion such as a birthday or an anniversary or give a memorial gift at the time of a loved one’s death to this church.

THANKSGIVING DINNER --- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19TH
This is a wonderful event for church members and friends here at Ames FUMC to rejoice in our blessings and recount how God has been at work in the lives of one another during this past year. It is a time of gratitude for one another and for God’s grace. Serving will start at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 19th. Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls and butter will all be provided, along with beverages. Autumn napkins and placemats will be on the tables. A freewill offering will be received to help pay for the costs.

YOU are asked to bring your own plate, table service, and cup plus a food dish to share with others:

- Last Names starting with A-M… bring a salad or a vegetable
- Last names starting with N-Z…. bring a dessert

PLEASE, contact the church office (232-2750) with an RSVP by noon on Wednesday, November 16th so we can plan accordingly.
I get nostalgic as I travel through the months of November and December. That feeling starts on All Saints’ Day, November 1, and throughout that first weekend in November when we celebrate the lives of the faithful who have gone on before us.

In our Protestant tradition we don’t talk much or go in for Saints with a capital S. But we are great believers in saints with a small “s”. In the New Testament, the word “saint” simply means “believer.” So when we celebrate All Saints’ Day we do so with an emphasis of rejoicing in all the saints: all the faithful who have gone on before us, whose witness and example have made our faith possible today. We celebrate what the Epistle to the Hebrews calls “that great cloud of witnesses” who show us the love of God.

However, there is even more to it than that. In celebrating All Saints’ Day, we are not merely giving thanks for the memory of those who have passed from our midst but rather we are also rejoicing that in some way we clearly sense they are a part of us still. We rejoice in the “communion of the saints”, in the unity of all the faithful from the past and the future. We affirm our oneness not merely with the church on earth, but with the church that stands from beyond all time.

In one of my favorite hymns, “The Church’s One Foundation”, we find a similar thought expressed in this way: “Yet she on earth has union with God, the three-in-one, and mystic, sweet communion with those whose rest is won.” I love singing the words, “mystic, sweet communion” and every time I do I think of my grandparents and great aunt, Bessie, and so many other beloved relatives and friends, realizing that the love of God has the power to transcend barriers of time and space and even death. On All Saints’ Day we remember those who have gone before us, and we rejoice that we are one with them now and forever.

Frederick Buechner, author and theologian, carries this thought a bit further, affirming of our departed loved ones that:

To think of them is a matter not only of remembering them as they used to be but of seeing and hearing them as in some sense they are now. If they had things to say to us then, they have things to say to us now, too, nor are they by any means always things we expect or the same things.

Faith guided and illumined their lives, and through them, our lives. I love the thought that even in death these saints continue to grow in their love of God, and for us. God’s love has the power to transcend every barrier, and though we are separated by the abyss of death, we are united in love. That’s plenty of reason to celebrate All Saints’ Day.
And now...as we soon celebrate Thanksgiving Day and enter the holiday season of Advent and Christmas, let me remind you to not just be grateful and generous but to also be “inviting”. Let all of us, and each one of us, do our part to help people “come home for Christmas”--- invite persons to find their way back to their church home as they celebrate Christ’s birth. Church growth experts tell us that 85-90% of church members first attended the church to which they belong because they were invited to that church by a layperson.

So, obviously the question is one of “who have you invited?” Consider this list:
- Family with a new baby
- Neighbor (nearby or more distant)
- Hobby, Hunting, or Fishing Friend
- Newcomer to the community
- Vocational associates
- Relative
- Close personal friend
- Person moving into, building, or buying a home
- Contact in a civic club or organization

Stop and consider people you know in such categories and then pick out one or more persons to actually invite. Then do it. Bring someone home for Christmas. Know, too, the saints will help you with the right words at the right time.

See you in church!

“Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God, our Maker, doeth provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.”

A Prayer for Veterans Day

Father, we could never thank our military men and women enough for their courageous service and sacrifice to our country and its people. Yet today we lift up our voices to express gratefulness and honor to these military troops both from the past and present. Show us ways in our communities, churches, and families to thank and love them better. Keep and protect these heroes and their families, in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.
Understanding the Exodus: Reflection on Exodus 20, 21, 22 & 23

The fundamental value underlying in the text of Exodus 20:22-26; is that the worship of Yahweh as the only true God to the Israelites. These verses urged the Israelites to forbid idolatry worship and how they are to worship Yahweh, and how they are to build the altar that will be used to worship Yahweh. In chapter 21:1-11, I can note the fundamental value in said text is the worthiness of a slave or servant. These verses teach the free adult male Israelite citizen how to treat their slaves by respecting them and what instructions they are to follow in dealing with their slaves. Not treating them in an unworthy manner; but with fairness as it relates to the reason of their enslavement. In verses 12-26 of chapter 21, the values underlying in the text are the value of one’s life as it relates to death penalties for violent acts, another value is to protect the helpless and innocent, and in relating to miscarriages was to protect the unborn. These verses teach the Israelites, that Yahweh, who by his providence, gives and maintains life, and by his law protects it. In relation to striking father and mother one can say parents ought to be careful and faithful in training their children and should set good examples for their children and not provoke them to anger, because said reason could be the cause for a child or children to strike his or her father. This law protects both parents and children. Yahweh also shows clear concern for protecting the unborn children in these verses. In verses 28-36 one can say that said value is personal responsibility. These verses teach how one’s negligence can cause a loss of life and damage of properties. It also teaches how personal responsibility was important to the Israelites community, and it teaches them how to take care of their ox, since it plays a major role in their community when it comes to the farming their land.

For me the fundamental values underlying in Exodus 22:1-15 are loving and respecting one neighbor and trust. These verses teach the Israelites how to relate to their neighbors in relation to their properties (ox, donkeys, sheep etc.). It also defined guilt-discourage stealing, because stealing will make one poorer not richer. It also teaches that relationship to neighbor reflects their relationship to Yahweh.

In verses 16-31 the values are purity and respecting of a virgin, the sacredness of sexuality, respects for widows or orphans, welcoming of strangers, and neighbor’s protection. One can say that in relation to the seduction of Virgin such law was given to the Israelites in order to
stop crime such as fornication, and to protect young women and the pride of their virginity until marriage. As to the sacredness of sexuality, one can say sex may have been abused in such a way that humans were lying with animals - this could be the reason said law was given to them, on the other hand it could have been a practice from Egypt where they were once slaves. In relating to widows or orphans, they were being taken advantage of so this law was to protect them. In relation to the welcoming of strangers, free male citizens of Israel were urged to treat them right. The reason could be that because they were ill treated in the community and to be in relationship with Yahweh one ought to be loving and welcoming to strangers. This could save the souls of the strangers and they could worship Yahweh in return.

The values underlying in chapter 23:1-9 are for everyone in the Israelites community to receive justice; the poor, women etc. These verses urged the free male citizens to avoid falsehood, partiality, and oppression as well as corruption. These behaviors were part of their community and in order for all to be treated rightly, Yahweh gives these instructions. In relation to treating strangers right Yahweh reminds them of the past, when they lived in Egypt in support of his instruction. Another value underlying is caring for the poor and strangers, said values are in verses 10-13. In these verses it can be said that Yahweh was concerned about the poor and strangers among his people (Israel) and urged free male citizens to open their farms to the poor so they could have food to eat etc. The value underlying within verses 14-19 can be listed as humility and celebration before Yahweh. The Israelites, especially the free adult male citizens, ought to set aside certain days from their work to celebrate the Sabbaths and ordinance of Yahweh. During said time they ought to bring offering and dedicate themselves to him, for with such sacrifices Yahweh is pleased. The value underlying in verses 20-33 is that Yahweh will accomplish everything for the Israelites, and in return they ought to trust and obey what Yahweh has promised. The focus of this passage is that Yahweh had promised the Israelite a land and will guard and lead them to said land. Noting that Yahweh will destroy their enemies when they try to stop them from entering said land. Yahweh’s promise here is that of condition; meaning Yahweh will only accomplish all things for the Israelites if they trust and obey him, by not worshipping idols. At the end of the book of the covenant, Yahweh tells the Israelites that he will give them the land which he had promised; saying they should not live with these people because they could have turned the Israelite from Yahweh.
The Worship Committee met on October 4 and cared for a number of regular business items and reports. One item was recruiting people to help with the “sanctuary care” (volunteering to come at least once a month to ensure the sanctuary is “in order” and pews are equipped with hymnals, songbooks, bibles, and so forth). They spoke about plans for this year’s “Noel! Advent Lunches” to be held on December 6, 13, and 20. This year we are making plans to have various groups within the church prepare, serve, and cleanup a lunch that will be served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The Ames High School Madrigal Choir will be here for our first lunch on December 6.

The Exodus, which is the book of covenant, says those that need protections are the young women, the widows, orphans and strangers. The fact that the laws were mainly addressed to the free adult male Israelite citizens - the head of house may suggest that they were in the habit of committing said acts or because they may have had superiority on those mention above. Therefore, these groups needed protection because it seems like that they were the victims in the community. For example, why will a free male citizen seduce a woman when she’s not willing? This indicates that they somehow consider women as their property. Another point to support this view is that why will a person want to cause a miscarriage for a woman? One can say this is another violent behavior to the said gender. Lastly the indication that is made in 21:10-13 asking the free adult, male Israelite citizens to open their farm to the poor and allowing the strangers to be refreshed is a clear indication that those listed above were the least in the community, and since Yahweh cares for the least of these could be the reason these laws were given in order to protect them. I urge you to read these chapters and develop a spiritual discipline of reading scriptures.

Rev. J. Cephas Z.K. Davis

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY AND FINANCIAL OFFERING

The last of each year’s six Sundays of special giving appeals by the whole, general United Methodist Church is going to be held on the last Sunday of November (November 26 in 2017). The monies raised through this offering provides loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university and graduate students. Over the years several of our own local church families have found the advantages and benefits of being able to access such funds to help with higher education costs for their son or daughter. A special offering envelope can be found inside this month’s newsletter.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS - ENCOURAGES US TO BE ENGAGED IN WORSHIP

The Worship Committee met on October 4 and cared for a number of regular business items and reports. One item was recruiting people to help with the “sanctuary care” (volunteering to come at least once a month to ensure the sanctuary is “in order” and pews are equipped with hymnals, songbooks, bibles, and so forth). They spoke about plans for this year’s “Noel! Advent Lunches” to be held on December 6, 13, and 20. This year we are making plans to have various groups within the church prepare, serve, and cleanup a lunch that will be served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The Ames High School Madrigal Choir will be here for our first lunch on December 6.
Children’s Sunday School
The children have started practicing their music for the Christmas program. They spent October learning about Joshua and the Battle of Jericho through games, art, and drama. During November they will learn more about David and will also be coffee hour hosts with their families on November 12, 19, and 26.

Old School Academy November 5
Our Old School Academy Session 2 is November 5. The focus for this one will be Advent. I know November 5 might seem a little early for talking about Advent already but we know that the stores and media outlets will have Christmas EVERYWHERE by then. So why not start talking about the true meaning of Christmas early too!? The classes for Old School Academy 2 are:
- **At the Movies** (Movie Wiz Mike will take you through a Disney classic (G) and tie it in to Advent—and of course there will be popcorn)
- **Cooking** (What will our Culinary Artist Haley have in store for us this time?)
- **Lego Masters** (Are you a master builder? Lego Masters Zachery and Calvin will guide you through building scenes of Advent with Legos and you will help create a Lego Advent Calendar for the Church too!)
- **Science** (Oh my....Our very own Scientist Aileen will have some incredible experiments and concoctions for you. What on earth could she possibly come up with that combines Advent and Science...aren't you curious to find out?)

Sign up is now live through November 3 at 5:00p.m. Limit to 12 per class. Register at [http://www.fumcamesevents.com/old-school-academy.cfm](http://www.fumcamesevents.com/old-school-academy.cfm)

Children Sing November 19
Our Sunday school children will sing at the 11:00 service on our Thanksgiving Sunday. The children and Up with Puppets are taking turns offering the anthem music at the 11:00 service on the third Sundays of each month.

Children’s Christmas Program and Rehearsals
The Actors Only rehearsals are scheduled for November 18 from 2:30-4, December 2 from 2:30-4, and December 9 from 2:30-4. There will be a full dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 3 during the Sunday school hour for ALL of the children. The Children’s Christmas Program is December 10 at 10:00a.m. This year’s program will have a Star Wars theme and is called “The Last J.E.D.I.”
Adult Sunday School
Coffee Talk: On November 19, Coffee Talk will begin the Advent study “Lifesong: The Melody of Your Heart.” It is a beautiful study that examines four stories about people driven to song when God shook up their world for the better. Take a look at how Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds reacted upon learning of God's plan to save humanity. Conference Room
Faith and Reason: Beginning October 29, Faith and Reason will begin the new study “Called to Community.” This study features video discussions from some amazing religious leaders such as Richard Rohr, Rachel Held Evans, Walter Bruggeman, and more. Join the group for a wonderful discussion about how we are called. E110.
Wesley’s Holy Club: Pastor Cephas Davis is leading this new and exciting group. If you are new to the Methodist faith or maybe just feel like you want more background on this denomination you've been a part of for a while, this is a great group for you! This group takes a look at the United Methodist faith through discussing the history of it, the sacraments celebrated, and what makes us United Methodists. Library.

Some Early Christmas Fun!
ALL are invited by the Main Street Cultural District to be Christmas Carolers for the kick off of Snow Magic on Friday, November 10. Meet at the church at 5:00p.m. to get music and gather. We will walk around Main Street and head towards the tree lighting which is at 6:00. We will sing some after the tree lighting and then all are free to head out and enjoy the rest of the evening activities. Plan for 5-6:30p.m. Bring your friends! All ages are welcome to join us! It’s a ton of fun and we are excited MSCD has asked us back this year. We must make some really great joyful noises!

Wednesday Night Meals
We have had some delicious Wednesday Night Meals prepared by some of our awesome Wednesday night families over the past month. We have some more good ones coming up too! On November 15, Brooke & Nicole will be cooking a Thanksgiving feast for our Wednesday night meal.
Here’s what’s coming up:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>1-Super Nachos/ Taco Salad</th>
<th>8-Pancakes breakfast</th>
<th>15-Thanksgiving meal</th>
<th>22-Off</th>
<th>29-Pasta Bar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>6-Pizza</td>
<td>13-Soup &amp; Sandwiches</td>
<td>20-Finger foods</td>
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**Kids Club**

Our Wednesday night Kids Club group will finish their Moses Study during the month of November and focus on missions. We will plan our annual trip to Fareway for November 15 to purchase the items for a family’s Thanksgiving meal. If you would like to give donations for that, please make checks out to the church with Wed. Night Kids Club in the memo, donate Fareway gift cards, or bring cash that evening. November 29 & December 6 we will have an Advent focus.

**W.H.A.M.**

Our Wednesday Night Adults (W.H.A.M.) will be finishing up their Moses study and be starting an Advent study then in November. The Advent study will be the newest one from Adam Hamilton called “Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph”. You are welcome to join the group at any time!

**No activities November 22. Thanksgiving break!**

**Upcoming dates:**

- December 10: Children’s Christmas Program 10am
- December 10: Up With Puppets Christmas Program Time TBD
- December 13: Christmas Caroling to care facilities
- December 17: Birthday Party for Jesus (Children’s Sunday School)
- December 20: PJ Party
- December 24 & 31: No Sunday School
- December 31: Noon Years Eve Party

**Wonderful Wednesday Women** will be reading the book "All Earth is Waiting" by Rev. Katie Z. Dawson (Lead Pastor at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Des Moines) as their Advent study. The books (Large Print editions) are available for purchase at the office now for $9 a copy. If you can't be there during the Wonderful Wednesday Women meetings but want to read this still, feel free to contact Nicole and she will order you a copy.

Rev. Katie is very passionate about caring for God's creation and has written a wonderful Advent study. All Earth Is Waiting invites you to explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace with the reconciliation of the heavens and the earth in mind. Through her powerful and personal reflections, she calls us to consider how all creation longs for the coming of Christ, highlighting our responsibility to care for this earth in preparation for Christ's return.

Nicole is hoping to get Rev. Katie here to meet with the women's group sometime during this study also. The study will begin November 15. The group meets in the conference room at 10:00a.m. December 6, 13, and 20 will be at 10:30 due to the Advent lunches.
Middle School Youth Lock In
Parents & youth - mark your calendars!
There will be a middle school lock-in on November 10th! Drop off will be at 7pm on Friday, pick up will be at 8am Saturday. We’ll have snacks, games, movies & more! Bring your sleeping bags, pillows and comfortable pajamas – we’ll plan on sleeping sometime around midnight, but we’re going to pack in a lot of fun before we sleep!

High School Youth News – Sunday School
This past month we’ve been following our Groove curriculum, talking about school and how being a Christian helps with dealing with our joys & struggles both in and out of the classroom. As we head into November, we will dive more into our relationships section, talking about our relationships with God, family, and friends and how to navigate the challenges that are sometimes thrown at us.

Wednesday Night Middle School
We’ve had some good fun in October with game nights tied to scripture, lessons about Moses, and a movie night! As we head into November we’re going to be going further with our Moses studies and we’ll also have a Lumberjack Night to engage in some good fun & games! At the end of November we’ll start our Advent season, talking about the practice of Awareness Examen (which is a form of meditative prayer) and we’ll have a yoga lesson to help calm our bodies and our minds as we look forward to Advent and Christmas.

Wednesday Night High School
High school students have also been studying Moses, which we will study further as we move into November. We’ll have a coffee shop study in November for one of our Moses lessons, which was a big hit when we tried it out in early October. High school will also be starting Advent lessons, going into the history of Advent and discussing Awareness Examen (meditative prayer); high school will have their own chance to have a yoga lesson in the spirit of meditative prayer.

SENIOR PARENTS OF 2016 & 2017 GRADUATES, PLEASE PICK UP YOUR PICTURES FROM THE OFFICE.
PRAYER SHAWLS...

All who are interested in a ministry of warm hearts and hands are invited to gather in the church, Room E109. November 11 at 9:30 to create prayer shawls. These shawls are given to those who are in need of warm thoughts, love and prayers. No experience or expertise is necessary, we’ll lovingly guide you through the art of shawl creation! Questions? Contact Judy Roe at 515-232-5797.

AND MORE....

Would you like to participate in the prayer shawl ministry but prefer not to create shawls? We have an opportunity for you! We use yarn! LOTS OF YARN! Our favorite is Lion Brand Homespun yarn, which is available at Wal Mart, JoAnn’s Fabrics and many other places. Each shawl requires 3 skeins of this yarn. Would you be willing to purchase 3 skeins of this yarn in a color of your choosing and bring it to the church office? Or maybe you would rather donate funds. We will be happy to do the shopping for you. Just drop off your donation at the church office.

Many hearts and souls will be warmed by your generosity!

Thank you!

REV. HARLAN GILLESPIE TO BE NEW ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR ADMINISTRATION

Bishop Laurie Haller has announced that our District Superintendent, Rev. Harlan Gillespie, will be appointed the new Assistant to the Bishop starting on July 1, 2018. He will help the Bishop to oversee the administrative life of the Iowa annual conference. This includes representing the Bishop on conference committees and at conference events, coordinating disciplinary, administrative, and judicial complaint processes, processing immigration requests on behalf of clergy and the annual conference, coordinating with the Bishop the Healthy Church Initiative and the L# (loving, learning, leading) conference process, as well as resourcing district superintendents and district ministry teams. Harlan will succeed the Rev. Bill Poland who has served in this role since 2013 and who will be moving to the new role as Director of New Faith Communities as of January 1, 2018. Former Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Bob Burkhart, will serve as Interim Assistant for the six months of January-June 2018 so that Harlan can conclude his time as a District Superintendent.

In October, Rev. Gillespie began to work with our local Staff parish Relations Committee on a process to help in the appointment of a new senior pastor upon Pastor Fred’s Retirement. If you wish to stay informed about that process you can speak with any of our Current SPRC members: Matt Carney (chair), Carol Miller, Jackie Hawley, Mavis Butler, Brenda Bright, Joel Sullivan, Greg Fuerst, Ann Murray, and Gina Smith.
This year the fair will be held on Saturday, November 4. Hours are 8am-2pm. Start your day with the morning coffee from 8am–10:30am. A lunch of pulled pork, choice of a side, chips, dessert and beverage will be offered for $8 ($4.00 for children 12 and under). A vegetarian option will also be available upon request. Please consider donating items and time to make the Fair a success! Remember, funds from this event support many church and local programs as well as national and international causes.

For questions, contact any of the following co-chairs.
Carolyn Yorgensen, (292-5648) Donna Banker, (515-419-4966) Joan Peterson, (515-451-3011) Margaret Torrie (515-231-9111) and Joyce Schafbuch (319-331-7025)

SEASONAL ROOM

Our new seasonal room is looking for all kinds of donations. They could be dishes, linens, mugs, ornaments or any SEASONAL item that is in good condition but you no longer wanted or used. It could be for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, 4th of July, Birthday, St. Patrick's day, etc. If you have any questions: call Donna Banker 515-419-4966.

Grandma's Attic

We are looking for donations for Grandma's Attic. We especially need antiques and collectibles. We have also had jewelry, linens, tchotchkes, furs, serving dishes, small furniture (limited space), etc. donated. If you want to set a price for an item or collection, please include that in your box along with your name and phone #, especially if you want to pick it up if it does not sell. Please call if you have questions about a donation. If you are not sure which room something goes in, bring it to us and we will decide where it fits best.

You may drop off your donations to any of our rooms starting Wed. Nov. 1st. We will have a set-up crew on Thurs./Fri. Grandma's Attic is located in the lower back hall, room 110. Mary Mekemson 451-3151.

Just a reminder... each church family is asked to contribute a pie to be served at lunch for Holiday Fair. Pies can be dropped off at the church Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Pie patrol volunteers will be available after 7:00am Saturday to pick up your pie at the south entrance. Please mark your pie clearly that it is for lunch as there will also be pies coming in for the Bake Shoppe. If pie making isn't your thing, feel free to bring a pan of your favorite bars.
BAKE SHOPPE NEWS!

It’s time to get out recipes, gather ingredients, tie on aprons and warm up the ovens! Holiday Fair is coming November 4th and the Bake Shoppe will be bigger and better than ever with YOUR help!

We need lots of tasty treats to stock our Bake Shoppe - cakes, cookies, rolls, pies, bars, muffins, candy, other specialties - we’ll have people waiting to buy your donations!

All items should be visible, please don’t wrap in foil. IF YOU INCLUDE NUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER, PLEASE LABEL TO INDICATE THAT.

Please bring items to the Bake Shoppe (upstairs in the West Youth Room) on Friday or early Saturday morning so they can be priced and arranged. Candy will be weighed and priced. Baked goods will be priced depending on size, ingredients and decorations.

Any questions: call Carol Miller (515-233-5516)

THANKS FOR HELPING MAKE OUR HOLIDAY FAIR BAKE SHOPPE A HUGE SUCCESS!

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**Kitchen Corner (basement room #105)**

The "Kitchen Corner" will be taking donations of clean, good quality kitchen items for sale at FUMC Holiday Fair Nov. 4, 2017. We need linens, dishes, table and glassware, aprons, pots, pans, coffee & tea pots etc. Please mark your items for "Kitchen Corner" and deliver to the church by Wed. Nov. 1. Contact Margaret Torrie mtorrie@iastate.edu (515) 231-9111) with questions and offers to help.

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**Made with Love**

Our “Made with Love” room will be showcased in the Conference Room near the south entrance and will include handmade and functional handmade items such as purses, scarves, table runners, aprons and some jewelry.

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**Back Again….**

★ This year you will be able to purchase two of your favorites! Noodles and Tea Rings! Don’t miss out! ★

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ATTEND OUR ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE:
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH
AT BOONE FIRST UMC FROM 2-4:30 P.M.

Each year the congregation traditionally gathers in what is called a Charge/Church Conference to conduct business that is mandated by our United Methodist Book of Discipline. There will be a time of opening and closing worship. A wide variety of reports will be acted upon such as our goals and visions for 2018. The report of the Nominating/Lay Leadership Committee will be voted on as a way to elect our church leaders for the New Year. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee will offer the proposed financial compensation for our staff and it will be reviewed and acted upon. A church membership report will be given with names of persons to be removed --- members are considered active in our congregation if they attend worship and yearly contribute financially. The meeting is led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Harlan Gillespie. He is trying “something new” by clustering churches together for this year’s Charge Conference as way of reminding us how we are all very much connected together within our denomination. ALL elected church leaders are encouraged to attend as well as any members of the congregation.

NEWS FROM THE AMES FUMC FOUNDATION

When the Foundation Board of Directors met in September they received a report that as of August 31, 2017, our funds balance stood at $1,109,301.08. A gift of $53,557.02 came from the Fern Fincham estate in May. There has been in 2017 up to $62,523 to expend on various items such as our scholarships. Our 2017 scholarship recipients were: Allyson Goodman and Mackenzie Abrams, Caitlyn Grebner, Isaak Schmitt, and Laurence Vander Werff. They may receive a scholarship for each of their four years of college. We also recently just saw the awarding of the Smalling scholarships to Jamie Campbell, Regine Peters and Reid Van Marel for a total of $1,500. Our ASP team received $4500 in support from the Foundation. We helped children and youth, and especially confirmation age youth, to attend summer camps and paid $6117 for that wonderful experience. Funds from our Foundation have also paid the expenses for our Peace-Making Circles. At the recent meeting the Board approved giving $5000 to the new Ames Miracle Park project. A grant was offered to seminary student, Fredrick Killian. A grant was given to support next fall’s 2018 National CEF Conference that will occur here in Iowa for the very first time in that organization’s fifty year history. The grant will allow our members to attend the major plenary sessions, worship services and workshops at no cost. Nicole and Pastor Fred are serving on the Design team. Plus, monies were granted to assist with the costs of our church App. GREAT things happen through the Foundation and we encourage you to consider a gift to its future work. You may talk to Mary Beth Oostenbrug, Marty Sankey or Reid Cummer about making a gift today.
Coffee-Hour Refreshment Hosts for November and December

During the month of November you will find members of our CEMT Committee and children from our Sunday school serving you during the refreshment and fellowship time on Sundays. Plus, you will also see members of our Confirmation class and their parents/mentors also in service. In December as the holidays arrive, our social time will be hosted by members of our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and our Worship Committee. We will NOT be having coffee hour on either December 24 or December 31.

Thank you to EVERYONE for your donations to help purchase our coffee, juice, fruit tray, and doughnuts. Please be generous with your donations to this coffee-hour fellowship time.

YEAR END GIVING: Why It Makes Sense to Give Now!
First Church's Stewardship team and pastors would like to remind you of seven ways to give an extra gift to our church as we come to the end of the year. We know that many will be giving gifts to our family and friends so why not reflect on how we’ve been blessed by our church family and express our gratitude with an extra financial gift in response to God’s blessings. Many of these ways may aid you as you work on your taxes in regards to charitable giving.

- **EXTRA Cash Gifts---** This is a wonderful way to show your support to your church.
- **Giving Appreciated Property:** If you own investments that have increased in value (stocks, bonds, real estate, or mutual funds), you can donate them to a church.
- **Giving and Retaining Income for Life:** Did you know you can give to our church while retaining income from the gift for the rest of your life? A charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust enables you to receive income that is flexible or guaranteed.
- **Giving Unneeded Life Insurance:** Do you own a life insurance policy that is no longer needed? Consider giving the policy to the church. This is a great way to benefit the church that you support.
- **Memorial Gifts:** As you think of those special persons (teachers, pastors, relatives, friends, or loved one) who have touched your life, you may want to do something “just right” to demonstrate that they are remembered. A memorial tribute (given at any time) can be an inspiring way to salute those who have enriched our lives.
- **Wise Tax Planning:** An extra year-end gift may add just enough to allow you to take advantage of your full itemized deduction on your income taxes.
- **Expressing Your Faith ---** For many Christians the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons are times to give gratitude for God’s greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ.
MICA and FOOD AT FIRST NEED YOUR HELP!

MICA always needs donations. Call them at 956 - 3333 to see what their current needs are. During the holiday seasons they can always use your help! All donations are welcomed. **Bring a food item with you to worship and place it in the grocery cart as an expression of your thanks to God for the food you have on your own table at home.** Food at First is desperately in need of plastic grocery sacks and reusable plastic containers. They are located at First Christian Church. Thanks for the help!

MAKE NOVEMBER A MONTH OF PRAYER FOR OUR HOMELAND

During this month as we recall our earliest ancestors who journeyed to America let us lift up prayers each day for this nation which we call our “beloved homeland.” Let us be aware of the blessings we know as Christian followers. Each day let us pray for:

1. Our President and Vice-President who bear responsibilities of enormous importance. Pray that their hearts might be guided by God and their decisions be wise.
2. Our Congressional leaders. Pray that they will govern with discernment of godly principles and preserve the freedoms we enjoy.
3. Our Justice System. Pray for our police officers, prosecutors, defenders, and judges as they pledge “justice for all”. Pray that these public servants will be vigilant, discerning, and wise.
4. Our Armed Forces. Pray with gratitude for the service of these brave men and women who guard us and keep us free. Ask God to bless them with strength and protection.
5. Pray for Spiritual Renewal. Pray that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will root and grow in you and help you to be true “good news” and love for others in this whole world.
6. Pray for all Candidates for Public Office. Pray for those who are seeking to be elected leaders that they may be honorable, just, and of good character and morals.
7. Pray for each State in our union, for the peoples who live there and for their leaders.

(Get a U.S. Atlas and perhaps pray for two states at a time) Remember that “prayer penetrates doors we will never enter.” Prayer has the power to break hearts that have been hardened. Prayer bridges the gap between the meek and the powerful. According to Philippians 4:6: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”
ARE YOU A POSSIBLE STEPHEN MINISTER?

Do you care about others and their feelings? Are you a good listener? Would you like to become a better one? Are you assertive...can you speak the truth in love? Do you believe it is possible to help another person just by being there for them---without advising, directing or trying to fix them or their situation? Would you like to be able to pray out loud without breaking into a cold sweat? Would you like to continue your own faith journey? Are you in your 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's or 80's? Can

you visualize yourself in a group of dedicated, caring, growing loving, and fun-loving people? Then you ALREADY have a lot in common with the people who serve the Ames First UMC as Stephen Ministers!

Contact Pastor Cephas (232-2750) or Cami McColley to ask for more information on becoming a Stephen Minister today.

GREETERS...

Here’s the link…. Double check that it takes you to the correct place.
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4aaaad2ba4fb6-greeter

Interested volunteers can also contact me by phone/text at 515-290-9360 or email me at lvw50248@gmail.com.

Thanks.
Lori Vander Werff

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S

Judy and I would like to thank all of you Angels that contributed to the “Judy’s Angels team” for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. You helped us raise over $4,000 and we're not stopping there. The time for giving has been extended to December 15th. Help us reach for our new goal of $5,000. God Bless all of you.

Judy & Dean Sampson

SCOUT NEWS...

We are excited to have 2 new Boy Scouts join us in September. This now brings our total scouts to 15.

On October 7th, 6 scouts and 2 adult leaders went to Wesley Woods to help dig drenches, clear brush, and spilt and stack wood. We also camped in our tents at Wesley Woods that night. It was a rainy day but we wanted to thank Ken Van Pelt for organizing this project and we were glad to be able to help. We are looking forward to our spaghetti dinner fundraiser on October 29th from 11:30-1:00.

Thank you for your support for our Troop.
THE UTILITY CALENDAR ---
A WONDERFUL GIFT TO GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH

The cost of keeping First UMC warmed (or cooled), lighted, and supplied with water, costs like it does in our own homes. The utility costs here at the church are BUDGETED at about $150 a day to pay the bills. As a means of helping with this expense, the Stewardship Ministry Team and the Finance Committee would like church members to consider signing up “for the Utility Calendar.” The Utility Calendar is posted downstairs in Fellowship Hall and it works very simply. You pick a day or days that have special significance to you. It might be your anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, a day in memory of a loved one, or any special and significant day. Note that you may share your day with several others --- and more than one contributor may sign for any day. Sign your name on the calendar day(s) and take your contribution to the church office. Our goal is to receive 365 contributions of $150 each to cover the church’s utility bills. With your help, we know we can do it!

UMW Reading Program:  Now that we have our yards (hopefully done mowing) and gardens taken care of for the year, we'll now have the time to curl up under our afghans with a good book. If you haven't done the reading program before it is not too late to join in. Some of the emphasis for United Methodist Women is to expand concepts of mission, to develop leadership and to grow spiritually. There are five categories of reading and four reading plans. You can read a book in each category in plan one or up to 20 books in plan four. The sheets for the reading program are on the east wall of the library where the U.M.W books are displayed. There is a box to put the card from the book under the letter of the authors last name. We welcome children, youth and men to also join in reading the books. Everyone needs to grow spiritually, become aware of social issues, and nurture one another. I am reading “The Weight of Mercy,” a book about a young woman, a writer who finds herself as a minister in an inner city church. It was a shock to her but also a growing point, finding Christ among the “least of these” I hope you will give the reading program a try. Take a sheet to keep track of which books you read. Rita Vallery Program Resource Chair.

FUMC TO HOST IOWA UMC CLERGY WOMEN’S CONVOCATION

At least 100 clergywomen from our Iowa annual conference will spend the Sunday, November 12 through Tuesday, November 14 in our church building. Bishop Laurie Haller will be present and will be preaching the opening worship celebration, with Colleen Mc Roberts as the worship and music leader. The overall theme for this gathering will be “Advent Spirit COME!” There will be several moments when the women will engage in various discussions. The women will be using most all of our building so regular activities are being suspended for these days.
BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE
All are invited to a birthday open house in celebration of Kay Baker’s 90th birthday on Nov. 11th from 1-4. Come and wish Kay a Happy Birthday!

ISU STUDENTS ENRICH OUR WORSHIP WITH THEIR MUSIC
In the month of November, we will have the delight and joy to hear music from some ISU students/faculty. On November 5 at the 11 a.m. worship celebration woodwind major Cameron Mitchell will be playing the anthem on either his clarinet or saxophone. Then on November 12 at the 8:30 a.m. worship hour, we will be treated to some wonderful music and piano playing by instructor Mei-Hsuan Huang and her piano studio of students. On December 10 at 8:30 a.m., the chief strings professor and first-chair with the Des Moines Symphony, Jonathon Sturm will be playing for our worship.

BIBLE SUNDAY 2017 --- November 19
Bible Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday before American Thanksgiving, was founded in 1915 by the American Bible Society. It's a celebration that focuses on the place of the Scriptures in our daily lives; it's also a time to support Bible distribution efforts all over the world.

Visit the United Bible Societies website. You'll find lists of ongoing Bible translation projects, completed translation projects, stories about the impact of Bible translation projects around the world, and specific prayer requests.

The national United Bible Societies websites are www.americanbible.org (the American Bible Society) and www.biblesociety.ca (the Canadian Bible Society).

On this day you may wish to spend some time not only reading in your Bible but also to spend time in prayer --- here are some general prayer suggestions:
* Pray for Bible translators and translation projects.
* Pray for teachers of Scripture (pastors, Sunday school teachers, etc.).
* Pray for those who don't have the Bible in their own language.
* Pray that God will speak to people as they read the Bible.
THANK YOU FOR STAYING CURRENT WITH YOUR
FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHURCH!
Contact Reid Cummer, financial secretary at the church, for any
questions on your financial gifts to the church.

Income for January-September       $510,910.49
Expenses for January – September    $530,779.84
Balance - $19,869.35
Our Expense budget for 2017 totals $697,403

NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR SABBATH

National Donor Sabbath is observed annually two weekends before
Thanksgiving, from Friday through Sunday. It is a time set aside to en-
courage church people to be informed and educated about the need
for the lifesaving and healing gifts passed to others through transplantation,
while also encouraging people to register their decision to be an organ,
eye and tissue donors. Persons are encouraged to reach out to visit with
their local physicians, the State of Iowa’s Donate Life contact which is
Tony Hakes at 319-665-3787 (ext. 121), and the state of Iowa’s registry.
This year Donor Sabbath is November 10-12.

The Need Is Real: You can literally be a lifesaver by being an
organ donor. Here are some important facts about donation:

- Someone is added to the waiting list every 10 minutes. Nearly
  125,000 people are waiting for organ donations.
- Each day, an average of 79 people receive organ transplants.
  However, an average of 21 people die each day waiting for
  transplants that can't take place because of the shortage of donated
  organs.
- People of every age give and receive organ donations.
- Learn more and register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor at
  DonateLife.net.

Calendar: no bells or choir Nov. 22

Chancel Choir invites you to join us as we
rehearse Pepper Choplin's cantata "Night of the
Father's Love" which we will perform December
17 for the 8:30 a.m. Worship service. This is your
chance to sing "Angels Are Making Their Way!"

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc. presents the Annual
Combined Choir Concert - November 5, 2017 at St. Celia Catholic
Church - 2900 Hoover Ave., Ames at 2:00PM (doors open at 1:30PM)
Report from Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance

On October 17, GNEA board met at the Good Neighbor office at 613 Clark Ave. For the first quarter (July through September) the following households have received assistance, Rent/Utility Assistance to 95 households, Healthy Food Vouchers to 390 households, and Gas Vouchers to 92 households. The FY 16-17 quarterly comparison for Rent/Utility Assistance was 99 households, Healthy Food vouchers was 354 households, Gas vouchers were 72 households. The Rent/Utility Assistance is lower for this year; however both Healthy Food and Gas Vouchers are both up this year than last. Also no one has been turned away unlike last year at this time. To assist at a time when funds tend to be lower, a grant was received from United Way of Story County to assist with the Healthy Food Vouchers, however a grant from the Story County Community Foundation for supporting Rent/Utilities was declined because of heavy demand this year and Good Neighbor receiving assistance last year. The next few months are always heavy demands with lower funds, but December tends to be a month of increased faith group donations.

In September, employees of Todd & Sargent volunteered at Good Neighbor during “United Ways Day of Caring” in which they washed windows, cleaned the office and did yard work including placing mulch around the building.

Please remember November 5 at 2:00 for “The 2017 Annual Combined Choir Concert” which will be held at St. Cecilia Catholic Church. Presently there are 13 choirs signed up to participate and all donations will go to Good Neighbor rent, utilities, and food and transportation programs. An additional fund raiser which will be held on November 18 & 19 at St. Cecilia’s is the “Annual Christmas Decoration” fund raiser.

Presently Good Neighbor is looking for several volunteers to assist with distributing food vouchers, answering the phones and helping with individuals needing rent assistance. The time would be once a week from 9:00 to noon or shifts can be divided between two individuals. If interested, please contact Michal Fritz at (515) 296-1449 or stop in at the office at 613 Clark Ave.

Submitted by Steve J. Hanlin board representative for First United Methodist Church
Hanging of the Greens!
Mark your calendar: Saturday, December 2!
Please join your Worship Arts Team on Saturday, December 2 to decorate your church for the Advent season. We will begin at 9am and go until finished, usually around noon. We have tasks for all ages and skill levels from climbing ladders to reach the top of trees to sitting and sorting ornaments and bows! You don’t have to be here the whole time. We will take whatever time you can share. We always provide drinks and homemade treats!

If you have questions, contact any of your co-chairs. Suann Evans, Mary Schrunk and Carol Miller.

An INVITATION for YOU:
Because I want to say “thank you” for our work together in ministry through the Ames First United Methodist Church and since this will be my last Christmas with you as your Senior Minister,
I cordially invite YOU to a Holiday Open House at my church parsonage located at 1321 Burnett Avenue on Sunday, December 3, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. I hope you will be able to attend.

--- Rev. Fred Lewis
POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS
Christmas is just around the corner!

We will again be offering two different sizes of poinsettias this year. You may choose an 8 inch pot for $15 or an 10 inch pot for $25.

Please, place your order by December 11.

After all of the Christmas services, you may take your plant home. Remember what you ordered so you know what to pick up.

We are also offering the Alternative Mission Gift again this year. The money will go to local missions.

POINSETTIAS
Name________________________________________________

Given in memory of _____________________________________

Given in honor of _______________________________________

Colors/Size
_____ White 8 in. plant
_____ Pink 8 in. plant
_____ Red 8 in. plant
_____ Shimmer (red, white, pink mix) 8 in. plant

_____ White 10 in. plant
_____ Pink 10 in. plant
_____ Red 10 in. plant
_____ Shimmer (red, white, pink mix) 10 in. plant

Substitutions may be made based on availability
My check is enclosed for the amount of ____________. Please write Poinsettias in the memo line.

ALTERNATIVE MISSION GIFT
Name _______________________________________________

In Memory of __________________________________________

In Honor of ___________________________________________

My check is enclosed for the amount of __________. Please write Alternative Mission Gift in the memo line.
FALL BACK!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS SATURDAY NIGHT WHEN YOU GO TO BED!
TIME CHANGE BEGINS NOVEMBER 5!