

First United Methodist Church
516 Kellogg Ave.
Ames, Iowa 50010
515-232-2750
www.fumcomes.org
9:30 - December 24, 2017



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

THE GATHERING:

Centering Words:

*"I want to turn the whole thing upside down.
I'll find the things they say just can't be found.
I'll share this love I find with everyone."
---Jack Johnson, "Upside Down."*

*This week in our prayers for the world let us remember especially the people of
Ghana and Nigeria.*

OPENING VOLUNTARIES

Piano/Organ Christmas Meditations

Barb Mittman/Myrna Cakerice

*As this music is offered as prayer, let us be sensitive to the Holy Spirit
who prepares and opens us to connect with God in Christ today.*

GREETING, SHARING NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE

Welcome, members, friends & visitors - please fill in the ritual of
friendship pad, pass it to your neighbor, and then return it to its starting
place. If you are new and would like more information, please indicate on
the friendship pad and also stop at the Welcome Center in the narthex to
pick up a Welcome packet.

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

What shall we sing?

That God's love is loyal and never-ending!

What shall we shout?

God's faithfulness is for all generations!

What shall we proclaim?

God's covenant is our firm foundation!

Let us worship and praise our Creator,
shouting praise to the rock of our salvation!

Praise the Lord!

HYMN

No. 250

"Once in Royal David's City"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love
of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of
Jesus, and through acts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Today we light
the candles of hope and peace and this third candle, the candle of joy.

We wait. We wait not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and
not because you, O God, are not already and always here. We wait
because to wait is to expect something more. To wait is to expect that
the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the
change for which we long.

---Light all four candles (two blue, one pink and one blue) ---

As we light the candle of love we remember the stories of your faithfulness and steadfast love which surrounds us and will not be contained. We trust that you are with us always. As love bursts forth from all your people, love is born again and again in all creation. **Amen.**

SONG No. 2090 "Light the Advent Candle" verses 1-4

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Scarlett Rebecca Larson daughter of Jacob and Courtney Larson

CONGREGATIONAL BAPTISM SONG

ANTHEM "One Small Child" by David Meece
Chancel Choir Accompanied by Barb Mittman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Based on Romans 16:25-27

God, you have shown us the good news, revealing to the whole world the love of which the prophets wrote. But we have kept your love quiet. We have forgotten to seek your wisdom. Any glory which we have found we have claimed for ourselves.

Strengthen us, O God, with your announcement of justice and peace, that we might be faithful in obedient love to your Beloved, sharing Christ's love with a broken world, and offering our humility before our God. Amen.

---Let all pray in silence---

God looks with favor on the lowliness of the servant, shows mercy from one generation to the next, and scatters the pride and arrogance of our hearts so that we might be filled with Christ's love. God's faithfulness is our strength. God's mercy is our song. **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN No. 232 "When Christmas Morn is Dawning"

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

THE SONG OF MARY

"The Magnificat" Luke 1:46b-55 (congregation singing No. 198)

WITNESS TO THE WORD

"As Soon As..." Rev. Fred Lewis

A MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION & PERSONAL COMMITMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Prayer for Christmas

Emmanuel, God promised and God with us:

Give us peace as we need peace;

Give us courage to live in times without peace.

Awaken us to the hope of your reign, but

Restrain us from vain hopes in the dominions around us.

Free us to claim our own welling-up joy, and

Sustain us when joy seems far.

Lead us to service in your world;

Strengthen our feeble attempts to serve.

Spirit of holiness and good tidings,

We come through Advent again, and again we learn

The meaning of incarnation.

Form and receive our words of praise, prayer, and prophecy,

For we magnify your name and rejoice in your salvation

In the Christmas moment and the journey of our years and lives. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (singing no. 3068)

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY "O Little Town of Bethlehem" arr. Kenneth D. Varner

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"A Christmas Doxology" (tune to carol "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,

glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One.

Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,

as we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful heart.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

When we have hungered, O God, you have filled us with good things. You have entrusted to us the gifts of the kingdom so that no person need be empty-handed. Trusting that what you give is even more than enough and that you work wonders in unexpected ways, accept the offerings of our lives this day. Use us and our gifts as beacons of your mercy in the world. Amen.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

HYMN

No. 249

"There's a Song in the Air"

CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Joy to the World" arr. Kenneth D. Varner

Let us be aware this musical offering is a statement of faith to send us from worship into service. Please be respectful of those who choose to remain to listen.

LEAVING FOR SERVICE

DUO “VIS-À-VIS” PERFORMING ON JANUARY 6

The duo of Brandin Kreuder on viola and Craig Jordan on piano will be here on Saturday, January 6, to present a concert at 3 p.m. in the warmth and beauty of our historic sanctuary. The program of music will feature: Frank Bridge’s “Four Pieces”. Rebecca Clarke’s “Sonata,” a brand new 2017 composition by Christian Messier titled, “Unregard dans le vide”, and Brahms’ masterpiece “Sonata in F Minor”. Online tickets cost \$10 at clarkebrahmsames.eventbrite.com and tickets at the door will be \$15, with all students admitted free.

Say Hello to the New Year with Some Jell-O

On Saturday, January 6, CEMT and Kids on a Mission will be hosting a dinner following the concert. There will be a Jell-O salad contest followed by a meal starting at 4:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. That’s right...we are continuing on with one of our new faves - a good ol’ Jell-O salad contest-Second annual. Get out your Jell-O molds and pull out those favorite recipes. We’ll have trophies for the “Best Tasting” (chosen by all attending), “The Prettiest” (judges panel), “The Ugliest” (judges panel), and “The Most Creative Combination” (judges panel). If you plan to bring a Jell-O salad for the contest, please have it delivered to the multipurpose room by 4:00p.m. on Saturday.

We hope you join us for the concert and meal. The meal will be a free will donation with proceeds going to the Emergency Residence Project.

COMMUNION STEWARDS ARE NEEDED.....

If you are able to help, please contact Jo Durlam at mjdurlam@hotmail.com or let the office know. We have communion the first weekend of each month. If you've never done it before, we can quickly train you. Being a communion steward is a wonderful way to be a part of worship service.

Happy “Noon” Year!

This New Year’s Eve, celebrate early with a “Noon” Year’s Eve celebration at First UMC! The festivities will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the multipurpose room with a yummy kid friendly brunch followed by crafts, games and a “Rockin’ New Years” dance party. At 11:55 am, we will head to the sanctuary for a prayer for the New Year. We will have a countdown on the screens and at noon on the dot, we’ll shout “Happy Noon Year!” as hundreds of balloons fall on top of us from the balcony. Join us for the fun! Invite your friends! This is a fun public event that continues to grow every year!

Chancel Bells

January 4 (Thursday...6:30 p.m.)
January 25..(Thursday...6:30 p.m.)

Chancel Choir

January 4 (Thursday...7:30 p.m.)
January 25..(Thursday..7:30 p.m.)

We will not practice the week of January 8-12 We will not practice the week of January 15-19

THIS IS A CHANGE FROM THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR

WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

Remember to listen to the news or call the church if severe winter weather strikes. We will try our best to make decisions and get word out through the news media. If at all possible, we will try to have worship. Stay home if the conditions are dangerous for you. If schools are dismissed early or canceled then the activities at the church will also be canceled. Call if in doubt. **We want everyone to remain safe.**

EPIPHANY PARTY

The first Sunday of January we will have our Epiphany Party and start planning for the Youth-Led Worship Weekend which will be on February 10th & 11th. The middle school will be putting together a special performance! The second Sunday we will discuss social media and the impact it has on the lives of everyone who uses it. We'll discuss how youth are connected to social media like never before and how we might rethink social media as a way to intentionally love and bless others while still being engaged and intentional in our lives. We'll look at social media as a way to transform the way we interact with others in Jesus' name. The following Sunday we'll begin a four-week study on how Jesus invites each of us to follow Him on a lifetime of adventure. We'll discover how to navigate obstacles in our spiritual lives, and how to turn those challenges into opportunities to grow in our faith. This adventure with Christ is meant to last a lifetime!



I find myself thanking everyone yet again for all of the prayers, cards and well wishes that I received since my surgery last week. What a wonderful bunch of people you are! I want to give a special thanks to the ladies that came in as emergency help to fill in for me! Deb

**The Week at a Glance
December 24 – December 30**

Sunday, December 24

9:30 Service

Baptism - Scarlett Larson

Christmas Eve Services

4:30

7:30

10:30

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Tuesday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

2-7 Farm to Folk

Wednesday, December 27

Thursday, December 28

Kiwanis "Golden K"

Friday, December 29

Saturday December 30

5:30 SAF

CR-Conference Room

FH-Fellowship Hall

LIB - Library

MPR-Multipurpose Room

EYR-East Youth Room

WYR-West Youth Room

SCR-Staff Conference Room

Par - Parlor

Audio/Video/Streaming

Doug Hill
Pete Peterson
Dean Swyter
Fredrick Killian
Mike Evans
Calvin Evans
Marty Sankey
Larry Vallery
Zachery Smith
Bobby Gens
Nicole Smith

GREETERS

9:30

Pete & Sally Peterson

USHERS

9:30

UMM
Young Adult Class

UTILITIES

Jerry & Nancy Hall
Barb Adams

ACOLYTES

9:30

TBA

NURSERY

Meredith
Clove



IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

In order to claim a charitable deduction for 2017, our donors to FUMC must deliver contributions to the church office by noon on Sunday, December 31.

WE WELCOME YOU!

Our Welcome Center is located in the gathering space near the elevator. Please stop by if you have questions or would like to get more information about the church. Be sure to mention if you are a first time visitor.

Nursery care is available in Room E203, in the Christian Education Unit, on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings for children under the age of 5. All of our workers are trained and screened. Items for children's worship bags are available in the gathering area.

Restrooms are located in the east hallways and by the elevator. Ushers are available at the entrances of the sanctuary to assist you with hearing devices, large print bulletins or any questions you may have. An emergency phone and defibrillator are located on the wall near the west entry.

First United Methodist Church Affirmation of Welcome

As a community of the people of God, we are called to minister to all people of the world, knowing that the world is often an unloving place of alienation and brokenness. Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, as we are challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing within our society.

We stand in affirmation with the apostle Paul that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." Christ has made us one. We acknowledge that this reconciliation encompasses all within the community of faith who exhibit any and all differences in the human condition including, but not limited to: race, gender, ethnicity, age, culture, physical and mental ability, educational level, economic status, personality, marital status, sexual orientation and gender identity in response to the often hostile social climate with respect to diversity within our society and the resulting feelings of alienation from the Church, we wish to make known our caring and concern. It is for this purpose that we affirm the following:

- all persons share the sacred worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God;
- all persons are welcome within the membership of this congregation upon making affirmation of faith; and that as members of this congregation, all persons are invited and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of this congregation.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Fred Lewis, Senior Minister/Lead Pastor

Rev. Cephias Davis, Associate Pastor

Nicole Smith, Director of Christian Education

Brooke Kruger, Youth Director

Deb Benefield, Director of Office & Communications

Reid Cummer, Business Manager

Myrna Cakerice, Organist/Director of Choirs

Steve Pelz, Facility Director

Matt Woodworth, Part-time/Sunday Custodian

Go to our website: www.fumcames.org for the latest church information. Follow us on facebook.

Church office hours:
Mon-Thurs: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.
Friday 8:30 to 4:30

To view church services live, go to <http://bit.ly/amesfirstumclivestream>.
To view past services and other church events, go to Ames First United Methodist Church's YouTube page at <http://bit.ly/amesfirstumcyoutube>.