



AMES FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*To make disciples of Jesus,
who serve beyond the walls.*

5:30 PM Saturday

Fourth Week of Easter

April 25, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

Ilene Riitano

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" - Traditional Welsh Melody, arr. Larry Shackley

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" - William Runyan, arr. Fred Bock

GREETING

SHARING NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Family of God, who are you?

We are disciples formed in the image of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Family of God, how does Jesus form you?

By loving us and showing us how to love.

Family of God, how does the Holy Spirit empower you?

By loving us and inspiring us to love others as Christ loves us.

Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!

We come to worship God, who shows us how to love and calls us to boldly love God and neighbor, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.

--Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2026.

*HYMN

"Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here"

579, UMH

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS, & GOD-SIGHTINGS

Recognition of 2025-2026 Confirmation Class:

Macintyre Anderson, son of Justin & Sadie Anderson, Mentor: Aaron Hard

Kaden Clausen, son of Justin & Laura Clausen, Mentor: Mikel Hansen

Mara Dixon, daughter of Tony & Karla Dixon, Mentor: Ruth DeBoer

Lucas Dressler, son of Levi & Julie Dressler, Mentor: Jim Miller

Easton Lukacik, son of Chris & Kathy Lukacik, Mentor: Pete Peterson

Wyatt Spiess, son of Tory & Eva Spiess, Mentor: Ellen Johnsen

PASTORAL PRAYER with THE LORD'S PRAYER Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

FIRST SCRIPTURE Leviticus 19:9-18

MEDITATION MUSIC Ilene Riitano
"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" (Prayer of St. Francis) -
arr. Sebastian Temple

SECOND SCRIPTURE Mark 12:28-34

SERMON "Love Boldly" Rev. Amanda Gordon

HYMN OF REFLECTION "Where Charity and Love Prevail" v. 1, 3, & 4
549, UMH

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

CLOSING HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"
2223, TFWS

*BENEDICTION

When love reigns, the world will change. Be the love that the world needs for the realm of God to become our beloved realm. Go, in the assurance that the God of Love, who is Love, is with you.


—*Written by Dr. Cheryl Lindsay*

SENDING FORTH Ilene Riitano
"Now I Belong to Jesus" - Norman Clayton, arr. Fred Bock

LEAVING FOR SERVICE *Please stand in body or spirit

MAY 3 CHURCH CONFERENCE

On May 3, after Sunday worship, there will be a Church Conference in the sanctuary. District Superintendent, Pastor Lilian Seagren will preside over the Church Conference. The purpose is to allow members of the Ames First UMC to vote on a resolution to move from a Church Council led organization to one led by a Leadership Board. Contact the office if you need copies of the resolution and charter that were emailed on Tuesday, April 21.



**Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously**

Uniting 30,000 congregations worldwide.

**April 11- May 17
Sermon Series**

May 17 will be Miracle Sunday, a one-time, denomination-wide special offering to support The Endowment for Theological Education outside the United States.

*Vision of The UMC:
The United Methodist
Church forms
disciples of Jesus
Christ who,
empowered by the
Holy Spirit, love
boldly, serve joyfully,
& lead courageously
in local communities
and worldwide
connections.*

It's time to sign up for softball! Join the church team by contacting William Edwards wedwards@iastate.edu or 515-520-3988 for more information. Games are on Tuesdays beginning May 5.

United Women in Faith

Thanks to everyone who provided food, attended, or assisted in any way with the Food From Our Heritage Dinner! 64 people attended, plus a few takeout meals, and some of the remaining food was taken to Romero House. Your generous donations totaling \$924 will support UWFaith missions. What a wonderful way to spend time together, enjoy a meal, and support missions!

BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE - GIVE A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT

For only \$10, you can give a Church World Service (CWS) blanket that can be used in so many ways by the world's poor or by people hit by natural disasters. This year Mother's Day is May 10. Let's "blanket the world" with an expression of our love. Send your donation to the church office along with the name(s) of the women you wish to honor or remember. Forms are available in the Weekly Words. Please have your check clearly marked in the memo line: "Mother's Day Blankets".



Worship through Giving

1. Gifts may be dropped in the basket at the back of the Chapel
2. Scan the QR code to give online
3. Text "Firststimes Budget" to 73256 and follow the prompts

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 26

8:50am Coffee Talk/CR
9:00am Children and Youth/
classrooms
9:15am Coffee and Conversation/FH
10:00am Sunday Service/Sanc
11:15am Faith and Reason/MPR
11:15am Up With Puppets/Puppet
Room
6:00pm Friends in Faith/CR

Tuesday, April 28

9:30am Quilters/QR
2:00pm Life Group/CR
5:30pm Finance Committee/CR

Wednesday, April 29

10:00am Wonderful Wednesday
Women/CR
5:30pm Disciple Fast Track/MPR
and Zoom
6:15pm Bells Choir/Bell Choir Room
7:30pm Chancel Choir/Sanc

Friday, May 1

10:00am UWF Book Group/Library
6:00pm Youth Lock In/all church

Saturday, May 2

5:30pm Saturday Night Service/
Chapel

+Weekly: Golden Kiwanis, AA

+Abbreviations for Room Names:
CR-Conference Rm / FH - Fellow-
ship Hall / HSR - High School Rm /
MPR - Multi Purpose Rm / Sanc -
Sanctuary / QR - Quilt Rm / HL -
History Library

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Amanda Gordon, Senior Pastor
Rev. Nikki Ross Bishop, Associate Pastor
Nicole Smith, Christian Education Director
Ilene Riitano, Organist and Music Director
Julie Minot, Office Manager
Vivian Severson, Office Assistant
Reid Cummer, Business Manager
Kris Hinders, Digital Coordinator
James Minot, Maintenance Custodian
Matt Woodworth, Part-time Custodian

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs 9:00 - 4:00 / Friday 9:00 - 1:00

CONTACT INFORMATION

516 Kellogg Ave, Ames, IA 50010
515-232-2750
office@amesfirstumc.org /
www.amesfirstumc.org

Audio/Video/Streaming Volunteers

Marty Sankey Mike Evans Pete Peterson

If you are visiting with us today, thank you! We are glad you are here! Please pick up a Welcome bag before you leave. There are cards to fill out if you would like more information or would like someone to contact you.

SUMMER HEAT BRINGS HIGH
AIR CONDITIONING BILLS.
HELP US PREPARE.

**31 DAYS OF GIVING
IN MAY**

FILL UP THE MAY UTILITY CALENDAR FOUND IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL OR CONTACT THE OFFICE TO SIGN UP.
A DONATION OF \$135 PAYS THE UTILITIES FOR A DAY FOR
OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH.

