



AMES FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

5:30 PM Saturday

Christmas in July

July 18, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

Ilene Riitano

"Sing We Now of Christmas" - Traditional French Carol, arr. Mark Hayes

GREETING

SHARING NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OPENING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" v.1-3

234, UMH

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

P: That sign is in the One to come--the One that God is sending.

L: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.

P: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard! God is responding in love and hope.

L: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

P: Let us be ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior.

¹Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com

*HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

240, UMH

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS, & GOD-SIGHTINGS

PASTORAL PRAYER w/ 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**

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Ilene Riitano

"Mary, Did You Know?" - Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, arr. Jack Schrader

SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25	
SERMON	"A Sign of Hope"	Rev. Amanda Gordon
HYMN	"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	230, UMH
INVITATION TO OFFER OUR TITHES AND GIFTS		
OFFERTORY RESPONSE	"In the Bleak Midwinter" v. 4	221, UMH
* CLOSING HYMN	"Joy to the World" v. 1, 3, & 4	246, UMH
*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING		
SENDING FORTH	Ilene Riitano "The First Noel" - W. Sandy's <i>Christmas Carols</i> 1833, arr. John Carter	
LEAVING FOR SERVICE	*Please stand in body or spirit	



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

MICA

Our church has donated nearly 2000 pounds of food and supplies to the MICA food pantry so far this year! The amount delivered on July 13 was 137 pounds, and the total is now 1,981 pounds. Thank you for your continued support; it makes a difference! Items especially needed at this time are side dishes, vegetable oil, and canned fruit.



Delicious pies! A dedicated group of UWFaith women makes a variety of fruit pies throughout the year. Availability of flavors vary, but some favorites include apple, cherry, peach, strawberry rhubarb, blueberry, and peach! They are available for purchase for \$14 from the church office. Pies are frozen and ready for you to take home, bake, and enjoy! Perfect for a summer evening (or any time of the year)!

Trivia Night Fundraiser for Ames Warming Place

Saturday, August 8 at Spart by Hilton

6:00pm Doors open; 7:00pm Live Auction followed by Trivia

(Prizes for winning teams)

In preparation for winter, there is a big fundraiser being planned by members of The Warming Place Team. Trivia Night Tables can be purchased for \$200 (seating for up to 8) with a max of 30 tables. To learn more or reserve a table, visit: ameswarming.place.

Applications for the Margaret Smalling Memorial Scholarship are due by August 15 and may be picked up in the church office. To qualify, a student needs to be a member of Ames First UMC, be a full-time student (12 hours +), and have completed one full year of college.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, July 19

9:15am Coffee and Conversation/FH

10:00am Sunday Service/Sanc

11:00am Christmas in July Treats/MPR

Monday, July 20

1:30pm Naomi's Friends/FH

Tuesday, July 21

9:30am Quilters/QR

10:00am Staff Meeting/CR

2:00pm Life Group/CR

9:00pm Softball v Trinity Christian/Field 5

Wednesday, July 22

11:15am UWF Leadership/CR

6:00pm Chancel Choir/Sanc

6:30pm AA/FH

Thursday, July 23

5:30pm Quilt Guild/FH

Friday July 24

10:00am UWF Book Group/Library

Saturday, July 25

1:00pm Rev. Emmanuel Dass Visitation/MPR

2:00pm Rev. Emmanuel Dass Funeral/Sanc

5:30pm Saturday Night Service/Chapel

+Abbreviations for Room Names:

CR-Conference Rm / FH - Fellowship 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

Audio/Video/Streaming Volunteers

Marty Sankey Mike Evans Pete Peter-

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.

