



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

FEBRUARY 2017

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Pastor Nathan Willard
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February 1, 2017

Dear Church-

A recurring theme in the New Testament is a gathering of disciples to figure out where they should go. Whether it is in Jesus's call to the first disciples, the determination of the 12 apostles, the great commissioning of missionaries, or the gathering in an upper room to figure out what Jesus's death meant, the gospels and Acts are full of planning sessions. And this is a model for us as a church. How do we listen to one another's stories and then understand the story our church is to tell together?

Our Church Council gathered for retreat on January 24 to ask "Where Are We Going?" As we explored our faith together, and what it meant to us to be a Welcoming Church Family, Exploring Progressive Christian Theology, Caring Within and Serving Beyond, we set goals for each of these areas in our church life, from the important question of ensuring consistent greeting and welcome every week to examining once again whether we should adopt a church inclusivity statement and add our names to the list of Open and Affirming churches in the UCC to increasing participation in studies and helping people identify the ministries of the church they'd most like to live in their lives. On February 19, we'll have an opportunity in worship to talk and explore more about what that looks like for each one of us. I hope you'll join us as we find new ways of being the church together.

Come, explore with us.

Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

For Chuck Howieson and his brother. For Nicholas Schreiner. For Sally Brandhorst. With both joy and care for Dennis Pingel. For Hazel Glaze. For the Kreimeyers, mourning Walter. For all people suffering under violence, fear, and oppression.

Ankeny UCC A Welcoming Church Family

Greeters: One of the joys of being a welcoming church family is to welcome old and new people into the church. We do this on a volunteer sign-up basis at the moment, and the sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board next to the coat closet. If every active person in the church signed up, we'd all greet 2-3 times a year (accounting for people unable to greet and the need for pairs). Thank you to Judy Hines for greeting in January, and to the Rupp family and Clarice Beckwith for already signing up for February.

Altar Decorations: Thank you to Joan Moore for continuing to provide wonderful altar decorations.

Choir: Choir practices are held on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

Pancake Supper: We will be having a pancake supper on March 1st at 6pm with our Ash Wednesday service to follow around 6:30pm. Please join us!

Containers and Pans: Are you missing a favorite container or pan? Check the cart under the counter in the kitchen for your cooking dishes.

Submitting Newsletter and Bulletin Items There are lots of ways you can submit something for the bulletin or newsletter. You can put your submission request in the "Office" mailbox in the narthex. You can call or email the office, or let Pastor Nathan know. Your feedback and submission requests are greatly appreciated! **Please make sure to put your name on communications left in case there are any questions.**

Ankeny UCC Exploring Progressive Christian Theology

Sunday School classes are on Sundays at 9:15 am. Meet in the sanctuary for our opening session each Sunday.

Emmanuale: This month's meeting will be Tuesday, February 21st at 7pm at Firetrucker. This month, we will be incorporating the Winter Book Study.

Winter Book Study: Our Winter Book Study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic guide to Christian Community, Life Together has started. Life Together is a short book designed for the community at the Finkenwald Seminary in Germany and used widely in different types of Christian communities today. Bring your own book (it's widely available), and come February 6th and February 13th at 1pm. If afternoons don't work for you, we met January 31st to discuss the first half of the book and will be meeting February 21st at 7pm at Firetrucker, covering the second half of the book.

Unexpected Questions group will meet on Sundays at 9:15am in the Blue Room. Thank you to Misty DeReus and Jenn Howieson who will lead the group in discussing questions of faith, family and life. All are welcome.

2017 January Weekly Attendance

January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29	Average
22	35	49	43	36	37

January Yearly Attendance Averages

Jan. 2017	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2013	Average
37	36	42	56	58	46

February Birthdays	February Anniversaries
04 Gale Gilbert	03 Bruce & Jeanette Beckwith
06 Eric Wiechmann	06 Scot & Marcia Storjohann
09 Sandy Plager	24 Eric & Lisa Wiechmann
13 Marlis Gilbert	
15 Randy Ratcliff	
16 Leona Martin	
17 Clarice Beckwith	
20 Bonnie Ballard	
20 Amber Hedges	
21 Bruce Beckwith	
21 Kurt Van Thomme	
22 Jeanette Beckwith	
26 Alexa Montgomery	

**Is there a birthday missing or listed incorrectly? Notify the office to update records*

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

Remembrance Service for Walt Kreimeyer: We will be having a Remembrance Service for one of our beloved members, Walt Kreimeyer, on Saturday afternoon, February 25th, with details to follow. Please join us in honoring his memory, comforting his family and each other, and celebrating his life. We hold Pat, Stephanie, Libby, and Scott in our prayers and remember Walt's many years of service to Ankeny UCC, students in Ankeny schools, and in Ankeny more broadly. We encourage anyone who participated in choir with him to please contact Laura Beckwith if you are interested in singing at the service.

Christian Ed:

In January, the kids hosted an appreciation dinner for their parents and Sunday School teachers/helpers for all of their involvement in getting us ready for the pageant. We had a great time cooking and cleaning together while pampering the adults in our lives. It was a lot of work and the kids were so anxious to get involved. The parents got to enjoy some fellowship and although the spaghetti was a bit chewy!, it was an all together delicious meal.

February 12th will be a busy day for our kids! They will be visiting Millpond to deliver treats and mugs donated from our kind church family as well as delivering handmade cards and songs we will be singing. Then we will come back to church as February 12th is Children's Church! A lot of the kids have been preparing special music that they will be sharing with all of you throughout the service as well as some other talents!

For Our Whole Church Family: Sunday, February 26th will be February Follies from 6-8 PM. This is a night where we will share our talents (the sky is the limit!) with one another and a chance for us to bond with one another. Feel free to provide an act solo, or perform with the whole family! Whatever your skill, we would love for you to share it! If you need some ideas or want to be involved without having to be up in front of everyone, please let Sarah know: ce@ankenyucc.org If you already know what you'd like to perform, please send an email, or let Sarah know at church!

Appreciation: Thank you to Sarah and the youth for providing an enjoyable dinner and delightful evening at the spaghetti supper last month! Your hard work is appreciated.

Naomi Circle: Meets Wednesday, February 22nd at 9:30 am in location to be advised at Millpond. All are welcome. Meetings will now be regularly held on the 4th Wednesday of the month. As the parking at Millpond is challenging while they complete their additions, we can arrange for pick up from your home or the church if you wish to attend. Contact Laura Beckwith.

Financial Update: In December, we gave \$860 in support of Our Church's Wider Mission, \$630 to the Christmas Fund, \$88 to the American Indian Relief Council, and \$70 to DMARC, bringing our mission giving on the year to \$14,195.08. Our General fund income was \$18,753.47 vs expenses of \$15,340.22, bringing our year-end totals to \$139,948 of income vs expenses of \$141,167.

Correction for Hazel Glaze's new address: Hazel Glaze has moved to Walnut Ridge. If you would like to reach out to her, her new address is 1701 Campus Dr, Apt 2112, Clive, IA 50325. (Previous newsletters included the incorrect zip code; this one is correct, please excuse the error.)

Service CDs available: Do you have trouble getting to church on Sundays? We've been recording services, and can burn a CD for you so you can still be connected with us as we worship God. If you would like one, let us know in the office. And if you are interested in delivering CDs, we'd love to know that, too.

Contact Information for Pastor Nathan Willard Pastor Nathan Willard will usually be available in the church office Monday through Thursday each week from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. There may be some times when other obligations interfere with that, but he can be reached other times by phone or email. You are welcome to email him at pastor@ankenyucc.org or call his Cell Phone: 515-639-0602. If it is urgent, don't hesitate to call.

Ankeny UCC Serving Beyond

Joppa Outreach: Joppa Outreach, which supports our local homeless community, is in immediate need of bottled water and hand and feet warmers, among other winter supplies. If you would like to donate supplies, you can bring them to the Joppa Center Monday-Friday between 10am-5:30pm, or call 515-288-5699 to make other arrangements. If you would like to donate funds, you can do so online at <http://www.joppa.org/donate/> or mail checks to Joppa Outreach, 118 SE 4th Street, Suite 120, Des Moines, IA 50309; Attn: Aimee Smith, Project Manager.

NAMI: The Greater Des Moines branch of The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) needs volunteers. Please see the website for more info at https://www.namigdm.org/en/get_involved/volunteer_opportunities/ and email namigdmdirector@gmail.com or call their Executive Director (515-277-0672) to indicate your interest. One type of position they currently need - ambassadors for their resource tables. You will have the pleasure of meeting hundreds of community members and let them know about the services NAMI provides!

New Horizons: New Horizons Adult Day Center is in need of a volunteer to help with lunch clean-up on Thursdays from 12:45 - 1:45. They are also in need of volunteers to help during the days with our groups. Please call Vicki Engh at 515-965-1602 with any questions or to express interest.

Weekly Coin Collections for January will go to Ankeny Ministerial Association Travelers' Fund. Cash donations will be given to this fund, administered by the Ankeny Police Department. The Fund provides necessary money for people travelling through Ankeny, to help pay for things such as gas or a hotel room.

Ronald McDonald House can tabs: We turn in can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House to support their fundraising for their support of children and their families that are receiving medical care. Feel free to drop off can tabs you collect in the outer office.

February DMARC Food Pantry request: Diapers

(Please make sure to check expiration dates before donating items.)

February 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			01 <i>No Choir practice</i>	02 Café Diem Office Hours 12:30-1:45 pm AMOS How to talk to your legislator 6:00pm AMOS Cluster Meeting 7:00pm	03	04
05 <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	06 Winter Book Study 1:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:30pm	07	08 Choir practice 7:30 pm	09 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00 pm	10	11
12 <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	13 Winter Book Study 1:00pm	14 Valentine's Day Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm	15 <i>No Choir practice</i>	16 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00 pm	17	18
19 <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	20 President's Day	21 Emmanuale 7:00 pm	22 Naomi Circle 9:30 am Choir practice 7:30 pm	23 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00 pm	24	25 Walt Kreimeyer's Remembrance afternoon
26 <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i> February Follies 6-8pm	27	28 Council Meeting 7:00 pm				



Ankeny United Church of Christ

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9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

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Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter