



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

MARCH 2017

Phone: 515-964-4647
E-mail: office@ankenyucc.org
Website: ankenyucc.org
National Website ucc.org
Pastor Nathan Willard
515-639-0602

March 1, 2017

Dear Church-

Welcome to Lent! This period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays) commemorates Jesus's time in the wilderness dealing with the weight of understanding who he was and where he was going. Who was he? God's Son, but fully human and equally the son of Mary and Joseph? A healer? A scholar? A carpenter? A Fisherman? Where did he fit in in the world of ancient Jerusalem? He was a Jew among Jews, but he also had a different understanding of where the world was going. So he was an outsider even as he was an insider.

Throughout Lent, we'll explore this theme in Jesus's life. Our scriptures for worship in this Lent contain some of the most famous insider-outsider dynamics of the New Testament: The Good Samaritan, The Lost Sheep, Zaccheus, and even the city of Jerusalem. We'll complement that with our Wednesday night studies!

This year, we'll kick off our Lenten potlucks at 6pm on Wednesdays, with the program to start at 6:30. We'll have speakers March 15, March 22, and March 29, with in-depth studies and activities around Bible stories on March 8 and April 5. March 15, Beth Yale will share some of her work from her, Martha, and Teddy's fall in Germany. March 22, we're talking with Dhoal Larjin, a US citizen, ISU grad, and Ankeny resident, who has twice been made a refugee from conflicts in South Sudan. And March 29, we'll host John and Karen Campbell Nelson, missionaries in Indonesia with UCC/DOC Global Ministries.

Along with our adult programming, Sarah has been working on youth CE opportunities and projects, so bring your whole family as we explore Insiders and Outsiders in the Bible and our world today.

Come, explore with us.

Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

For Nicholas Schreiner, ending his time with Doctors Without Borders this month. Of joy for Jessica, Brandon, and Charlotte Schellhorn, who welcomed Sybil Rose into their family February 8. Of joy for Sandee Gardner and Amy Goehring, who will be married in our sanctuary March 24. 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).

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

Church Directory Photos: We are putting together a new church directory, and this time we are using the marvels of technology! We are still working out some details, but as we build the directory, we need your family photos (selfies are acceptable)! Please upload a picture for the directory using this link (which is also provided in the weekly newsletter):

https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/submit_photo.aspx?id=061c2754-aa48-4816-a749-cfae6bf7df9c

Also, please be sure to list the first and last names of everyone in the picture. Thank you!

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!

New Member Class: We'll be having a 3-week new member class this spring for people who want to join the church. If you have been considering taking the step of covenant membership with us, just send an email to Pastor Nathan or talk to him after Sunday worship.

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. There will be no Sunday School Sunday, March 12 due to spring break.

Emmanuale: This month's meeting will be Tuesday, March 21st at 7pm at Firetrucker. Let's share times we felt like insiders or outsiders.

Lent Potluck and Bible Study: Beginning on March 8th and continuing through April 5th, we will have a weekly Potluck and Bible study for the season of Lent. The potluck will start at 6:00pm each Wednesday night, and the Bible study will follow, starting around 6:30pm. Please join us as we delve into our topic of insiders and outsiders during Lent.

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 February Weekly Attendance

February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26	Average
44	52	43	40	45

February Yearly Attendance Averages

Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Feb. 2013	Average
45	40	59	49	43	47

March Birthdays	March Anniversaries
02 Robert Patten 03 Peter Hong 03 Elizabeth Street 04 Patrick Barber 05 Melissa Butcher 09 Mary Hanley 18 Annette Hong 19 Bruce Orman 22 Tyler Akins 26 Dennis Pingel 28 Kristi Akins 29 Rodney Heston	

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

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

The Ballard's Anniversary Party: Members of the congregation are invited to a celebration in honor of Jetter and Marie Ballard's 75th Wedding Anniversary! It will be at Fletcher's Restaurant (1802 N Ankeny Blvd) on Saturday, April 1st from 2pm-3:30pm. Please RSVP to Susan at tballard@aol.com by March 30th. The event is hosted by Karen, Lyle, and Susan, and they ask for no gifts please, just cards, smiles and hugs!

Thank you: Thank you to the Trustees for handling the winter pruning and cleanup efforts, as well as the maintenance issues such as the doorbell and the the sanctuary doors just to name a couple. Your work to keep our church looking beautiful and well cared for is appreciated!

Christian Ed:

There will be no Sunday School on March 12th due to Spring Break.

On February 12th the youth traveled to the Millpond, sang some songs, gave out some cards, Valentine's mugs, hot chocolate, and chocolate kisses to the residents (thank you to the donor of those items!). They are grateful for the support (thank you Ken, Joan, Marlis, and Gale!) they had while they were there. The kids, with the invitation of the adults on the trip, got to meet some of the residents and wish them a Happy Valentine's Day.

February 12th was also Children's Church! Thank you to Sarah and the youth for doing an incredible job leading us in worship. A special thank you to Alyssa and Aaron Braun for sharing their musical talents with us. What a blessing!

Naomi Circle: Meets Wednesday, March 22nd at 9:30 am in the large conference room on the main floor 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.

Our financial gifts to God and our Neighbors: In January, we gave \$850 in support of Our Church's Wider Mission, \$630 to the Christmas Fund, \$289 to the Ankeny Travelers' Fund, and \$3.62 to the American Indian Relief Council. Our General fund income was \$15,590.60 vs expenses of \$11,998.35.

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

OGHS Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. We will be collecting this special offering on Sunday, March 26th. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. Thank you for your generous contribution.

Hunger Hike Annual Dinner: The annual dinner provided by the Hunger Hike Board, will be Monday, March 27th from 5:30-7:00pm at Epworth United Methodist Church, located at 412 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA, 50313. During this event, recipient agencies of the funds that you raised will be presented their checks and share how the money will be used to address hunger needs. The Des Moines Area Hunger Hike is an all-community efforts, and they invite pastors, congregations, and other interested persons to come for this time of sharing and celebration. RSVPs are encouraged but not required and can be submitted at desmoineshungerhike.org.

Weekly Coin Collections for March will go to the Heifer International Project, whose mission is working with communities to end hunger and poverty, and care for the Earth . Through the gift of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture, we will help families in over 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance. This mission is part of our UCC Global Mission.

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.

March DMARC Food Pantry request: Peanut Butter
(Please make sure to check expiration dates before donating items.)

March 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			01 Pancake Supper 6:00pm <i>6:45pm Ash Wednesday Service</i> Choir practice 7:30 pm	02 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00 pm	03	04
05 <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	06	07 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm	08 Lent Potluck and Bible Study 6:00pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	09 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00 pm	10	11
12 Daylight Saving Time begins <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	13	14 Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm	15 Lent Potluck and Bible Study 6:00pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	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	21 Emmanuale 7:00 pm	22 Naomi Circle 9:30 am Lent Potluck and Bible Study 6:00pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	23 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00 pm	24 Sandee & Amy's Wedding 10:00am	25
26 <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	27	28 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	29 Lent Potluck and Bible Study 6:00pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	30 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00 pm	31	



Ankeny United Church of Christ

602 SE Delaware Avenue

Ankeny, Iowa 50021-9364

Phone: 515-964-4647

Email: office@ankenyucc.org

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

March 2017

Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter