

APRIL 2024

THE ANKENY ARCHIVES

The Official Newsletter of Ankeny UCC



Arik Borstad Pastor
Rev.Borstad@gmail.com

Robin ZimmermanOffice Admin
office@ankenyucc.org

Bruce Beckwith Moderator
bruce.beckwith@jctolandpainting.com

Marlis Gilbert Vice Moderator
marlis.gilbert@gmail.com

Laura Beckwith Choir Director
boardlb@aol.com

Nancy Pingel Organist
nkpingel@gmail.com

Paige Wonderly Accompanist
paigew@cfiowa.org

Peg Colton Christian Education
pjcolton@me.com

Paul Ferrone Treasurer
treasurer@ankenyucc.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

We have made it to the month of April!

Thank you so much to everyone who made our Holy Week such a special event. Our egg coloring and easter egg hunt was a huge success, as was our ecumenical Maundy Thursday service where we worshiped with our brethren at Ankeny Presbyterian Church. It was a nice reminder to us that we are all part of something larger than ourselves, and I am so grateful for those who helped make these events possible.

I also want to thank those who came out to worship with us on Easter morning, especially since we were able to officially welcome the newest members of our faith family. I believe we can continue to thrive and grow as a community, so please continue to invite friends and neighbors to join us and see what this church is all about! The fastest way to grow a church is by word of mouth, so if you know of someone in your life who could use the community we offer, make sure to invite them to church!



As we continue to move forward into our Easter season, and as we look ahead to the month of April, there are a couple of things I would like to make sure you put on your calendars.

First and foremost, I will be taking a week off from April 8th until April 15th to rest and recover after a busy Easter season. My hope is this week away can reinvigorate me so we can hit the ground running as we launch into our Spring programming at church. One of those programs I'd like to focus on is getting a book club back up and running at the church. If you are interested in being part of a monthly book club, please reach out and let me know so I have a rough idea of how many to expect. I intend for us to officially meet for the first time in May, so stay tuned!

Also, on April 28th, at 3pm, our church has been asked to host our Central Association's Annual Meeting. Immediately following the conclusion of the meeting we will hold the installation service where I am officially installed as your pastor. It seems strange that I've been with you for six months, and I'm "technically" still not your official pastor yet.

For those who have not attended an installation before, I'd love to see you there! This is an opportunity for us to celebrate our partnership and the bright future that awaits our congregation.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik

IN OUR PRAYERS

Continue to keep
in your prayers:

Tom & Trina Rupp's
family

Mark and Sally
Brandhorst

Brian and Terri's
family

Laura and Bruce

PASTOR ARIK ON VACATION



Pastor Arik will be out of the office on vacation from 4/8 until 4/15.

He will still be in the area, so if

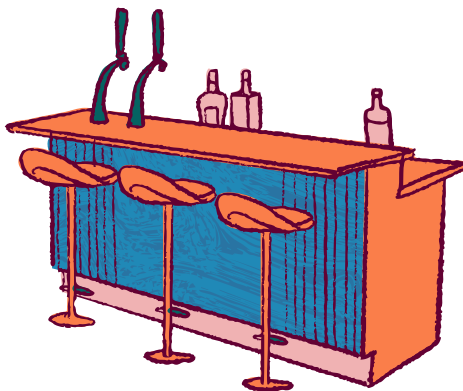
there is an emergency please reach out to him and let him know.

Otherwise, make sure to join us on April 14th when

Sarah Trone

Garriott leads us in worship!

THEOLOGY ON TAP



Starting in May, Pastor Arik will be hosting evening hours once a week at a local pub/restaurant. This will be similar to his coffee shop hours, except it will be in the evenings on Thursdays.

You will be invited to stop on by to visit him for drinks/food and conversation, as he will be there from 5:30pm until 6:45pm each Thursday. If you ever wanted a chance to get to know people or if you want to talk about what is going on in your life, make sure to stop by and join him!

Like his coffee shop hours, the location will rotate each month to a different place, so if you have any favorite bars or restaurants here in Ankeny, please let him know!

POTLUCK HELP

On **April 28th at 3 pm**, we will be hosting the Central Iowa Association's annual meeting, followed by the installation service for Pastor Arik. We are looking for volunteers to bring a dish for the meal after the meeting and the installation service concludes.

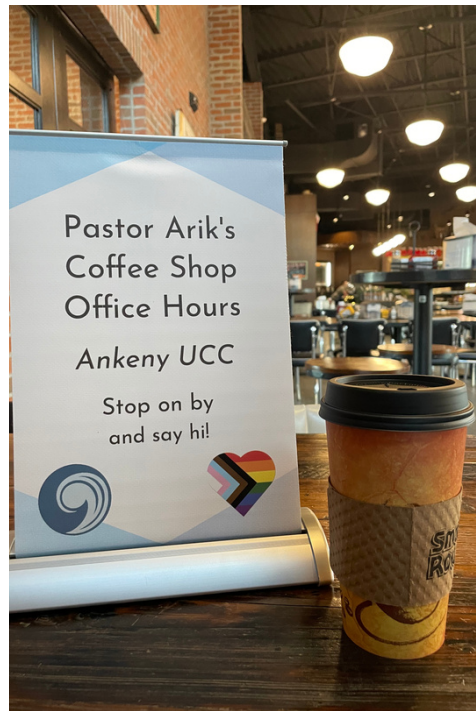


A sign-up sheet will be posted on our bulletin board in the coming week, so if you are able to contribute to the meal, it would be greatly appreciated!

PASTOR ARIK'S COFFEE SHOP HOURS

You are invited to join Pastor Arik every Thursday from 8am-1pm at a local coffee shop for conversation outside of the regular church setting.

The coffee shop will change each month, but March's coffee shop will be at **Smokey Row Coffee Shop** in Ankeny.



Whether you need to talk about something or want to stop on by just to say hi, he would love to see you there! Having an opportunity for conversation outside of the church office space can lend itself to a less intimidating atmosphere, so make sure to join him if you have the time!

SIGN UP FOR GREETERS AND FELLOWSHIP HOUR



On our bulletin board in the narthex, we have a sign up sheet for people to sign up to be greeters (who welcome people and hand out bulletins) and hosts for fellowship hour (who make coffee and bring snacks if they want). If you are interested in signing up for either of those responsibilities, please choose a date and sign up!



THE CLERGY CORNER

A WEEKLY PODCAST FROM PASTOR ARIK

Join Pastor Arik every Wednesday as he releases short 5-10 minute reflections for us to consider throughout the week.

You can listen and subscribe to The Clergy Corner on iTunes, Spotify, or anywhere you listen to podcasts.

You can also listen on our website at ankenyucc.org/podcasts/

If you need a moment of reflection in the midst of your busy week, listen in!



MONTHLY COIN COLLECTION

This month's coin collection in worship goes to support Heifer International

This organization helps help families lift themselves out of poverty and works toward creating long-term solutions to world hunger.

Please join us as we support this incredible fund as a faith family



WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

On Easter morning we officially welcomed the newest members into our family of faith. We want to thank them for sharing a bit about themselves in worship so we could all get to know them a bit better, and we invite everyone to make sure they feel welcomed and right at home. Our newest members are:

Arik and Allison, with Leo and Sage Borstad

Colleen and Ron Borstad

Shonda and Bob Deranleau

Rob and Stephanie Proper, Ivan Proper and

Isabelle Edge

Jim Weiss

Robin Zimmerman

If you are interested in becoming a new member of our church and want to know what is involved in the process, just reach out to Pastor Arik and let him know! We try to make things as easy and as painless as possible (we promise!) and there's never been a better time to join our faith family!

An illustration of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, holding a light gray rectangular sign. The hands are rendered in a simple, stylized orange color. The sign contains the text "WELCOME" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and "to the Team" in a black, cursive script font below it.

WELCOME
to the Team

Central Iowa Association's 2024 Spring Meeting!!

April 28th, 3pm

Ankeny United Church of Christ

602 SE Delaware Ave.

Ankeny, IA 50021

Spring

The Central Iowa Association invites YOU to gather together to welcome in Spring 2024.

We will have a short business meeting, followed by a celebration of Installation for Rev. Arik Borstad as Senior Pastor at Ankeny UCC.

Please share this with your congregations!

A light meal will be shared!

From the Central
Iowa Association
Committee

Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending

John Pavlovitz

April 4-7, 2024, 39th Annual Theologian in Residence Program
Co-Hosts: Ames United Church of Christ, Iowa Conference UCC, Central Association UCC
Free and Open to the Public

Theologian in Residence



John Pavlovitz is a writer, pastor, activist, and storyteller from Wake Forest, North Carolina. Over the past decade, his thought-provoking blog, *Stuff That Needs to Be Said*, has reached a diverse worldwide audience with over 100 million views. A 25-year veteran in the trenches of local church ministry, Pavlovitz is committed to equality, diversity, and justice—both inside and outside faith communities.

John's books include *A Bigger Table*, and *If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*. His new book *Worth Fighting For*, will arrive on April 2. He currently directs Empathetic People Network, a vibrant online community that connects people from all over the world who want to create a more compassionate planet.

The Program

Thursday, April 4, 6:00 pm

"Flipping the Table on Christian Nationalism," Public Lecture, Sun Room, Memorial Union, Iowa State University. This lecture will be recorded and made available at a later date. No online access on Thursday.

Friday, April 5, 1-4 pm

"Compassion Fatigue," a special discussion led by John Pavlovitz for pastors and faith leaders seeking continuing education credit, Fellowship Hall, Ames UCC Church, 217 Sixth St., Ames IA. Open to any interested persons. In-person only.

Saturday, April 6, 9:00 am to 3 pm

The first two Saturday sessions will be presented at Ames United Church of Christ, 217 Sixth St., Ames IA and also will be available via Zoom to those who register. John Pavlovitz will lead all three sessions. The third session will utilize a workshop format and will not be available by Zoom.

• 9:00 am Welcome and Introductions

• 9:10-10:30 am. **"Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty is Trending,"** presentation and discussion.

Break: 10:30-10:45 am

• **10:45 am to noon. "The Compassionate Activist Heart of Jesus,"** presentation and discussion.

• **Noon to 1:00 pm.** Lunch available, Fellowship Hall, \$10. Sign up for optional lunch when registering for event.

• **1:00-2:30 pm. "EMPATHEOLOGY: Living a Life of Sustainable Compassion."** Workshop format led by John.

Sunday, April 7

• **9:00-9:40 am. Q&A with John Pavlovitz,** Fellowship Hall, Ames UCC church. Note: This session will not be available via Zoom.

• **9:40-10:00 am. Meet and greet John Pavlovitz,** Fellowship Hall, Ames UCC church. This is an opportunity to meet John Pavlovitz. John must leave immediately following the worship service so he will not be available to greet worshippers then.

• **10:00-11:00 am. Worship Service at Ames UCC with John Pavlovitz providing the sermon.** Available in person or via Zoom.

Note: Parking is available in the public lot east of the church or along streets in the area. Meters take quarters. All those who register for the event will receive a Zoom link a few days before April 6. Please note that not all sessions are available via Zoom. There is no charge for registration.

Registration

The Theologian in Residence event is open to everyone without charge. Whether you choose to attend in person or online, we ask that you register for the event so that you can receive reminders and so that we can adequately plan for you. Register at www.amesucc.org/tir. You will be asked if you wish to make a voluntary donation to help support the program.

BIRTHDAYS

Anneke Schut	04/16
Kayleen Conter	04/17
Thomas Rupp	04/20
Dillon Rupp	04/20
Misty DeReus	04/25
Judy Hines	04/26

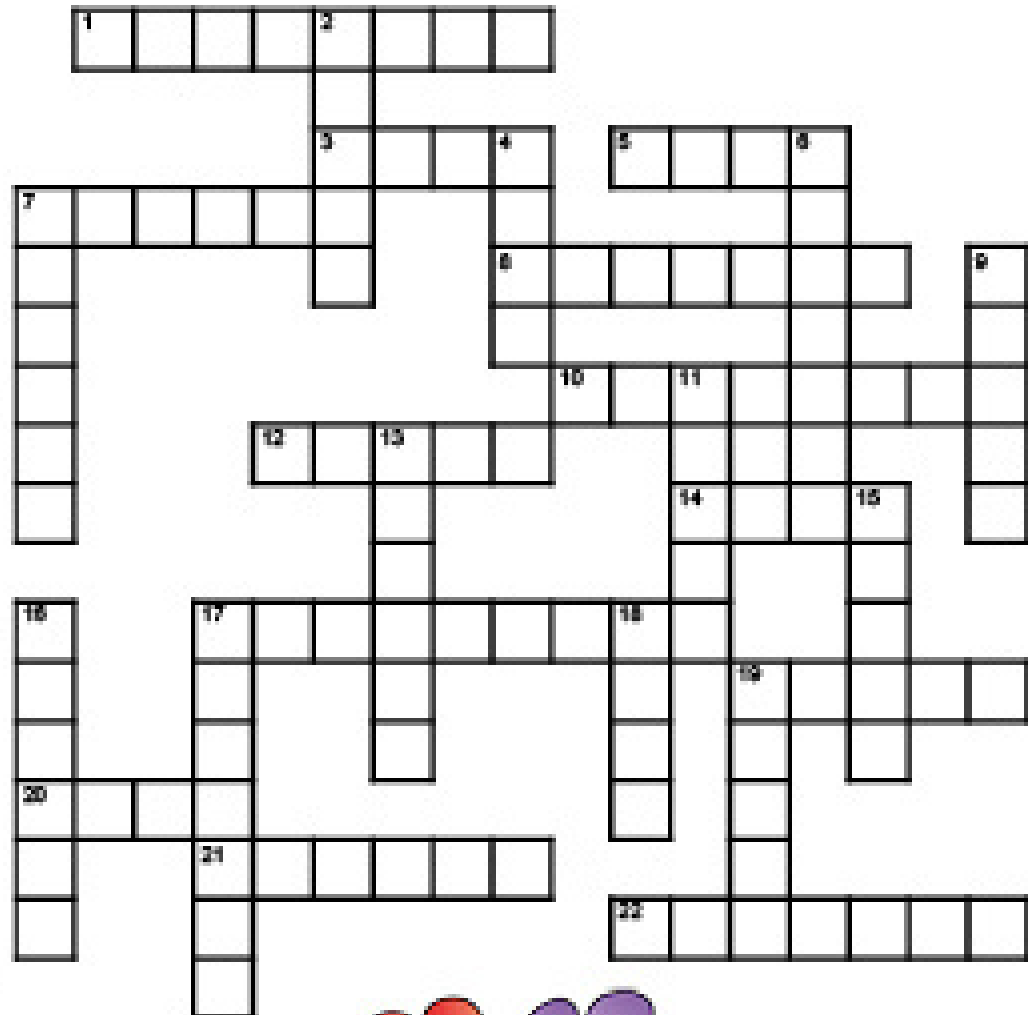
ANNIVERSARIES

Laura Beckwith and Bruce Orman	4/25	31 years
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Spring is Here!

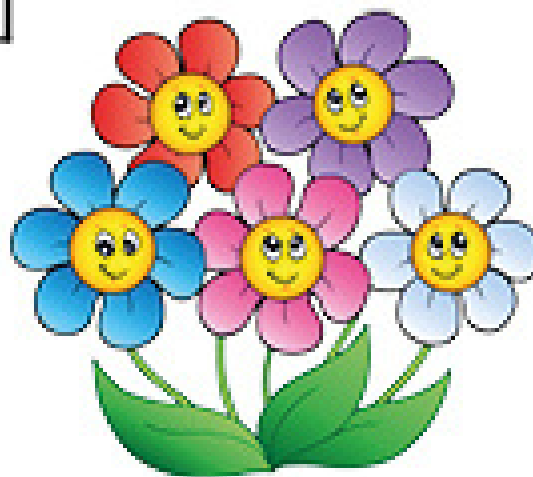
Across

1. It warms and brightens everything.
3. Warm up from a freeze.
5. They make honey.
7. Meal in the park.
8. Colorful arc in the sky.
10. It keeps the rain off you.
12. The color of spring grass.
14. Where a bird lives.
17. An adult caterpillar.
19. A baby chicken.
20. What chicks hatch from.
21. It comes after winter.
22. Red insect with black spots.



Down

2. Come out of an egg.
4. Wiggly creature that lives in the ground.
6. Short rainfalls.
7. Small pool of rain.
9. What the lawn is made of.
11. Another name for a rabbit.
13. A spring holiday.
15. Holland is famous for this flower.
16. Just a little wind.
17. Flower on a tree.
18. It is green and on a plant.
19. It might hide the sun.



Word Bank: Bees, Blossom, Breeze, Bunny, Butterfly, Chick, Cloud, Easter, Eggs, Grass, Green, Hatch, Ladybug, Leaf, Nest, Picnic, Puddle, Rainbow, Showers, Spring, Sunshine, Thaw, Tulip, Umbrella, Worm



Spring Word Search



N Q F I P F S D R I B L S B F Z R
 J V P X X O X S B G P I S R E P S
 T D X M R A W S N P T R R F S Q E
 N M Z B G T E A E O Z P E N J M O
 Y D B M P G A R N I X A W A J E U
 G S Y C T X S G I U R V O T N V V
 G I S N Q E T X H V U L H Q X Q C
 E V P F J V E K S Y U S S Z B Y L
 V D T L C P R E N A P R E E Q M I
 K D W O R Y D R U M B R E L L A W
 M R G W D Z B A S E B A L L L R Q
 R R T E Q W Q Y V T J D L A H C E
 M B H R M W D Q T W W Q R Q X H U
 M F M S E R J F N O T T A G S H E
 N G N I R P S X X B G A I S I V W
 E R H I I I L M G R E E N Y L T R
 Y R W D M L G Q T T I A O A F F B

SPRING
 MAY
 GREEN
 WARM
 UMBRELLA



MARCH
 FLOWERS
 GRASS
 SHOWERS
 EASTER



APRIL
 BASEBALL
 SUNSHINE
 RAIN
 BIRDS

