

JANUARY 2023

THE ANKENY ARCHIVES

The Official Newsletter of Ankeny UCC



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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Welcome to 2024!

It seems almost strange, being in the year 2024. It sounds like a year in some sci-fi novel set in the far future, where people drive flying cars and the world lives in a utopian paradise. If only, right?

Still, being at the start of a new year is the perfect time to make those lofty goals and imagine that utopian paradise that we long for in our society. It is a time of making resolutions and promises to ourselves and one another, that this year will be better than the year before.

As your church family, while we can't promise the advent of world peace or an end to world hunger, what we *can* promise is that we will be there to love and support one another during what will most assuredly be a tense year. From the election that is looming at the end of the year, to the increasing global tension between superpowers, there seems so much in our world that is beyond our control.



However, it is precisely in these moments of uncertainty that the church - *our* church - is needed now more than ever. No matter what happens this upcoming year, we will continue to be a community of faith that love and supports one another, no matter who we are or what we are going through.

We will continue to be that refuge - that sanctuary - that is here to offer strength and support when we need it most. Here we will find a community where we can share our joys and our sorrows, as well as our worries and our fears.

Yes, there will be changes and challenges this year, but there will also be joys and successes for us to celebrate as well. We will continue to adapt and grow to the changing world around us, and Ankeny UCC will continue to be a refuge of safety and support in the midst of the turbulence that surrounds us.

So while we can't predict what this upcoming year will bring, what we can know for sure, is that we do not face this upcoming year alone. This church family is here for you, and the one who created you has never once left your side.

My friends, welcome to the year 2024. And who knows? Maybe flying cars will hit the market by the end of the year! :)

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik

IN OUR PRAYERS

Continue to keep
in your prayers:

Tom & Trina Rupp's
family

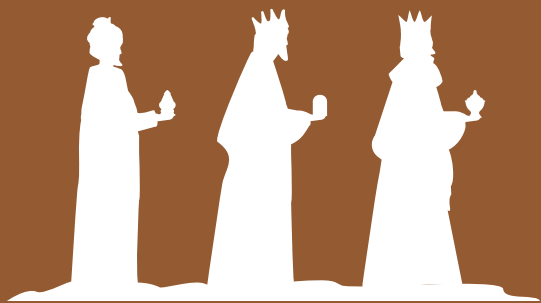
Pat and Dave
Hykes

Paige Wonderly

Sue Broadbrooks
and her family

Laura and Bruce

EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 7TH



Join us January 7th
as we celebrate
the Epiphany of
the Lord!

The wise ones will
make their
entrance and offer
their gifts to the
newborn king!

TRIVIA

Did you know...

There is no mention
of only three wise
ones in scripture?

There is only the
mention of three
gifts.

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

We are in the process of
starting an online prayer chain
to help keep people up to
date with people who need
our love and prayers.



As prayer requests come to Pastor Arik, (with
permission) he will send out a prayer request email to
members of our prayer group.

If you are interested in being part of the email
prayer chain, please reach out to Pastor Arik with
your email address and let him know.

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS LIST



As part of his new
partnership with the church,
Pastor Arik is looking to
compile a list of church
members who are not able
to physically join us for
worship.

This could include people in physical therapy,
retirement homes, rehab centers, or anyone who is
unable to get out and around. Once this list is
compiled, Pastor Arik will begin to reach out and
call/visit these members of our church and bring
them communion. This is one small way to let them
know they are still a valued part of our faith
community.

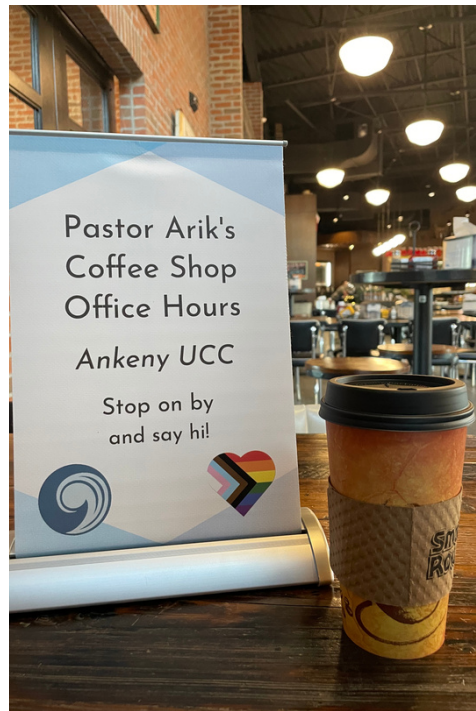
If you know of someone who fits this description,
please reach out to Pastor Arik to let him know!

Thank you so much!

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 January's coffee shop will be Smokey Row Coffee Shop



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!

POINSETTIAS AND ADVENT WREATH



We want to offer our deep gratitude to Karen (Marie Ballard's daughter) and Lyle Avey for the poinsettias last month and our new advent wreath.

They were generously donated in memory of:
Frank and Erma Ballard
Ed and Verna Howard
Tom Ballard
Jon Ballard



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!

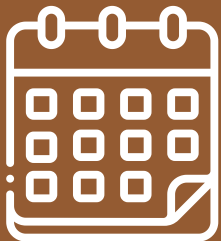


CHURCH NEWS

Please keep up to date with what is going on at church by viewing our church calendar online!

You can view our google calendar by clicking the "Events" heading at the top of our website, or by going to

ankenyucc.org/ankenyucc-google-calendar/

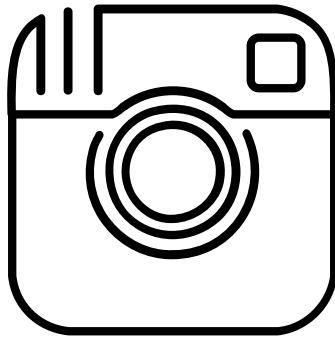


NEW WEBSITE IN THE WORKS

We are in the process of updating our website in the coming year. It is still in its construction phase, but you can look forward to a new and updated website as we look to grow our community.



SOCIAL MEDIA

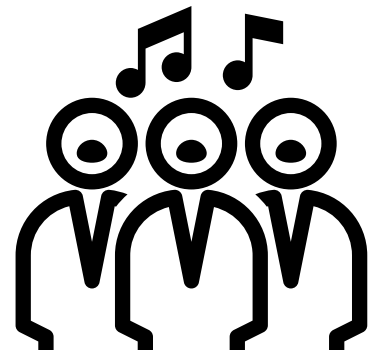


In order to focus on marketing and attracting new members to our faith family, we will be embarking upon a social media campaign to update our social media accounts and prepare them for online advertising.

We will be creating a new Instagram page as well as a new Facebook page, and will be looking at possibilities for a new church logo. If you are someone who uses social media, make sure to follow along for this next chapter of Ankeny UCC!

JOIN THE CHOIR

The music program at Ankeny UCC is one of the greatest gifts we have as a community! If you have musical gifts you'd like to share with the church, join us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm as the choir rehearses for our Sunday morning anthems. All are welcome!



TRUSTEES



We are still searching for new trustees to join us for 2024.

This is a great way to give back to the church and to give your time and talents to God!

If you are interested in learning more or would like to join the trustees, please reach out to the office and let us know!

The trustees meet this month on January 8th at 7:00pm at the church

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

We are continuing to update our record-keeping, so while we are in this time of transition, please be patient with us!

In our monthly newsletters we will include the month's birthdays and anniversaries, but if there is anyone left out or the information is not correct, please reach out to us and let us know!



DEACONS

This month's deacon's meeting will take place on January 1st at 6:30pm via zoom. If you are interested in learning more about the deacons and what we are all about, please reach out and let us know!



MONTHLY COIN COLLECTION

This month's coin collection in worship goes to support the Ankeny Ministerial Association Traveler's Fund.

This fund allocates money to people who are traveling through the Ankeny area and are in need of lodging and food.

Organized and distributed through the local police, people in need are entitled to one night's stay at a hotel and three meals.

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

BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Braun	01/01
Brian Holmes	01/02
Terri Muehlenthaler-Holmes	01/11
Margaret Whiteley	01/12
Janet Ferrone	01/13
Jane Underwood	01/14
Pat Hykes	01/16
Aggy DeReus	01/18
Jack Howieson	01/21
Paige Wonderly	01/23
Sally Brandhorst	01/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Paul and Janet Ferrone 01/31 42 years

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

