



# ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

April 2015

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National Website [UCC.org](http://UCC.org)

Pastor Nathan Willard

515-639-0602

April 7, 2015

Happy Easter!

We are in the Easter season for all of April! But our Easter worship on Sunday was fabulous. Thanks to all the people who helped set up for our breakfast and decorated all the tables. Thanks to all the Deacons and their helpers who dressed the altar, and thanks to all who worked hard hiding eggs. We really started on the right note and celebrated well.

We want to continue that celebration throughout the Easter season and beyond, so we're making a couple of changes to worship planning to make it easier for everyone to sing loudly and energetically. I was really touched when, at the end of Lent, I heard Martha singing our hymn of reflection, "Prepare the Way of the Lord." I talked with the worship committee about changing up the music a little bit, and we're excited to share with you the results of our discussions.

I always choose hymns to match the worship theme of the day, but the list of hymns appropriate both to a week's text and upbeat/easily sung to open worship tends to be small. So to set the tone, we'll have an opening hymn of the month (This month: To You Be the Glory). Because of the sense of worshipfulness and focus that "Prepare the Way of the Lord" brought during Lent, we will continue with that, using it to center ourselves before our Prayers of the People. Finally, we'd hoped to introduce the congregation to new hymns through different responses to benedictions at the end of the service, but it never quite worked like we'd hoped. So we'll close with a seasonal hymn of departure.

I love to hear us singing! Alleluia!

Blessings,

Pastor Nathan

### **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](mailto:pastor@ankenyucc.org) or call his Cell Phone: 515-639-0602. If it is urgent, don't hesitate to call any time of the day or night.



**"Happiness, knowledge, not in another place but this place, not for another hour but this hour..." - Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass**



### April Birthdays

04 Sue Shafer  
 12 John Heston  
 17 Kayleen Conter  
 18 Tessi Holmes  
 19 Jeff Patterson  
 20 Dillon Rupp  
 26 Judy Hines  
 29 Jan Wilton  
 30 Tom Rupp  
 30 Courtney Underwood

### April Anniversaries

04 Gerald & Marie Ballard  
 25 Laura Beckwith & Bruce Orman



*\*Is there a birthday missing or listed incorrectly? Notify the office to update records  
 Thank you for your cooperation with helping to maintain accuracy.*

### 2015 March Weekly Attendance

March 01	March 08	March 15	March 22	March 29	Average
60	49	35	44	58	47

### March Yearly Attendance Averages

March 2015	March 2014	March 2013	March 2012	Average
47	45	50	53	49

### April Worship Assistants

#### Liturgist

05 Kendra Fulton  
 12 Laura Beckwith  
 19 Sandy Plager  
 26 Paige Wonderly

#### Ushers

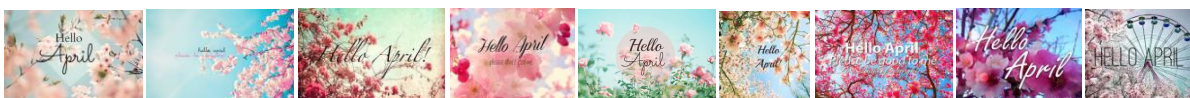
*Need Volunteers*  
 Judy Hines  
 Brian Holmes  
 Brian Holmes

#### Greeters

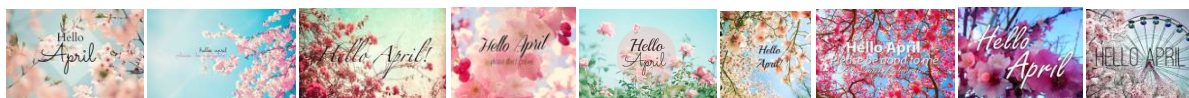
*Need Volunteers*  
 Judy Hines

## Financial Information through Feb

OFFERING RECEIVED	OCWM	Heifer International	Christmas Fund	BackPak Buddies	Food Pantry DMARC	TOTAL	Paid
January	\$ 530.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	b	\$ -	\$ 580.00	Feb-14
February	\$ 565.00	\$ 21.00		\$ 51.12	\$ -	\$ 637.12	Mar-14



*"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want-oh you don't know what it is you **do** want, but it fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so." ~ Mark Twain*



## News, Notes & Announcements

### **April Food Pantry Request:** Whole Grain Cereal

The office staff recently toured the food pantry. We made a visit to see how we could better refer calls for assistance within our community. There are opportunities for volunteers, putting together food packages for clients, and putting away received food donations. You can call BJ, the volunteer coordinator at Red Rock. 965-0433. BJ is there M-F, 9am-3pm.

### **NEW HORIZONS 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LASAGNE DINNER FUNDRAISER Fri Apr 10, 4:30-7 PM**

Advance tickets: \$8.00 adults, \$4 children 9 and under. Call New Horizons for tickets 965-1602. This is New Horizon's main fundraiser. If you haven't gone before, the food is delicious!



*Walt and Pat are moving to Dubuque in May, to be closer to children and grandchildren.*

*Who: Ladies of the Church  
What Say 'Bon Voyage' to Pat Kreimeyer  
When: Saturday April 25, 10 AM-12 PM  
Where: Virginia Bettel's House,  
467 NE Pinecrest Circle, Ankeny*

**THANKS!** Thanks to everyone for helping keep the kitchen clean and orderly during meals!

**THANKS!** Thanks to Nathan for picking up 8x14" paper at Costco for bulletins!

**THANKS!** Thanks to Nathan for picking up stamps so the newsletter can be mailed!

**THANKS To Martha Jane for helping to make sure that the sanctuary looked beautiful 03-22!**

**THANKS!** to Annette Hong for taking March food pantry items to DMARC pantry located in Neveln.

(Annette has been volunteering in the food pantry, if you are interested, talk to her!)

**THANKS!** Thank you to Gale Gilbert for helping to clean up the walks during after the snowfall.

**THANKS!** Thanks so much to Gale for being the on-call plumber in March!

**THANKS!** Thanks to Gale for doing Spring clean up in the landscaping.

**Thanks!** To Laura Beckwith for all her help with decorating the sanctuary.

**Thanks!** Thanks so much for everyone who helped make the Lenten season so special. Thanks to those who helped with dinners, who provided even though they could not attend. Thanks to those who helped with decorating, prayers, liturgies, communion supplies and all the other endless things that help to make sure our services run as smoothly as possible. Thank you to you all!

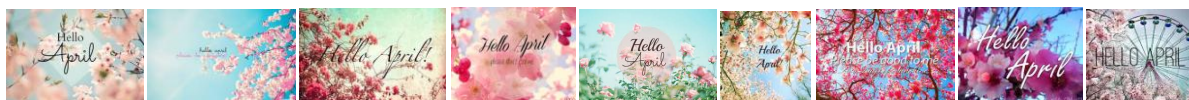
**FOUND:** Blue Travel mug with Enventis logo found Sun 03-08

**LOST EARRING:** a hook earring with 3 purple stars was found. Claim it at the office lost and found.

**LOST EARRING** an orchid colored star post-style earring

**LOST PEN:** a pen with a ballerina photo pic. The ballerina is wearing blue, the background is red.

**Lost items can be claimed in the lost and found in the office,**



**Choir** meets Wednesdays at 7:30pm. Questions? Ask Laura Beckwith.

**Naomi Circle** meets wed April 15, 9:30 am, Doris' Dining Room, Millpond, Ankeny.

**NEW EMAIL:** Clarice Beckwith has a new email address. [claricebeckwith@gmail.com](mailto:claricebeckwith@gmail.com)

**THANKS** from the Associate Conference Minister Brigit Stevens

**Dear Ankeny UCC,**

Thank you! Thank you for your 2014 contribution to **Our Church's Wider Mission!** Because of your generosity we continue to boldly follow Jesus in the UCC congregations of the Iowa Conference and beyond. May God bless our partnership and continued ministry together. Thank you!

**Brigit Stevens, Associate Conference Minister, United Church of Christ of Iowa**

**Kitchen Needs:** DISHSOAP

**Service Worship Assistants** Clarice Beckwith has been calling people to schedule for liturgists, ushers and greeters. Thanks for your help in making sure services run smoothly. You can also sign up sheet for worship service assistant positions on the sign up bulletin board. Thank you so much for your help with scheduling!

**Missions** We are convening a missions committee! I know some of you would like to help spread the love of the church outside its doors, but are unable to serve as a deacon. Linda Johnson-Lundquist is taking point on missions again this year and is looking for helpers. The deacons have set a mission calendar, and we'd love to bring more passionate people in to lead us outside the doors.

**Staples Rewards** If you shop at Staples, give the the church's phone number 515-964-4647, and we earn money back towards future purchases. Help keep our office expenses down, give them our church phone number when you shop at Staples. (They can also look it up by name. ;)THANKS!

**CANDLES NEEDED** I would like to make a "community" candle from old candles to be used at some future time during worship service. I will put a box in the office for your used candles. I will make a layered candles form the old ones .Thanks for your help with this project. ~Jennifer K, office

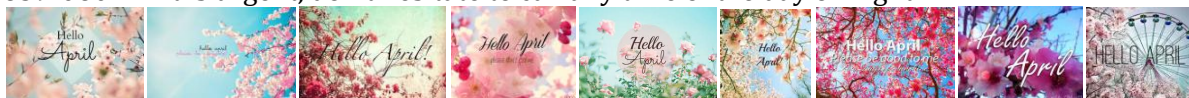
**April Green Tip: Environmentally friendly bills.** Most businesses offer paperless billing options, which decreases the amount of paper used. All utilites offer this service. The church has moved almost all accounts to an online payment system. Bank statements can also be sent paperless.

**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 "newsletter" mailbox in the narthex. You can call or email the office, or let Pastor Nathan know. You can even stop by for a visit and give us the information yourself. (This is actually a quite popular way of communication for us!) Your feedback and submissions requests are greatly appreciated!

**Missing Cutting Mat** The sewing group is missing a green cutting mat. Please let Jeanette know if you have found it.

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# April 2015



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			<b>01</b> <b>Choir 7:30</b>	<b>02</b> <b>5:30 Dinner</b> <b>6:15 Service</b>	<b>03</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>04</b> <b>10AM</b> <b>Easter Set-Up w/Deacons</b> Holy Saturday
<b>05</b> <b>9am</b> <b>Easter Breakfast Egg Hunt</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour	<b>06</b> Deacons meeting 6:30 pm	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b> Choir 7:30	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour <b>Orthodox Easter</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Trustees Meeting 7PM	<b>15</b> Naomi Circle 9:30 AM, Doris' Dining Room, Millpond <b>Choir 7:30</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Central Assoc. Spring Meeting, Pilgrim Heights 10-2
<b>19</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour	<b>20</b> Church Council 7PM	<b>21</b> Theology on Tap, 7PM Firetrucker Brewery	<b>22</b>  <b>Earth Day</b> <b>Choir 7:30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Deacons Spring Clean UP <b>Women's Tea for Pat Kreimeyer*</b>
<b>26</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour	<b>27</b> <b>Fabric Club</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Choir 7:30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>*See Newsletter item for more info</b>

The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes.  
~ Sir Winston Churchill

## Upcoming events & activities:

Sunday May 3, Recognition Sunday, for teachers, choir, graduates.

If you have someone to recognize, or an upcoming event to announce

call or email the office. UCC Office: 964-4647, email to office@ankenyucc.org.

**Let's Hire a Coordinator of Christian Education**

For the past several months the Christian Education Committee, under the umbrella of the Deacons, has been reviewing our Christian Education program, the curriculum we are using, and ways we might improve it. As a result of the work of the committee and a strong recommendation that we implement the position, the Deacons presented a job description for a Christian Education Coordinator to the Council for approval. The job description was approved and the Christian Education Committee was charged with educating the congregation about the needs for such a position and with raising the funds to make it happen. As we are mid-year, the position has not been budgeted, and if at all possible, we would like to have someone in place for the start of the Christian Education program in the fall.

We would like to be able to fund the position through gifts from the congregation for this fall and through 2015, before it becomes a regular part of the annual budget. The highest cost will be \$300 per week, or slightly over \$1200 per month. Thus for September through December this year, we will need to raise about \$5000, and for next year about \$13,000. We feel that this position is very crucial to the future of our congregation, and ask that each of you consider an appropriate gift within your means. As we are looking at next year as well as this, you may desire to make a pledge to be paid in parts (see below). When you write your check, please note that it is to go toward funding the Christian Education Coordinator position. We already have one up front gift from a member who feels Christian Education is crucial and this position is a wise investment in our future.

The coordinator would help with recruiting, coordinating, and procuring the materials needed for each session relieving the actual teachers in their preparation. We would like to recruit more members of all ages to participate as teachers and aides, so teams could work for a month or so at a time, and could rotate throughout the season. We also would like to see an active program for our youth.

Members of the Deacons and Christian Education Committee will be available after church each Sunday to answer your questions, or you may contact them directly. Thank you for your support.

**Deacons:**

Jennifer Howieson, Pat Kreimeyer, Clarice Beckwith, Annette Hong, Linda Johnson Lundquist, Paige Wonderly, and Vicki Schreiner

**Christian Education Committee:**

Tami Fulton, Sara Handley, Laura Beckwith, Ken Braun, Susan Ramjford, Jennifer and Pat



I/we wish to make a gift to help fund the Christian Education Coordinator position.

Up-front direct gift \$\_\_\_\_\_ ( enclosed)

Pledge to be paid during 2014 \$\_\_\_\_\_ 2015 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Donate online with Vanco. by** clicking the following link. [Online Vanco Donation](#)



**Ankeny United Church of Christ**

**602 SE Delaware Avenue**

**Ankeny, Iowa 50021-9364**

**Phone: 515-964-4647**

**Email: [office@ankenyucc.org](mailto:office@ankenyucc.org)**

**9:15 am Sunday School (adult& youth)**

**10:30 am Worship Time**

**11:30 am Fellowship Hour**

## *April 2015 UCC Newsletter*

