



**ANKENY UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

May 2015

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Pastor Nathan Willard
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May 1, 2015

Happy Easter!

On this May Day, I have been thinking about our identity statement, and why it is important for a community to be a welcoming church family, exploring progressive Christian theology, caring within and serving beyond. As the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign in World War I (in which the hubris and ignorance of British High Command led to the senseless deaths of thousands of Australian and New Zealand soldiers and sailors) and the Armenian Genocide passed us, I thought about what examples we could draw from servants in our past.

The Congregational Christian Churches had rare missionary success in Armenia, caring for communities in Armenia and serving for a hundred years before 1915 to open schools, hospitals, and orphanages and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. So when the Ottoman Empire started its campaign of mass executions in 1915 in order to eliminate the minority Armenian population, there were missionaries there to document the deaths and bear witness to the events around them. Rather than turning a blind eye and denying that these things were happening, our missionaries rushed to help and to report. They recognized the Armenians as part of Christ's family, and also recognized that our Gospel demands that we aid the powerless.

So as we go into another century, I am heartened by all the people who seek reconciliation in our church, by teaching our peacemaking curriculum in Sunday School, to serve communion in homes, or to push us to seek out the helpless, find the oppressed we cannot see, and live into our mission to build God's kingdom.

Blessings,

Pastor Nathan



“Happiness, knowledge, not in another place but this place, not for another hour but this hour...” - Walt Whitman, [Leaves of Grass](#)

May Birthdays

02 Kristi Conter
 02 Mason Hanley
 03 Dave Hykes
 05 Jamie Montgomery
 10 Dee Day
 12 Vicki Schreiner
 18 Ella Kreimeyer
 22 Laura Beckwith
 23 Doug Fulton
 27 Jessica Brandhorst
 30 Taylor Rinehart

May Anniversaries

27 Dick & Jane Shafer



**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 April Weekly Attendance

April 05	April 12	April 19	April 26	Average
112	47	48	57	66

April Yearly Attendance Averages

April 2015	April 2014	April 2013	April 2012	Average
66	72	47	77	66

May Worship Assistants

Liturgist

03 Jenn Howieson
 10 Marlis Gilbert
 17 Paige Wonderly
 24 **need volunteer**
 31 Clarice Beckwith

Ushers

Mark & Jenn Howieson
 Gale & Marlis Gilbert
 Bruce & Jeanette Beckwith
need volunteers
need volunteers

Greeters

Rineharts
 Gale & Marlis Gilbert
 Bruce & Jeanette Beckwith
need volunteers
 Clarice Beckwith

June Worship Assistants

Liturgist

06 Marlis Gilbert
 13 **need volunteer**
 20 **need volunteer**
 27 **need volunteer**

Ushers

Gale & Marlis Gilbert
 Bruce Orman & Laura Beckwith
need volunteers
need volunteers

Greeters

Gale & Marlis Gilbert
 Bruce Orman & Laura Beckwith
need volunteers
 Don & Carolyn Zuck

July Worship Assistants

Liturgist

05 **need volunteer**
 12 **need volunteer**
 19 **need volunteer**
 26 **need volunteer**

Ushers

need volunteers
need volunteers
need volunteers
need volunteers

Greeters

need volunteers
 Don & Carolyn Zuck
need volunteers
need volunteers

*"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

May food Pantry Request: Macaroni & Cheese.

Mac&cheese is a childhood pantry staple, but it is not something that the food pantry purchases, it is only through donations that this can be distributed in food packages for families. Now that school is going to be out, donate some mac and cheese to help keep Ankeny kids well fed this summer.

Thanks! To Annette Hong for taking food pantry collections to the Ankeny Food Pantry in Neveln. 24 misc food items were taken, along with 2 personal items and coffee samples.

If you have questions about volunteering at the food pantry, Annette has been helping out and can answer questions. You can also call BJ, the volunteer coordinator at Red Rock. 965-0433. BJ is there M-F, 9am-3pm.

THANKS! To Elaine Johnson for the book donations for the Ankeny UCC library.

Thanks! To Ronda Meyers for donating a scanner/printer to the church.

THANKS! To Gale Gilbert for the yardwork and tree trimming.

THANKS! To Laura Beckwith for washing the outer windows.

THANKS! To Gerald & Marie Ballard for the new candlelighters in memory of their son Tom Ballard.

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 MUG: clear plastic mason jar style mug with handle, orange screw on lid and straw.

LOST GAME SYSTEM: Quentin Fulton, your game boy system is in the office.

Lost items can be claimed in the lost and found in the office lost and found box.

Choir the last choir rehearsal was May 6. The choir will be on summer hiatus after May 17. If you have questions, ask Laura Beckwith.

SPECIAL MUSIC NEEDED The choir is on hiatus through August and we are in need of special music to be shared during services. Just call or email the office, or talk to Nathan

Recognition Sunday Thanks to Linda Johnson-Lundquist for organizing Sunday's recognitions, and thank you to all the servants of the church in the past year. And, to Pat and Walt, God be with you till we meet again.

ANKENY TREE AND BRANCH DAY Held multiple times each year, the program allows Ankeny residents to dispose of trees and branches free of charge.

Come to the City Maintenance Facility at 211 SE Lorenz Drive Saturday, May 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or Sunday, May 17 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Trees and branches must have a trunk size no larger than 8" in diameter will not be accepted. Debris larger than 8" in diameter will not be accepted because of its inability to be recycled through the city chipper. Branches less than one (1) inch in diameter, twigs, tree roots, stumps and yard waste will not be accepted. Residents are asked to have the cut end of their branches stacked at the end of their vehicles for easy removal.

Residents residing within the corporate limits of Ankeny may participate in this program.

Commercial vehicles and trucks larger than a pickup are prohibited from participating in this recycling program.

NAOMI CIRCLE is a women's fellowship group that meets monthly. The next meeting is Wednesday May 20, 9:30 am at Milpond in Doris' Dining Room. If you have any questions, ask Laura Beckwith.

NEW EMAIL: Clarice Beckwith has a new email address. claricebeckwith@gmail.com

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.

Continuing Prayers this week for Prayers of Thanksgiving for Virginia Bettel and all who planned the farewell tea for Pat Kreimeyer, and for all the people who helped to clean the church on April 25 in the midst of rain. Marge Swartfager's daughter Shirley Parrish. For Vivian Pollock, and for Norman. For the Boylan family. For Nicholas Schreiner. For Pauline and Beth.

Sunday School Singing at Mill Pond Sunday during the 9:00 hour, the Sunday School singers will be visiting Mill Pond again. We'd love to have all our youth voices to sing the songs they've been rehearsing all spring.

Outdoor Worship June 14 We'll be celebrating the summer by having an outdoor worship service on June 14 here at the church, followed by a cookout potluck. We'll supply the burgers and hot dogs, you supply the sides (and if you want a vegetarian grilled option, we're happy to oblige)! Sign-ups will be up shortly just so we know how much to buy. Rain date: June 28.

Our Mission Calendar Thanks Linda Johnson-Lundquist and Lois Stepflug (our Missions committee), we have a Mission Calendar for the rest of the year! Highlights: We'll have our Sunday can offerings for Pilgrim Heights (through June), Doctors Without Borders (July and August), and the American Indian Relief Council for November and December. We'll have a summer food drive for the Ankeny Food Pantry (a DMARC facility) all throughout July, hoping to provide some help for the usual August slowdown in donations.

Farewell to Pat and Walt Kreimeyer Pat and Walt Kreimeyer will be leaving May 5 to move closer to their daughter Steffany and their grandchildren in Dubuque.

Sunday School Singing at Mill Pond On May 10 during the 9:00 hour, the Sunday School singers will be visiting Mill Pond again. We'd love to have all our youth voices to sing the songs they've been rehearsing all spring.

Let's Hire a Coordinator of Christian Education We've had the position posted with the UCC and the Central Iowa Presbytery for the past 9 months and gotten limited interest, so we've also posted the job at the ISU student job board. If you know anyone who might be called to Christian Education ministry, please let them know we are looking!



EmmanuALE Returns May 26 We had a great turnout and discussion about what the freedom of religious practice in the US looks like, and what we think might underlay some of our modern church/state controversies. We'll be back on May 26th with Ankeny Christian! Tentative topic is the big question of social privilege and how it is informed by our experience and understanding of the Bible and Jesus's life. 7pm at Firetrucker.

Home Communion: Nathan and some of the deacons and have been visiting some people at home with communion on Sunday afternoons. If you would like a visit, or know someone who would, please let us know. Or if you'd like to come along with us and serve!

Ever want to Try a Riding Lawn Mower? You're in luck! We'll have a sign-up sheet at the church this Sunday. Thanks to Scot Storjohann, Dennis Pingel, and Gale Gilbert for signing up already!

Summer Worship Assistants The summer is wide open for worship assistants. Clarice has called many of you to schedule. If you missed her call, you can call the office 964-4647 or email your preference. A sign up sheet is on the small bulletin board in the narthex, you can sign up for service there. (Conveniently located to the mowing sign up sheet!) Thank you so much for your time and service. **And, if not, what about this:**

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

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 candle from the old ones. Thanks for your help with this project. ~Jennifer K, office

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!

May Green Tip: NO MORE WATER BOTTLES AND PLASTIC BAGS!!!!

"Sopping, and with no sign of stopping, either- then a breather.

Warm again, storm again- what is the norm, again?

It's fine, it's not, it's suddenly hot: Boom, crash, lightning flash!"- [Old Farmer's Almanac](#)

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 any time of the day or night.



Pilgrim Heights “Fulfill A Wish” List

If you are still looking for a way you can help consider making a donation of materials to the camp. Here is the current list of items needed at Pilgrim Heights:

Velbon Tripod	6 Wooden Posts	Crayons
Gas Post Hole Digger	Lighters	Acrylic Paint
Red Scarves	Wood Sealer/Foam Brushes	Tempra Paint
Hand Tools	8x11 Copy Paper	Clothes Pins
Volleyball Net	First Class Postage Stamps	Borax
Horse Shoes (regular or kids)	Binoculars	Work Gloves
Tape (masking & Electrical)	Yarn	Parchment Paper
Colored Band-aids	Paper Clips	Air-Dry Clay
Colored Leather Cord	Box O'Rags	Fishing Line
Glue Bottles/Glue Sticks	Tie - Dye Supplies	Floor Lamps
Paper Bags	Sticky Notes	Glow Sticks
Epsom Salts	Corn Starch	Landscape Edging
Barbasol	Embroidery Floss	Blue Beads
Duct Tape (various colors)	Plaster of Paris	Digital Cameras
Liquid Butterfly Solution	Rocks (sorting/painting)	Mod-Podge
Potassium Chloride	Regular or Trick Birthday Candles	Red or Orange Push Pins
Hula Hoop	Dark Construction Paper	Plastic Eggs
White Material	White Bandannas	Post Cards
Black Pipe Cleaners	Yellow or Green Craft Foam Sheets	Graph Paper
Balloons	Plastic Lids - 4" or larger	Old CDs or DVDs
Tarp	Red, Yellow or Orange Crepe Paper	Hand Mirrors
Shoe Boxes	Kites	Wrapping Paper
White Pillow Cases	Baby Food Jars	Straws
Microwave	Pyrex Cookware	DVD Player



May 2015

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
03 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour	04 Deacons meeting 6:30PM	05	06 LAST CHOIR PRACTICE	07	08	9
10 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour	11	12 Trustees Meeting 7 PM	13	14 Ascension Day	15	16
17 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour Last Day of Sunday School	18 Fabric Club 10A Church Council Meeting 7PM	19	20 Naomi Circle 9:30 Millpond Doris' Dining Room	21	22	23
24 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30 Gernal Synod Delefate orientation all day, Fellowship Hall
31 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour	01	02	03	04	05	06

Upcoming events & activites: June 14 Outdoor service/cookout



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



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 (adult& youth)

10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

May 2015 Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter



“And a bird overhead sang Follow,
And a bird to the right sang Here;
And the arch of the leaves was hollow,
And the meaning of May was clear.”

— [Algernon Charles Swinburne](#)