



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

April 2016

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Website: ankenyucc.org
National Website UCC.org
Pastor Nathan Willard
515-639-0602

April 1, 2016

April Salutations!

We were blessed to celebrate Easter with all our extended family on Sunday, enjoying a full breakfast, the excitement of an Easter Egg Hunt, and the glory of Christ's resurrection. But Easter did not end on Monday morning, we have fifty days of Eastertide before the spirit comes to us on Pentecost. And as part of our resurrection theme, we're having a 7-part sermon series on our church identity statement. Our statement is more than a slogan—it is also a yardstick for accountability in our ministry and work spreading God's good news.

I hope that you join me on a journey of resurrection and renewal as we consider what it means to be A Welcoming Church Family Exploring Progressive Christian Theology, Caring Within and Serving Beyond. In the coming weeks, let's reflect on what it means to look like a Welcoming Church Family—how do we reach out with specific messages to specific people? How does it become obvious that we are exploring progressive Christian theology? What is it we say and do? What are the ways we care within, and how can we tell that story? And how many people will we serve in this month and every month?

Blessings,
Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

Nicholas Schreiner, Margaret Whiteley, BJ Wallin, Misty De Reus, Betty Oudekerk, Amy, Greg Moore

Ankeny UCC Activities and News

Baptisms: The baptisms of Lily and Penelope Gilbert were celebrated during the Sunday service on March 13. Congratulations to parents, Gabe and Marcia Gilbert, and grandparents, Gale and Marlis Gilbert.

Church Cleanup Workday will be held from 9 am to noon on Saturday, April 23 as part of our Earth Day Stewardship weekend. Come join the fun to tidy our church grounds and building! Bring the family. Rain date is April 30.

Naomi Circle: Meets Wednesday, April 27 in Doris' Dining Room 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.

EmmanuALE!: April 19 at 7pm at Firetrucker Brewery
Let's share stories of when church has brought us closer to God. Or when it hasn't. Never come before? It's a low-key environment for casual discussion and serious inquiry.

Financial Update: We made \$499.33 in contributions outside of Ankeny UCC in January, \$316 to Our Church's Wider Mission, and \$133.33 to the Ankeny Ministerial Association Travelers' Fund (plus \$50 to DMARC). Thanks for your generosity! Our monthly general fund offerings were lower in February, with \$5,243.66 vs. expenses of \$10,204.65.

<p>April Birthdays 17 Kayleen Conter 18 Tessi Holmes 20 Dillon Rupp 26 Kyle Hedges 26 Judy Hines 29 Jan Wilton 30 Tom Rupp</p>	<p>April Anniversaries 04 Gerald and Marie Ballard 19 Laura Beckwith & Bruce Orman</p>
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**Is there a birthday missing or listed incorrectly? Notify the office to update records
Thank you for your cooperation with helping to maintain accuracy.*

2016 March Weekly Attendance

Mar 06	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27		Average
37	58	54	74		56

March Yearly Attendance Averages

2016	Mar 2015	Mar 2014	Mar 2013	Mar 2012	Average
56	47	45	50	55	51

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

THANK YOU to Elly Fulton for caring for our nursery on Palm Sunday and Marlis Gilbert for her care on Easter Sunday.

THANK YOU to deacons and those who helped set up, clean up, provided food for and attended Easter Breakfast. Thank you to those who provided filler items and filled Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt. Thank you to Nancy and Paige for their organ and piano pieces for both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Thank you to Medea and the church youth for starting Easter service with bells. Thank you to the choir and their beautiful anthem.

MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE: Margaret Whiteley, 1201 Delaware, Apt 210, Ankeny IA 50021

CHURCH KEYS: We're taking an inventory of the keys and your cooperation in this project is appreciated. Please send Scot Storjohann an email message at storjo@msn.com and let him know if you have a key and what door(s) it/they lock(s)/unlock(s). Thank you for your help with our project!

ADMINISTRATIVE HELP: If you are available to help with office administrative tasks, please contact Pastor Nathan.

GREETERS: Please sign up to be a greeter for one of the Sundays in April or May.

GARDEN HELP: Gale Gilbert and Mark Howieson are again coordinating our church vegetable garden. Planting will begin in May. Contact Gale or Mark if you would like to help plant, water, weed, harvest or transport produce to food pantries this spring and summer.

Ankeny UCC Serving Beyond

Weekly Coin Collections for March and April will go to Heifer International Project. There are Heifer Project calendars and coin collection boxes at the back of the church. Help yourself and place your box in the collection plate whenever you fill it.

New Horizons Annual Lasagna Dinner: Mark your calendars for Friday April 8th, New Horizons Adult Day Center will be holding their 15th annual Lasagna dinner fundraiser 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm at the Ankeny First Methodist Church, 206 SW Walnut St, Ankeny. Tickets are \$9 in advance and \$10 at the door. Children under 5 are free. Advance tickets can be purchased at New Horizons ADC, 406 SW School St #111, located in the Neveln Building in Ankeny, or calling 965-1602.

Pilgrim Heights Spring and Summer events Check the bulletin board for Spring and summer events at Pilgrim Heights camp, Montour, Iowa. The first event is a Men's Spring Work Weekend April 1st and 2nd. There is also a Spring Work Weekend April 15th through 17th. You can find details at www.Pilgrimheights.org.

Central Association IA UCC Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 10 am to 3 pm at Bethany UCC in Baxter, IA. See the bulletin board flier for details. RSVPs are due by April 13.

April DMARC Food Pantry request: Whole Grain Cereals

(Please make sure to check expiration dates before donating items.)

YESS (Youth Emergency Services and Shelter) will hold their annual duck derby on May 7 at Jordan Creek Town Center. Plastic ducks may be adopted at \$5 for the derby. Check YESSDuckDerby.org for more details.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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. Your feedback and submission requests are greatly appreciated! **Please make sure to put your name on communications left in case there are any questions.**

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.

April 2016

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					01	02
03 <i>9:15 am Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship with communion</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	04 Deacons Meeting 6:30 PM	05	06 Confirmation 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	07	08	09
10 <i>9:15 am Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	11	12 Trustees Meeting 7PM	13 Confirmation 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	14	15	16
17 <i>9:15 am Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	18	19 Emmanuale 7 pm	20 Confirmation 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	21	22	23 Church Cleanup 9am to noon Central Association Meeting 10 am – 3 pm Bethany UCC
24 <i>9:15 am Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	25	26 Council Meeting 7PM	27 Naomi Circle 9:30 am Confirmation 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	28	29	30 Church Clean up Rain date



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9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

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Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter