



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

MAY 2016

Phone: 515-964-4647
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Website: ankenyucc.org
National Website UCC.org
Pastor Nathan Willard
515-639-0602

May 1, 2016

We see ourselves to be a caring community called to accept God's love as experienced through Christ, without restrictions and guilt, and with joy and thanksgiving. This gift of the Spirit gives us the enthusiasm and power to support one another in life's journey toward Christ-likeness as we accept each other's uniqueness and minister to one another's needs. We will continue to serve as examples of Christian love in our daily lives as we reach out to others in witness and service in the world, that the kingdom of God may be fulfilled.

These words were our 1982 church covenant. Created by months of study and reinforced by months more of small group meetings, this covenant outlined obligations to each other and to God. Covenant is the core of Care. Caring carries with it an obligation to act, and an obligation to make space in our lives for one another. Covenant sets the clear terms of those obligations, empowering us to say no with confidence that there will be yeses, too. And Covenant sets the terms of accountability to one another, assuring us that our church family will help us to grow in Christ-likeness and Christian love, building God's sovereign realm together. If we were to update our covenant in line with our identity statement today, what would it look like? How would we be held accountable to being a welcoming church family? How would we be held accountable in our Exploration of Progressive Christian Theology? How would we be held together to our care within, and service beyond? This Sunday in worship, we'll be talking about Caring Within in light of Paul's famous meditation on Love from 1 Corinthians. As we do, let us think about how we can hold ourselves accountable in love. And one way is to celebrate one another in church, as we'll do next week, recognizing the choir, the teachers, and the graduates within our church. May 8!

Blessings,
Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

Nicholas Schreiner, BJ Wallin, Betty Oudekerk and Amy, Greg Moore, Elaine Johnson, who has had a setback with injuries from a car accident in Oklahoma, Micah Beckwith, Annette Hong and her mother, who is suffering from Shingles. For Stephanie, traveling to Rwanda, Mimi and Nico and Montha. For Chuck Howieson, mourning the loss of his brother, and for Dee Day's family, mourning her death (news of her death reached us in the office after her funeral, but we are thankful for those who shared our mourning there).

Ankeny UCC Activities and News

Recognition Sunday will be Sunday, May 8. Our graduates, Christian educators and musicians will be recognized during the service and at fellowship time after the service.

Congratulations to our graduates and their parents.

Dillon Rupp will graduate from Ankeny Centennial High School on June 4.

Valerie Holmes will receive a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University on May 7.

Gabe Gilbert will receive a bachelor's degree from Pittsburg State University on May 7.

Chris Sherrod will receive a master's degree from University of Iowa on May 11.

Thank you to our church educators for their work with our youth this year. They are Ken Braun, Susan Ramfjord, Tami Fulton, Doug Fulton, Gale Gilbert, Marlis Gilbert, Laura Beckwith, and Medea Saunders, our Christian Ed Coordinator. Thank you to the leaders of the Asking the Questions discussion group, Beth Yale and Jen Howieson. Thank you to the shepherd quilting leaders, Jeanette Beckwith and Kayleen Conter. Thank you to the craft materials coordinator for Sunday School, Annette Hong, and to Lois Stelpfulg for her assistance.

Thank you to the youth for their attendance in Sunday School and their contribution to our church services.

Thank you to the choir for their songs of joy throughout the year. Thank you to Paige Wonderly for her accompaniment and to Laura Beckwith for her direction of the choir. Our choir members this year included Peter Hong, Gale Gilbert, Brian Holmes, Annette Hong, Jane Underwood, Kayleen Conter, Clarice Beckwith, Sandy Plager, Laura Rinehart, Medea Saunders and cameo alumnus appearances by Michael Holmes.

Thank you to Nancy Pingel and Paige Wonderley for their organ and piano music for our services.

EmmanuALE!: May 17 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.

Naomi Circle: Meets Wednesday, May 25 at 9:30 am 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.

Financial Update:

In March, we passed on \$1,030.28 in service beyond our congregation, including Our Church's Wider Mission, Neighbors in Need, and Heifer International. We took in \$16,282.87, including \$1700 of insurance money to welcome the community into the church by repairing our pillar caps to fix the leak and replace drywall, and spent \$16,035.90, including \$3500 to do the pillar cap repairs and paint our cross triumphant. Your generosity helps us live into our mission of being a Welcoming church family exploring progressive Christian theology, caring within and serving beyond!

<p>May Birthdays 02 Kristi Conter 02 Mason Hanley 03 Dave Hykes 05 Jamie Montgomery 08 Marcia Albertson 12 Vicki Schreiner 13 John Barber 16 Tim Beckwith 18 Ella Kreimeyer 22 Laura Beckwith 23 Doug Fulton 30 Taylor Rinehart</p>	<p>May Anniversaries 27 Dick and Jane Shafer</p>
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**Is there a birthday missing or listed incorrectly? Notify the office to update records*

2016 April Weekly Attendance

Apr 03	Apr 10	Apr 17	Apr 24		Average
44	50	43	41		45

April Yearly Attendance Averages

2016	Apr 2015	Apr 2014	Apr 2013	Apr 2012	Average
45	66	72	47	77	61

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

Thank you to those who assisted with church cleanup on Saturday, April 23, and to those who assist with this task throughout the year.

Thank you to the fall gardener who planted lots of bulbs. The daffodils, hyacinths and tulips have been beautiful this spring.

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

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.

Flower Beds: If you would like to assist planting, weeding or watering the front flower beds this summer, please contact a trustee or Laura Beckwith. Daisy plants are available throughout the summer if you would like some for your garden. Contact Laura for plants.

Mowing: Mowing season has begun. Thank you to Dennis Pingel for mowing this week. If you would like to assist, a rider mower is available. Please sign up for a week or several weeks for this opportunity to make our church grounds look nice.

Summer Music: Please contact Pastor Nathan if you would like to share your gift of special music during the choir's summer break from May 22 through Sept. 4. Solos, duets, and groups are welcome. Vocal or instrumental music are welcome. Young musicians and more experienced musicians are welcome.

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

Ankeny UCC Serving Beyond

Our church youth will be visiting Millpond during Sunday school on May 15 to sing songs and share art gifts with the residents. This is a special time of sharing, and you are welcome to join the youth in this visit.

Weekly Coin Collections for May and June will go to Pilgrim Heights – UCC Camp Retreat Center.

Strengthen the Church offering will be collected on May 15, or you may mail your check to the church office. This offering supports the planting of new churches, awakening of new ideas in existing churches, and helping develop the spiritual lives of our youth and young adults.

Heifer Project boxes and calendars are available at the back of the sanctuary. Put your full box into the offering plate any Sunday. Consider placing coins in your box for the gift of hope, for bees for every jar of honey in your house, for dairy cows for each carton of milk in your refrigerator, for chickens for the eggs in your refrigerator, for vegetables for each different kind you have, and for goats for goat cheese or other cheese you have.

May DMARC Food Pantry request: Macaroni and Cheese
(Please make sure to check expiration dates before donating items.)

Thank you to those who donated food pantry items and to Joan Moore who delivered 30 food items and 3 personal items to the Red Rock Area Community Action program.

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 [YESSDuck Derby.org](http://YESSDuckDerby.org) for more details.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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!

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.

May 2016

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
01 <i>9:15 am Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship with Communion</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	02 Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm	03	04 Choir 7:30 pm	05	06	07
08 <i>9:15 am Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>Recognition Sunday</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	09	10 Trustees Meeting 7 pm	11	12	13	14
15 Pentecost <i>9:15 am Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship with Strengthen the Church Offering</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	16	17 EmmanuAle 7 pm	18	19	20	21
22 <i>9:15 am Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	23	24 Council Meeting 7 pm	25 Naomi Circle 9:30 am Millpond	26	27	28
29 <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	30 Memorial Day	31				



Ankeny United Church of Christ

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9:15 am Sunday School through May 22

10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

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Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter