



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

JULY 2016

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July 1, 2016

Dearest Theophilus-

While we are in the usual summer program slowdown, a number of people have decided to make this a summer of study and exploration. Our Council has been working on setting measurable goals that challenge us to go out and do things. We're midway through our Monday book group's read of *Beyond Resistance: the Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern Age* (a big fancy way of saying: the world of church is going to be nearly unrecognizable in 20 years, so we need to make sure our focus is on how we serve people in our community, growing in faith through connections with people if we are to thrive in the new world), and Nancy Pingel, Doug Fulton, Annette Hong, and I are taking an online class from the Center for Progressive Renewal called *Church Renewal 1.0*, where we're examining in-depth what other churches in similar settings and situations have done to reorient themselves to be relevant in the lives of their communities. And our #UnexpectedQuestions group addressing what we do with the faith questions of the children in our lives is meeting monthly at Firetrucker.

As we've read through the books, it's become clear that it's unlikely we will thrive by remaining the same. And that's scary. It's scary to think about losing treasured elements of worship, or letting go of ministries, or going out to talk with and serve people outside the church as part of the church. It's scary to make choices we know may result in people deciding not to come, or deciding not to stay. And that's good. It's good to be a little scared. One line that really stuck out from our Church Renewal Class is that courage is fear that has said its prayers. Faith in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, faith in the infinite possibilities of God, faith in the gift of Jesus Christ can give us the strength to meet our fears, knowing that doing nothing creates loss, too. One look at our budgets and average weekly attendance for the past four years tells us that the way we have lived into our mission has not fully matched up with the spiritual needs of our community.

We've spent money with consultants to study us, and they've given recommendations. We've done self-study to understand who we think we are. And now is our time to act. Now is the time for courage. Now is the time to tell our story out loud and in public. Our sermon series for August will be on Public Narrative—the story of Me, the story of Us, and the story of Now. How do we tell our stories and live into our final acts?

Blessings,
Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

Nicholas Schreiner, Margaret Whiteley, Geg Moore, John Barber Sr., Micah Beckwith, Romie Orr.

Ankeny UCC A Welcoming Church Family

Vacation Bible School: Are you ready for some Olympic fun? We'll be celebrating the international joy of Jesus with our Olympic-themed VBS One God Many Games from August 7-11, partnering with Ankeny Christian Church and hosted by them (they have a gym, in case it rains). Bible School will run from 6-7:45 for age 4 through 5th grade, and dinner will be provided (and, speaking of...calling all cooks! We're committed to providing dinner two of those nights). We had a lot of fun last year, and it will be a similar format this year. Do you like crafts or games? We'll need adult craft leaders and game leaders, as well as shepherds to go along with each of our classes to their different stations. And, of course, we invite any youth in 6th grade and up to join us as helpers!

Craft Items needed for Bible School: Toilet paper and paper towel rolls, glue sticks, glue, white cardstock for 50, small plastic gloves, plastic table cloths (3), blue and green food coloring, clay(any color), mini Dixie cups for 50, tissue paper (red, orange and yellow), aluminum foil, plastic beads(red, blue, green, black, yellow), Non permanent crayola markers, pipe cleaners- regular size, multi pack Place items in the designated tub in the narthex.

Greeters: Please sign up to be a greeter for one or more of the Sundays this summer.

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.

Ankeny UCC Exploring Progressive Christian Theology

Unexpected Questions: The #UnexpectedQuestions parents group will meet at 4 pm on Sunday, July 10 at Firetrucker and on the 2nd Sunday of the month during the summer.

EmmanuALE!: July 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.

We need your cereal boxes! We're putting together a special Bible Study display for the fall, and need cereal boxes of all kinds (we'll dress them up as books of the bible).

July Birthdays	July Anniversaries
02 Valerie Holmes	04 Brian and Missy Butcher
09 Cody Underwood	25 Walt and Pat Kreimeyer
10 Caleb Butcher	
19 BJ Wallin	
23 Gerald Ballard	
26 Jeff Underwood	
28 Sally Brandhorst	
29 Steven Holmes	
31 Chase Kreimeyer	

**Is there a birthday missing or listed incorrectly? Notify the office to update records*

2016 June Weekly Attendance

June 05	June 12	June 19	June 26		Average
47	36	28	37		37

June Yearly Attendance Averages

June 2016	June 2015	June 2014	June 2013	June 2012	Average
37	35	40	32	33	35

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

Naomi Circle: Meets Wednesday, July 27 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:

May saw us give \$1569.11 to our mission partners, including \$1040 to Our Church's Wider Mission, for the Iowa Conference and National Setting of the UCC, \$202 to Pilgrim Heights, and \$120 to DMARC. For the General Fund, we spent \$10,165 and collected \$13,362 against a budgeted \$13,317. Blessings to all who celebrated by giving in this month.

Garden Help: Gale Gilbert and Mark Howieson are again coordinating our church vegetable garden. 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. 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.

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

Ankeny UCC Serving Beyond

Weekly Coin Collections for July and August will go to Doctors Without Borders. Nichols Schreiner is working with Doctors Without Borders in Africa which provides a personal link with this organization. This group provides medical assistance to populations in distress, natural or man-made disasters or victims of war.

DMARC special collection of food items and cash will be taken throughout July. The goal is ensure that they have adequate supplies for the critical month of August. And we'll also be putting together a special poster highlighting food on July 24th. Bring in pictures of food, drawings of food, and yourselves for July 24th!

Heifer Project boxes and calendars are available at the back of the sanctuary. Put your full box into the offering plate any Sunday.

July DMARC Food Pantry request: Vegetables

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

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 you 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.

July 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>10:30 Worship with Communion</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	04 Independence Day	05 Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm	06 Church Renewal 1.0 7pm	07 Café Diem office hours 1pm	08	09
10 <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i> <i>4 pm Unexpected Questions Group (Firetrucker)</i>	11 Pastor Nathan out	12 Pastor Nathan Out Trustees Meeting 7 pm	13 Pastor Nathan Out	14 Café Diem office hours 1pm	15	16
17 <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	18	19 EmmanuAle 7 pm (Firetrucker)	20 Church Renewal 1.0 7pm	21 Café Diem office hours 1pm	22	23
24 <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	25	26 Council Meeting 7 pm	27 Naomi Circle 9:30 am Millpond Church Renewal 1.0 7pm	28 Café Diem office hours 1pm	29	30
31 <i>10:30 Worship (Reverend David Telfort preaching)</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>						



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10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

July 2016

Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter