



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

AUGUST 2016

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

August 1, 2016

We're coming up on two of our big church celebrations! This Sunday-Thursday, we'll be celebrating our children and our ecumenical ties with our joint Vacation Bible School at Ankeny Christian Church, alongside them and St. Anne's in the Fields Episcopal. This year's theme is One God Many Games. Here in the office, we've been making calls to make sure that all the children and youth we know will be there, and I encourage you to come out and be energized, too. We'll kick off with songs at 6pm, eat around 6:20, and then go off for more crafts and games. If you can only come one night, that's fine. We're serving dinner on Monday and Tuesday nights, so those would be great times to come down and help serve (and eat). My spirit is always rejuvenated by singing songs and seeing the joy children have together.

And, September 9 is our third annual Hog Roast, benefitting Doctors Without Borders and the Food Bank of Iowa's BackPack Program. One of our goals this year is to have more fun. Cornhole! Croquet! Frisbee! Football! Iowa-Iowa State trash talking! It's all good! We'll have tickets to sell shortly, lots of opportunities to serve, and delicious pastured pork. Let's do good by cooking out.

As we Welcome and Serve in these ways, we're also going to be Exploring in worship. The sermon series for the month is "Telling Our Stories," and we're going to do something slightly different. Starting August 14, we'll have some space in sermon time to share our stories with our neighbors. One of the most powerful forms of testimony and prophecy in the Bible is the narrative that starts with the story of me (the speaker), leads into the story of us (the listeners and the speaker together) and continues into the story of now (where are we compelled to go from here). This is an incredibly effective tool for quickly understanding what other people see as essential in their lives, and also inspires us to work closely together. Comes and join us.

Blessings,
Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

Nicholas Schreiner, Geg Moore, John Barber Sr., Becky Montgomery, her sisters, and Jamie and Lexi, Gerald and Marie Ballard and others in their summer community cleaning up after a violent wind storm, and Glenn Beckwith, undergoing treatment in Thailand for a number of medical issues.

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!

Blessing of the Backpacks: Bring your backpacks and other school items to worship on Sunday, August 21 for a blessing of the backpacks and students and teachers for the new school year.

Hot Dogs and Sloppy Joe Lunch: We'll have hot dogs and sloppy joes after church on Sunday, August 21.

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

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, August 14 at Firetrucker.

EmmanuALE!: Tuesday, August 16th 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).

September Book Study: If you would like to join a study group on the book "Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—Search for Understanding", please sign up. This will tie into an Ankeny community-wide study effort.

Sunday School will begin on September 11. Watch for more details.

2016 July Weekly Attendance

July 03	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31	Average
47	31	37	45	27	37

July Yearly Attendance Averages

July 2016	July 2015	July 2014	July 2013	July 2012	Average
37	35	43	32	46	39

August Birthdays	August Anniversaries
02 Quinten Fulton	10 Mark and Jennifer Howieson
03 Nathaniel Gilbert	12 Chad and Jen Street
06 Ann Van Thomme	12 Peter and Annette Hong
12 Joel Schreiner	13 Brian Holmes and Terri Muehlenthaler-Holmes
15 Linda Johnson-Lundquist	15 Mark and Sally Brandhorst
17 Tom Hanley	16 Tom and Jan Wilton
21 Brenda Heston	18 John Barber and Barb Hokel
21 Barb Hokel	18 Robert and Virginia Bettel
23 Ken Braun	23 Dave and Pat Hykes
25 Tami Fulton	26 Tom and Sara Hanley
30 Trina Rupp	27 Nathan Willard and Beth Yale
31 Kylie Butcher	
31 Teddy Willard	

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

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

Join us to say farewell to Janice and Randy Ratcliff on Sunday, August 7 after church. Janice and Randy are moving to Denver to be closer to their grandkids.

Food Collage: Join us after church on August 7 to make another food collage for Moving the Food to DMARC.

Naomi Circle: Meets Wednesday, August 24 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:

We gave away \$1667.47 in June, including 117.47 to Pilgrim Heights (our total for May-June was \$320)! Sharing our gifts with the world orients us to the church outside the walls! Our General Fund offerings were \$13,613 versus expenses of \$10,165 for a year-to-date \$67,196 versus expenses of \$67,889.

Garden Help: Gale Gilbert and Mark Howieson are again coordinating our church vegetable garden. Contact Gale or Mark if you would like to help water, weed, harvest or transport produce to food pantries this summer and fall.

Flower Beds: If you would like to assist weeding or watering the front flower beds this summer and fall, 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. Thanks to Gale Gilbert, Dennis Pingel, Nick and Tom Rupp and Bruce Beckwith for mowing this summer.

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

Ankeny UCC Serving Beyond

Several Food and Garden Donations have been delivered to Impact and Senior Lunch at Neveln. Thank you to Chuck and Marilyn Howieson, Gale Gilbert, Joan Moore, Mark Howieson and Laura Beckwith for harvesting and making deliveries and to Trina Rupp for her regular weeding to keep the garden productive.

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.

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

August DMARC Food Pantry request: Fruit
(Please make sure to check expiration dates before donating items.)

HOG ROAST: The 3rd annual hog will be held on **Friday, September 9** from 4 to 7. Put it on your calendar. Invite your family and friends. Proceeds will go to Doctors Without Borders and the Backpack Program.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Containers and Pans: Are you missing a favorite container or pan? Check the cart under the counter in the kitchen for your cooking dishes.

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.

August 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	04	05	06
07 10:30 <i>Worship with Communion</i> 11:30 <i>Fellowship Time with Farewell to Ratcliffs</i> 6- 7:45 pm <i>Bible School</i>	08 6 – 7:45 pm Bible School	09 6-7:45 pm Bible School Trustees Meeting 7pm	10 6 – 7:45 pm Bible School	11 Café Diem office hours 1pm 6 – 7:45 pm Bible School	12	13
14 10:30 <i>Worship</i> 11:30 <i>Fellowship Time</i> 4 pm <i>Unexpected Questions Group (Firetrucker)</i>	15	16 EmmanuAle 7 pm (Firetrucker)	17	18 Café Diem office hours 1pm	19	20
21 10:30 <i>Worship with Blessing of the Backpacks</i> 11:30 <i>Fellowship Time with Hot Dogs and Sloppy Joes</i>	22	23 Council Meeting 7 pm	24 Naomi Circle 9:30 am Millpond	25 Café Diem office hours 1pm	26	27
28 10:30 <i>Worship</i> 11:30 <i>Fellowship Time</i>	29	30	31			



Ankeny United Church of Christ

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10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

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Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter