



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

OCTOBER 2016

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

October 1, 2016

Dear Ankeny UCC-

If you read the Old Testament (or come to worship and hear the selections we read as part of the Narrative Lectionary), you will see a phrase over and over again, "When I brought you out of Egypt." I was not a good Hebrew student, but at a certain point, I didn't even need to translate those words. I just saw the sentence and knew what it meant. It's brought up over and over again to remind the Israelites that when they were isolated and alone, God was there with them. And in knowledge and gratitude for what God had done to bring them out of Egypt, they should act generously: Remember the aliens and immigrants. Protect widows and orphans. From time to time, free their slaves and forgive debts. And love God with all their hearts and souls and minds.

In like manner, we remember the gift of forgiveness and sacrifice in Christ Jesus by following his lead by sacrificing and working to forgive others (we pray for this every week). How do we sacrifice? We look at our time and energy, and see what portion of it is committed to the care of God's creation, what portion of it is committed to the study of God, what portion of it is committed to doing the things that Jesus reminds us he remembers: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, visiting the prisoner. In this month before our annual meeting, I invite you to prayerfully consider your time spent in God's service. What are the ways you have served God this year? What are different ways you wish to serve God this year, to know God better and grow in your faith? Is there room to grow in service?

I also invite you to look at how you have committed to serve Ankeny UCC and the wider church in your financial pledge. Pledging can be scary. It's committing, and sharing that commitment with others (however broadly or narrowly you share). But it can also be exhilarating. How can we stretch and meet this goal we have set? It's showing faith and trust in one another to be faithful stewards, and in God's grace and support to bring us through our anxiety.

In our world, it is sacrifice indeed to set aside money before our other expenses and dedicate it to the service of God in the form of our local church. I, personally, am excited because for the first time in 9 years, Beth and I will have 1.5 jobs between the two of us come spring. I am grateful to God for bringing us to a place, where even in our geography-bound careers, we can both find work that we love. We are moving towards the practice of tithing, giving away 10% of our income, with at least half of that going to Ankeny UCC, but are not there yet. To that goal, we will be raising our pledge from \$2520 per year to \$4000, or roughly 5% of our gross pay. It's still a stretch for us, but one that allows us to grow in our faith. I invite you to join with us as we discern where God is calling us to serve in 2017.

Blessings,

Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

Nicholas Schreiner, Geg Moore, John Barber Sr., Glenn Beckwith, Mary Hall, Marcia Albertson, the Underwood family in the loss of their niece, Emily, Jen Street, Grace, Trina and Tom Rupp's niece, Hazel Glaze in her move to Walnut Woods, Beth Yale and Martha and Teddy on their journey and study and work in Germany for the next 3 months and for Pastor Nathan during his family's absence from home and his travel to visit them in October, and prayers of joy for Paige Wonderley's new grandson.

Ankeny UCC A Welcoming Church Family

Greeters: Please sign up to be a greeter for one or more of the Sundays this fall. There are cookies and cake in the freezer that can be used for fellowship time.

Choir: Choir practices are held on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

Flowers on the altar: Thank you to Tom and Trina Rupp and Peter and Annette Hong and the family of Marie Ballard for providing flowers for the altar for September.

Ankeny UCC Annual Church Meeting: The annual church meeting will be on Sunday, November 13 after church.

While Pastor Nathan is out from October 17-31, Pastor Paul Johnson will be available for any emergencies that arise. His phone number is pastorpauljohnson@mac.com and phone number is: 515-238-3089

Ankeny UCC Exploring Progressive Christian Theology

Sunday School classes are on Sundays at 9:15 am. Meet in the sanctuary for our opening session each Sunday. Thank you to Jenn Howieson for organizing our teachers : Joan Moore, Tami Fulton, Ken Braun, Marlis and Gale Gilbert and Laura Beckwith. Thank you to Annette Hong for organizing craft materials again this year. We are excited to add Sarah Pamperin as Christian Ed Coordinator.

Unexpected Questions group will meet on Sundays at 9:15am in the Blue Room beginning on Sept. 11. Thank you to Misty DeReus and Jenn Howieson who will lead the group in discussing questions of faith, family and life. All are welcome.

New Member classes will be held early evening on Sept. 25, Oct. 2 and Oct. 9 at 6:30 pm. Contact Pastor Nathan if you are interested.

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).

2016 September Weekly Attendance

September 04	September 11	September 18	September 25		Average
38	34	49	43		41

September Yearly Attendance Averages

Sept. 2016	Sept. 2015	Sept. 2014	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2012	Average
41	40	56	52	51	48

<p>October Birthdays</p> <p>09 Jane Shafer 13 Larry Rinehart 15 Lisa Wiechmann 17 Marcia Storjohann 18 Hazel Glaze 24 Jacob Schreiner 27 Sara Hanley 28 Rachel Storjohann 29 Shelby Kreimeyer 31 Mark Howieson 31 William Sease</p>	<p>October Anniversaries</p> <p>18 Jeff and Meagan Patterson 22 Gabe and Marcia Gilbert 24 Jeff and Jane Underwood</p>
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**Is there a birthday missing or listed incorrectly? Notify the office to update records*

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

Naomi Circle: Meets Wednesday, October 26 at 9:30 am in location to be advised 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 \$595 during August, and grossed around \$2000 at the Hog Roast! Yay! General fund giving was \$9512 vs. general fund expenses of \$10,555.32. On the year, expenses are running ahead of giving at \$90,719 vs. \$86,090. We are about \$15000 under budget, largely due to not paying a secretary.

Church Bankers: Thank you to Brian Holmes, Trina Rupp, Ruby Pleva, Sally Brandhorst, Kayleen Conter, Scot Storjohann, Marlis Gilbert, Jennifer Howieson and Laura Beckwith who have counted and banked the Sunday offerings after church on Sundays for the past year. If you are able to assist with this task during the coming year beginning in November, 2016, please contact Laura Beckwith. With several counters, we usually only do this task once per month.

Garden Help: Thank you to Gale Gilbert and Mark Howieson for again coordinating our church vegetable garden and to all who have helped this year. There are a few vegetables still to be harvested but most of the season's produce has been picked and delivered to Impact or Neveln Center.

Mowing and Bushes: Mowing season continues for a little longer. 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 for recent mowing and trimming all the front bushes.

Church Fall Clean Up: Thanks to those who helped during the clean up on September 24. There are often tasks left on the list. If you can take on a short project, check with a trustee.

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

Ankeny UCC Serving Beyond

HOG ROAST: Thank you to all who attended and encouraged others to attend the 3rd annual hog roast. Special thanks to the Howiesons for obtaining and roasting the hog and to Julie and Harlan Rowenson for donating the hog. Proceeds will go to Dr Without Borders and the Backpack Weekend Lunch Program. Thanks to Jenn and Mark Howieson, Chuck and Marilyn Howieson and their friend Jim, Dennis and Nancy Pingel, Peg Colton, Gale and Marlis Gilbert, Laura Beckwith, Joan Moore, Sandy Plager, Brian Holmes, Clarice Beckwith, Rich and Ruby Pleva, Nathan Willard, Leona Martin, Amy Goehring, Peter and Annette Hong, Sara Hanley, Kayleen Conter, Tami Fulton, Virginia Bettel, Misty DeReus, Laura and Larry Rinehart, Judy Hines, Linda Johnson-Lundquist, Trina and Tom Rupp and Bruce Orman for providing food and/or help prior to, during and in the cleanup for the event. Thanks to anyone I missed naming who assisted and to the prep preschool staff who helped make our set up easier.

Weekly Coin Collections for October will go to Zimbabwe Church Projects - UCCZ. This is part of the UCC Global Ministries – Child Sponsorship Program. The program supports a children’s home for abandoned children.

Neighbors in Need offering will be taken on Oct. 2. This supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US, Puerto Rico and the Council of American Indian Ministries.

Hunger Hike Walk will be on Oct. 9. Funds raised are donated to non-profit agencies and programs, both local and international. Plan to walk or donate or both! Check with Clarice Beckwith if you need information. She’s been walking and raising money for this event for around 40 years. Walkers and donators are very welcome.

Annual Meeting of the Iowa UCC will be held Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9 am to 3 pm at First Christian Church, 2500 University Ave., Des Moines. Registration is 9 – 10:30. Hearing – Tri-Conference Staff Proposal is at 9:30. Annual Meeting and Worship will be from 10:30 – 3. Registration is due by Oct. 7 at <http://www.ucciaconf.org/opportunities/annual-meeting-2> .

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

Ronald McDonald House can tabs: Thanks to Gerald Ballard, Kayleen Conter, and Sally and Mark Brandhorst for providing can tabs from pop cans which we turn in to the Ronald McDonald House to support their fundraising for their support of children and their families that are receiving medical care. Feel free to drop off can tabs you collect in the outer office.

October DMARC Food Pantry request: Chili

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

Stand Up for Mental Health Care in Iowa is an event organized by AMOS(a Mid Iowa Organizing Strategy) on Thursday, Oct. 13 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Neveln Center, 406 SW School St. There will be a dialogue about mental health and what can be done to improve services in our community. Iowa state legislative candidates have been invited and will be given the opportunity to commit to working for better access to mental health care during the next legislative session.

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.

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.

October 2016

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						01
02 9:15 <i>Sunday School</i> 10:30 <i>Worship with Worldwide Communion</i> <i>Neighbors in Need Offering</i> 11:30 <i>Fellowship Time</i> 6:30 <i>New Member Class</i>	03 Deacons' Meeting 6:30 pm	04	05 Choir practice 7:30 pm	06 Café Diem office hours 1pm	07	08
09 9:15 <i>Sunday School</i> 10:30 <i>Worship</i> 11:30 <i>Fellowship Time</i> 1:30 <i>Hunger Hike</i> 6:30 <i>New Member Class</i>	10	11 Trustees' Meeting 7 pm	12 Choir practice 7:30 pm	13 Café Diem office hours 1pm	14	15
16 9:15 <i>Sunday School</i> 10:30 <i>Worship</i> 11:30 <i>Fellowship Time</i>	17 Pastor Nathan to Germany through Oct. 31	18	19 Choir practice 7:30 pm	20	21	22 Annual Meeting IA UCC 9 am – 3 pm
23 9:15 <i>Sunday School</i> 10:30 <i>Worship</i> 11:30 <i>Fellowship Time</i>	24	25 Council Meeting 7 pm	26 Naomi Circle 9:30 am Millpond Choir practice 7:30 pm	27	28	29
30 9:15 <i>Sunday School</i> 10:30 <i>Worship Rev. Jessica Schirm Preaching</i> 11:30 <i>Fellowship Time</i>	31 Pastor Nathan returns					



Ankeny United Church of Christ

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Ankeny, Iowa 50021-9364

Phone: 515-964-4647

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10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

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Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter