



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

NOVEMBER 2016

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National Website UCC.org

Pastor Nathan Willard

515-639-0602

November 1, 2016

Dear Church-

I had the opportunity to worship on October 30 in the "Berliner Dom", the Protestant Cathedral in Berlin. This building, only really rebuilt from its wartime bombing following the reunification of Germany, celebrates the union of the Lutheran and Reformed branches of Protestant Christianity (much like the old German Evangelical Church did). This was represented in the church with stone statues of Huldrych Zwingli, Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, and John Calvin. To the extent that we typically see any statues at all of these four, it is rare to see them together, given the different paths their Protestantism took. During what I am told was a very thoughtful sermon on what it means to have citizenship in heaven during a political age (I do not, alas, speak German), I got to think instead about the absurdity of the continued existence of the church. For forty years, East Berlin existed with a government that was actively seeking to undermine the structure of the churches, not by merely removing their privileged status, but by actively discouraging people from joining them, and putting the massive surveillance structure to work undermining church leaders. Yet even in the midst of this, even with the weight of the stasi's attacks on any form of dissent, people continued to worship in the burned-out cathedral, continued to find some structurally sound spaces in which to work, and then, incredibly, heard God's call for them to lead protest movements against their oppression.

On Saturday, we had gone to the Berlin Wall Memorial. It was incredible to me that this seemingly-fixed element of my youth was now so far gone as to require a memorial to remind people of what once stood. The most powerful aspect of it for me was the round stone and wood chapel that served the memory of the ironically-named Church of the Reconciliation, which had the misfortune of being located in the newly-demilitarized zone east of the wall. It was allowed to decay and then was demolished. The new Chapel of the Reconciliation gives all visitors a place to sit and contemplate our world, and our role in promoting peace.

Both of these churches brought me back to that famous WWII theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who warned us about so-called Cheap Grace, the idea that Christianity has no cost. Too often, we have a hard time differentiating who are the powerful and who are the powerless (the East German government, after all, would have called the entire West an oppressive fascist force). But as I looked at these churches and thought about the risks they ran, I was called to ask what costs I am bearing for my discipleship. As we look ahead to Advent, I invite you to do the same.

Blessings,

Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

The police officers who lost their lives, their loved ones, and all those affected by the recent tragedy, Nicholas Schreiner, Valerie Holmes, Geg Moore, John Barber Sr., Glenn and Gayle Beckwith, Mary Hall, Marcia Albertson, Jen Street, Grace, Trina and Tom Rupp's niece, Hazel Glaze in her move to Walnut Ridge, 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 November, and prayers of joy for the Howieson family on the birth of their new daughter, Lily.

Ankeny UCC A Welcoming Church Family

Greeters: We are in need of greeters for the month of November. Please sign up to be a greeter for one or more of the Sundays this fall.

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

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

Advent: November 27th is the Hanging of the Greens service. The advent craft workshop is Sunday, December 4th.

While Pastor Nathan is out from November 17 - 29, Salem Church pastor Susan Sickelka (susanpsickelka@gmail.com) will be available from November 17-22 and St. Paul's Madrid Pastor Mary Beth Mardis-Lecroy (pastormarybeth@gmail.com, 979-9681) will be available from November 23-29 for any emergencies that arise.

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. Childrens' Christmas Program will be during the Sunday service on Dec. 18.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be on November 22nd at St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church at 1102 N.W. Weigel Drive in Ankeny. If you'd like to part of the Ecumenical Choir or contribute pie for after the service, please contact Laura Beckwith.

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

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 October Weekly Attendance

October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30	Average
57	54	51	35	34	46

October Yearly Attendance Averages

Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Oct. 2013	Oct. 2012	Average
46	48	56	52	51	51

November Birthdays	November Anniversaries
03 Elaine Johnson 07 Mary Hall 13 Laura Rinehart 20 Scott Kreimeyer 22 Mark Brandhorst 22 Chad Street 23 Daniel Brandhorst 27 Joseph Street 30 Nick Rupp	16 Rich and Ruby Pleva 23 Larry and Laura Rinehart

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

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

Naomi Circle: Meets Wednesday, November 23rd 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: Our final September numbers show a profit of \$2021.85 for the Hog Roast! Yay! Our general fund giving was \$7973.43 vs. expenditures of \$13,659.95. On the year, General Fund giving trails expenditures by \$10,315.81.

World Wide Communion Bread Bakers: Thank you to Amy Goehring, Clarice Beckwith and Pastor Nathan for baking special loaves of bread for our worldwide communion service.

Mowing and Bushes: Thank you to Scot Storjohann, Dennis Pingel, and Gale Gilbert for helping to keep our church lawn mowed and continuing to keep our bushes tidy this past month.

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.

New Address: Hazel Glaze has moved to Walnut Ridge. If you would like to reach out to her, her new address is 1701 Campus Dr, Apt 2112, Clive, IA 50025. Her new phone number is 515-221-4476.

Altar Decorations: Thank you to Joan Moore and Annette Hong for their creative and unique altar arrangements!

Ankeny UCC Serving Beyond

Hunger Hike Walk was held on Oct. 9th. Thank you to walkers, Joan Moore, Clarice Beckwith and Laura Beckwith. And thank you as well to those who donated. We raised \$1,950!

Advent Calendar Basket: Naomi Circle requests that each family set aside a basket in their home and place a food item, personal item, or clothing item in the basket each day of advent to donate a food pantry at the end of the Christmas season.

Weekly Coin Collections for November will go to American Indian Relief Council to support programs for Native Americans living on the rural and remote reservations on the Northern Plains. The money will help to provide emergency support such as food, water, supplies, and shelter services, as well as things like Thanksgiving meals and tools and seeds to plant gardens.

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.

November DMARC Food Pantry request: Canned Soup
(Please make sure to check expiration dates before donating items.)

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.

November 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 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship with communion 11:30 Fellowship Time	07 Deacons' Meeting 6:30 pm	08 Trustees' Meeting 7 pm General Election	09 Worship Committee Meeting 4:00pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	10 No Office Hours	11 Veterans' Day	12
13 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Time Annual Church Meeting	14	15	16 Choir practice 7:30 pm	17 Pastor Nathan to Berlin	18	19
20 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Time	21	22 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Council Meeting 7:00 pm	23 Naomi Circle 9:30 am Millpond No Choir practice	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 Advent Begins 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship with Hanging of the Greens 11:30 Fellowship Time	28	29 Pastor Nathan returns	30 Choir practice 7:30 pm			



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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