



# ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

**APRIL 2017**

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Pastor Nathan Willard  
515-639-0602

April 1, 2017

Dear Church-

It's two short weeks until Easter, and with it an end to our journey in the gospel of Luke. Throughout the spring, we've seen Jesus's journey from the manger in Bethlehem to the Jordan River in Jerusalem, synagogues in Galilee, and back now one last time on the road for his final confrontations and meditations in Gethsemane. We've seen throughout Luke a warning that deliverance will not come to us just because we are from the right family or worship in the right way, but that God seeks most of all to reach people we put outside our boundary lines. This theme has come up over and over again in Luke's Gospel, and we've tried to echo it both in our sermons and in our studies, as we've listened to different stories of people outside boundaries we are familiar with: boundaries of language, boundaries of national identity, boundaries of gender. As we come into the conclusion of our Insiders and Outsiders theme and move back into our annual series on church identity, I encourage you to keep reading the scripture and looking for ways that God has brought people from the outside to the inside. As you do, look around and wonder what it is that defines insiders and outsiders for you. How can we broaden the net, just as the Jesus Luke portrays has?

Easter Sunday, we'll once again be celebrating at 9am with breakfast, followed by a 10am Easter Egg Hunt and worship led off by the bell choir at 10:30. Come and worship!

Blessings,

Nathan

## CONTINUING PRAYERS for

Linda Johnson-Lundquist, mourning her sister-in-law. For the family and friends of Angie Mann. In celebration for Sandee and Amy Garding, married here March 24.

## Ankeny UCC A Welcoming Church Family

Church Directory Photos: We are putting together a new church directory, and this time we are using the marvels of technology! We are still working out some details, but as we build the directory, we need your family photos (selfies are acceptable)! Please upload a picture for the directory using this link (which is also provided in the weekly newsletter):

[https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/submit\\_photo.aspx?id=061c2754-aa48-4816-a749-cfae6bf7df9c](https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/submit_photo.aspx?id=061c2754-aa48-4816-a749-cfae6bf7df9c)

Also, please be sure to list the first and last names of everyone in the picture. Thank you!

**Greeters:** One of the joys of being a welcoming church family is to welcome old and new people into the church. We do this on a volunteer sign-up basis at the moment, and the sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board next to the coat closet. If every active person in the church signed up, we'd all greet 2-3 times a year (accounting for people unable to greet and the need for pairs).

**Altar Decorations:** Thank you to Joan Moore for continuing to provide wonderful altar decorations.

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

**Easter:** Please join us for Easter Breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>! The breakfast will consist of egg casseroles, muffins, and fruit and will start at 9am with the egg hunt to follow. Bring a basket or bag to collect eggs if you have one 😊

**New Member Class:** We'll be having a 3-week new member class this spring for people who want to join the church. If you have been considering taking the step of covenant membership with us, just send an email to Pastor Nathan or talk to him after Sunday worship.

**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 "Office" 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.**

## Ankeny UCC Exploring Progressive Christian Theology

**Emmanuale:** This month's meeting will be Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Firetrucker. How are we living the resurrection? What does that mean?

**Lent Potluck and Bible Study:** We have been meeting each Wednesday night during Lent for a potluck starting at 6:00pm with Bible study following around 6:30pm when we delve into our topic of insiders and outsiders. April 5<sup>th</sup>, the weekly Potluck and Bible study will focus on Jesus and Palm Sunday. In lieu of study on April 12<sup>th</sup>, we'll meet April 13<sup>th</sup> for a Maundy Thursday soup dinner and service of Tenebrae. Please join us!

**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.

### 2017 March Weekly Attendance

March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	Average
57	41	44	48	48

### March Yearly Attendance Averages

Mar. 2017	Mar. 2016	Mar. 2015	Mar. 2014	Mar. 2013	Average
48	56	47	45	50	49

April Birthdays	April Anniversaries
06 Diane Christensen	04 Gerald & Marie Ballard
12 John Heston	25 Laura Beckwith & Bruce Orman
17 Kayleen Conter	
18 Tessi Holmes	
19 Robert Carr	
19 Jeff Patterson	
20 Dillon Rupp	
26 Kyle Hedges	
26 Judy Hines	
30 Thomas Rupp	
30 Courtney Underwood	

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

## Ankeny UCC Caring Within

Celebrations:

We are wishing a Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Gerald and Marie Ballard! Congratulations to you as you celebrate such an amazing milestone on April 4<sup>th</sup>!

We are also celebrating the marriage of Sandee and Amy Garding, who were wed here at Ankeny UCC on March 24<sup>th</sup>. We wish you blessings as you embark on the journey and adventure of marriage!

Easter: If you would like to contribute to our Easter activities this year, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. We are looking for donations of small items such as candy, coins, and stickers that will fit inside small, plastic eggs. Please bring your donations to the church office any time before Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. All candy must be individually wrapped. We are also asking for donations of extra baskets or bags for the Easter egg hunt. In addition, if you would like to volunteer to help with Easter breakfast on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, we need volunteers to bring casseroles, muffins, or fruit. If you prefer not to make food, we also need volunteers for clean-up crew!

Spring Cleaning: On April 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have our annual Spring Cleaning Day! All are invited and welcome to come help clean and beautify the church from 9am - noon. We will have tasks both indoors and out. There will be kid-friendly tasks as well, so bring the whole family! Thank you in advance from the Trustees.

Graduates: Please let us know as soon as possible if you have a loved one who will be graduating this year so we can acknowledge them on Recognition Sunday in May! If you have a graduate to recognize, please email [office@ankenyucc.org](mailto:office@ankenyucc.org) with the graduate's name, date of graduation, and school.

Christian Ed:

The youth will be leading us in a Palm Sunday Procession on April 9<sup>th</sup>, so please try your best to attend.

There will be bell choir during worship on Easter Sunday. We look forward to enjoying the children's performance!

Just a friendly reminder that Sunday School starts at 9:15 AM and we would love to get started right away as we have a lot of fun activities planned for the kids that we try to squeeze into the hour, so please do your best to be prompt. Thank you!

Garden: Flowers have started blooming in the front gardens! There are anemones in the southwest garden, and soon there will be other spring flowers, including lots of daisies. If anyone would like daisy plants, please contact Laura Beckwith; she has offered to dig some for you. There are also weeds coming up so if anyone would like to assist with weeding now through the early fall, you can also contact Laura.

Naomi Circle: Meets Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the large conference room on the main floor at Millpond. All are welcome. Meetings will now be regularly held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Our financial gifts to God and our Neighbors: In February we gave \$363 in support of Our Church's Wider Mission, \$147 to the Ankeny Travelers' Fund, and \$192 to Funding Future Leadership. Our General fund income was \$7,710.92 vs expenses of \$14,013.84. This is fairly typical for February in the rhythms of giving in the church.

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](mailto:pastor@ankenyucc.org) or call his Cell Phone: 515-639-0602. If it is urgent, don't hesitate to call.

## Ankeny UCC Serving Beyond

Out of the Darkness: The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is encouraging the community to participate in the Out of the Darkness Suicide Awareness Walk in an effort to raise awareness and funds that allow the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. It takes place on April 9<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-3:30pm at Grandview University with registration/check-in starting at noon. Online registration closes at noon Friday before the walk, but anyone who would like to participate can register in person at the walk from the time check-in begins until the walk starts. Walk donations are accepted until June 30<sup>th</sup>. For more information, to register, or to donate, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/gvwalk>.

Lasagna Dinner: New Horizons Adult Day Center will be having a Lasagna Dinner on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 4pm-7pm. It will take place at Ankeny First United Methodist Church Uptown Fellowship Hall which is located at 206 SW Walnut St. They will be serving meat or veggie lasagna made by The Fletcher as well as breadsticks, salad, drinks, and pie (take-out is available). There will be door prizes and a silent auction. The cost is \$10 advance or \$12 at the door and children under 5 are free. Please call 965-1602 for advance tickets.

Weekly Coin Collections for April will go to the Heifer International Project, whose mission is working with communities to end hunger and poverty, and care for the Earth. Through the gift of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture, we will help families in over 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance. This mission is part of our UCC Global Mission.

Ronald McDonald House can tabs: We turn in can tabs 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.

April DMARC Food Pantry request: Healthy Canned Goods (low-sugar, low-fat, low-sodium options)  
**(Please make sure to check expiration dates before donating items.)**

# April 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						01
<b>02</b> <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	03	04  Deacons Meeting <b>6:30pm</b>	05 Lent Potluck and Bible Study <b>6:00pm</b>  Choir practice <b>7:30 pm</b>	06  Café Diem Office Hours <b>1:00pm</b>	07  Praying the Hours <b>12:00 pm</b>	08
<b>09 Palm Sunday</b>  <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	10	11  Trustees Meeting <b>7:00 pm</b>	12	13 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  Café Diem Office Hours <b>1:00pm</b>  Maundy Thursday soup dinner and Tenebrae <b>6:00pm</b>  Choir practice after service	14 <b>Good Friday</b>  Praying the Hours <b>12:00 pm</b>	15 <b>Holy Saturday</b>
<b>16 EASTER</b>  <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	17	18  Emmanuale <b>7:00 pm</b>	19  Choir practice <b>7:30 pm</b>	20  Café Diem Office Hours <b>1:00pm</b>	21	22 Spring Cleaning Day! <b>9:00am-noon</b>
<b>23</b>  <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	24	25  Council Meeting <b>7:00 pm</b>	26 Naomi Circle <b>9:30 am</b>  Choir practice <b>7:30 pm</b>	27	28	29
<b>30</b>  <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>						



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9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

*April 2017*

*Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter*