



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

MAY 2017

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Pastor Nathan Willard
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May 1, 2017

Dear Church-

Happy Easter! All of May this year comes in the Easter Season, as we enjoy the spring, flowers, and signs of new life in the world. In Luke's gospel, we're reminded that Christ appears in our midst when we spend time in community with friends and strangers working to proclaim the Gospel, understand the scriptures, and build God's kingdom together. In Ankeny UCC, we hold these things close in our identity statement, welcoming the stranger, exploring our progressive theology, caring within and serving beyond.

This month, we're welcoming people into the church with the six members of our new member class, most of whom you probably already know. We'll explore together in a book study on Anne Lamott's Help Thanks Wow: three essential prayers. And we'll help to build the kingdom of God here with A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy. Still not sure what that is? Join us as we meet with other congregations in Ankeny over dinner at our church May 4. It starts with getting to know one another better, practicing sharing our stories, and listening to the experiences of others. Join Joan Moore, Sandee Garding, and our friends in AMOS like Jan Brown and Liz Hall as we work on building community together.

Blessings,

Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

All of our friends and family, for Syrians suffering years of civil war, for families here in Iowa broken up by deportation, for thanksgiving for all the people who worked to increase mental health services across the state. Prayers of joy for all the people who came to care and serve in the church for our Easter breakfast and our Church cleanup day, and everyone who helped welcome our friends and visitors to the church.

Ankeny UCC A Welcoming Church Family

Church Directory Photos: Time is running out to submit your family photos to the new church directory. 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
Also, please be sure to list the first and last names of everyone in the picture. Thank you!

Greeters and Hosts: As a result of our February explorations and long-running discussions, Sunday morning hosting and greeting duties will be split up to make Sundays a bit shorter for the people welcoming everyone into worship and into fellowship. We'll also be returning to the practice of setting greeting and hosting schedules so that everyone gets the opportunity to greet and host a few times a year. Look for a new schedule shortly as we live into our identity as a welcoming church family.

Altar Decorations: Thank you to Joan Moore and Annette Hong for providing our wonderful altar decorations.

Choir: Choir practices are held on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary through May 10. All are welcome.

Special Music: Anyone who would like to offer special music any Sunday beginning May 28 through September 3 should contact the church office at office@ankenyucc.org.

Easter: Thank you to everyone who joined us and to those who were there in spirit for Easter Breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 16th! We had a great turnout with around 100 people coming together to break bread and 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, May 16th at 7pm at Firetrucker. We'll talk about prayer, whether the hours, or asking for help, or things we've heard and wondered about over the years.

Help, Thanks, Wow: We've had consistent feedback that people have an interest and need in exploring their prayer life. So, our May book study will be on the Anne Lamott book Help, Thanks, Wow: Three Essential Prayers. We have a few books on order at Plot Twist that should be coming in later this week or early next week. We'll have a signup sheet in the lobby, or email Pastor Nathan

Unexpected Questions: Unexpected Questions is planning a book group for May. We'll meet May 5, 12, and 19 from noon to one at Porchlight Coffeehouse in Uptown. The book is Ruth Tucker, Black and White Bible, Black and Blue Wife: My Story of Finding Hope after Domestic Abuse. Ruth Tucker, a church history and theology professor, offers a Biblically grounded perspective on marriage in the context of her own experience of domestic abuse. If you'd like to join us, or order a copy of the book through Plot Twist, contact Beth at beth.yale@gmail.com.

2017 April Weekly Attendance

April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30	Average
43	70	100	43	44	60

April Yearly Attendance Averages

Apr. 2017	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Apr. 2013	Average
60	45	66	72	47	58

<p>May Birthdays</p> <p>02 Kristi Conter 02 Mason Hanley 03 David Hykes 05 Jamie Montgomery 12 Vicki Schreiner 13 John Barber 16 Tim Beckwith 18 Ella Kreimeyer 22 Laura Beckwith 23 Doug Fulton 27 Jessica Brandhorst 30 Taylor Rinehart</p>	<p>May Anniversaries</p> <p>27 Dick & Jane Shafer</p>
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**Is there a birthday missing or listed incorrectly? Notify the office to update records*

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

Easter: Thank you to everyone who helped with our Easter activities. From your donations of trinkets and candy for the Egg Hunt to the time and food you donated to help with breakfast, it is all greatly appreciated and made Easter Sunday's festivities an absolute blast. Such a wonderful example of caring within the church and being a welcoming church family!

Spring Cleaning: Thank you to everyone who came to our annual Spring Cleaning on April 22! You all did an amazing job cleaning and enriching the church both inside and out. Your efforts are appreciated and help to keep our church a beautiful place to worship and commune. Thank you also to Amy and Sandee for providing delicious homemade cinnamon rolls for the workers!

Recognition Sunday: Join us on May 21st for Recognition Sunday, when we acknowledge and thank those who have contributed to our church through their teachings or musical talents, as well as recognize and celebrate our graduates.

Christian Ed:

On Sunday, May 7th, the children will be doing garden activities! Please come at the normal time (9:15am), but wear clothes that can get a little dirty.

Sunday, May 14th is Camp Sunday and the Last Day of Sunday School for the school year! Wear/bring your favorite camping gear as we prepare ourselves for a presentation on Pilgrim Heights, the summer camp between Marshalltown and Tama. Yours truly was a camp counselor for a few summers, so I've got a few surprises up my sleeve! ~ Sarah

Birthday and Anniversary Cards: A big thank you to Lois Stelpflug for volunteering to send birthday and anniversary cards to members of the congregation! Your efforts and kindness are appreciated.

Flower Garden: Thank you to the person who planted fall bulbs that have bloomed into beautiful spring flowers. 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.

Lawn Mowing: The Trustees are looking for volunteers to mow the lawn this summer. There is a sign-up sheet/schedule on the Sign-Up-To-Serve Bulletin Board next to the coat closet. Please help us keep the church property looking sharp!

Naomi Circle: Thanks to Naomi Circle for providing funding for a new, easy to use, and clean coffee maker, and to the Trustees for making the purchase. Naomi Circle meets Wednesday, May 24th 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 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.

Vegetable Gardens: Thank you to those who helped replace the fence and expand the garden! Please keep an eye out for requests this summer for help with work on our new vegetable gardens as we get them ready for use in the future.

Our financial gifts to God and our Neighbors: In March we gave \$343 in support of Our Church's Wider Mission, \$684 to One Great Hour of Sharing, \$341 to Heifer International, \$75 to DMARC, \$70 to Funding Future Leadership, and \$472 to Sudanese Refugee Dhoal Larjin to help him bring his family to the U.S. Our general fund income was \$20,000.23 vs expenses of \$13,324.72 (much like we frequently have low giving in February, March frequently sees high giving). So for the first quarter, we saw income of \$43,301.75 vs. spending of \$39,326.91.

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.

Ankeny UCC Serving Beyond

A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy: You've heard us talk a lot about AMOS, which helps to build connections within and between congregations and other institutions to help solve problems that people see in our communities. Here in Ankeny UCC, we are hosting a gathering of Ankeny churches interested in AMOS to understand it better and help see what it is all about May 4 at 6pm. Members of our AMOS core team and Pastor Nathan will be putting on a dinner for our guests. If you've wondered what this is all about, this is a great opportunity to come find out and meet some new people.

Hunger Hike Trophy: Ankeny UCC has been awarded the traveling trophy for 2016-17 from The Des Moines Area Hunger Hike for our continued and generous support of hunger needs both locally and globally. Ankeny UCC has been contributing to the efforts to meet hunger needs every year for at least the past 30 years (that's as far back as their modern records go!). Thank you to Clarice and Laura Beckwith for your hard work leading our congregation's involvement in this event!

Join the Flock: The YESS Duck Derby is celebrating its 10th year and a "duck-ade of fun" in 2017! The simple act of "adopting" a rubber duck makes sure kids in our community always have a safe place to turn. It provides kids with a warm bed and nutritious meals. It connects children with healing and creative expression when their lives have been thrown into chaos. For as little as a \$5 donation to YESS, you can provide hope to children in crisis and enter for a chance to win fabulous prizes including \$10,000 cash, courtesy of PDM Precast. Once you've adopted your ducks, be sure to join the fun on Saturday, May 6th at the Jordan Creek Town Center lake. Adopt your duck at: <https://www.duckrace.com/desmoines/adopt>

IMPACT: Thank you for your donations to IMPACT. There were 40 cans of food as well as a lot of coffee supplies delivered to IMPACT in April. There is currently a special request for laundry supplies, kitchen and bath supplies, personal products (sample size/hotel size shampoos and soaps were being handed out recently), and monetary donations are always welcome.

Weekly Coin Collections for May will go to the Pilgrim Heights UCC Camp Retreat Center. For sixty years, Pilgrim Heights has worked to nurture the bodies and spirits of the youth in the Iowa Conference. UCC families have attended together to explore faith and community in an outdoor setting or to explore church music and theology in retreats at Pilgrim Heights. Our money helps sustain the camp and ensure that these opportunities continue. And our small gifts of household goods ensure all kids get the opportunity to create crafts and explore their creative side.

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.

May DMARC Food Pantry request: Canned Fruit (canned in 100% juice or lite syrup)
(Please make sure to check expiration dates before donating items.)

May 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	01	02 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm	03 Choir practice 7:30 pm	04 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00pm Ankeny AMOS dinner 6:00pm	05 Unexpected Questions at Porch Light 12:00pm	06
07 <i>9:15 Sunday School Garden Planting</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Coffee, Conversation</i> New Member Class 6:30 pm	08	09 Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm	10 Choir practice 7:30 pm	11 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00pm	12 Unexpected Questions at Porch Light 12:00pm	13
14 Mother's Day <i>Camp Sunday</i> <i>9:15 Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Worship with Pilgrim Heights</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i> New Member Class 6:30 pm	15	16 EmmanuAle 7:00 pm	17	18 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00pm	19 Unexpected Questions at Porch Light 12:00pm	20
21 <i>Recognition Sunday</i> <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	22	23 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	24 Naomi Circle 9:30 am	25 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00pm	26	27
28 <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	29 Memorial Day	30	31			



Ankeny United Church of Christ

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Ankeny, Iowa 50021-9364

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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