



ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

JUNE 2017

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June 1, 2017

Dear Church-

In the midst of national division, even watching the news can create a feeling of isolation within us. We wonder whether we are alone in our thoughts and beliefs. We wonder whether we are safe going out of doors (we are! It's just that every crime is reported 20 times!), we wonder whether anyone can understand what we are going through, and afraid to speak for fear of being shown to be weak or broken.

This spring, we read through the Gospel of Luke and some of Paul's letters to the Galatians. Throughout those stories, we saw messages of connection and community. Jesus certainly knew the great global game Israel suffered under, with a king appointed by a foreign power and people subject to military rule. But in the midst of it all, Jesus and then Paul reached out to people who were different, and invited them in for meals. They recognized that power does not come from above. Power comes from the Holy Spirit, the presence of God that joins us whenever two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus not to talk only about the weather, but to talk about our hopes and fears, to talk about what we are seeking, and how we might accomplish our goals together.

As part of the work of the Welcoming Task Force and AMOS, our council spent a large part of May's meeting talking about the importance of one on one lunches, coffees, walks, and talks that take more than a few minutes and trend not toward talking about other people and other news, but about our own pains and joys, hopes and fears. This is the best way to build our relationships together, so we can welcome more fully, explore more deeply, care more intensely, and serve more joyfully.

Blessings,

Nathan

CONTINUING PRAYERS for

Bob and Virginia Bettel's son Mark, in the hospital with some serious blood issues. For comfort for Trina Rupp's aunts and uncles, and for those impacted by the recent tornados and other natural disasters. 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 new members, for Lily Howieson and Cherly Ermitage for their baptisms, and for our changed church family.

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 continuing to provide our wonderful altar decorations.

New Members: We have new members joining the church on Pentecost, Sunday, June 4th! We have 7 members coming in as adults and 2 confirmands. What a blessing to add to our church family!

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

Coffee Instructions: Using the new Bunn coffee maker:

1. **Be sure to plug in the coffee maker 20-30 minutes before** pouring in water so the element can heat up.
2. Place an empty carafe on the bottom burner and press the bottom warmer switch on the front of the machine to "on"
3. Place a filter pak with coffee in it(very easy) in the slide out holder.
4. Pour a full pitcher of water into the top of the machine(pitcher sits by the machine.)
5. If you need another pot of coffee, repeat 2 - 4.
6. To clean, throw away the filter pak and rinse the holder. Wash out the carafes.
7. **BE SURE TO UNPLUG the MACHINE.**

Ice Cream Social: Please join us for the next Ice Cream Social which will be hosted by Marlis and Gale at the Gilbert household (715 NW Rockcrest Circle) on June 14th from 6:30-8pm.

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, June 20th at 7pm at Firetrucker. Let's talk about what Christian community looks like in our lives.

Vacation Bible School: Are you interested in volunteering for Vacation Bible School this summer? There will be a volunteer meeting at AUCC on Saturday, June 24th from 8am - 12pm. This meeting is so that we can get all of the volunteers together to hash everything out - whom is doing what, what the week will look like, etc. Hope to see you there!

Help, Thanks, Wow: We've had consistent feedback that people have an interest and need in exploring their prayer life. We've met to talk about the Anne Lamott book Help, Thanks, Wow: Three Essential Prayers on May 22 and May 30 and will meet for a final time on June 5 at 12:30, at the church. Books have been in at Plot Twist.

2017 May Weekly Attendance

May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	Average
54	48	48	20	43

April Yearly Attendance Averages

May 2017	May 2016	May 2015	May 2014	May 2013	Average
43	44	51	51	41	46

June Birthdays

01 Madeline Rupp
 02 Virginia Bettel
 07 Nancy Pingel
 10 Johnny Orr
 11 Becky Orr Montgomery
 13 Michael Holmes
 15 Kendra Fulton
 16 Jennifer Street
 19 Rosie Howieson
 21 Alyssa Braun
 21 Elizabeth Fulton
 23 Martha Willard
 27 Carolyn Zuck
 28 Aaron Braun

June Anniversaries

07 Kurt & Ann Van Thomme
 12 Doug & Tami Fulton
 16 Joel & Vicki Schreiner
 21 Don & Carolyn Zuck
 26 Kenneth & Brenda Braun

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

Ankeny UCC Caring Within

Baptisms: Congratulations to Lily Howieson and Cheryl Armitage on their baptisms. We celebrate their journey into full Christian faith and discipleship, and welcome them with our promise of love and support.

Outdoor Worship Service: June 18, get ready for our annual outdoor worship. Let's enjoy creation and worship God in the open air at the park next to the church. Bring some potluck sides!

Graduates: Congratulations to our high school graduates, Kendra Fulton, Grace Hanley and Lexie Montgomery and to our college graduate, Jamie Montgomery.

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

Front Flower Garden: Anyone that would like to cut a bouquet of daisies for themselves or someone else is welcome to do so. Plants are also available. There are weeds coming up so if anyone would like to assist with weeding now through the early fall, you can 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, June 28th 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 April we gave \$1,210 in support of Our Church's Wider Mission, \$15 to One Great Hour of Sharing, and \$186.53 to Heifer International. Our general fund income was \$18,386.53 vs expenses of \$10,815.05

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

Strengthen the Church: Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking." Sunday, June 4 (Pentecost), we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering. Directed to local Conferences, Local Church Ministries and the Still Speaking Ministry, Strengthen the Church gifts help visions become reality. Invest in the vision! For more information, visit: <http://www.ucc.org/stc>

NAMI: The National Alliance on Mental Illness has several upcoming classes including:

WRAP: Wellness Recovery Action Plan -- Monday evenings 6-7:30pm June 5 – July 31

NAMI Family-to-Family – Saturdays 9:30am-3:30pm June 10 – July 15

NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group – ongoing Tuesdays 2-3:30pm.

For details about these classes, please visit:

https://www.namigdm.org/en/news_events/scheduled_education_classes_and_trainings/

IMPACT: Thank you for your donations to IMPACT. Our congregation donated 42 food items to IMPACT for May plus 9 non-food items for a total of 51 items. Cleaning and personal items are still needed as a special request and monetary donations are always welcome.

Weekly Coin Collections for June 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.

June DMARC Food Pantry request: Canned Seafood (tuna, salmon, sardines)
(Please make sure to check expiration dates before donating items.)

June 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				01 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00pm	02	03
04 <i>10:30 Worship – Pentecost & Welcoming New Members</i> <i>11:30 Coffee, Conversation</i>	05 “Help, Thanks, Wow” 12:30pm	06 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm	07	08 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00pm	09	10
11 <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	12	13 Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm	14 Ice Cream Social 6:30-8pm	15 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00pm	16	17
18 Father’s Day <i>10:30 Worship – Outdoor Service</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	19	20 EmmanuALE 7:00 pm	21	22 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00pm	23	24
25 <i>10:30 Worship</i> <i>11:30 Fellowship Time</i>	26	27 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	28 Naomi Circle 9:30 am	29 Café Diem Office Hours 1:00pm	30	



Ankeny United Church of Christ

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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