



# ANKENY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

602 SE Delaware Ave.  
Ankeny, Iowa 50021  
[office@ankenvucc.org](mailto:office@ankenvucc.org) • 515-964-4647



January 1, 2019

Dear Church-

Merry Christmas!

Christmas doesn't end until this Sunday, Epiphany. On Epiphany we celebrate the gift of the magi to Jesus and the revelation to the broader world that this child was something different. On epiphany, we celebrate the revelation that Jesus came into the world as a beacon for us. In the days when Twelfth Night (that is, the night before Epiphany) was a bigger time for celebration than Christmas Day, it also marked the start of a new time in our calendars. Some of you may still have the tradition of holding the magi out of your nativity scenes until Epiphany. Here (among other places, including New Orleans) you may even bake a King Cake in their honor.

This Epiphany, we have another way of celebrating the gifts of the Magi. Our Capital Campaign Committee has designated January 6 as the day to receive our pledges for the capital campaign. Depending on who you are, different parts of this campaign may speak to you. Maybe you think it's time, after 25 years, to retire our outstanding debt from building the church. Maybe you've taken a look at the bathrooms and wondered if there are more efficient ways to use the space and live into our mission. Maybe, in your hours of contemplation while mowing the back yard, you've thought if there were ways to reclaim the topsoil carted away when we built the land, to improve drainage, and to increase pollinator activity around our garden. If you're like me, you miss having recycling and trash bins in predictable places, rather than as makeshift water pails. And maybe you've sunk down into a seat in the blue room and wondered if you would ever get out. As the Magi visited Jesus and imagined something new so many years ago, we imagine something (on a much smaller scale) new and possible for the future now. Our gifts help us build the facilities that we can fill with our imaginations and creations to realize God's vision for us in Ankeny. I'll have my card. If you've already returned yours, thank you! If not, I invite you to join me with yours on Sunday. Our campaign target is \$225,000, roughly 1.5x our budget over three years.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Nathan

## CONTINUING PRAYERS

For Chuck. For Clarice. For the Beckwiths. For everyone facing difficult medical times. For our earth, and the changes that we are just now starting to understand. For our furloughed federal workers. For our new legislatures. For troops at home and abroad and real democracy everywhere. Of thanksgiving for our church and all the people who have served. For Nancy Pingel, Judy Hines, Brad Church, Tom Broadbooks, Amy Garding, Ryan Henzi, the choir, and Kayleen Conter for our Service of the Longest Night. For Rosie Howieson's special music. For the Pageant and its helpers (especially Brad Church, Peg Colton, Stephanie Henzi, and Misty DeReus). For our people. For empathy. For the celebrations of Christmas. For Peg and Joan, feeding the Ministerial Association. For Nancy, Paige, Ryan, and the choir on Christmas Eve. For our teachers.

## Ankeny UCC A Welcoming Church Family

**Church Directory:** If you would like a printed copy of the Ankeny United Church of Christ Directory, please contact the office at [office@ankenyucc.org](mailto:office@ankenyucc.org). If you have a smartphone, you can download the Instant Church Directory app and sign in using the email address you gave us. Or we're happy to distribute a pdf, too, but want to make sure we don't post it publicly.

**Greeter and Fellowship Schedule:** After a lot of hard work and coordination, the Deacons have put together a Greeter and Fellowship Schedule for the the beginning of 2019. Below is the list for January:

January	Greeter	Fellowship
6	Mark and Jennifer Howieson	Amy and Sandee Garding
13	Doug and Tami Fulton	Noah and KC Tabor
20	Linda Johnson-Lundquist	Peter and Annette Hong
27	Leona Martin	Jane Underwood

**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 in case there are any questions.**

## Ankeny UCC Exploring Progressive Christian Theology

**EmmanuALE:** We'll see you January 15 at 7pm at Firetrucker. Bring your favorite Bible, and let's talk about what makes it your favorite and what's helpful, or not, in each of them.

**VIPs:** Please consider attending Sunday School once in the new year to do a "show and tell" with the kids. This can entail you telling the children a bit of your life story, what you do for a living, your family, what you do for work, how you ended up in Ankeny and Ankeny UCC, and anything else you'd like to share! You would share from about 9:15-9:25 and leave five minutes for questions from kids until 9:30 when they go to their Sunday School classrooms. If you would like to be a VIP, please contact Peg Colton at (563)554-9260 or [pjcolton@me.com](mailto:pjcolton@me.com).

**Sabbatical:** Luke 8:15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Our Sabbatical committee has been hard at work planning for Pastor Nathan's time away next summer. We welcome and celebrate this opportunity for Nathan to tend his spirit and grow in his faith and for our congregation to do the same. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with the sabbatical committee- Noah Tabor, Peter Hong and Jenn Howieson. Updates to come!

**Community Office Hours:** If you would like to visit with Pastor Nathan during his community office hours, the new location is Porch Light Coffee House at 417 SW 3rd Street in Ankeny. Hours are from 1pm-2:25pm on most Thursdays.

## 2018 December Weekly Attendance

December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30	Average
62	60	72	44	45	57

## December Yearly Attendance Averages

Dec. 2018	Dec. 2017	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	Average
57	44	55	60	50	53

## January Birthdays

Brenda Braun  
Brian Holmes  
Terri Muehlenthaler-Holmes  
Margaret Whiteley  
Jane Underwood  
Brian Butcher  
Kathy Barton  
Pat Hykes  
Aggy Dereus  
Jack Howieson  
Paige Wonderly

## January Anniversaries

Dennis and Nancy Pingel  
Orville and Bonnie Ballard

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

## Ankeny UCC Caring Within

**Children's Christmas Story:** On the third week of Advent, our youth performed *A Mary Carol* by Katherine Willis Pershey. This story is a tribute to the holiday classic *A Christmas Carol*. *A Mary Carol* unfolds on the night of the Annunciation. Gabriel shows up with big news! Mary is perplexed, so the angel whisks her off to visit known and loved figures from her past, present, and future. Mary's contagious amazement and understanding deepen with each encounter, until she is ready to say "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Our youth had an amazing performance that our congregation was blessed to watch.



**Nametags:** Nametags are great! They help us feel more comfortable talking to each other, and give us a way around that awkward feeling of being almost, but not quite, sure of each others' names. Wear them! Can't find yours (or don't have one)? Let us know in the office!

**Lost and Found:** Our lost and found bin is overflowing! Please come to the office to claim your items! We have a trowel, a purple and pink turtle purse with a walkie talkie inside, a sassy travel mug, plethora of hats and gloves, and many more items. Unclaimed items will be thrown out or repurposed on January 15th. Laura Beckwith also found a set of keys. If these belong to you, they can be retrieved in the inner office.

**Photography:** Do you like taking pictures? We love to see the photographs you've taken of all our various ministries and service projects! Please send any photos you would like to share to the office. We save any photos we receive in the church database for historical reference. Your photo may be featured in the monthly Ankeny UCC Informer!

**Hog Roast Review:** Between 2014-2017, Dig the Pig raised over \$7000 for Doctors Without Borders, the Backpack Program, and our own Christian Ed work. Now is the time for us to look back and see what we learned. Did it meet our goals? Did we find new sources of hope and joy? Are there better ways to engage with our community and raise funds for our mission partners? We want to talk through it in a meeting or two and give guidance to the Deacons for the future, and we want you! Talk to Peg Colton or Amy Garding.





**Advent Workshop:** We celebrated the season by hosting an Advent Craft Workshop, led by Annette Hong. We had a delicious soup lunch and then made all sorts of crafts and decorated Christmas cookies. Fun was had by all!

**Music:** Thanks to Tom Broadbooks for joining in a more regular worship rotation. We'd love to build on his guitar with a broadened scope of worship planners. Could that be you? Choir rehearsals continue at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome! Contact Laura Beckwith if you are interested.

**Naomi Circle:** Naomi Circle is resuming in February. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Laura Beckwith.

**Choir Rehearsal:** Choir Rehearsal is cancelled on January 2, 2019. Please contact Laura Beckwith with any questions you may have.



**Service of the Longest Night:** December 16, we held a Service of the Longest Night. This is a service where we acknowledge that times of joviality and merriment, such as Christmas, can be painful for many people in our community and congregation who are dealing with sorrow, such as a family death. We give permission to feel grief around the holidays and to empathize with our own human conditions.

**Ankeny UCC Capital Campaign:** It has been 25 years since Ankeny UCC's major capital campaign that built our current church home! It is time to look at where we have been, where we are and where we can go. After many discussions, meetings, surveys, and planning, we have launched our Serving to Grow Growing to Serve Capital Campaign with a target of \$225,000 over the next three years. What will this money go towards?

*Paying Off the Mortgage*—Let's close the books on past debts and interest fees in order to free up funds for our future. We have a generous lead off commitment of \$50,000 towards this goal! Replacing the HVAC - Let's not wait until the August heat or the January freeze emergency replacement! It is time to welcome new heating and cooling systems.

*Prairie Establishment*—By establishing a native prairie we will be providing an educational, interactive space for not only our kids and church family, but for the community. Plus, we will be protecting declining grasslands, native pollinators, and other wildlife by restoring their habitat.

*Other Items*—We also hope to update the Blue Room, tithing to mission partners, fix that persistent roof leak, and upgrade our bathrooms! Have more questions? Grab a brochure, or ask! Our Capital Campaign Committee is Noah Jensen Tabor, Jenn Howieson, Bruce Beckwith, and Sara Lockie.

**2019 Flowers:** We welcome donations of flowers to beautify the sanctuary on Sundays. People donate flowers to celebrate weddings, births, anniversaries, to memorialize loved ones that have passed, or for any reason at all. If you are moved to help beautify our sanctuary, please use the sign up sheet located on the bulletin board in the narthex to indicate which week you would like to donate flowers.

**Our financial gifts to God and our Neighbors:**

In November, we gave \$1042.15 to our mission partners, including \$40 to UCC Global Ministries, \$76 to the Native American Heritage Association, \$220 to DMARC (our Pie sales), \$471 to the Neighbors in Need offering, and \$706 to



Our Church's Wider Mission. November income was around \$13,400 against \$10,900 in expenses, putting us with expenses ahead of income by about \$5000 on the year.

**Thank you:** To Trina Rupp and Judy Hines, cycling off deacons, and Doug Fulton, after his terms as Vice Moderator and Moderator!

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

**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

**House of Compassion 2018 Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program:** Thank you for all the support for our Marshalltown family. A blessing of \$300 in gift cards, \$30 cash, gift paper, tape, electric candles, a coat, and a poinsettia will go a long way to create a cheerful holiday celebration for a family with a tween and a teenager. The family sent us a lovely thank you card that is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

**Ankeny Service Center:** We can't thank you enough for your donations to our two adopted families. Your contributions helped provide gifts for 8 children and 3 adults who otherwise would not have received gifts. By extending our blessings to others, our congregation was able to experience the joy of giving during the holiday season. Thank you to Jennifer Street who delivered the presents.

**Meals From the Heartland:** The next service opportunity for our Middle and High School Youth will be packaging meals at Meals from the Heartland on Wednesday, January 9, from 6-8pm. Please contact Sara Lockie if your student would like to attend.



**Meals** FROM THE  
**Heartland**

*Empowering people to save the starving.*

**A Helping Hand Little Free Pantries:** There are Little Free Pantries in the community painted with bright pink for after hours folks and those without transportation to the regular food pantry. Contact the church if you need transport to a food pantry or would like assistance in deliveries or directions to drop off deliveries to a food pantry. We are happy to assist.

\*Facebook page is A Helping Hand in Ankeny

Per Facebook comments, protein foods are needed for the little pantries in the community. Some examples include the following: sunflower seeds, canned meats, canned beans, shelf stable pepperoni, canned seafood, etc. Canned meat with pasta works, too. Some of the snack bars have quite a bit of protein, FYI. Thank you for being generous.

**Weekly Coin Collections** for January will go to the Ankeny Ministerial Association Travelers' Fund. This fund is administered by the Ankeny Policy Department and provides necessary money for people traveling through Ankeny. The fund helps pay for things such as gas or paying for a hotel room for one or a few nights in extreme weather.

**DMARC:** This past fiscal year, the DMARC food pantry network served an average of 17,234 individuals a month, an increase of almost 2,000 individuals per month over the previous fiscal year. Thank you to our congregation for continuing to donate food items in the face of rising need. This month's item requests are canned pears and puff ball mushrooms. Although special items are requested each month, DMARC keeps a list of most needed items on their website, [www.dmarcunited.org](http://www.dmarcunited.org). This includes fresh produce and non-food items. Please remember to check expiration dates or for spoilage on any food donated. January's requested items have not been announced yet, however items such as cereal and peanut butter are always needed. (Please make sure to check expiration dates or freshness/ripeness before donating items.) Cash donations are always welcome as well.

*You are a valued part of the family of God just as you are. We at Ankeny United Church of Christ celebrate the diversity our Creator has given all people. Our community is incomplete and broken when our siblings in Christ are excluded because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, physical ability, mental ability, race, age, nationality, faith background, relationship status, family structure, economic situation, or any of the numerous other aspects of identity that make us each who we are. Your differences make you unique and should be celebrated in God's family. You are wonderfully and purposefully made in the image of our Creator, and you have a place here in fellowship with other members of God's Church. This is a place where you can praise, question, worship, laugh, mourn, doubt, wonder, celebrate, and otherwise live as part of a community with other people seeking God and loving their neighbors. We the members of Ankeny UCC promise to affirm your worth as an individual and your place in our community. You are joyously welcomed to join us just as you are.*

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Communion 11:30am Fellowship	31	1 Office Closed	2 No Choir Practice	3 1:00-2:15pm Porchlight Hours	4	5
6 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	7 6:30pm Deacon Meeting	8	9 7:30pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Youth Group Meals from the Heartland	10 1:00-2:15pm Porchlight Hours	11	12
13 9:15am Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	14 7pm Trustee Meeting	15 7pm EmmanuAle	16 7:30pm Choir Practice	17 1:00-2:15pm Porchlight Hours	18	19
20 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship	21 7pm Church Council Meeting	22	23 7:30pm Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship	28 7pm Council Meeting	29	30 7:30pm Choir Practice	31		



**Ankeny United Church of Christ**

**602 SE Delaware Avenue**

Ankeny, Iowa 50021-9364

Phone: 515-964-4647

Email: [office@ankenyucc.org](mailto:office@ankenyucc.org)

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Time

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

**January 2019**

**Ankeny United Church of Christ Newsletter**