

## Benevolent meals

In an effort to streamline our benevolent meal process, we are utilizing the freezer space in one of the kitchen refrigerators. Volunteers have prepared and packaged single serving and family size meals. A list of the contents is in a white 3-ring binder on top of the freezer. We are encouraging our church family to look out for one another and deliver a meal when needed. It's not necessary to wait for someone else to coordinate delivery; if you think there's a need for a meal then there's a need. We ask that you follow a few simple guidelines:

First, ask the recipient if you can deliver a meal. We don't want anyone to feel pressured to accept something they truly don't want or can't use. Sometimes just knowing that someone is thinking about you is all the help that is needed.

Find a meal that is appropriate for the recipient. Most meals are labeled with the contents and approximate number of people served. If there are several appropriate choices, please take the oldest meals first. This will help eliminate waste.

Find the meal description in the white binder and fill in the name of the person you're delivering to.

Jade Dean will monitor the freezer contents and will call on those who signed up to prepare benevolent meals to re-stock as needed. Thanks to all.



## *"Bad Boys and Girls of the Bible" study*

In conjunction with Mid-Week Mayhem, Pastor Owen will be leading a bible study exploring men and women of the bible who are of "questionable virtue". We will take a look at Samson and Delilah, Lot and Lot's Wife, and Annanias and Sapphira. What can we learn from these perfectly imperfect people about life, faith, and our own sense of God's ongoing activity in our world? We will begin at 6:30 and go to 7:30 p.m. on **February 1, 15, and 22**. Remember, Feb 8 will be family night!

## CHAOS' Souper Bowl soup lunch fundraiser

will be held on **Sunday, February 5** after the second service! Come and enjoy some tasty soups, even better company, and help support the youth's summer mission trip and activity fund! Can't wait to see you there!

## Ash Wednesday service March 1, 2017

"When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). **March 1**, we will set our faces toward Jerusalem and join Jesus on his journey toward the cross. We begin by observing Ash Wednesday with a soup supper (free-will offering) at 6:15pm followed by a 7:00pm service preparing us for the season of Lent.

## From Pastor Owen

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I got to spend the first part of this week on holy ground at the Christian Conference Center. It is always refreshing to be there. The space itself sings the presence of God. Maybe it is the echo of the souls of the thousands of children, youth, and adults who have gone to camp, sang, read scripture, prayed, experienced welcome, shared their stories, or sat and simply listened for God's presence. Maybe it is the echo of my own soul reverberating with my past camp experiences: friends made, love shared, and first hearing the pull of God on my life to be a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Maybe it is just the decreased volume of the noise of the world. Or maybe all of those things together cause the place to sing God's presence.

Camp changes people. Sometimes it is the first place that a young person feels welcome in a way they don't at school or even at home. Sometimes it is a place where a child first encounters God. Sometimes it is a place where an experience of redemption and reconciliation occurs. Sometimes it is a place where a person realizes that they are made in the image of God and that they are holy and beloved. Sometimes it is a place where the world stills enough for someone to have clarity about their life and place in the world.

Each year Ankeny Christian Church sends children, youth, and adults to camp out at the Conference Center. Each year they know they are loved and beautiful and holy!

The thing is camp doesn't happen without volunteers. There are many adults who volunteer to share their time, along with the staff, with the young people who attend camp. These people fill different kinds of roles: counselors, directors, nurses, chaplains, and general workers.

While all those roles are important and keep the camp operating, probably the role with the most direct impact on the lives of the

campers is the camp counselor. They get up with the campers, eat with them, lead them in groups, pray with them, plan with them, play with them, and share their stories and faith with them. It is sometimes very hard work. It is also some of the most rewarding work.

I remember a number of camp counselors from my days as a camper who remain some of the most important and influential people in my life. They are my mentors in faith. I know, also, the experience of being a counselor and have found it to be engaging, challenging, hopeful, and life-giving – almost always in ways I haven't expected.

We send lots of people to camp each year, a handful are counselors. Directors, like me, are almost always in need of good counselors; good folk who want to make an impact in the world. Pray about and ponder being a counselor this summer at camp! I can't promise that it won't be hard, but I can promise that it will be good, and I feel I can promise that you will make a difference in someone's life!

Shalom,  
Pastor Owen

## Scriptures & Sermons

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|---------------|---|
| <b>Feb 5</b>  | Luke 7:1-17<br>"Inside, Outside, Upside Down!"  |
| <b>Feb 12</b> | Luke 7:18-35<br>"The Proof is in the Puddin'"   |
| <b>Feb 19</b> | Luke 7:36-50<br>"Self-Talk"                     |
| <b>Feb 26</b> | Luke 9:28-45<br>"When We Just Can't Seem to..." |

## January Kudos to...

Tyler Vroegh and Paul Lamont for work on the door sweeps

Youth Christmas Program organizers and directors—Karla Rice, Lisa Duffy, Angie Schnurstein, Hettie Lahart, Hazel, (Angie Olson's Mom), Pat Fliger

Bryan Jansen for work on office computer  
Hettie Lahart for assisting with and now directing Children's Choir

Angie Schnurstein for her many years of directing Children's Choir and now helping with the choir

Those who worked on the 2016 Advent season—Jade and Clay Dean, Pastor Alison, and Cathi Hackbarth

Cathi Hackbarth for all the chrismons she made for the tree in the sanctuary

Those who helped put away the Christmas decorations—Jade and Clay Dean, Judy Johnson, Georgene Raver, Cathi Hackbarth, Pat Fliger, and Bob Brown

Colleen Porath for coordinating meals to have in the church's freezer for those who need a meal from the church. Those who helped supply those meals—Arnie and Colleen Porath, Lynn and Teresa Worley, Karen Rawson and Susie Bentley

The choir for the beautiful Cantata

Bob Brown for his continued work with the choir and work with the sound system

All parents who attended and participated in the Town Hall meetings about future children's programming

Seth Hedquist for stepping into the worship leader role

Seth Hedquist and Joe Klinefelter for their amazing guitar talents during worship

## Church Council highlights

**January 15**—New Business is a Rainy-Day Fund with \$1000 per month being set aside from Childcare rent in a contingency fund?

Endowment fund has been invested with the Christian Church Foundation for a long-term permanent stream of income.

Space Needs Committee continues to meet. A workbook will be completed and a proposal brought to the Church Council this Spring.

There are 14 people going to Guatemala Feb 17-26, 2017.

An Endowment Report was submitted to the Church Council by Dorothy Mathis.

Next council meeting is **Feb. 12, 2017**.

## Total cash flow – for 2016

Revenues –	
All Funds Year End	\$335,908.58
Operating expenses	
All Funds Year End	\$260,871.09
Mortgage expense transfer	\$ 46,072.90
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 28,964.59

Your giving is important to the life and ministry of Ankeny Christian. Thank you.

A Prayer Shawl ministry

## Prayer Shawls available

Do you know someone you would like to give a prayer shawl to? You may pick one up whenever needed. Sign in the book located above the display rack to whom it is going and select a card to enclose. Pick a prayer shawl from the display rack or from the blanket chest in the entryway. Any questions contact Pat Fliger or Carolyn Fisher.

Next "Sit & Knit" group gathering is **Thursday, February 16** at 1:00 p.m. in Rm 1.



# Among Our Church Family and Friends

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## Prayer concerns

Makenna Schroeder; Will & Barb Bates' daughter; Phyllis Faulkner; Adam Rice; Mother of Suzy Hart; Jen Hauschildt's Aunt Kathy; Chad Johnson; Kiersten & Angie Mann; Mike & Tabitha Brandenburg; Madison, granddaughter of Ruth Smythe; Latisha Ukpabi's mother Judy; Cox family; Lloyd Warner. **Sympathy** to Megan Narwold and family at the loss of her grandmother Dec 25, 2016; to Brian Ostrem at the loss of his friend Evan; to Marjeane Hunter at the loss of her friend Kris; Bob Turner and family at the loss of his wife Jean.

**Lead Person for 2017:** The Prayer Chain can be started by contacting Tara Baldwin at 257-6507 or [tleigh.bald@gmail.com](mailto:tleigh.bald@gmail.com)

**Please let the church office know about hospitalizations, surgeries, etc.** The Privacy Act (HIPPA) limits the notifications we get from health care facilities.



## New babies

Samson Montgomery Krause was born December 24, 2016. Proud grandparents are Arnie & Colleen Porath.

Owen and Lori are proud to announce the arrival of Elian Dell Cayton born at 2:14 p.m. December 30, 2016. He was 21in long and weighed 8lbs 14ozs. He was welcomed home by older brothers Toviei and Mattai.

Lynn & Teresa Worley are proud to announce Oakley Arthur Tillman was born to their daughter Kristen and her husband Brandon Jan 15, 2017 at 7:35 a.m. weighing 8.5 lbs. and 20.5 inches long. He joins big brother Finn.

## Thank you notes

To Our Church Family,

We truly enjoyed the ACC Carolers at our home on Sunday evening, December 18. It was very enjoyable and thoughtful and we appreciate everyone's time and talent. We enjoyed the container of treats also.

Gary and Zola Parker

Dear Friends of Ankeny CC,

Thank you for the generous monetary gift for Christmas. Everyone has been so kind!

Thank you for the privilege of being your organist for many years! It is such a joy to play duets with Georgene and to be a part of the Praise Team!

Wishing everyone a blessed and Happy New Year!

Cindy Holub

Members and friends,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. My role in the music ministry at Ankeny Christian would not be possible without the countless volunteers who make it easier and enjoyable. This church is amazingly joyful and spirit-filled when it come to the part music plays in our worship.

Thanks for letting me be a part of that joy.

Sincerely, Georgene

Ankeny Christian,

I was thankful for your Christmas gift and then to be recognized for my service as the Music Leader was such a surprise. But I think the recognition was pointed the wrong way. I need to thank you for letting me serve these past years. It has been such a joy to lead the worship of this congregation.

I look forward to serving in other capacities in the future.

Bob Brown

## Thank you notes cont'd

Dear Ankeny Christian Family,

Thank you for your generosity to me at Christmas.

I am so thankful and blessed to be a part of this carrying church family.

Wishing each of you God's blessings in the New Year!

Love, Christine

To my Ankeny Church Family,

Thank you so much for the needed gift. I got, for nice Christmas.

Love from one of family,  
Janice Eakins

Thank you so much friends of Ankeny Christian Church for the generous monetary gift at Christmas. I enjoy playing the piano for the children's choir very much and especially had fun with the Christmas program this past season. All of the children are a joy to work with and then when they perform during worship, the congregation's enjoyment is priceless. Thank you for your support

Lisa

Dear Friends of ACC:

Thank you so very much for the Christmas gift! If it hadn't been for your very generous gift, I would not have been able to buy Christmas gifts for my family. May all of you at ACC be truly Blessed!

God Bless, Kathy Sample

Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, kind words, visits, gifts and food for the past many months that Lloyd has been away from home. We have (may not get over all) hills yet to climb but are trying.

Lloyd is happy to be here. He is having some good days and some not so good. Time will march on!

Sincere thanks to all,  
Pat & Lloyd Warner

## From Pastor Alison

### Sunday School News

Sunday School continues as usual through the month of February.

Our **preschoolers and elementary school grades** will be working on 1 Corinthians 13 "Love Is..."

#### Adult help needed

Do you enjoy cooking, drama, games, or art? We invite you to use your talents to teach a Sparkhouse rotation which is a two-week commitment. If you are interested in this fantastic opportunity, please contact Pastor Alison at [alisonaccdoc@gmail.com](mailto:alisonaccdoc@gmail.com), call her at the church, or contact Angie Olson at [angeleyes4379@yahoo.com](mailto:angeleyes4379@yahoo.com) or 706-424-5415.

Our youth Sunday School classes are continuing along as well! The **6-8 graders** are in room 1 with Lori Kruse-Cayton and Adam Olson. They are focusing on a curriculum called "Joining the Story" in which they have been walking through the Old Testament, and learning how to weave their stories into the ancient stories that we hear about so often in fun and interactive ways. They recently talked about creation and made their own creations individually, and talked about the importance of creating together.

The **9-12 graders** are in room 5 with Shanon Buckroyd and Eric Lahart. They will continue to use the LinC curriculum, which sparks discussion about current events in our society and how they impact them as Christians.

Our **adult class** will continue to be facilitated by Eleke Ukpabi in a classroom in the Community Life Center.

Questions? Email Pastor Alison at [alisonaccdoc@gmail.com](mailto:alisonaccdoc@gmail.com) or give her a call at the church.

## Mid-Week Mayhem

We continue in February with Mid-Week Mayhem after a great start in the month of January. We will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. As a reminder, there will be tables set up in the Gym for families to eat at if they need a place to do so before programming begins.

We are happy for a great start to Mid-Week Mayhem, and look forward to a fantastic month of February.

## All Church Family Night

This month, for our second Wednesday All-Church Family Night will be on **Wednesday, February 8** from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Gym. This evening will be Love themed to celebrate the coming of Valentine's Day. We will be eating heart-shaped foods, doing some heart crafts, and maybe decorating some heart cookies. We will be thinking about those that we love, and talking about God's love for us.

As a reminder – this is for our entire church family! ALL are welcome to these second Wednesday events!

We hope that you can join us for this fun evening!

## Junior Retreat at the Christian Conference Center

This month, all 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to the Christian Conference Center in Newton for a weekend to talk about "Finding Jonah"! The retreat is **February 10– 12<sup>th</sup>** and will begin around 7:00 p.m. that Friday, and will end Sunday around 11:00 a.m. The cost of the retreat is \$30. Scholarships are available on an as-needed basis. If your

kiddo is interested, please let me know and I will provide you with the registration link.

I hope you can make it for a weekend that is shore to be a whale of a time on Holy Ground!

## CHAOS ensues in February!

Our 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth group or CHAOS (Christ Honoring and Others Serving) will be doing many great things within the month of February.



**Sat, Feb 4 – Sun, Feb 5 – Lock-In!** We will be having an evening full of fun, silliness, games, and putting the finishing touches on our Souper Bowl Soup Lunch on Sunday, February 5. *There will be no CHAOS this evening due to the lock-in and the Super Bowl.*

The rest of the month of February we will be focusing on YESS and doing another mission project for the youth at the shelter.

**Church family** – please keep your eyes on your email and the Facebook page for ways in which you can help!

As always, there will be some good fun and fellowship events thrown into the month of February for our CHAOS group!

Keep your eye on the weekly email newsletter for continuing information! If you're interested in being put on the weekly email newsletter, please email me at [alisonaccdoc@gmail.com](mailto:alisonaccdoc@gmail.com).



**Special offering for February**

**Special offering report for Dec**

Food Pantry	\$330
DMF-Christmas	\$520

**Food Pantry Sunday is Feb 19**

In January, a total of 92 items went to IMPACT Community Action Partnership here in Ankeny for the Food Pantry.

In December 2016, the DMARC Food Pantry Network served 6,509 families and 16,556 individuals, an increase of 18.8% and 18.2%, respectively.



**Nebaj, Guatemala Adult Mission Trip February 17—26**

There are 14 people going to Guatemala **February 17-26**, 2017. It will be the third trip to Guatemala. Nine from ACC, two from Highland Park, two from Waukee and Hazel (Angie Olson's Mom) is from Georgia. Details are being confirmed and a planning meeting was held Friday evening at Sawyer's home.

Health kits are coming along and on **February 5**, the Sunday School classes will help put the kits together.



**You are here!**

We all have, no doubt, stood in front of one of those wall maps that inform us that "WE ARE HERE!" The next step is to

take a look at where we want to be -- to see how far, how long and how difficult it will be to get there. This year's *Week of Compassion* mission emphasis will be celebrated throughout the month of February. Our focus is to discover how our congregation can get to where the needs for feeding, clothing, and serving some of our sisters and brothers who are the most vulnerable in terms of need. When it comes to getting to where there is someone in need, our church knows how to do it. When someone is ill, mourning, or facing crisis, we show up. Doing that globally is a little bit more of a challenge. But we know we can do it. With the resources and services of *Week of Compassion* we all have the way to get from here to there. Members of the congregation will find a leaflet and a giving envelope in your worship bulletins during the month of February. You may also pick one up by stopping by the church or requesting one to be mailed personally to you. When you donate through that envelope you find the way to get to fellow Christians anywhere in the world—your sister, your brothers, your children in Christ. Let's all get THERE! Please give with generous hearts. In the midst of suffering, where is God? God is here. Where are you? When you give to *Week of Compassion*, **you** are here.



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### **Sunday Schedule**

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time &  
Children's Choir

9:45 a.m. Sunday School all ages

9:50 a.m. Praise Team practice

10:45 a.m. Worship



wheelchair accessible

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## **Disconnect to Connect** by William O'Brien

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! Psalm 133:1*



I had the misfortune of misplacing my phone on a microbus. This is by no means an unheard of situation in the chaotic world of Cairo public transportation. After a few days of mourning my pocket-sized computer, the silver linings surpassed the size of the storm cloud quickly.

The obvious challenges did not surprise me. Communicating with friends and colleagues in Egypt, communicating with friends and family in other countries, social media, taking pictures, and checking the weather were all slightly more challenging, an annoyance. I had not realized how dependent I had become on my phone for getting directions, meeting my friends, and finding my socks when the power goes out in my apartment. Each of these obstacles required greater planning, excepting the last one which required more stumbling around in the dark trying to get the curtains open.

Planning required me to set aside time for activities and allowed me to be fully present in those activities. I was able to devote time to creating and fostering friendships with my coworkers, neighbors, and fellow Arabic students. This intentional communication went beyond people in Egypt. While I wasn't able to talk to my friends and family outside of Egypt as much, I found myself more invested in the conversations I was able to have.

In the eight years since I began using a cell phone, I have never been more "disconnected" from the world around me according to modern technological definitions. However, in those same eight years I have never felt as present and immersed in what I'm doing. Now having a replacement phone, I will have to work to maintain the level of intention and focus that I have benefited from during this time. Luckily for me it has a very short battery life.

*Will O'Brien, member of Union Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), St. Louis, Missouri, serves as a Global Mission Intern with the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS). His appointment is supported by Week of Compassion, Our Church's Wider Mission, Disciples Mission Fund and your special gifts.*