

Wanted!! Charter Members to join the newly formed Ankeny Christian Church Legacy Circle

Who is included? Anyone who has designated ACC as a beneficiary in their will.

What is it? The ACC Legacy Circle is a society of a group of folks who want their love for ACC ministries to live on for generations to come as a legacy. The Legacy Circle recognizes and celebrates donors for their gifts and their gift intentions by creating a culture in which faithful members consistently bless the ministries of the church with legacy gifts. These special gifts do not take the place of regular, systematic giving but are in addition to pledges and donations. These funds are placed into a Permanent Fund along with unrestricted gifts from memorials. The interest earnings from this Permanent Fund are used to accomplish areas of work that ACC might not otherwise be able to undertake.

The congregation will be voting on a revised policy of investment and earnings distribution plan. The ACC Endowment Committee (the trustees of the ACC Legacy Circle) is planning a giving seminar this fall to explain all the particulars and celebrate the gifts already given and intended to be given through existing wills. That is why we are asking now - if you have already included ACC in your will - please let one of the Endowment Committee members know and please consider joining the ACC Legacy Circle to encourage others to do the same. Your request for confidentiality will be respected.

The Endowment Committee: Pat Sommerfeld, Chair, Bryan Jansen, Dorothy Mathis, Bev Lancaster, Jerry and Gladys Sawyer, and Patrice Sayre. Both ministers, Owen Cayton and Alison Nicoll are ex officio.



On **Sunday, June 4** we will be celebrating and sending forth our summer campers in prayer as they attend a week (or more!) of camp at the Christian Conference Center. We invite all of those who will be attending camp this summer to wear your favorite camp shirt for this Sunday. After worship, we will enjoy s'mores together in celebration for the kick-off of a great summer at camp!

Commissioning June 4

From Pastor Owen

The opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. – Anne Lamott

Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is one element of faith. – Paul Tillich

Let's recall Thomas the twin for a moment. More likely he will be better known to you by the unfortunate name "Doubting Thomas" because of the story found in John 20. The risen Jesus appears to the other disciples in a locked room while Thomas is away. When the disciples tell him what happened he says he won't believe until he sees the scars on Jesus' hands and puts his hand in Jesus' side. The next Sunday evening Jesus appears to the disciples again, this time with Thomas present, and invites Thomas to experience Jesus just as he requested. Then Jesus says to him, "Do not doubt, but believe!"

The thing is, I'm not so sure doubting is the best descriptor for Thomas, especially as it is often used pejoratively. Indeed, Thomas isn't asking for anything more than the other disciples in the story have received: a personal experience of the risen Jesus.

If we were to put a more positive 'spin' on the word "doubting" in Church, perhaps I would feel better about using it. Until we reclaim that, however, I would prefer to call him "Inquiring Thomas."

Here's why: It is Thomas' inquiry that leads him to grow. In fact, another time Thomas speaks in the gospels he asks the question: "Lord, how can we know the way?" To which Jesus responds, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." It is Thomas' questions that both move the story along and help him and us see a little more about who Jesus is.

It is our questions, often our deepest and biggest (and maybe most scandalous?) questions, which when we ask and explore and challenge and research and ask again, that cause us to grow in faith. They inspire us

to learn more and in our learning, we ask deeper and bigger (and maybe more scandalous?) questions.

Or to put it another way, if we don't have any questions, if we assume that we have it all figured out, we have no room to grow.

This summer in late June and early July our worship series will be centered around big questions of faith. Sometimes these questions have straightforward answers: "How did we get the Bible we have?" There was a process that spanned centuries. But questions like "What kind of book is the Bible?" and "How do we know the Bible is true?" Are questions that invite us to dig a little deeper, and might not even have just one answer.

Our "Big Questions" series will help us explore questions around the character of God, baptism, the Bible, prayer, and heaven and hell. I am looking forward to exploring these questions with you this summer!

Shalom,
Pastor Owen

Scriptures & Sermons

June 4 (Pentecost) Acts 2:1-4; Gal 5:16-26
"Turn Some Pages: Celebrating the Spirit in the Whole of Our Lives"

June 11 Psalm 8
"Who Are We?"

Big Questions Series

June 18 Exodus 3:1-15
"Character of God"

June 25 Romans 6:1-11 – "Baptism"

July 2 Hebrews 4:12-16 – "Bible"

July 9 "Prayer"

July 16 "Heaven and Hell"

From Pastor Alison

Vacation Bible School planning meeting

Are you interested in brainstorming ideas for meals, decorations, and want to know how VBS will flow this year generally? The Christian Education Committee would like to invite you to a planning meeting on **Saturday, June 24** from 8am-12pm. Volunteers from St. Anne's Episcopal Church, and Ankeny United Church of Christ will also be joining us as we work on putting together VBS for the kids in our community.

We hope you can join us for this morning of planning and brainstorming!

CHAOS in the summer

This summer we will have one afternoon event each month - one in June and one in July. The first CHAOS summer event will be **Wednesday, June 28!** These events will be off-site and will be a chance for us to have some fun in the sun! Parents and chaotic youth - keep your eye on your email for more information as the summer unfolds. Hope you can join us!



Vacation Bible School Save the Date!

Be sure to mark your calendars for some summer VBS fun **Sunday-Thursday, July 23-27!** This year's VBS theme is "Hero Central"! We will be talking about the strength of God and how we are Heroes in our own lives and the lives of others with God by our side. Keep an eye out for ways that you can volunteer for VBS and to get your child registered.

We hope you can join us for these five days of learning more about God and having fun with our friends from around the community!

Among Our Church Family and Friends

Prayer concerns

Phyllis Faulkner; Lisa, Bates' daughter; Will Bates; Norma Sperry; Mother of Suzy Hart; Kiersten Mann; Mike Brandenburg; Latisha Ukpabi's mother Judy; Madison, granddaughter of Ruth Smythe; Cox family; Lloyd Warner.

Lead Person for 2017: The Prayer Chain can be started by contacting Tara Baldwin at 257-6507 or leigh.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.

Remember our June campers in your prayers

June 11-16: Junior Camp #2—Kayla Leach.
Chi Rho Camp #7—Owen Cayton,
Director.

June 16-17: Grand Camp—Erica Channels,
Jodie Craig, Jace Hubby, Camden Lahart,
Rolen Lahart, Sue Jansen, Isaac Mueller,
Suzette Hart, Levi Hart, David Zumach,
Tami Zumach, Vincent Widaman.

June 18-23: Chi Rho Camp #8—Mattai
Cayton, Toviel Cayton, Samantha Dean,
Wesley Helmke, Zoë Helmke, Cameron
Porath, Grace Porath, Andrew Rawson,
Maya St. Clair, Halle Wulfekuhle, Hannah
Wehofer; Alison Nicoll, Director

June 26-28: Senior Adult Retreat—Hazel
Magner, Gerald Sawyer, Gladys Sawyer,
Pat Sommerfeld, Judy Krase, Angela
Johnson.



to send campers letters

Campers Name, Camp #
Christian Conference Center
5064 Lincoln St
Newton, IA 50208

Thank you notes

A huge belated thank you to Cathi Hackbarth, Judy Johnson and Pat Fliger for their time creating and putting together all the Sanctuary visuals and chocolate covered spoons as we celebrated this past Easter and Lenten Season. Also, big thanks to all the youth and others whose hands helped fold and string the cranes that were hung.

Ankeny Christian Church,

Thank you so much for the love, support, and prayers given to our family during a difficult time.

Love,
The Widamans

Dear Worship Committee and Congregation,

Thank you for the beautiful hanging basket arrangement of plants and the box of chocolates (yummy) presented to me for Administrative Professionals Day during worship. I didn't see that coming even though Jerry inquired earlier in the week, "How many years have you worked here?" I can be dense.

I am a "behind the scenes" type of person and being up front or recognized is not my thing. ☺

I do want to share that in 28 years of working here the one consistent thing I know: **It takes every single one of you to keep this church a viable church.** Thank you, for all you do around the church.

Blessings,
Christine
Office Manager

A big thanks to Stuart Cretsinger at Cretsinger Sign Company for donating the Nursery sign above the nursery door and thanks to the Sawyers for coordinating it.
Property Committee

Kudos to...

Matt and Arnie Porath for the preseason work on the lawn mower.

The youth for making 500 of the 530 cranes for the sanctuary for Easter. All those who came and helped to string the cranes.

Cathi Hackbarth, Judy Johnson and Pat Fliger for decorating the sanctuary each week for Lent.

Maundy Thursday participants.

Those who helped dramatize the scripture readings each week during Lent.

Those who participated in the summer worship planning session.

Karla Rice, Lisa Thurston, Emma and Maya St. Clair for helping with the Joppa Clean-Up Day.

Steve Raver for filling in on Missions Committee for Larry and Nancy Squire.

Pat Fliger for writing and submitting a newsletter article for Missions Committee The Evangelism Committee and Childcare for helping with the meal and egg hunt for Mid-Week Mayhem.

Those who helped with and provided great food for the Easter Breakfast.

Karla Rice for doing the church's website for several years. Tarah Widaman for taking over this job.

Childcare Center and parents for their courtesy during Angie Mann's visitation and funeral.

Adam Olson, Social Life Committee and those who attended the murder mystery dinner. Jade Dean's friend who provided the food.

Alison for being so capable and willing to fill in for Owen so he could be away and learn.

Also, the congregation is appreciated by Owen. He appreciates the fact that he doesn't need to worry about being gone. He is grateful to everyone that he can go and learn and experience something and possibly bring it all back to share in the future.

In Loving Memory

A Magnolia tree was planted on the church property May 16 in loving memory of Angie Mann by Girl Scout Troop 791.

Attendance				
	1st service	Sunday School	2nd service	Wed
Apr 30	72	50	108	30
May 7	84	21	65	18
May 14	80	38	79	0
May 21	80	0	57	0

Church Council highlights

April 23—Worship—from May 28 through Sept 3 there will be one service at 9:30 a.m. We will honor Christine or her 28 years of service to the church April 30.

Christian Education—VBS is being planned.

Alison reports CHAOS will be going to Minneapolis July 2-7.

There was discussion on Church Planning.

Total Cash Flow for April 2017

Revenues - all funds	\$ 30,183.42
Operating expenses - all funds	32,046.33
Mortgage expense & other transfers	4,082.12
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(5,945.03)

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.

Exciting times!

There are a lot of fantastic things going on at Ankeny Christian Church. At the same time, we have much unlocked potential. We are positive people doing God's work as we live our mission to learn God's word, share Christ's love, and proclaim God's message. We continue to shape our presence here in the community and hope to continue to grow in faith, service, and love! The next several years will prove very exciting as we talk space, vision, and connection. There are two big opportunities to help shape that excitement: We are looking for a Council Chair for 2018 and a Council Chair for 2019. If you are interested in being a significant leader in shaping Ankeny Christian Church for our work in the world please let Pastor Owen know. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Pastor Owen or Darin Leach, current Church Council president, about the scope and commitment of these positions.



Join Us...
FRIDAY, July 21, 2017
Community Cookout
7:00 PM

The Evangelism Committee
is planning a public event
on the church parking lot
prior to the
City Movies Under the Stars
(at Wagner Park, Corner of W First and NW Ash Dr)

"ZOOTOPIA" PG

Look for further information in the Church Bulletin and
the July Good News!



Thank you note

Ankeny Christian Church,

Thank you for my gift card. I so enjoyed being with you all last Sunday. Your hospitality was very appreciated.

In Peace,
Rev. Kristin Wolf

Special offering report for April

Food Pantry	\$150
DMF Easter	\$420

Food Pantry Sunday is June 18

A total of 50 items was collected and taken to IMPACT, for May. Thank you for sharing in this important ministry.

Woodhaven

No longer collecting UPC labels

We have been notified by the staff at Woodhaven that the Campbell Soup Company has ended its 'UPC Labels for Education' program. Ankeny Christian Church has been a participant in the program for most its 40+ year history. Thank you to those who have left UPC labels in the basket located in the coat room. They will also no longer be collecting UPC labels from Best Choice products or any of the other participating companies.

If you have any questions about these changes, contact Steve Raver.

A hands-on-ministry

Ankeny Love Lunches and Special Offering for June

There are two reasons for sharing this article. The first is to let you know about several volunteer opportunities available for this summer's Ankeny Love Lunches program. The second is to let you know about our special offering for the month of June, which also involves the Ankeny Love Lunches program.

Our church is one of the participating congregations in this year's Ankeny Love Lunches program. **We will be responsible for setting up the serving line, serving the lunch and cleaning up.** The time commitment is **11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.** **We have been assigned five dates: June 7, 14 and 28 and July 19 & 26.** All five dates are **Wednesdays**. Lunches will be served at Sunset Park, 1320 SW 3rd St. In case of inclement weather, lunches will be served at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 517 SW Des Moines Street. We will need a group of six people (adults or youth of CHAOS age) to help with our responsibilities. On each of the five dates. The food and the equipment will be delivered to Sunset Park for us. The sign-up poster is located near the Welcome Center. Please sign up for one or more dates to help be a part of this important community program.

Our special offering for the month of June will help support the Ankeny Love Lunches program. Providing an estimated 1800 hot meals over the course of the summer will run up a large grocery bill. Your special offering gifts during the month of June will be used to purchase the food and beverages needed for the Love Lunches program meals and snacks for the summer. Please give generously.

Thank you,
Missions Committee



Ankeny Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2506 SW 3rd Street
Ankeny IA 50023-2471

Phone: 515-964-1083

Web site: www.accdoc.org

Pastor.....Owen Cayton

ocayton@gmail.com

Associate Pastor.....Alison Nicoll

alisonaccdoc@gmail.com

Office Manager....Christine Stoffa

ankenycddoc@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time



wheelchair accessible

Adventures in Hospitality by Tom Liddle

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2

One rainy afternoon, Alberto, the local pastoral intern, and I were Bible sharing with the few youth who came. Suddenly, two strangers walked up to the church door. Greg, a Brazilian, and Joyce, from Malaysia, were traveling all over Southeast Asia. The two traveled light; each with just a small backpack.

“We’re looking for a place to stay” Greg said.

“Like a guesthouse?” I asked.

“No,” he said. “We don’t usually pay for accommodation, we like to stay with families. We don’t need a room or even a shower.”

After a brief discussion, Alberto invited them to stay in the parsonage with him. It’s a big house but quite run-down. Nevertheless, the couple was pleased to receive the hospitality. In the evening we shared a meal together and heard of their adventure traveling the world relying on the hospitality of locals.

Greg and Joyce embodied a spirit of grace and simplicity. Despite the rain and rough travel, they were committed to relying on local hospitality, kindness, and generosity. Some would call them naïve of course, but what we saw in them was a wisdom born of trust, discovery, and open-heartedness. Their visit, I’d say, was the highlight of our week.

We all know that the world can be a scary and troubling place. When we look around it’s quite easy to see scarcity rather than abundance and to experience anxiety rather than trust. But Greg and Joyce reminded us of something we are also continually discovering: that the world is surprisingly reliable; kindness, and generosity are always available; and grace truly does abound.

Tom and Monica Liddle serve with the Protestant Church of East Timor. Their appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church’s Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

