

Ash Wednesday Service March 1

"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.

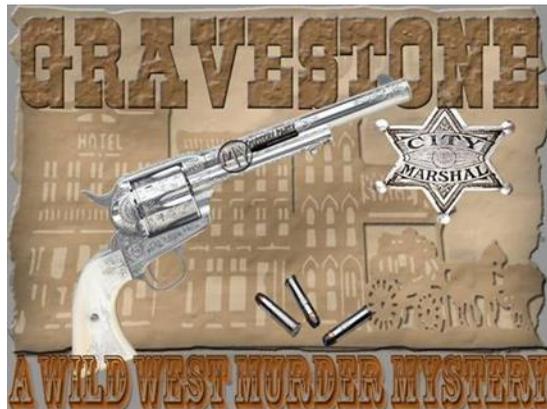
We begin by observing Ash Wednesday with a **soup supper** (free-will offering) at 6:15pm followed by a 7:00pm service preparing us for the season of Lent.



so every year the Pats fix a meal for this occasion where the luck of the Irish is celebrated.

For 30 years of his life, St. Patrick brought hope and optimism to the people by bringing Christ into their lives. What better way to honor his work than by joining as a faith community in good company and good food. Erin Go Bragh (Ireland Forever)!

Everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day! Put on some green and join us for the annual Pats' Dinner on **Sunday, March 19**, after the second service. We have a plethora of Pats here,



Murder Mystery Dinner Night!

Howdy Pardners! "Given the current state of affairs in Gravestone, Arizona, the mayor feared for his life and hadn't seen the sun in months. With the last three sheriffs mysteriously shot in the back, Gravestone had become a lawless town run by a bunch of outlaws known as *The Ranchers*."

Ready to put your gumshoe skills to the test? Social Life is hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner **Saturday, March 25** starting at 5:30pm. Come ready to assume a character, put your thinking caps on, and see if you can solve the mystery. Come to the fellowship hall at 5:30 to pick out your part and if you'd like, dressed in western wear. Dinner will be served at 6 (freewill offering) and the mystery will begin! This mystery will be fun for teens and adults. Any adults/teens not wishing to participate could monitor younger children who are more than welcome to play in the gym.

From Pastor Owen

I remember way back when Tovi and later Mattai really began walking. We would spend time as often as we could walking around the neighborhood. Getting our exercise was never the goal as we never walked fast enough to get our heart rates up to an aerobic workout level. Tovi, and Tai in his turn, would stop and look at every stick, every crack, every bug and ponder over it. We would spend time asking each other questions about what we each saw, wondering aloud about what it was doing (in the case of a bug) or how it got there (in the case of a stick) or what happened (in the case of the crack).

I loved it, even though I am not a scenic route kind of guy and so often want to get to my destination. I simply loved how each of my boys stopped to take notice of the world around them, things that I had forgotten to take notice of; wonder upon wonder that, as a matter of course, I simply overlooked.

I miss these nightly pilgrimages with my boys, though we are on to different adventures, and can't wait until we have them anew with Elian!

In similar fashion, Lent can be described as a walk around the neighborhood of our faith. It is a pilgrimage of sorts; a spiritual hike that begins when Jesus sets his face to Jerusalem and doesn't end until we have gone through the darkness of the Good Friday to arrive at our destination on Easter Sunday.

The thing is, we are often in such a hurry to get to the destination that we overlook wonder upon wonder and forget to take notice of all that is going on in the world around us. We get so pigeon holed by our destination that we fail to notice all that God is doing in the world around us, and maybe even through us! This year our theme through Lent is:

Look. Listen. Live!

Yes...Live! We should always keep in mind that our destination is not the cross, but the

empty tomb! So, Lent is not a 40-day trudge to the cross, it is a pilgrimage to new life!

I think this is where we often get confused. Sure, Lent can be serious, and it is certainly reflective and disciplined and so it can have a solemn feel to it. However, our disciplined reflection should at the very least be a consideration of our life and death transformed by our covenant with God and the new life God gives us in Christ's resurrection.

So, as we take our pilgrimage to Easter, we will stop as often as possible to take notice of how God is present around and in us. We will ponder together how God is always working to bring something new, always challenging us to grow, and always pulling, pushing, nudging, and stirring us to that new life!

See you on Ash Wednesday!

Shalom,
Pastor Owen

Scriptures & Sermons

Lenten Series: *Look. Listen. Live!*

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|-----------------------------|--|
| March 5 | Luke 10:25-42
"Being and Doing" |
| March 12 | Luke 13:1-9; 31-35
"Second Chances, Lament, and Love" |
| March 19 | Luke 15:1-32
"Lost and Found" |
| March 26 | Luke 16:19-31
"The Devil's in the Details" |
| April 2 | Luke 18:31-19:10
"Someone Blindfolded the Preacher!" |
| Palm Sunday, April 9 | Luke 19:29-44
"Of Palms and Ashes" |

From Pastor Alison

Sunday School news

Sunday School will be a bit different during the month of March due to Spring Break. *There will be no Sunday School on **March 12**, and combined Sunday School on **March 19**.*

Our preschoolers and elementary school grades will be learning more about Lent and what our journey to Easter means.

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, call her at the church, or contact Angie Olson at angie.olson.91705@gmail.com (new email address!) or 706-424-5415.

Our youth Sunday School classes are continuing along as well! The 6-8 graders are in room 1 with Lori Krase-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.

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 or give her a call at the church.

Kindergarten – 5th grade

Mid-Week Mayhem

The Mayhem will continue in the month of March! The schedule is a little different this month due to Spring Break. Here is what it will look like:

Mar 1 –*No Mid-Week Mayhem*: Ash

Wednesday Soup Supper and Service

Mar 8 –All-Church Family Night: Game Night

Mar 15 –*No Mid-Week Mayhem*: Spring Break!

Mar 22 –Regular Programming: Lent Theme

Mar 29 –Regular Programming: Lent Theme

We are looking forward to another great month of Mayhem in the middle of the week! Please email me with any questions you may have.

6th – 12th grade

CHAOS in March

(Christ Honoring and Others Serving)

CHAOS will continue to meet in the month of March, but the schedule will be a little bit different due to Spring Break. Here is what we will be doing this month:

March 5 – Progressive Dinner! Bring a little cash money and meet at the church for an evening of food surprises!

March 12 – *No CHAOS*: Spring Break

March 19 – *No CHAOS*: Spring Break

March 26 – Lent: Spiritual Practices

We only meet for a couple of weeks this month, but those weeks will be full of fun and friendship! Questions? Email me at alisonaccdoc@gmail.com.

2017 Summer Camp



Elementary Age

2nd Grade (\$110)

Pee Wee July 5-7

Beth Campbell and Linda Hunsaker

3rd Grade (\$220)

Junior #2 June 11-16

Diana Frieberg and Barb McKenzie

Junior #3 June 18-23

Steph Ellwanger and Will Brown

Junior #4 July 9-14

Tony & Lisa Thurston

Junior #5 August 6-11

Megan Orman and Sarah Simmons

Middle/High School

6th-8th Grade (\$220)

Chi Rho #7 June 11-16

Owen Cayton

Chi Rho #8 June 18-23

Peter Mitchell and Alison Nicoll

Chi Rho #9 June 25-30

Josh Baumberger and Robyn Fickes

Chi Rho #10 July 16-21

Jeanine Fernandez and

Jessica Augustine

Cabin Chi Rho August 6-11

John Claussen and Jennie Koenig

Middle/High School cont'd

9th-12th Grade (\$220)

CYF #15 June 25-30

Randy Ehrhardt and Bill Spangler

CYF #16 July 16-21

Cathie Courtois and Noel Brown

CYF #17 July 30-Aug 4

Sue Thompson & Tom Webster

6-12th Grade

ADAM Camp (\$220) July 23-28

Deb Murphy

Adventure Camp (\$150) July 30-Aug 2

Peter Mitchell

Intergenerational

Grand Camp (\$50 ea) June 16-17

Connie Derby Dicks
and Sherry Allen

Grand Camp (\$50 ea) July 14-15

Bob and Carol Mayfield

Family Camp August 18-20

\$25 ea \$100 max

Corey and Natalie Eastman

Adults

Senior Adult Retreat June 26-28

Cost \$110 Jerry and Linda Wolf

Pat Sommerfeld will handle the summer camp information/registration forms. Please see her for forms or with questions.

Reminder the church pays half the cost for those attending church camp at the Newton Christian Conference Center.

Christian Education has set an **April 23 deadline**, because the summer camps fill up so fast. Pat will turn in registration forms on an ongoing basis so those that respond earlier will be sure to get the camp of their choice.

Among Our Church Family and Friends

Prayer concerns

Gary Parker; Makenna Schroeder; Kiersten and Angie Mann; Mike Brandenburg; Madison, granddaughter of Ruth Smythe; Latisha Ukpabi's mother Judy; Cox family; Lloyd Warner. **Sympathy to** Bob Turner and family at the loss of Jean; to Sue Waters and family at the loss of her mother Bernadine Reiling.

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

Thank you note

Ankeny Christian,

The Guatemala Mission Team says "Thank You" to Ankeny Christian church for your support: financially, prayer support, helping build and pack kits and Pastor Owen for the commissioning service

Jerry & Gladys Sawyer,
Coordinators!

February Kudos to...

Tara Baldwin for making heart shaped cakes for the Wednesday evening dinner

Sunday School classes for packing kits and suitcases for Guatemala

Christine for keeping the church rolling in January

Alison for picking up the slack and extra work put forth in January

The Guatemala Mission Team

Those who volunteered to be on a committee this year

CHAOS for the Souper Bowl lunch

Church Information

Attendance

	1st service	Sunday School	2nd service	Wed
Jan 29	91	49	67	11
Feb 5	92	51	76	40
Feb 12	81	45	66	21
Feb 19	65	39	59	

Church Council highlights

February 12— Church financial records need to be audited this year.

Stewardship & Finance still needs a couple of additional members to serve on the committee.

Endowment Committee still needs a chair.

Need a Member-at-Large for 2017 on the Church Council and a President Elect (2017)/President (2018).

Worship--Volunteers are still needed for fellowship time and nursery.

Social Life--A murder/mystery dinner is being planned for March. In May, a sock hop/golden oldies dance is being planned.

Christian Education—Easter egg hunt will take place on Wednesday evening. Know of two graduates this spring. If there are others, let Angie Olson know.

2017 Financial Report

Total Cash Flow all funds - thru January 2017
Revenues – All Funds \$ 39,968.68
Operating expenses - All Funds 40,825.01
Mortgage expense & other transfers 4,948.32
Surplus/(Deficit) \$ (5,804.65)

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

Ash Wednesday and Maundy-Thursdays

Ankeny Christian Church will have two special mid-week services during the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday on **March 1** and Maundy-Thursdays on **April 13**. Both will have a meal preceding the 7:00 p.m. services – for Ash Wednesday chili and soup will be provided, for Maundy-Thursdays we will have a pot luck.

Change someone's life this summer!

Camping season is coming and this year hundreds of children, youth, and adults will be flocking to the Conference Center. However, it doesn't happen if there are no counselors. Would you be willing to give a week of your summer to counsel a camp? Camps typically begin on Sunday evening and end on Friday at 11 a.m. There are several age ranges spread out through the summer, so you can choose with which group you will work. **Be a counselor:** I guarantee that you will have an impact on someone, but the life that changes could be your own!

(Owen and Alison are each directing rustic Chi-Rho camps, and we can use counselors June 11-16 and June 18-23. We can also connect you to others who need counselors for other experiences.)

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.

A.M. or P.M. Spring Bible Study

Our spring Bible/book study will be Adam Hamilton's "**John: The Gospel of Light and Life**". There will be a morning offering during the season of Lent beginning **March 1 and going through April 5** from 10-11:30. There will also be an evening offering connected to Mid-Week Mayhem on Wednesday nights. We will meet on the following dates: **March 22, 29, April 5, 19, 26, and May 3** from 6:30-7:30. I hope you will join us to explore the gospel of John. If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Owen or Pat Sommerfeld know so that we can get a book ordered for you

All Church Family Night

This month our second Wednesday All-Church Family Night will be on **Wednesday, March 8** from 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. in the Gym. This night will be a game night! There will be different types of board games and card games around the Gym for families to play together. Families are also encouraged to bring their own games as well! One side of the Gym will, as always, be open for those who prefer a bit more activity.

If you're feeling crafty or want to learn how to make origami, a table will also be set up with instructions on how to make cranes for our Easter service.

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!

Our Larger Family • Sharing Christ's love



Special offering report for Jan

Food Pantry	\$150
Church World Service-Myanmar	\$355

Food Pantry Sunday is March 19

In February, a total of 41 items went to IMPACT Community Action Partnership here in Ankeny for the Food Pantry. Thank you for supporting this ongoing ministry.



**BROTHERS
AND SISTERS,
DO NOT BE WEARY
IN DOING WHAT
IS RIGHT.**

2 Thessalonians 3:13, NRSV



Special offering for March **TAKE breakfast & mission project**

The annual TAKE fundraiser waffle breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, April 1** at Neveln Community Center. ACC is a long time valued supporter of TAKE (The Ankeny Klothung Exchange) and the contributions are greatly appreciated. Donations to TAKE may be donated as an offering during the month of March and that total will be matched by the Missions Committee up to \$500. In addition, tickets for the breakfast will be available from Pat Fliger or Jerry Sawyer. Cost for adults is \$8 at the door, 7\$ in advance, children 6-12 years \$5 and children 5 and under are free. Purchase from Pat or Jerry before April 1 and save \$1.00 per ticket. "To go" orders are also available. Serving hours are 8:00 -10:00.

TAKE has served Ankeny and surrounding areas for more than 20 years by making available at no cost donated clothing, linens, small household items, books, toys, decorative and seasonal items. TAKE also appreciates being the recipient of donations of money and/or items from schools, community organizations, Walmart, consignment shops and many individuals per year. Anyone may get items from TAKE with no qualifications required. During 2016, records show that 6700 individuals shopping for 23858 persons visited TAKE.

For additional information, contact Pat Fliger or Jerry Sawyer or visit TAKE M-F 9:30-11:30 a.m. third floor of Neveln Center. Donations for TAKE may be placed on the shelf in the coat room at ACC. Thank you in advance for your continued support to this valuable community service.



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 (Disciples of Christ)
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Office Manager....Christine Stoffa

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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

The Right to Housing by Bruce Van Voorhis

And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Matthew 8:20

According to a global survey of the affordability of houses in more than 350 cities last year, Hong Kong was the least affordable community to buy a home in the world—a title it has maintained for the past six years. According to the survey, the price of an average flat in Hong Kong is 19 times the city's annual median income.

High property prices are only relevant to people who can dream about buying a home. What about the approximately 200,000 people who pay to live in so-called coffin cubicles, caged homes, or subdivided flats? And then there are the homeless whose numbers were estimated at a record of more than 1,600 people last year and the 250 so-called McRefugees who sleep in 24-hour fast food restaurants. They cannot afford the city's high rents, and they refuse to live in small, squalid flats. What about public housing? The average wait for public housing is four-and-a-half years with more than 280,000 people currently on the waiting list.

While the Hong Kong government has made attempts in the past few years to lower housing prices, the fact is that housing prices remain stubbornly high and out of reach for far too many people in the community.

Lost in the debate about the high housing prices is that housing is a right, not just a place to live nor an investment. Moreover, enjoying this right means housing that is adequate and affordable in which one can live in dignity. Until the right to housing becomes a reality for everyone, there is no one home in Asia's World City.

Bruce Van Voorhis serves as missionary with the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCA's in Hong Kong. His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

