

## Youth and Children Sunday School Leadership Opportunities

As the summer winds down, we are getting closer to the start of our Sunday School year. If you have ever thought about volunteering to help with any of our classes, or would simply like to get to know the children and youth of ACC now is the time! Here is a list of all the fabulous opportunities that are available:

**Sparkhouse Shepherd:** Travel with a class to each of their weekly activities. This is a great way to get to know the children of ACC and form relationships with them on a weekly basis

**Sparkhouse Activity Leader:** Do you have an interest in games, music, crafts, cooking food or science? This is a short and flexible two-week opportunity to have fun with the children of ACC using the theme of their Bible story. There is an easy to read and plan curriculum to help you prepare for these sessions.

**Youth Sunday School:** Our youth Sunday School classes are comprised Bible study and interactive games on the themes for each week. We are always looking for adults to help lead discussions and games for our fantastic and insightful youth.

If you feel called to work with and get to know the wonderful children and youth of Ankeny Christian Church, please prayerfully consider these leadership opportunities and seek out Pastor Alison or Angie Olson for more information at church or emailing Pastor Alison at [alisonaccdoc@gmail.com](mailto:alisonaccdoc@gmail.com) or Angie at [angie.olson.91705@gmail.com](mailto:angie.olson.91705@gmail.com)

We can't wait to hear how you feel you can be a part of the lives of ACC youth and kids!

## Brainstorming session a success!

You can be a part of designing worship in the future! Tuesday night, July 18, ten people convened to review Pastor Owen's plan and synopses for September 10 – October 1 and brainstorm ideas for that worship series. Pat Sommerfeld, Lisa Duffy, Lisa Vroegh, Marjeane Hunter, Jade Dean, Georgene Raver, Jennifer Koehler, Judy Johnson, Angela Johnson, and Pastor Owen broke into four groups, studied the scriptures for those Sundays, and shared ideas to present the story! This fruitful session ended with ice cream Sundaes and returning Angela's living and dining room furniture to their normal locations.

Ask any participant about this meeting and what it meant to them. Then consider volunteering to add your ideas during a future brainstorming meeting!

## Worship Series Brainstorming

A Worship brainstorming meeting will be held **Thursday, August 17, 6:30 p.m.** at Georgene Raver's. Open to anyone interested in helping the committee brainstorm.



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## From Pastor Owen

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A few years ago, I was reading an article...I don't remember the title, and I don't remember the specific context though I do know it was about preaching. The only thing I remember about it is a line that has stuck with me ever since: "Often when preaching, preachers are answering questions no one in the pews is asking."

This past worship series "Big Questions" has, I hope, touched on some of your questions. The goal was not to answer them all definitively. Rather it was to offer possibilities for our exploration. Many of the questions themselves came from the youth.

I am always open to your questions...anytime. However, sometimes it is good to formalize the question asking opportunity. So, to help make sure that I am trying to respond in sermons to questions people are asking some question cards will be provided on which you can write your questions about God, life, faith, Jesus, etc. you know, your big questions. These questions might spark a series or a sermon or two.

While I hope that the Big Questions series reminded us that we don't have to have all the answers to have faith, I do think there are questions that each of us as followers of Jesus should explore and have our own answers to. Our next worship series is called "So Loved" and will be about these four questions that all of us should have at least a basic answer to: 1. What difference does being a Christian make in your life? 2. What story of Jesus is most foundational to your faith? 3. How is God active in your life? 4. What is the power of the Christian community?

I hope you'll join us as we seek to help each other find our own answers to these questions.

Shalom,

Pastor Owen

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## Scriptures & Sermons

### "So Loved" Series

**July 30** Matthew 28:16-20  
"The World God Loves Part 1"

**Aug 6** Jonah 4:1-11  
"The World God Loves Part 2"

**Aug 13** Acts 9:36-42  
"Learning and Writing Our Story"

**Aug 20** Psalm 71  
Sharing God's Story in Song

**Aug 27** Luke 8:26-39  
"Telling Our Story"

**Sept 3** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27  
"The Power of Community"

## New Fall Study **World Religions - A Christian Perspective**

Have you ever wrestled with difficult faith questions – like:

- Why are there so many religions?
- How should we as Christians view other faith traditions?
- How is God at work in other religions?
- What is God's plan for people who earnestly pursue God through other faiths?

This Fall, a group, led by Sue Woods will be reading Adam Hamilton's *World Religions* and visiting other faith leaders as we look at these questions. If this interests you, contact Sue at 515-577-4543 or [revwoods.sw@gmail.com](mailto:revwoods.sw@gmail.com), or find her on Facebook. Meeting day and time will be decided by all.

## Church Council highlights

**May 21**—A motion to receive the American Flag and Peace Flag and display them in room 5. Carried

Recommend by the Property Committee to no longer use the church as a voting or caucus location, because of limited space. Effective immediately.

Motion for Lori Krase-Cayton and Gladys Sawyer to attend the General assembly as voting delegates for our church. Carried.

The Bethany Fellows event in Phoenix attended by Pastor Alison in May is a place for younger ministers to gather who are in their first five years of ministry. It is designed to help retain ministers and lessen burnout. Alison has a mentor to meet with or talk to once a month.

Property--Bids received on replacing cement at the entrance to the church. The company that poured the original parking lot will be replacing the two panels.

## Total Cash Flow for June 2017

Revenues - all funds	\$ 28,026.45
Operating expenses - all funds	24,069.62
Mortgage expense & other transfers	2,436.19
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 1,520.64

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.

## All Congregational Gathering August 26

It is going to be another fun year together at the Christian Conference Center. Come have an enjoyable time and learn a few things from each other. It's free, of course, because it is that important that we get together as church!

Learn More with this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcyRNd-KACc&feature=youtu.be>

Register at our website:

<http://www.uppermidwestcc.org/2017-gathering-more-info>

## Mark your calendar Advent Devotional Workshop Sept 23, 2017 8:30 a.m.-Noon

Have you felt compelled to write a devotion? Do you enjoy telling 'the story?' This year's advent devotional will be created by you!-members of Ankeny Christian Church! Pastor Owen will provide the scriptures for the devotions and the Worship Committee is sponsoring a workshop during which you can write that devotion. The workshop will be led by two authors who have published devotionals: Glenda Mathes and Susan Lawrence. They will present their different methods of approaching and writing a devotion. Then you will have time to write your devotion and they will be available to answer your questions as well as provide constructive criticism. This is open to all ages!

Please indicate your interest by contacting Pastor Owen or Angela Johnson (agjpoet@mchsi.com). If you are unable to attend the workshop and want to contribute to the advent devotional, contact Pastor Owen or Angela Johnson and a scripture will be assigned to you. Our plan is to have the devotional ready for publication by the first part of October.

# Among Our Church Family and Friends

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## Prayer concerns

Mother of Connie Fleming; Martha DeVries; Judy Haines; Ashley Reicherts; grandmother of Emily Porath; father of Scott Gessner; brother of Georgene Raver; Edd Dean; mother of Suzy Hart; Kiersten Mann; Mike Brandenburg (Kavanaugh House); Latisha Ukpabi's mother Judy; Madison granddaughter of Ruth Smythe; Cox family; Lloyd Warner. **Sympathy to** Judy Krase and family at the loss of her uncle; Pat Morton and family at the loss of her mother.

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

## Welcome new member

Judy Krase transferred her membership to Ankeny Christian on July 2, from Bethany Christian Church, Tulsa OK. Judy has three adult children, one being Lori Krase-Cayton. She also has three grandchildren.

## Thank you note

Dear Church Family,

This says it all---we are simply grateful.

When we started planning how we wanted to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, we knew exactly who to invite—our church! You, who after all, have been through at least the last 40 years with us. You have supported us through thick and thin with your faith, prayers, assistance, encouragement and love. We're simply grateful for each and every one of you – old and young.

Thanks so much for a being a part of our glorious day and for your beautiful cards.

Love, Steve & Georgene

## Remember our August campers in your prayers

**July 30-Aug 2:** Adventure Camp—Jenna Ross.

**Aug 6-11:** Junior Camp #5—Elena Serrano. Cabin Chi Rho—Jenna Ross.

**Aug 18-20:** Family Camp—Hazel Magner; Adam Olson, Angie Olson, Joey Olson, Logan Olson; Lee Howard, Tiffany Howard, Cameron Bice, Ashley Magnuson; Louise Bice; Kathy Sample.



## to send letters to campers

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

## Kudos to...

### For May:

Youth and Sponsors for youth Sunday  
Adam Olson and Social Life Committee for Sock Hop event

Dennis Peterson and Jerry Van Den Berg for repairing pew hymnal holder  
Sunday School teachers, CHAOS sponsors, activity leaders for a fantastic school year  
Girl Scout Troop #791 for the magnolia tree planted North of the shelter house in memory of Angie Mann and for hosting the Garage Sale to help with expenses for the Mann Family

Worship Committee for providing taco meat and Christian Education Committee for helping with the last Midweek Mayhem event

Those who signed up for camp--64 people, which is the most in the Region  
Missions Committee for having Kristin Wolf come and give the sermon May 14



August Special Offering

**Ankeny Ministerial Emergency Fund**

The call comes late in the evening just as the Pastor was ready to leave his office. It's an emergency. A desperate traveler needs a tire repair and gas and he doesn't have any money. He wonders if the church could help him so he can get on his way to an ailing mother. The Pastor makes a quick call to home saying he'll be late. What's this clergyman to do? Luckily because of the foresight of his local Ministerial Association he knows there is a resource and funding for times like these when the unexpected need arrives at the doorstep of the church. Several years ago, the Ankeny Ministerial Association arranged an agreement with the Ankeny Police Department to have the Police act as a clearing house to review transient/emergency requests for assistance.

The reason for this agreement was to assist churches/clergy in helping transients find lodging, food, gasoline. This agreement provides emergency assistance to individuals and families rather than asking each church in town to help the same people.

Through a fund made possible by some of the Ankeny Churches, the Association's Treasurer pays the bill. Ankeny Christian Church is one of the sponsoring churches. You are an important part in this vital ministry in our community. Through your donations we are able to fund this Transient Emergency Fund. Please give generously for our SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING in August by making your check or e-donation memo to read Ministerial Fund. Thank you for your generous heart and special offering.

**Special offering report for June**

Food Pantry	\$100
Christian Conference Center Wish List (May)	\$70
Ankeny Love Lunches (June)	\$815

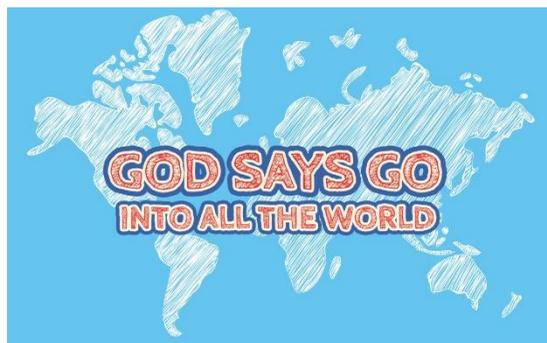
**Food Pantry Sunday is Aug 20**

Not enough donated items in July to deliver to IMPACT here in Ankeny.

**Ankeny Love Lunches—Thank you**

To those who helped set up and serve Ankeny Love Lunches at Sunset Park, thank you. Our five Wednesdays went smoothly. We had quite a spread in the number of lunches served, going from a low around 30 to a high-water mark of about 90. Close to 30 different individuals associated with Ankeny Christian Church helped to set up and/or serve on one or more of our Wednesdays. The program continues through a portion of August, so we don't know how many lunches will be served by the 2017 effort. Our guess is the number of lunches served each day will average about 50. Again, thank you for your help.

Missions Committee





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 (Disciples of Christ)  
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[ankenycddoc@gmail.com](mailto:ankenycddoc@gmail.com)

### Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time



wheelchair accessible

## Shifting Our Anchorage by Nikotemo Tapaeko

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:44-45*



Attending the UCC General Synod and DOC General Assembly this year opened my eyes to the similarities that exist in mission worldwide. The rallying call from pulpits and resolution after resolution aims at the heart of God's Kingdom. The writer of Matthew's gospel gives us a definition of the Kingdom of God that resounds in what we do every day. We - like the farmer, the merchant, the fisherman - search daily for things that provide us with a living, a life. And when we find what produces the abundance of life, we shift anchorage, to use a Pacific/Oceania terminology.

This shifting of anchorage is needed in order for life to thrive in abundance. If we do not shift/move anchorage a few things will happen. With a farmer, the land will be over-cultivated. With a merchant, business will operate at a loss. With a fisherman, over-fishing will result in the extinction of species native to an area. All of these are happening in our world today. Unless we shift to where life is present society will continue to deteriorate. Doing fixed mission is similar to justice and peace being confined to one place. There are rules and borders that define justice for those protected by it, while those living outside its reach are left unprotected.

We must be willing to move, and moving requires and warrants discomfort. If we do not move, then we are over-fishing our ocean or over-cultivating our land.

Let us shift anchorage and to where discomfort, worry, and even distress are found. There are the types of soil we need to cultivate, the waters we need to fish, and the business we need to engage in. At the end, the Kingdom of God will show hidden treasure and pearls in the people we serve.

*Nikotemo Tapaeko serves as a long-term volunteer with the Pacific Conference of Churches. His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts.*