



Ankeny
Christian Church

POSITIVE PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK



DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST



May 2021 Newsletter

Here's what you will find in this issue:

- Worship Series Information and Links
- Calendar Link
- Upcoming Events
- Celebratory News
- Pastor Owen's Note, including new email address
- Pastor Alison's Youth News, including camp information
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Online Giving Link

Sunday Morning Worship

**Please remember to sign up for in person worship and
bring your own communion.**

Worship Sign up for May 2nd

Worship Covenant

Worship services will continue to be live streamed on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. You can either use the Facebook Link or the YouTube Link to see the live feed, or even worship a little later if you need to. Use the buttons below to choose which link fits your needs best.

Facebook Link

YouTube Link

Dare to Dance Again



**Dances of hope.
Dances of justice.
Dances of love.**

**"Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning."
— Psalm 30:5b**

As Easter people, we are called to dance our dances of freedom for all the world to see—even and perhaps especially in times of great difficulty. Dances of hope. Dances of justice. Dances of love. During this season, post-resurrection stories point to the joy of living in the beloved community and extending that fellowship through our witness as we dare to dance again!

May 2, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter
"From You Comes My Praise: Guide My Steps"
Acts 8:26-40

May 9, 2021 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
"Who Can Withhold? Break Forth!"
Acts 10:44-48

May 16, 2021 – Seventh Sunday of Easter
"Gone Up with a Shout: Clap Your Hands"
Luke 24:44-53

May 23, 2021 – Pentecost (Consecration for Sabbatical)
"Spirit Poured Out: Dare to Dance Again"
Ezekiel 37:1-14

[2021 Calendar Link](#)

[Google Calendar](#)

Bring a lawn chair and



meet us from 8-10 am in the parking lot for coffee and convo! Iced Tea will also be available. If weather doesn't cooperate, the event will be moved indoors.

Graduation Sunday on May 16th

We will be recognizing our graduating seniors and presenting them with a gift for their hard-earned achievement during the church services on May 16th. Please join us in celebrating our graduates!

If you know of someone affiliated with the church who graduated in December or who is graduating this spring, please provide Pastor Alison at alisonaccdoc@gmail.com with their name, where they are graduating from, what their future plans entail, and at least one picture so that we can recognize their hard work!

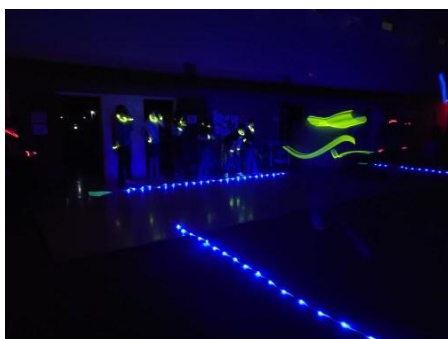
Excited for this celebratory Sunday! Hope to see you there.

Quilt Ministry

On April 7, a total of 5 twin size quilts and 8 smaller quilts were dropped off at the Catholic church. They will be delivered to the Refugee Resettlement Program in Des Moines.



Celebrations for Glow in the Dark Kickball!!





Volunteer Thank You!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of our volunteers that have made our Christian Education, Sunday School, Children's, and Youth programming run this 2020-2021 school year:

- Susie Bentley – 6-12 Teacher
- Shanon Buckroyd – Rotation Leader
- Owen Cayton – 6-12 Teacher
- Deanna Clingan-Fischer — Christian Education Chair and Rotation Leader
- Laura Dolley – Christian Education Committee Member
- Karen Fausch – Adult Book and Bible Study Leader
- Cathy Helmke — Christian Education Chair and MWM Helper
- Zoe Helmke — MWM Youth Volunteer
- Glenn Hunter – CHAOS Sponsor (as needed)
- Lori Krase-Cayton – 6-12 Teacher and CHAOS Sponsor
- Darin Leach – CHAOS Sponsor
- Lori Leach – Rotation Leader
- Megan Narwold – Christian Education Committee Member
- Alison Nicoll – 6-12 Teacher
- Emily Porath – Rotation Leader
- Karen Rawson – Preschool Teacher
- Karla Rice – Rotation Leader and Children's Christmas Program Director
- Patrice Sayre – Rotation Leader
- Mary St. Clair – Sunday School Shepherd, Christian Education Committee Member, CHAOS Sponsor (as needed)
- Randy Wehofer – Rotation Leader

This year has been wild to say the least, and at each step our volunteers did an excellent job pivoting and adapting to make sure that our programming was well taken care of and that things were safe, and normal as possible. Thank you volunteers for serving in this way, and for all of your hard work and persistence! You make a difference in the lives of all that you encountered this year and we are grateful.

March Kudos

- Karla Rice for contacting people to get scheduled for vaccines when her clinic had extra doses
- Social life committee for organizing “Coffee and Conversation” events
- Youth members and youth leaders for terrific presentation on Youth Sunday
- Jim Mann, Curt Narwold, and all members of the Stewardship and Finance committee for work put into transitioning the budget and financial reports for the new year and the extra work put in on PPP loan program
- Zach and Madi Narwold for taking time on Spring Break to help pick landscape rocks displaced by the snow plow from the grass areas around the parking lot.

Pastor Owen's Note

“But in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the LORD: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard.”

-Leviticus 25:4

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls.”

-Matthew 11:28-29

Wow! The past few months have flown quickly by and we are now on the precipice of sabbatical – remember it is a sabbatical for the church and me to walk alongside each other in our renewal and rejuvenation. In the next week or so, you will be receiving more information about events and activities you all will be doing while I am away...frankly, having been a part of the conversations around these activities, I’m a little jealous of what I will be missing! Y’all are gonna have a good time!

For my part, I thought it would be good to share with you some of the things that I will be doing and offer ways you might be in prayer for me during those times. Please, know that just because I am away, Ankeny Christian Church will never be too far from my heart, and you will certainly be in my prayers.

- As my sabbatical begins, my family and I will be celebrating our oldest son’s high school graduation – Please pray with us for all of our graduates, and pray especially for us parents!
- June 7-24 my family and I will be traveling to visit various National Parks, we hope to include Rocky Mountain, Arches, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks among others. Please pray for safe travels, fresh and fun experiences to draw us together as family, patience for the car rides, and a refreshed spirit as we breathe in together. I also invite you to pray with us through the National Parks. A resource I will be using (and you will too, during worship!) is a book called: “America’s Holy Ground: 61 Faithful Reflections on Our National Parks”. You can pick it up at amazon here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yse9p4ys>

- In July I will begin the storytelling study piece of my sabbatical. I plan to work with a coach/director to work on my embodiment of stories as I tell them. In addition, I have a handful of books and videos I will be using to ponder my own story and learn new stories. I invite your prayers for my learning and grown into and from the stories I tell.
- On July 31st I will be with my parents and sisters and extended family remembering my niece, Courtney, who was killed a year ago in a car accident. Please pray for us all as we remember and embrace and hold each other in our grief.
- The first week of August I will be directing Adventure Camp with my wife. Pray for our leadership as well as the youth and counselors at the camp, for safety and fun, as well as, again, a refreshed spirit in stepping onto Holy Ground.

I am very grateful to the congregation for this opportunity to rest in my 7th year of ministry here at Ankeny Christian Church. I look forward to the rest and I look forward to the return to continue our work together, refreshed and rejuvenated!

Shalom,
Pastor Owen

Pastor Owen's New Work Email Address

In preparation for sabbatical, Pastor Owen has begun working on a way to separate his work and personal emails. His new, professional email will be pastorocayton@gmail.com. He is beginning the transition now to this new email address. Please begin sending all church related emails to this account. You will also receive church related emails from him from this account.

Pastor Alison's Youth News

Sunday School News

Sunday School finishes up for the school year in this marvelous month of May! We will hold Sunday School as normal for all ages on May 2nd and 9th from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. On Sunday, May 16 we will hold our annual End of the Year Sunday School Celebration! This will be a time of fun and games outdoors (weather pending) for everyone to celebrate a great year of learning and growth! Hope you can make it!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of our volunteers that have made this program run this year.

It's been a fantastic year for our Sunday School classes and all of

the students have worked through Bible stories, have had great discussions, and have grown in knowledge of the Bible and what it means to be a Christian.

CHAOS Continues in May

CHAOS, youth group for grades 6-12, will conclude its year of weekly fun and amazingsness in the month of May! Here's our schedule:

May 2 - Goosechase Scavenger Hunt! We'll be scavenging around Ankeny using Goosechase - an app that helps to track what you're looking for and tallies points. Want more info? See Weekly CHAOS for details!

May 9 - 3G Night - We'll meet on this evening for an hour (6:30 - 7:30 p.m.) to play games, gather together for some check-in, and spend some time with God!

May 16 - End of the Year Party! We will be having an end of the year party again this year with food and lots of fun! This party will be from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. We will be eating dinner together, playing some colorful games (be sure to bring clothing you don't mind getting dirty!)

What a great year it's been for our CHAOS group! We've made a difference in our community, had some great fun along the way, and will continue to do so as the summer unfolds. Keep your eye on your email and on the monthly newsletter for fun summer opportunities to gather together!

Mid-Week Mayhem in May

May will be the last month for MidWeek Mayhem (Grades K-5) until fall! Here's what's going on:

May 5 - That's a Wrap! We'll spend our time this evening doing some recap of the year.

May 12 - End of the Year Celebration! We will end our year in style with games and a treat from Alison! What better way to end our year than that?!

MidWeek Mayhem will meet from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a mask, a chair, and some water.

What a great year it has been with a little mayhem in the middle of the week! Have a great summer!

Summer Camp at the



Christian Conference Center 2021: Updates and Register Today!

The Christian Conference Center in Newton is planning on holding camp this summer! What a beautiful thing! There will be many different ways that the camp will be practicing health and safety this summer to make sure that camp can happen as planned. Here are a few changes:

- **Traditional week-long camps (Chi-Rho, CYF, Adventure, etc.) will now be held from Tuesday - Saturday.** This is to help ensure that staff is trained well to help the camp run smoothly and safely. *If you have already registered and paid for a full week of camp, you will be refunded \$30.*
- **Camps are going to operate at 50% capacity.** This means that each camp will be taking half as many campers as they normally do. So please be sure to register as soon as possible!
- **Masks will be mandatory indoors.** Mask breaks will possibly happen outdoors - the CCC will provide more information on this later.
- **Air-filtration systems are being installed** in all of the places that indoor programming could happen.
- **Many events will be held outdoors**, including meals. Worried about the heat? Talk to Pastor Alison about this! She did many years of counseling and directing in Texas, and will tell you how they'll handle it here.

Ways to register: Online or paper! [Click here to register!](#)

As a reminder, Ankeny Christian Church pays half of your registration fee for camp at the CCC! There is a space at the end of the registration form that lists a code to use. If you are interested in a greater scholarship amount, please talk to Pastor Alison or Pastor Owen! There are funds for this and we certainly don't want money to be an obstacle for you to attend camp.

Another way to be involved with this fantastic ministry as an adult is to be a camp counselor - something that the camp is always in need of! It is a great way to get outdoors and to volunteer your time for a week of service to our campers and our region. If you are interested in counseling a camp, please talk to one of the Pastors and we'll fill you in and get you connected.

For many a week at camp at the CCC is one of the highlights of the summer. It's a fantastic week on holy ground with amazing people, spending time with God and others in creation! If you haven't ever been and are interested, talk to someone who has been and they can fill you in!

There's a lot of information on the [Christian Conference Center website](#). Their website also lists the different types of camps and the dates that each are being held! Take a peek!

We hope you'll consider coming to camp this summer! It's going to be so

good to be back on holy ground!

Grand Camp (4 to grade 2 with a Grandparent)

- Session 1: June 26, 27
- Session 2: July 17-18

Family Camp (Kids 0-18 with an adult)

- June 11-13

Beginner Camp (Grades 2-3)

- June 13-15

Junior Camp (grades 3-5)

- Session 1: June 29-July 3
- Session 2: July 13-17
- Session 3: August 10-14

Middle School Camps (grades 6-8)

- Chi Rho 1: June 22-26
- Chi Rho 2: June 29-July 3
- Chi Rho 3: July 13-17
- ADAM Camp: July 27-31
- Adventure camp: August 3-7

High School Camps (grades 9-12)

- CYF 1: June 22-26
- CYF 2: July 20-24
- ADAM camp: July 27-31
- Adventure Camp: August 3-7
- Standing Rock: June 5-12

Senior Adult Camp (Ages 55+)

- June 13-15

Birthdays

2 Mason Hanley
3 Tara Baldwin
7 Cheryl Jass
9 Madison Mann
14 Martha DeVries
Karen Fausch
15 Ruth Baker
Pat Sommerfeld
Kayla Harris
17 Sam Johnson
31 Frances Johnson
Paul Lamont
Zach Narwold
Patrice Sayre
Maya St. Clair
Mackensie Mays

Anniversaries

14 Tyler & Lisa Vroegh
20 Dan & Pat Fliger
21 Dave & Karla Rice
25 Paul & Linda Lamont
30 Ken & Sherry Johnson

*The church continues to operate even in these difficult times. If you would like to continue (or begin) to contribute to the work of the church financially, you can mail in a check to
2506 SW 3rd Street, Ankeny, IA 50023
or you can give online by clicking the link below.
There you can set up one time or recurring donations.*

[Online Giving](#)

Pastor Owen Cayton, Senior Minister
Pastor Alison Nicoll, Associate Minister
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