



Ankeny
Christian Church

POSITIVE PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK



DISCIPLES
OF
CHRIST



February 2021 Newsletter

Here's what you will find in this issue:

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Sunday Morning Worship Resumes In Person on Sunday, January 31st

**(Please remember to sign up using the link
below and bring your own communion)**

[Sign up for In Person Worship](#)

[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.



January 31, 2021
"Whole Heart Hallelujah"
Psalm 111

February 7, 2021
"We Wait, We Hope, We Stay"
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Rev. Gerald "Jerry" Sawyer Preaching

February 14, 2021 (Transfiguration)
"The One is Shining Forth"
Psalm 50:1-6

Lord,



Teach Us to Pray

He was praying in a certain place,
and after he had finished, one of
his disciples said to him, 'Lord,

teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'—Luke 11:1

This series is about prayer. Prayer is one of those things that anyone can do. We all have the ability and opportunity. At the same time, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray. So, prayer can also be taught. For centuries Christians have prayed. We've prayed in many different ways, using many different words, occasions, tones, postures, and expressions to shape our prayers. During this season of Lent we will explore both the prayer of Jesus, and prayer practices that help us pray. All the while, we will learn to live our prayers!

Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021
"Lord Teach Us to Pray"
Luke 11:2-5

First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2021
"Our Father in Heaven"
Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday of Lent
February 28, 2021
"Set the World Right"
Youth Sunday

Third Sunday of Lent
March 7, 2021
"Three Square Meals"
John 2:13-22

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March, 14, 2021
"Keep Us Forgiven and Forgiving"
Numbers 21:4-9

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021
“Keep Us Safe from Ourselves and the Devil”
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Palm/Passion Sunday
March 28, 2021
“You Are in Charge. You Can Do Anything. You Are Beautiful.”
Mark 11:1-11

February 2021 Calendar Link

[Google Calendar](#)

February Special Offering: **Week of Compassion**

“Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty,
shade from the sun, shelter from the wind,
For the Compassionate One guides them,
takes them to the best springs.”
~ *Isaiah 49:10 (The Message)*

This is the hope of God in Isaiah. It is also the hope of this Week of Compassion offering. Week of Compassion is one of the many ways that Ankeny Christian Church reaches out as Positive People Doing God’s Work in the world. Week of Compassion responds to disasters and crises around the globe, and even in our own backyard. When the floods came to Ankeny a couple years ago, so did Week of Compassion in the form of emergency grants. This past year when the derecho came through Iowa, Week of Compassion came too and remains in places still recovering from that storm. This year, Week of Compassion invites us to “Let Love Flow.” With the gifts of our hearts, we let love flow, like new well-water to a thirsty village: for crops, for cooking, for life! Let our giving be an upwelling of generosity and may the stream of love bring about God’s realm. Our gift is prayer in action. You can give to Week of Compassion

through <https://accdoc.weshareonline.org/> or by mailing a check to the church. You may also find more information about the work of Week of Compassion at www.weekofcompassion.org.

Missions Committee

Ash Wednesday: Drive up Ashes

Ash Wednesday, the day that we begin our journey to Holy Week and Easter Sunday, is on February 17 this year. There will be a service online at 7 p.m. In addition, the Worship Committee invites you to receive ashes at the church by “driving up” and receiving them from Pastor Alison or Pastor Owen during the day. More information with instructions and times will be available in the coming weekly news updates. Watch for them.

Worship Committee

Pastor Owen's Note

Jesus said: ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’
– Matthew 6:34

Among the struggles the pandemic has created for me, probably the one I regret most is that it has further blended my home and work life. While working mainly from home has its own benefits, I already had trouble keeping my mind away from work when I was at home and, conversely, my mind away from home when I was at work...and, well, the struggle is more real now.

I have more frequently found that when I am, for example, playing with Elian, it is easier to jump up and do something for work when I think about something that needs done. And I have found when I am working and the tug of, “play with me, daddy” comes pulling at my ear, I either stop working and play and feel guilty because I should be working, or I continue working and feel guilty because, having teenagers now, I know that these days don’t last long.

Even now that I am working in my office more, I still feel the tug of home and the need to do my part there...and when I am at home...well, you get the picture.

So, I have been trying to practice “mindfulness”; being present and aware of this moment. Let’s just say, I’m still working at it.

To that end, I read the book “You Are Here” by Thich Nhat Hahn with a group of pastors I meet with for a book study each month. While the book confirmed, pretty clearly, for me that I am neither a Buddhist nor an eastern philosopher, I did appreciate its critique of the pace of life I, along with so many others, keep, and the practical exercises of being mindful through breath and intention.

Throughout my reading, I kept coming back to the above scripture from Matthew 6:34. The Message version renders the verse this way: “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.” God is present right now. You are present right now. Have confidence that whatever the future brings, or even whatever existed for you in the past: God was, God is, and God will be! Find joy in this moment.

Breathe this moment in deeply.

Shalom,
Pastor Owen

Pastor Alison's Youth News

Sunday School News

Sunday School continues as usual, in-person from 9:00- 9:45 a.m. for the month of February!

Our preschoolers and elementary school grades (Preschool - 5th grade) will be learning about the story of Ten Men Healed through music, drama, crafts, and more!

Our youth Sunday School classes continue to learn in fun and in community with one another! Our 6 - 12 Grade class continues to meet with Susie Bentley, Owen Cayton, Lori Krase-Cayton, and me as we work our way through our re:form curriculum. We'll be focusing on different questions about Jesus' miracles, and even the existence of God. It's going to be good conversation!

Our classes will continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall and Classrooms. There is also a Zoom option available for those who prefer to do Sunday School at home. If you know you're going to miss, or aren't yet comfortable meeting in-person, please contact me for those links and we'll make sure that you have access to them.

Looking forward to another month of learning, conversation, and fun this month in Sunday School!

CHAOS in February: Youth Sunday Preparation!

This month our 6th – 12th grade youth group or CHAOS (Christ Honoring and Others Serving) will be working on putting together Youth Sunday for February 28th! We will be leaning into our Lenten theme for worship and will be creating worship surrounding the theme of Thy Kingdom Come.

We will spend the first few weeks putting our brains together to come up with ideas, and will find fun and new ways to record and offer our worship at the end of the month. It will be a fun and new way to do Youth Sunday preparation and planning!

As always, parents and youth, keep your eye on Weekly CHAOS for more details surrounding this month. It will be a good, good month as we prepare and offer worship to God - something we're so good at.

Mid-Week Mayhem

The Mayhem will continue in the month of February! Here's our schedule:

February 3 – Wedding at Cana: Join us as we spend an hour talking about our Sunday School lesson - MidWeek Mayhem style!

February 10 – Love, Love, Love (parents and siblings welcome!): Come and spend an hour with us as we find new ways to share our love, and work on something we can take home to remind us of how we are loved!

February 17 - Ash Wednesday: We will either spend our time together participating in the Ash Wednesday service, or we'll spend time talking about the importance of Ash Wednesday and answering any questions that may come up. Either way - it's going to be great!

February 24 - Lent Overview: We've spent the last couple of years talking about what Lent is, now it's time for us to talk about how we're going to spend our Lent and noticing God within and around us!

***Parents* - Please keep your eye on Monday Mayhem for more information!**

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.

Birthdays

2 Gary Black
4 Brian Jass
5 Kayla Leach
Frank Prowant
7 Thomas Cox
Jennifer Hauschildt
9 Cameron Porath
11 Odin Helmke
13 Alex Serrano
17 Dennis Peterson
Arnie Porath
20 Dan Fliger
Jonathan Rawson
28 Alena Dean

Anniversaries

11 Gary & Jackie Black

*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
Melissa Webb, Office Manager

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