



Ankeny  
Christian Church

POSITIVE PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK



DISCIPLES  
OF  
CHRIST



## June 2021 Newsletter

Here's what you will find in this issue:

- Worship Series Information and Links
- Calendar Link and office hours update
- Upcoming Events, including mission offerings
- Pastor Alison's Note
- Pastor Alison's Youth News
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Online Giving Link

### Sunday Morning Worship

**May 30, 2021 at 10 a.m.**

**Rocky Mountain National Park**

**Psalm 121: 1-2**

**Please remember to bring your own communion.**

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](#)



# SUMMER ROAD TRIP

*Finding Holy Ground Wherever We Are!*

## Summer Road Trip: Finding Holy Ground Wherever We Are! Summer 2021

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?”

Psalm 8:3-4

“For as long as humans can remember, we have looked at the wondrous beauty of the world and sought to understand our place under the stars. In the tallest peaks of the mountains we see transcendence, a thin place between ourselves and the heavens. Verdant valleys remind us of the abundance the earth provides. Desert landscapes can leave us alone with our thoughts, perhaps to ponder our lives and to have gratitude for the supplies we need to sustain us in an otherwise unforgiving place. Roaring oceans remind us of the untamed power of the natural world and forces that can be mitigated but never fully controlled... We see beauty in these places and events sometimes we see, or at least feel, something else our eye cannot fully see nor our mind fully understand. These are holy moments.” From “America’s Holy Ground” by Bruce Barkhauer and Brad Lyons

This summer we will be exploring the holy and sacred places of our National Parks, telling stories of our encounters with the sacred, and basking in the awe of God’s creation as we embark on a Summer Road Trip! Everywhere we step is Holy Ground, and we are invited to celebrate and share in the sacredness of creation together.

May 30, 2021

Rocky Mountain National Park

Psalm 121

June 6, 2021  
Grand Teton National Park  
1 Corinthians 13:4-7

June 13  
Capiol Reef National Park  
2 Corinthians 5:16-17

June 20  
Yosemite National Park  
Isaiah 26:2-6

June 27  
Bryce Canyon National Park  
Acts 2:2-12

July 4  
Gettysburg National Military Park  
Joshua 4:19-24

July 11  
Saguaro National Park  
Matthew 25:34-40

[2021 Calendar Link](#)

[Google Calendar](#)

## Office Updates

Offices will be closed on Monday, May 31st  
in observance of Memorial Day.

### **Melissa's Hours beginning June 7th**

Monday and Thursday: In person 10:30-2:30

Tuesday and Wednesday: available through email and  
phone

Alison is back to regular Monday-Thursday  
office hours.

### Sabbatical Kickoff Cookout

June 6th from 11am-2pm  
Smokey D's BBQ  
Yard Games  
Side Dishes



# While the Senior Pastor's away...

From May 24th through August 22nd  
Pastor Owen will be on sabbatical. Here is some  
important information for his absence...

## Pulpit Supply

May 30—Pastor Alison  
June 6—Pastor Alison  
June 13—Rev Larry Squier  
June 20—Rev Karen Fausch  
June 27—Dorothy Mathis  
July 4—Rev Josh Patty  
July 11—Pastor Alison  
July 18—Rev Larry Squier  
July 25— Rev McKinna Shinners  
August 1—Pastor Alison  
August 8—Rev Betty Grimes  
August 15—Karla Rice  
August 22—Rev Tiff Williams

## Pastoral Care Number and Individuals on Call

**515-639-0692**

Alison Nicoll  
Larry Squier  
Betty Grimes  
Karen Fausch  
Sue Woods  
Pat Morton  
Georgene Raver

## Congregational Exploration Activities

June 6th- Church Picnic  
July 17th- Storytelling Workshop  
July 30th- I-cubs Baseball Game and Fireworks  
August 14th- The Great ACC Giveaway Mission  
September 17th and 18th- Post Sabbatical  
"Finding Your Why" Workshop

## Executive Council Members to Contact

David Rawson- President; [drawson@mchsi.com](mailto:drawson@mchsi.com)  
Emily Porath- Past President; [pagebypagedesign@gmail.com](mailto:pagebypagedesign@gmail.com)  
Jim Mann- Treasurer; [arrghawk@gmail.com](mailto:arrghawk@gmail.com)  
Randy Wehofer- PRC Chair; [randyw@iowacubs.com](mailto:randyw@iowacubs.com)

## Worship Opportunities Sign Up

Good afternoon, members and friends of Ankeny Christian Church!

As ACC is going back to pre-covid services, it presents opportunities to members. The last time we completed our time and talent forms was November of 2020. Many things have changed since then, and maybe even your comfort-level in serving in Sunday morning worship. It should be noted that we needed approximately 30 people every Sunday to conduct pre-covid services, which means many opportunities to serve as we transition back into this familiar type of worship!

We specifically need volunteers for services beginning **June 6** (this is a correction from the email that was sent out on Tuesday) and continuing throughout the remainder of 2021. We need additional help in the following positions: Fellowship, usher, greeter, P.A. operator, nursery assistant, candle lighter and servers.

Would you please prayerfully consider serving in any of the ways listed? If you are willing to participate in any of these duties, please click the link to the survey below. If you have questions on what these different tasks entail, please click on the "task descriptions" button. If you have further questions still, please reach out to Karen Fausch the Worship Chair, or Pastor Alison.

As we begin to see hopeful signs of a new normal, we hope that you'll consider using the gifts God has given you to serve in worship on Sunday morning.

Thank you!

[Sign Up Here](#)

[Task Descriptions](#)



### Do you have a Prayer Request?

If you have a prayer request, please email Laura Dolley at:

[dolleyo808@gmail.com](mailto:dolleyo808@gmail.com)

## June Mission Emphasis - Project Fresh Start

For the past sixteen school years, Ankeny's Project Fresh Start has distributed school supplies and backpacks to public school students in need in our district. PFC plans to distribute supplies in early August prior to the start of the 21-22 school year. Last year, 800 backpacks were distributed during the scheduled time and an additional 200 were distributed during the school year to students who have relocated, transferred or have found themselves in need of assistance.

Ankeny Christian Church has supported this worthwhile project numerous times. Considering the turmoil of the past year, it is anticipated that there will be an even greater need for many families.

Rather than purchasing individual supplies to donate, financial donations are suggested and PFC will be able to purchase items through participating suppliers at a reduced cost. Dave Kissinger, founder of PFS, is available to provide additional information if necessary.

The Mission Committee thanks you in advance for your continuing support of this local cause.

# Storytelling Workshop

**"Stories are the communal currency of humanity."  
--Tahir Shah, in Arabian Nights**

What do you want your children and grandchildren to know about you? About their family? About the world as you have experienced it?

How can we take part in Pastor Owen's storytelling journey and give back something of ourselves to his sabbatical journey?

***On July 17th from 9 a.m. until noon, Ankeny Christian Church will host a Storytelling Workshop led by Sue Woods, storyteller and minister.*** When you attend you will:

- Uncover some secrets of good storytelling
- Learn tips for drafting your own story
- Discover what NOT to do when telling a story
- Select and begin to draft a personal story
- Participate in supporting Pastor Owen's storytelling

Everyone has a story to tell that only they can give to the world. What's yours?

## Ankeny Christian Church GREAT GIVEAWAY

An exciting Mission project is coming in August. It's an opportunity for our members to celebrate their generosity to others. Many of us realize that we are blessed and God is a God of abundance and gracious benevolence. Likewise, many of us have stuff, more than enough. So how would you like to give your good, gentle used, functional and no longer needed stuff away to someone who might like it and enjoy it. We're talking about the Ankeny Christian Church GREAT GIVEAWAY scheduled for Saturday, August 14 from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. Here's how you can help. If you have items that you no longer need or use and would like to donate them to our GREAT GIVEAWAY, now is your opportunity. We're looking for good stuff, NO JUNK, PLEASE. We will gather all stuff (Toys that your kids have outgrown, clothes that are clean and "like new", tools or household items that are just taking up space, bikes and trikes and wagons and wheelbarrows! You name it, anything you want to

give to someone who could use it, need it, or just want it. Gather those items and let our Mission Project Coordinator, Larry Squier (515 556-1721) know and will put it out on the driveway or table on August 14. Further details will be forthcoming in June and July but for right now clean out your closets, your basements, your garage and find the treasures that you'll graciously give away to someone looking for just that very thing.

## **Pastor Alison's Note**

Hello, Church!

As you are all aware, Pastor Owen is currently on his three-month sabbatical. We had a lovely service sending him off with our blessing and our love as he embarks on rest, play, and renewal.

Rev. Josh Patty, our Regional Minister, gave a beautiful message about how we are all together in the same Spirit. Just as Owen is renewing his spirit, so are we to find some space to rest and renew as well. It was a good, good service and a wonderful way to begin our sabbath time together, even though physically apart.

At the Christian Conference Center this summer for camp, our curriculum is entitled "This is Our Prayer". The campers will spend each day learning not only different ways to pray, but the ways that prayer holds us throughout our traditions and stories. I direct one of the High School camps, and it is customary that each director takes one day and tailors the curriculum to the age group and to their camp. The day I chose was "Sabbath". I had a marvelous time putting the curriculum together (I really always do!), and I went over what I had written for 2020 before all of our plans were changed. I noticed how a lot of what I had written previously had the campers exploring the benefit of slowing down - of resting - of putting activities and other things down for a moment.

And I wondered, How is sabbath different now? I wondered, How are we supposed to talk about sabbath after a season where so many of us were forced to put things down, sometimes begrudgingly, and while grieving?

I am not sure if you all are feeling this way, but I'm beginning to feel a sense of opening up as our world begins to shift to a new way forward. I feel like I am moving at a quicker pace and there's more structure to my day and I LOVE it! I love having a full to-do list and a full schedule of meetings (in-person)! But I am also finding that while I missed this way that my schedule used to be, I do not want to go back to "normal" or whatever that might have been! I don't want to get swept up in all of the things that I could do after a season of not having much

to do. I am more choosy with my activities and how I spend my time.

If I have learned anything, I have learned the importance of slowing down, of taking time to be with my beloveds, and of doing the activities that fill me and bring me closer to God. This is the lesson I've learned on sabbath in the past year. What about you?

My hope for each of us as we journey along this sabbatical season, even as the world begins spinning as it used to, that we can take time to breath, to find space, to relax and renew, to refresh, and to find peace.

May it be so! Amen.

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## **Pastor Alison's Youth News**

### **Camp Commissioning June 6th**

On Sunday, June 6th, we'll be recognizing all of those who are attending camp this summer and blessing them on their way.

Please come to worship on June 6th sporting your favorite Christian Conference Center gear, whether you're going to camp this summer or not!

We hope you can join us for this fun and celebratory moment. See you then!

### **Youth Opportunities in June!**

During the summer months, our youth (grades 6-12) will have a couple of opportunities to get together for some fun and fellowship to escape that summer heat!

Here's what we're doing in the month of June:

Wednesday, June 9th (afternoon)

- Outside Scoop Outing!

Wednesday, June 23rd @ 7:00 p.m.

- Des Moines Youth Trip Meeting at Church

Sunday, June 27th - Sunday, July 4th

- Youth Mission Trip in Des Moines

Keep your eye on your email for more details! Contact



Pastor Alison if you have any questions. Hope to see you as we gather this summer!



## Birthdays

2 Rob Duffy  
Elena Serrano  
5 Larry DeMoss  
6 Layla Hart  
7 Chris Hart  
9 Shelby Harris  
10 Sherri Prowant  
12 Steve Raver  
13 Zoe Helmke  
16 Samantha Dean  
David Rice  
18 Morganne Murphy  
19 Will Bates  
20 Shanon Buckroyd  
22 Joey Olson  
24 Owen Cayton  
27 Carter Bentley  
Harrison Ukpabi  
28 Andy Bentley  
29 Jim Mann  
30 Evan Sigler



## Anniversaries

2 Dennis & Gerri  
Peterson  
3 Rob & Lisa Duffy  
9 Norm & Fran Honderd  
11 Curtis and Amy Gage  
13 Jim and Sherry Mann  
20 Clay & Jade Dean  
23 Matt & Emily Porath  
26 Bryan & Sue Jansen  
Tom & Jodi Murphy  
27 Jennifer Koehler &  
John Schneberger  
29 Mike & Mary St. Clair

*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

**Ankeny Christian Church**  
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[Visit our website](#)

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