



Ankeny  
Christian Church

POSITIVE PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK



DISCIPLES  
OF  
CHRIST



## October 2021 Newsletter

Here's what you will find in this issue:

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- Worship Series
- Calendar Link
- Pastor Owen's Article
- Pastor Alison's Youth News
- Committee Updates and other News
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  - Great Giveaway Follow up
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- Birthdays/Anniversaries
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**Sunday Morning September 26, 2021**

**9:00 am Sunday School**

**10:00 am Worship**

**11:00 am Fellowship**

**Living On a Prayer**

**James 5:13-20**

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**Volunteers for In Person Worship**

**Communion Prep:** Lori and Darin L

**Communion Server:** Jennifer K, Darin and Lori L, Chuck and Karen F

**Greeter:** John and Kayla H

**Fellowship:** Gary and Jackie B, Shanon B

**Usher:** Arnie P

**Worship Volunteer Schedule**

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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**

Reminder: If you are not feeling well, please stay home and participate in worship online. The COVID task force would also like to encourage all of those who are eligible to get vaccinated.



# MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS

*“The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.’”*

*Exodus 16:3-4*

*October 3rd – World Communion Sunday  
No Going Back...But That's Okay!  
Exodus 16:1-18*

*October 10th  
Provision and Possession  
Mark 10:17-31*

*October 17th  
Sharing Christ's Love  
Mark 10:35-45*

*October 24th – Prayer Focus  
At All Times  
Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22*

*October 31st – All Saints Sunday*

*Refocus and Simplify*  
*Mark 12:28-34*

*November 7th – Dedication of Gifts and Pledges*  
*How Will We Respond?*  
*Mark 12:38-44*

[2021 Calendar Link](#)

[Google Calendar](#)

## Pastor Owen's Note

"We got to pray just to make it today...I said we pray, ah, yeah, pray...  
We got to pray just to make it today. That's word we pray!"  
– M.C. Hammer

A lot has changed since 1990, when M.C. Hammer stepped onto the stage with his iconic parachute pants and rapped the song, "Pray". However, his words are no less true. "We got to pray just to make it today!"

We are in a moment of significant change. What was, in the world and the church, prior to the pandemic is no longer. What will be is still yet to be determined. This kind of world change leaves our heads spinning and wondering what we are supposed to do. If we try and do everything we used to do, well, it is probably not going to work...because the world has changed. In addition, we don't quite know where we are going yet, so it is hard to know how or what to do right now.

Here is the great thing: we are not alone. First, we are not alone in this moment. Many other churches are experiencing the same struggles we are having: how to respond and what things will look like post pandemic. Second, we are not alone in the history of the church. We have a book of stories that we read from every week about people who didn't always know where they would end up when God called them to something new. Our companionship with the history of faith doesn't end there: church history is replete with people who have struggled in wilderness moments between what was and what is to come, but have stepped out in faith nonetheless. Finally, and most importantly, God goes with us. We are never alone in the task and journey of faith.

In the history of our faith, when times have shifted rapidly and we find ourselves between what was and what will be, faithful people have turned to prayer.

Sometimes we expect prayer to make immediate changes in the world. And maybe it does from time to time. However, what I do know is that prayer is not a commodity to be traded to 'get what we want.' There have certainly been faithful folk all over the world praying for an end to Covid-19, and yet it is still with us. This is not what I am talking about when I talk about turning to prayer.

What I mean when I talk about turning to prayer is less episodic – praying

because we have a specific event in a specific moment – and more consistent and regular. It is an ongoing, intentional stepping into the presence of God to express our hopes, fears, experiences, our very lives to God, and have God respond in shaping and working with us in the world.

The early church, as Thom S. Rainer describes in his book, “The Post Quarantine Church”, received no other instruction from Jesus as he left them than: “You will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” That’s it! No strategic plan. No organizational chart. No budget. None of the trappings we have come to know of church. So, what did they do when they didn’t know what to do? They prayed.

I want to call us to prayer. As a church, we should pray more, especially in this moment! We should pray for the leaders and future leaders of our congregation, our members, the sick, the joyful, the ones who are suffering, our neighborhood, our state, our country, our world...everything. And, as a part of our prayer, we should open our ears, our hearts, our eyes, and our hands ready to be shaped and used by God.

Shalom,  
Pastor Owen

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

### **Sunday School News**

Sunday School continues as usual from 9:00- 9:45 a.m. for the month of October!

Our preschoolers and elementary school grades (Preschool - 5th grade) will be finishing up the story of Ruth, and then will move along to the story of Esther through the end of the month.

Our youth Sunday School classes continue to learn in fun and in community with one another!

Our 6 - 12 Grade class continues to meet and discuss questions about the Bible, Jesus, God, and Christianity! Our 6th - 12th graders came up with these questions, and we’re going to take time answering them. Have a question that you want answered? Just let Pastor Alison or Pastor Owen know!

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

### **The CHAOS Ensues in October!**

Our 6 th – 12 th grade youth group or CHAOS (Christ Honoring and Others Serving) will be doing many great things within the

month of October. Here's what's on our agenda:

October 3– 3G Night: Our Game, Gather, and God nights will continue the first week of the month on the church lawn. Bring your chair!

October 8-9 - CHAOS Campout!: We're bringing this fun overnighiter back again this semester! Hooray!

What to expect: s'mores, games, a movie, s'mores, and FUN! It's going to be a great time! Hope you can make it! Check your email for more information!

October 17 – Afternoon at the Christian Conference Center : From 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. our youth are headed to Newton to spend an afternoon on the lake, hiking, making s'mores and enjoying all that our beloved CCC has to offer.

October 24 – 3G Night : Our 3G Night continues this week!

October 31 –Halloween Game Night!: On this night we'll spend a couple of hours playing Halloween themed games, games, and more games!

It is going to be a fantastic month for our chaotic youth!

## MidWeek Mayhem

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

October 6 – Photo Scavenger Hunt

October 13 – Fall Fun Night: Decorating Pumpkins (parents and siblings welcome!)

October 20 – Bible Night: Esther

October 27 – Halloween Game Night! Wear your costumes and get ready for some Halloween-y fun!

Just a reminder that we'll be meeting from 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. this semester! Let me know if there's any way we can help your child participate, whether that's transportation or something else! 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.

# Committee Updates and

## Karla and David Rice are MOVING!

Dear Ankeny Christian Church,

There are big changes afoot in our household: we're moving to Alabama! At the end of September, David, and I and the 2 dogs are packing up our Ankeny home and moving 707 miles South to Florence, Alabama. We are excited and sad, peaceful, and nervous. We know it's a good and right decision to move near our son Adam and my family and where the cost of living can support Dave's retirement, fishing dreams and out pursuit for slowing down and enjoying the world around us. We have bought a house with 5 acres in Florence. Land that we plan to make our own with a garden, fruit trees, a garage for the boat, a boat ramp 15 minutes away, room for the dogs to run and chickens!! We are excited to be 4 hours from family and hope to get involved in more family celebrations now that we will be at a closer drive.

But it's a terribly sad thing to leave the friends that we have here. Ankeny Christian Church has been our church family for more than 30 years. It was here that we joined when our first child was 2. It was here that the church helped us through the very difficult time of the birth of our son Adam. We received so many thoughts and prayers during that time and would not have made it through without the support of our church. A special thank you to Jerry and Gladys Sawyer and to Karen Fausch who drove many miles to support us in Minnesota as we spent months there before we were able to take our son Adam home. You will forever hold a special place in my heart. In the many years to come, this church has blessed us with love and support as our children grew and our faith and service to God and our community grew.

Ankeny Christian has supported me by supporting my passion for mission trips and it is through this support that I will have memories that will last a lifetime. Through my service at Ankeny Christian Church, I have gone on roughly 20 mission trips with youth and adult. I have made many friends and memories on those trips. I would especially like to thank Rob Duffy and Matt Porath who has been with me and supported me on almost every trip I have gone on. Thanks Rob, for always making me laugh and thanks Matt, for always being ready to go with whatever idea I came up with. Also, thanks to Jerry and Gladys Sawyer for being my mentor to be able to lead those trips.

30 years is a lot of years to remember but I want you to know that there are also many of you that I would like to thank for always being there to support the church with anything that has come up. This has been from Worship to Christian Education, Youth group and mission projects. I have worked beside you or watched you from a distance and always in awe at the support you gave. I hope you know who you are. Thank you for your service.

Thank you, Ankeny Christian Church, for the ways that you have loved us. Thank you for inviting us into your homes and your life. Thank you for the ways you have listened with your hearts and gently encouraged me. We love each of you so much and are very sad to say goodbye.

Remember if you are ever in Alabama, you are welcome, and I am always only a mission trip away! Let's plan on the next trip to be in the South.

God Bless,  
Karla and David Rice

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# Des Moines Area Hunger Hike

In September, we have been learning from the book of James. James reminds us that we not only should talk about helping those in need, but we should also do something about our neighbor's needs.

Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> is the annual Des Moines Area Hunger Hike. Ankeny Christian Church has been a consistent strong supporter of the Hike and the missions committee hopes this year will be the same. We will have a sign-up sheet for anyone who wishes to hike or to collect pledges for the hike. The shoe collection will happen at a later date.

If you have any questions about this year's hike, please contact Chuck Fausch. The money we raise helps alleviate hunger in our own community as well as around the world.

The Missions Committee

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## Great Giveaway Great Opportunity

It's hard to believe it's been a month since our Great Church Giveaway in September. We've had a lot going on especially with the return of Pastor Owen. The Mission Committee would like to thank the members who contributed to the event. We had a lot of stuff, especially clothes! Likewise a very heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the workers (some who stayed all day) to do whatever needed to be done to make this a blessed event for our area neighbors. There were many people who went away very happy with their new treasures. One little boy was ecstatic with his "new" bike. Plus all our leftovers went directly to Alive Church, an African New Church Start in East Des Moines. Dan Lopez, a Des Moines Pastor and Mission Advocate, picked up all our left overs and delivered them to Alive Church. They will then be shipped to Liberia to mission headquarters there for distribution to families and folks in need. So, our little local Giveaway took on an international perspective and we blessed people not only at home but also abroad. Once again, thank you to all those who helped this mission project be a success. It was a lot of work but "positive people always find a way to do God's work."

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## Endowment

What is Endowment at Ankeny Christian Church? It's a chance to give to the future of the church. Funds are deposited in the Christian Church Foundation, a secure investment that only works with

Disciples of Christ churches. The money is never withdrawn, however the earnings from these investments can be used to make a difference in programing or missions, year after year after year.

Several of us have established in our wills to leave a portion to the Endowment Fund at ACC. We will be part of a legacy that continues to give long after we're gone. Some folks have left the Endowment Funds as a beneficiary on their insurance policies. Some people have designated memorial funds to be left to the Endowment Fund to honor their loved ones and have them live on in the life of the church.

Donations can be made at any time in stage of life. Gladys and Jerry Sawyer deposited funds years ago. They use the annual earnings to donate to the Week of Compassion. The earnings in the ACC Endowment Fund currently amount to over \$1500/year. Those funds are divided by four committees to use at their discretion in addition to their budgeted funds, allowing for opportunities that otherwise wouldn't be possible. Thanks to the people who had the foresight and generosity to give to our Endowment Fund. There is no minimum amount to give; together we can build a future of Positive People Doing God's Work for future generations.



### Birthdays

- 1 Karla Rice
- 3 Mike St. Clair
- 5 Justin Breckenridge
- Jason-Paul Channels
- 6 Clay Dean
- 8 Amy Gage
- 10 Chloe Schroeder
- 12 Lisa Duffy
- Linda Lamont
- 15 Carter Hauschildt
- 16 Caleb Porath
- Colleen Porath
- Casey Shelton
- 17 Larry Squier
- 18 Christine Stoffa
- Savanah Gage
- 21 John Lee
- 24 Patty Dorman



### Anniversaries

- 2 Ron & Marlys Lapham
- 3 Brian & Cheryl Jass
- 11 John & Patrice Sayre
- 15 Clint & Deanna Fischer
- Dennis & Christine Stoffa
- 20 Felix & Julie Garcia
- Justin & Jennifer Schroeder
- 26 Randy & Joanie Wehofer
- 28 John & Jodie Craig

Pat Fliger  
Nancy Squier  
26 Judy Krase  
27 Sara Hanley  
28 Kathy Sample



### **Do you have a Prayer Request?**

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

*dolleyo808@gmail.com*

*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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