



Ankeny  
Christian Church

POSITIVE PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK



DISCIPLES  
OF  
CHRIST



## April 2021 Newsletter

Here's what you will find in this issue:

- Worship Series Information and Links
- Calendar Link
- Upcoming Events/Offering
- Sabbatical Article
- Thank you notes and a celebration
- Pastor Owen's Note, including new email address
- Pastor Alison's Youth News
- Reminder for committees chairs
- Live Well information
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Online Giving Link

## Sunday Morning In Person Worship Continues

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

**Worship Sign up for March 28th**

**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.



**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!

April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday  
"Amen!: Dare to Dance Again"  
John 20:1-18

April 11, 2021 – Second Sunday of Easter  
"With Great Power: Dancing Together"  
1 John 1:1-2:2

April 18, 2021 – Third Sunday of Easter (Bible Presentations)  
"While in Their Joy: Dancing Sure"  
1 John 3:1-7

April 25, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Easter  
"By This We Will Know: The Dance of Love"  
1 John 3: 16-24

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](#)



*Monthly  
Coffee  
and  
Convo*

*will resume on Saturday, May 1st!*  
*More details to come*

## *Annual Easter Egg Hunt*

Sunday, March 28th at 9 a.m.

If weather is nice, the hunt will be outside.

The eggs will not be filled, but Special  
Easter Treat Bags will be given out!

We hope to see you there!!



The Mission Committee is promoting the Disciples Mission Fund Easter Offering for the month of April. The Easter Offering reaches deep and wide with the limitless power of the risen Christ to develop Disciples, form new faith communities, connect with ministry partners around the world and serve God's people in need.

## *Easter Offering*

a special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund  
March 28 and April 4, 2021



Some of the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) the Easter Offering supports include: Communication Ministries; Disciples of Christ Historical Society; Disciples Home Missions; Disciples Women; Division of Overseas Ministries; National Benevolent Association; New Church Ministry; and Higher Education and Leadership Ministries.

The Easter Offering calls us to “Imagine what God can do when we share our gifts. ”You can give to the Easter Offering through <https://accdoc.weshareonline.org/> or by mailing a check to the church. Thank you for your consideration in supporting this vital ministry.

Missions Committee

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

EASTER EGG HUNT:  
SUNDAY, MARCH 28 AT 9AM

PALM SUNDAY:  
(ONLINE AND IN-PERSON)  
SUNDAY, MARCH 28 AT 10AM

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
(YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK LIVE):  
DONE BY DISCIPLES CLERGY IN THE  
DES MOINES AREA  
FRIDAY, APRIL 2 AT 7PM



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE  
(ONLINE AND IN-PERSON):  
SUNDAY, APRIL 4 AT 10AM



## Mark Your Calendar Work Retreat at the Christian Conference Center

Have you missed opportunities for hands-on mission work? Have you missed time together at camp? Come catch up on both! The CCC will be offering our semi-annual work retreat on April 16-17-18. Come spend a day or the weekend serving on Holy Ground. Various projects for all skill levels will be available. Groups and individuals are welcome.

Work projects will be socially distanced and outdoors as much as possible. Masks will be required indoors. Pre-registration is appreciated to make sure we have enough food and lodging prepared. Lodge rooms and cabins will be available for a limited number of overnight guests. Email Tiff Williams or call the camp office at 641-792-1266 to register!

Your Mission Committee wants our church to have this to be our mission opportunity for April. For any questions, or car-pooling possibilities, please contact, Larry Squier 515 556-1721 [lsquier17@msn.com](mailto:lsquier17@msn.com)

# Sabbatical Update

## What Will We Do While the Pastor's Away?

Pastor Owen's Sabbatical is quickly approaching (May 24 - August 22) and some may be wondering what the church will do while he is gone. A special Sabbatical/Renewal Task Force along with the Church Executive Committee is scheduling a Pulpit fill-in for each of the Sundays of the Sabbatical. In fact, every Sunday except for four have already been assigned. Likewise, members and resident clergy members will be assigned Pastoral Care responsibilities for Hospital calling, pastoral emergencies and possible funerals or weddings. There will be a Care Task Force with a contact number available to church members that will respond to all questions or concerns that might arise. Prior to Owen's leaving on his Sabbatical, our Regional Minister, Joshua Patty will share with us in a Commissioning "sending Forth" service on Sunday May 23. This will be a time to celebrate this **sacred time** of Sabbatical and to send forth Owen with our blessing and support. In addition, Associate Regional Minister, Tiff Williams will share updates and Regional Camp and Conference news in a service on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. All in all, a dedicated team of officers and members are stepping up to assure a great Sabbatical/Renewal experience not only for Owen but also for the congregation.

Some may be wondering how it is from a member's perspective while the Pastor is away on Sabbatical. A former member of the church Larry Squier served while he was on his Sabbatical was willing to share her perception from the pew. Waukee Christian Church member Kathy says, "Aside from having members help with all portions of the sabbatical, pulpit supply was one area we asked the congregation to support during his absence. One of Waukee's retired Lutheran ministers filled the pulpit one Sunday each month during the 3 month Sabbatical; church members volunteered for the remaining weeks. After the sabbatical ended, one of those members went on to become a licensed lay minister." In addition, our church had a retreat and invited all members to attend as a sort of mini sabbatical for the church. She goes on to say, "The most important thing every member can do before, during, and after the sabbatical: Give this gift of rest and rejuvenation with a heart of love and gratitude. I'm convinced that ministers can only enjoy and benefit from this time away when all the members support them."

This Sabbatical Time will be a good opportunity for our Positive People in the Ankeny Christian Church to once again proclaim, "I am the church, we are the church together; all of God's people are the church." So, like the well-known commercial says "You're in **good hands** with the positive people of Ankeny Christian Church doing God's work.

Rev. Larry Squier

## A thank you note from Jerry and Gladys

We wanted to write a note to say thank you to Ankeny Christian Church for lots of things. Especially for the video thank you's, cards, notes and telephone calls from so many members and

Owen's special song\* for Gladys! We also loved the parade of cars and wished we could have touched each one of you as you drove by.

As of today we are on our own in our new home. Our children have been great help with this move. Stan flew home yesterday. Ellen went back to work this morning. And we are in a pile of boxes. Our love and thanks to each and everyone of you.

Keep growing and serving in the name of Jesus Christ.

Jerry and Gladys

\*Song/video put together by Emma St. Clair

## **A Thank You from the Missions Committee**

The Missions Committee would like to say Thank you to the congregation who have responded to the needs of the community and beyond for the months of January and February. Approximately forty people came to Principal Park in Des Moines to assemble 150 desks for the Woodworking with a Purpose and then distribution. Donations for this project were \$3781.00.

In February was the Week of Compassion emphasis. The congregation gave \$2555. 00. Week of Compassion donations go to such disasters such as the Derecho of last summer and international concerns. As a Missions Committee we are grateful that you as a congregation have reached out to so many.

## **Celebrating Our Connections**

At Ankeny Christian Church we are Positive People doing God's work! One of the tenets of this mission is sharing Christ's love, which we do with each other as well as with the world around us. In sharing Christ's love we make connections with people near and far. It is a joy to hear about those connections, especially when we learn that we have shared Christ's love at an important moment in someone's life.

We received a card from Jan Mack expressing her and their family's appreciation for our prayers and cards for her husband Terry. This is a family that, prior to learning of their need for

prayer from Norm and Fran, we had no connection to, and we were able to support them with our prayers and with cards from the connections team. We shared Christ's love and it was needed and noticed.

We also became aware recently of the passing of Jim Brody. Jim was a founding member of the congregation and is responsible for much of the woodwork in the church, including our communion table and the wood trim in the fellowship hall. While the news of his passing brings us sadness, we are grateful for Jim's life and the ways he blessed, and continues to bless Ankeny Christian Church.

## **Pastor Owen's Note**

Our time of sabbatical is rapidly approaching. Over the past few weeks, Randy Wehofer (chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee), David Rawson (Council President), and now Larry Squier have each written articles about the sabbatical time, and I am grateful for their work and support.

I would also, as Senior Pastor, like to offer a few words about the purpose and goal of our sabbatical. I am using the pronoun "our" intentionally, because, the sabbatical time is for both pastor and congregation, as Robert Saler talks about in his book "Planning Sabbaticals: A Guide for Congregations and Their Pastors." Sabbaticals, he says, are for healthy pastors in healthy congregations and their goal or "product" is twofold: a renewed pastor and a rejuvenated congregation. The sabbatical is intended to be a shared journey.

For me, as pastor, renewal can come in several different ways: rest, a deeper sense of calm, reconnection to spirit, and, this surprised me in the book, being emptied. One pastor described their experience this way: "I thought I would come back full...Full of new ideas for church programs, full of insights for sermons, full of outreach strategies. Instead I came back empty. Emptied of pride, emptied of ego, emptied of thinking it was all about me. It turns out that I didn't need for God to fill me; I needed time for God to empty me. And when I came back to my congregation empty, that's when God was ready to fill all of us with new possibilities that I would have been too full to see if God had not emptied me first."

For the congregation, renewal can also come in different ways: new insights into ministry as more than 'what the pastor does',

gaining confidence in staff and leadership, and it can provide opportunity for deep dives in to passion, study, service, and introspection. Ankeny Christian Church has an incredible staff who work hard to support the ministry of the congregation, as well as excellent leadership in the members of the church council (and other places for that matter!). We also have as a core value, a part of our DNA as a church, the idea that the members are the ministers. It is why, from the very beginning of the congregation, ACC intentionally moved away from having often used titles and groups like “Elders” and “Deacons” to describe those in the congregation who will do ministry. It is my hope that ACC will continue to find new ways to live into that identity.

We have two separate groups working on different pieces of the sabbatical. We have a small task force made up of Pastor Alison, Larry Squier (representing PRC), Karen Fausch (Worship Committee Chair), Georgene Raver (representing the Connections Team), and me who are all working on the ‘nuts and bolts’ of the sabbatical: like who will preach and help lead worship, how pastoral care will be done, etc. The Executive Committee, made up of the officers of the Council: David Rawson, Emily Porath, Randy Wehofer, Jim Mann, and Laura Dolley, along with Pastor Alison and me as ex-officio members, will be working on the rejuvenation of the congregation. How will we, as Randy put it, “balance work, play, and spirit” so the congregation will also be rejuvenated?

This is an exciting time for us as a congregation! I am looking forward to what the future holds for us and where God is calling us to be. I am also excited about this step of sabbatical where God will prepare us for that future!

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](mailto: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

We continue this month with Sunday School as usual for our K-5 and 6-12 classes!

Our K-5 class will continue in April with the story of The Wedding at Cana! They'll be exploring that story with music, science, and art. How fun!

Our 6-12 grade class will continue to work through the re:Form curriculum and discussing questions surrounding our faith and traditions. It's always great conversation! Hope you can make it!

Please note: There will be no Sunday School on April 4th, due to the Easter holiday.

## **CHAOS Continues in April** **and a Mission Trip Update**

I am still taking a look at this month to see where our time is best spent. Parents and youth, keep your eye on the e-news for more detailed information. I will get things to you well in advance - I just need a bit more time. Please note that we will not be meeting April 4th due to Easter.

Whatever we end up doing will be full of fun and togetherness - two things we love!

Mission Trip Update:

In March I sat with a group of parents, youth, and seniors to talk about our youth mission trip this summer. Our original plan fell through, which put us back at square one - a bit tricky for planning, especially when it falls through in February! Our group came up with a great compromise - a local mission trip in the Des Moines area, with a mini retreat following our work days. Our hope is that we can stay at another church during our work days, and still do some fun activities in the evening to make it feel like we are away.

Here's what went into this decision: We discussed that due to the question marks that this summer brings with covid, the amount of planning that goes into these trips and it being late in the year, in combination with not wanting to unintentionally bring harm to communities that are already vulnerable that it was best to stick to our own community. This way we know what the risks are and can plan accordingly.

Our Covid Task Force has given us the green light to begin planning, but we will be working closely with them to figure out what covid protocols will be that week.

I will soon be sending out an interest form for this mission week so I can begin preparing and planning this trip so I have a rough estimate of numbers for our week. That form will also have solid dates on it! Right now, I am thinking the week of June 28 - July 4. Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

It's going to be a good and fun week together - even though it's a bit different from previous years - because that's what we do! We serve, have fun, and do great things together. I'm so looking forward to what this week has to offer, and I hope you are as well!

## Mid-Week Mayhem

The Mayhem continues this April as we waltz into a new month. Here's what we have going on:

April 7 - **GAME NIGHT:** Come for old favorites and new fun! Maybe outside if the weather is nice!

14 - **April Showers:** We'll be doing a fun spring activity together this evening. Pastor Alison will provide the snacks! Woo hoo!

21 - **Photo Scavenger Hunt:** A fan favorite of ours! We'll take a look at pictures and try to figure out where they are around the church.

28 - **The Woman at the Well:** We'll be spending some time with our Sunday School story this week - it's always fun to explore our story together in a new way!

All Kindergarten through 5th graders are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. We have a great time at MidWeek Mayhem and hope you can join us!



# SUMMER CAMP 2021

UPDATES &  
REGISTER  
TODAY!

## 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!

### A reminder to committee chairs:

As we have made the transition to new leadership in 2021, please remember to include the office on emails containing minutes and/or any pertinent information that may need to be saved or passed along to the congregation.

Thank you.

## GET A FRESH START THIS SPRING

Learning how to reduce our anxiety and alleviate any depression would help each of us enjoy a fresh start after this past, stressful year. If you, or anyone you know, has experienced either of these debilitating conditions, please join us for:



### LIVE WELL CLASSES: OVERCOMING ANXIETY OR DEPRESSION

After completing one of these confidential, supportive, separate 8 week classes you will have developed six healthy lifestyle habits and will join the 90% who maintain a major reduction in symptoms. Please invite others to join you at an orientation **Mon, April 5th, 7:00pm** at the **Ankeny First United Methodist Church, 206 SW Walnut, north, lower level room 314**. Weekly Mon. evening classes, will be April 12 - May 24th. For more info or to reserve your seat, contact facilitator Jim White at 313-3701 or [jcjlwhite@live.com](mailto:jcjlwhite@live.com).

### Birthdays

1 Makenna Schroeder

2 Lucie Bentley

3 Angie Olson  
8 Kiersten Mann  
Tom Murphy  
9 Mike Hunter  
10 Hannah Wehofer  
Ashley Gessner  
12 Jerry Van Den Berg  
Curtis Gage  
13 Eleke Ukpabi  
Austin Mays  
16 Teagan Bentley  
17 Emma St. Clair  
19 Sherry Johnson  
21 Bob Buckroyd  
Marjeane Hunter  
22 Jade Dean  
23 Abby Murphy  
24 Curt Narwold  
25 Pat Warner  
26 Vinne Widaman

### Anniversaries

13 Frank and Sherri Prowant

*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**  
2506 SW 3rd Street  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-964-1083

Visit our website

Email